

[Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.](#)

March 12, 2020 City Council Workshop

SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION & CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING
March 12, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

The work session of the City Council was held at 10:03 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Media Room at City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1, Chairman
Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman
Alderwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:

City Manager Pat Monahan
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
Chief Community Services Officer Taffanye Young
Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell
Assistant to the City Manager Daphanie Williams
Interim Assistant to the City Manager Joseph Shearouse, Jr.
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

Mayor Johnson gave an update on the coronavirus throughout the Country and in the City of Savannah. Mayor Johnson has asked the City Manager to look at City events and what changes will need to be addressed. He stressed the need for taking care of the vulnerable population and the homeless.

Date: Mar 12 2020 (10:00 a.m.)

Workshop Agenda Items

[1. Discussion - Board Appointments](#)

1.a. Coronavirus Update - Dr. Lawton Davis, Director, Chatham County Health Department

- Dr. Davis confirmed 31 cases now in Georgia, no reported cases in Chatham County. Dr. Davis gave an update from the CDC and Georgia County cases. As soon as a case is confirmed in the area there will be a press release. He recommended people with underlying conditions to take extra precautions.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if individuals who have paid for licenses and special permits be reimbursed.
- Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked Council to be mindful of allowing large crowds even though the St. Patrick's Day Parade is cancelled.
- Susan Broker, Director of Special Events, Film & Tourism, will meet at 11:00 a.m. with the operations team to review and submit to the City Manager, the Modified Operations Plan for the next five days.
- Mayor Johnson directed the City Manager to add the Modified Operations Plan to the Agenda.

1.b. Discussion - Board Appointments

Facilitated by Mayor Johnson, the following nominations were made and will be voted on at the Regular Council Meeting at 2:00 p.m.:

1. Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) - one (1) opening Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan nominated Hunter HallAlderwoman Gibson-Carter nominated Orlando MontoyaAlderwoman Miller Blakely nominated Tia BrightwellCoastal Workforce Development Board (CWDB) - two (2) openings Alderwoman Miller Blakely nominated Tia BrightwellAlderwoman Wilder-Bryan nominated Tanya ChisholmEconomic Opportunity Authority - three (3) openings Mayor Johnson nominated Kim Jackson-AllenAlderwoman Leggett nominated Mark DouglasAlderwoman Wilder-Bryan nominated John RuehlAlderwoman Miller Blakely nominated Leonard K. McCoyHousing Authority of Savannah - one (1) opening Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan nominated Mark DouglasAlderwoman Gibson-Carter nominated Leonard K. McCoySavannah Airport Commission - one (1) opening Alderwoman Miller Blakely nominated Miguel CamachoAlderwoman Wilder-Bryan nominated Shirley James

Facilitated by Mayor Johnson, the following were approved by Council consensus and are appointed to their respective Boards:

1. Reappoint Patrick C. Monahan to serve on the Chatham County/City of Savannah Landbank Authority;

2. Appoint Raymond Gaddy, Lu Fang, Sharon Wanda Aikens, Michael Chaney, Taqwaa Saleem, Antonio Hunter, Curt Bryant and Robin Sherman to serve on the Cultural Affairs Commission;
3. Appoint Rebecca Fenwick, T. Jerry Lominack, Kendra Clark, Vernon Jones, Virginia Mobley, Chelsea Jackson-Greene, Robin Williams, Darren Bagley-Heath and J. Haley Swindle to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission;
4. Reappoint Dwayne Stephens and appoint Steven Bodek to serve on the Historic District Board of Review;
5. Reappoint Dr. Deanna Cross, Amy Lee Copeland, Mary Ann Mock, and Grace H. Taylor, and appoint Jose de Arimateia da Cruz, Taqwaa Saleem and Leonard K. McCoy to serve on the Hospital Authority of Savannah;
6. Appoint Adriana Tatum-Howard, Jay Maupin, Miriam Munn, William Eason, Sr. and RaMona Drayton Jackson to serve on Keep Savannah Beautiful;
7. Appoint Erika Archibald to serve on the Park and Tree Commission;
8. Reappoint Christopher Desa to serve on the Pilotage Commission;
9. Appoint Mark Douglas to serve on the Savannah/Chatham Board of Health;
10. Appoint Eva Joseph, Yolandra Shipp, Antonio Hunter and Shenequa Gresham to serve on the Savannah-Chatham Council of Disability Issues;
11. Reappoint Kristopher Monroe to serve on the Savannah/Chatham County Historic Sites and Monuments Commission (HS&M);
12. Appoint Jacquelyn Sumpter and Terry McCoy to serve on the Savannah Recreation Commission;
13. Reappoint Gene Prevatt (as Sanitation Director) to serve on the Savannah Resource Recovery Development Authority; and,
14. Appoint James Parks (District 2) and James Casey (District 6) to serve on the Traffic Calming Committee.

[2. Discussion - Special Work Session Schedule](#)

Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager to give an update of the times available he received from Council Members for prioritizing topics and special work sessions dates.

There was discussion among Council on the importance of time devoted to each topic, specifically budget and rules of council. The first special work session will be on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 to discuss rules of council and budget - part I; the next special work session will be on March 23, 2020 to discuss the rest of budget - part II, and if needed, special work session on March 30, 2020 for the remainder of budget and/or open talk sessions (agenda items) or ethics.

[3. Public Safety Update](#)

City Manager Monahan introduced Police Chief Minter who distributed the police recruitment brochure "Step Forward", and gave a slide presentation on the 2020 violent crimes reductions.

Following the presentation, there was discussions by Aldermen and questions answered by Chief Minter concerning the following:

- Areas of prominent gun violence (need radical change to address this issue - create new plan)
- Gang violence as it relates to one-on-one crime
- Recruitment statistics
- Current budget as it relates to decreasing crime
- Seeding Programs in neighborhoods
- Adding tourists and students for numbers that must be served
- Stronger emphasis involving community with educational institutes
- Goals and objectives with a timeline (with responsible parties)
- Extending the range of Shot Spotter

Alderswoman Miller Blakely requested a presentation by Major Devon Adams to address gang violence.

[4. Housing Savannah](#)

Mayor Johnson introduced Ms. Taffanye Young, Director of Community Planning & Development, who gave a brief overview of the department and the housing in the City of Savannah. She introduced Mr. Martin Fretty, Director, Housing and Neighborhood Services, for the presentation on affordable housing.

Following the slide presentation, Mr. Fretty and Ms. Taffanye fielded questions from Mayor and Aldermen and discussed the challenges facing the department as it relates to ownership (heirs). Other discussions included:

- Communicate to communities the various programs Home repairs program (912-651-6926) Low interest rate programs, including home repairs (offered as grants)
- Next budget cycle (create additional funding for housing) Establishing funds for non-profits with priority for transitional housing
- Create Housing Savannah Taskforce (Mayor Johnson) Create a Defined Affordable Housing Plan Each Aldermen to nominate someone to serve on Taskforce Submit names by next Friday Knowledgeable representatives Staff representatives
- Other municipalities programs (Alderman Wilder-Bryan) City of Atlanta brochure distributed (Housing Affordability Action Plan)
- Orlando, Florida has Housing Program with zero percent of homeless veterans Reach out to other Cities and get information about their programs
- Create a community-based strategy (within and throughout communities)

[5. 2020 Legislative Update](#)

Mayor Johnson announced the first Georgia Coronavirus death today in Atlanta.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan introduced Mr. Joe Shearouse, Jr., Acting Assistant to the City Manager, for an update on the 2020 Legislative process:

- Funding restored for Georgia public safety training centers
- Did well with the pressure to protect the short-term vacation rentals & local design standards
- Will send out a Legislative Briefing to Mayor and Alderman tomorrow with details on the status of each item
- Casino gambling (would like to have a public hearing on the subject)

Alderman Gibson-Carter would like Council to take a look at and give consensus to Resolutions addressing single family housing and Aldermen term limits as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Alderman Gibson-Carter requested Council to give consideration to submitting a letter with a dollar amount to Senator Jackson in reference to what is needed for affordable housing efforts in Savannah. An amount of two million dollars was the consensus for the City Manager to draft the letter.

[6. Special Events Ordinance Presentation](#)

Not presented.

[7. Litigation, Real Estate and Personnel](#)

Alderman Palumbo moved to recess the work session to hold a closed executive session regarding litigation, Alderman Miller Blakely seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion carried unanimously.

The work session ended at 1:34 p.m.

The executive session began at 1:47 p.m.

Alderman Purtee moved to adjourn the closed executive session regarding litigation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the executive session at 1:58 p.m.

[8. Review of Agenda](#)

Agenda not reviewed.

The video recording of the Council Work Session can be found by copying and inserting the below link in your url:

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=GZYyCJGr7DIa>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: April 9, 2020

Initials: mm