



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
VISIONING SESSION (RETREAT)
Civic Center – 2nd Floor – O’Connor Room
301 Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 31401
March 25, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II
Alderswoman Carolyn H. Bell, At-Large, Post 1
Alderswoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Alderswoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Aldermen Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 – Vice-Chair
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 - Chairman
Alderswoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5 – Mayor Pro-Tem
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:
City Manager Jay Melder
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox
Rashad Young, Consultant, Elevated Development Concepts

The Special Called Meeting was held at 9:15 a.m. at the Savannah Civic Center, O’Connor Room. The invocation was offered by Alderman Purtee.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Facilitator:

Mayor Johnson thanked and welcomed everyone to the visioning session.

Mayor Johnson gave a brief overview of the first three months of operation for the new administration. He discussed the development of a vision for the City of Savannah:

- This will be used as a guiding principle for the City, and the Council should formally adopt as the City’s Vision Statement.
- The City Council chooses the priorities and the direction for the City.

Mayor Johnson first thanked Mr. Young for attending and participating in the visioning session, and then he introduced Ms. Ruth Demeter, Ruth Demeter Consulting, and thanked her for returning to the City to help facilitate the visioning session.

Welcome:

Ms. Demeter thanked the Mayor and Council for giving her the opportunity to return and facilitate the visioning session. She informed the Mayor and Council what the intent would be for the Visioning Sessions and detailed the rules during the session.



Discussions:

Utilizing round-robin style, Ms. Demeter asked each Council Member to express “how you feel”.

Vision Session #1:

Ms. Demeter then asked the Council Members for priority issues for the current administration. The priorities from each Member of the Council were gathered and added to the wall as priorities. Under each priority, Council Members added various categories. The items gathered will be compiled by Rashad Young to translate the submitted priorities into a working plan.

Lunch:

Vision Session #2 and #3:

Following the lunch break, with direction and parameters from Ruth Demeter, the Council Members continued the visioning sessions with group and individual reflections, observations, and input.

Closing:

Mayor Johnson thanked the Council for their participation and indicated the visioning session will continue tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

There was no action taken during the visioning session.

The session adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____