

September 12, 2019, City Council Regular Meeting

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was held at 2:01 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding
Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn H. Bell
Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council
Alderman Brian Foster, Vice-Chairman of Council
Alderman Van R. Johnson, II, District 1
Alderman Bill Durrence, District 2
Alderman John Hall, District 3
Alderwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5
Alderman Tony Thomas, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:
City Manager Patrick C. Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
Assistant City Attorney William Shearouse
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, which was recited in unison, Mayor Pro-Tem Bell offered the invocation.

Date: Sep 12 2019 (2:00PM)

PRESENTATIONS

[1. Presentation of a Letter to Representatives of the Coastal Jazz Association Recognizing the 38th Annual Savannah Jazz Festival](#)

Mayor DeLoach read into the record a letter to representatives of the Savannah Coastal Jazz Association recognizing the 38th Annual Savannah Jazz Festival, September 22 - 28, 2019.

Mr. Howard Paul, President of Savannah Jazz, introduced Executive Director Paula Fogarty and Vice President Tanya Milton. His remarks included the dedication of this year's Festival to friend, founder and Savannah Jazz Hall of Fame Member Dr. Julius "Boo" Hornstein. Mr. Paul gave a brief lineup of events and introduced Paula Fogarty.

Ms. Fogarty thanked the Mayor, Council and City of Savannah for all the support for this year's 38th Annual Savannah Jazz Festival. She gave an accounting of last year's Festival attendance and the success of the various daily events.

[2. Appearance by Lauren Heldreth of Turn the Towns Teal to Announce September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month](#)

Ms. Lauren Heldreth of the Georgia Chapter of Turn the Towns Teal thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to present information on ovarian cancer. She gave an outline of the statistics of women with ovarian cancer throughout the United States and the chances of survival. She announced to Mayor and Council that September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and she appreciated the opportunity to come before the body to present the information.

Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz requested other members of Turn the Towns Teal organization to come forward, so the community can be aware of their efforts. She displayed her support verbally and by wearing the color teal. She thanked the organization for the work they do and the awareness they bring to others in the world.

CONSENT AGENDA - (This section shall include all routine items for which it is anticipated there will be no debate or requests for public input. Any Alderman can remove consent items for discussion or separate consideration.)

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing on August 29, 2019](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[4. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on August 29, 2019](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[5. Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting on August 29, 2019](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[6. Motion to Confirm Declaration of Local Emergency During Hurricane Dorian](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[7. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 with Kimley-Horn for Parking Services Organizational Assessment Services in the Amount of \\$48,000 \(Event No. 5906\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[8. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 with Kapsch TrafficCom North America for DeRenne Stormwater Pump Station Controls Upgrade in the Amount of \\$44,983 \(Event No. 6420\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[9. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract with Core & Main, LP for Clamps and Sleeves in the Estimated Amount of \\$40,147.80 \(Event No. 7085\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[10. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Cost-Neutral Contract with Professional Credit for Delinquent Utility Account Collections \(Event No. 6871\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3 through #10, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASING ITEMS

[11. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 with AECOM/Hunt to Allow for Early Release Packages for New Arena in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$23,530,000](#)

After discussion and questions by Aldermen, City Manager Monahan explained the early release packages for the new Arena and the reasons for the prolonged design process.

Alderman Thomas moved to approve Item #11, Alderman Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[12. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Johnson-Laux Construction, LLC. for Construction of the Mohawk Park Project in the Amount of \\$1,027,862.12 \(Event No. 7371\)](#)

Alderman Thomas gave a brief outline of phase one of the sixteen year project. The park has been in the development of creating a walking trail, a dog park, a playground for children, landscaping upgrades and improvements to the parking area. He explained there is a phase two for future improvements/development. He gave credit to former Alderman Clifton Jones for his work on the project.

Alderman Thomas moved to approve Item #12, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[13. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract with Consolidated Pipe & Supply Company for Meter Boxes and Lids in the Estimated Amount of \\$242,741.63 \(Event No. 7157\)](#)

City Manager Monahan stated that Items #15 and #16 were included on the Agenda even though they are less than \$100,000 because they are a continuation of Savannah Shines for street lighting and streetscape improvements in the Edgemere/Sackville Community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve Items #13 through #16 per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Thomas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[14. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Renew an Annual Contract with Colonial Oil and Barrett Distributors for Oils, Lubricants, and Antifreeze in the Estimated Amount of \\$107,475.65 \(Event No. 5056\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve Items #13 through #16 per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Thomas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[15. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Georgia Power for Installation of 16 Pedestrian-Scale Street Lamps along Cedar Street as Part of the Savannah Shines Initiative in the Amount of \\$70,901.25 \(Event No. 7372\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve Items #13 through #16 per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Thomas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[16. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 with Johnson-Laux Construction for Streetscape Improvements on Cedar Street as Part of the Savannah Shines Initiative in the Amount of \\$24,970.67 \(Event No. 7035\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve Items #13 through #16 per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Thomas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[17. Motion to Approve a Class C \(liquor, beer, wine\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Lokendra B. Chand of Namaste Savannah at 8 East Broughton Street \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor DeLoach opened the hearing.

No Speakers

- a. Alderman Durrence moved to close the hearing, Aldermen Thomas and Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Alderman Durrence moved to approve Item #17, Aldermen Thomas and Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[18. Motion to Approve a Class E \(beer and wine\) Alcohol License to Alkesh R. Patel of Wheaton Market at 1321 Wheaton Street \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor DeLoach opened the public hearing.

Alderman Durrence requested a history of the problems surrounding the property.

Sergeant Samantha Stephens discussed the interactions with the owners and their plan of action to eliminate loitering and trespassing at the establishment. Owner Patel plans to include security guards on the property.

Alderman Durrence spoke directly to owner, Alkesha Patel, about the loitering problems and multiple incidences occurring on the property and advised that this type of behavior cannot continue and it will be the responsibility of the owner to address those issues.

Mr. Patel acknowledged Alderman Durrence's notice/admonitions.

- a. Alderman Durrence moved to close the hearing, Aldermen Thomas and Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Alderman Durrence moved to approve Item #18, Alderman Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PETITIONS

[19. Acknowledge Receipt of Annexation Petitions for Three Parcels with an Aggregate of 504.8 Acres Located on the East Side of Interstate 95 in the Vicinity of Little Neck Road](#)

- a. Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #19. The motion failed to receive a second.

City Manager Monahan explained Item #19 was for informational purposes only and gave a brief explanation of the annexation petition. The County will be notified and the City will be allowed 30 days for protest.

ACKNOWLEDGED.

[20. Acknowledge Receipt of Annexation Petition for a Single Parcel with an Aggregate of 1.73 Acres Located on the East Side of Ogeechee Road in the Vicinity of Gamble Road](#)

ACKNOWLEDGED.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[21. Motion to Approve Annexation of 847.3 Acres off Little Neck Road Near Interstate 95](#)

City Manager Monahan gave a description of the 847.3 acres which has no residential areas. The acreage is used as a landfill with no expense to the City and will produce approximately \$200,000 per month of additional revenue in host fees for the City upon its approval.

Alderman Thomas inquired as to any expense for the City for clean-up fees/contamination ten to twenty years in the future. Mr. Monahan explained there will be no charges to the City in the future.

READ.

RESOLUTIONS

[22. Motion to Adopt a Resolution Approving the Sale of Bonds by the Downtown Savannah Authority to the Low Bidder and Authorizing an Intergovernmental Contract with the Authority to Secure the Debt Service](#)

City Manager Monahan outlined the bidding process and the award to the lowest bidder (Robert W. Baird & Co.). The Bonds will be issued by the Downtown Savannah Authority for the West River Street parking garage. Alderman Miller moved to approve Item #22, Alderman Foster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[23. Motion to Adopt a Resolution Urging Common-Sense Legislation to Reduce Gun Violence](#)

Alderman Miller moved to approve Item #23, Alderman Johnson and Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell questioned if there was any reaction or any kind of statement from GMA on Item #23.

Alderman Johnson cited the statistics on gun violence in America. He thanked all the participants of Moms Demand Action Group for mobilizing efforts to fight against gun violence.

Speakers:

-Ms. Anne Allen Westbrook, representing Moms Demand Action of Georgia and from District 4 of Savannah - supports legislation.

-Ms. Kerri McGinty, representing Moms Demand Action of Georgia - supports legislation.

-Mr. Chris Cherry - opposes legislation.

-Ms. Deb Broderick - opposes legislation.

-Mr. Peter Grohol - opposes legislation.

Alderman Thomas cited for the record that most of the gun violence in America is from guns acquired illegally and not those purchased according to law.

Mayor and Aldermen discussed in detail the purpose of the Resolution. The Resolution is urging the public to use common-sense to reduce gun violence. The Resolution puts the State Legislation on notice of the position the City of Savannah has taken on gun control laws in America.

[24. Motion to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources for a Cuyler-Brownville Historic Resources Survey](#)

Alderman Johnson moved to approve Item #24, Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

[25. Motion to Approve a Development Agreement with Waste Management for Sanitary Services](#)

The City Manager informed Mayor and Council that this relates to above Item #21 annexation and the City's portion comes from the water/sewer fund through the increased rates.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell moved to approve Item #25, Alderman Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[26. Settlement #1](#)

At the request of City Attorney Bates Lovett, Item #26 was removed from the agenda.

Alderman Durrence moved to adjourn the regular meeting, Alderman Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

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

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=nXPj5q8NEV83>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: September 26, 2019

Initials: mm