



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
VISIONING SESSION (RETREAT)
Civic Center – 2nd Floor, O’Connor Room
301 Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 31401
March 26, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, At-Large, Post 1
Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Aldermen Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 – Vice-Chair
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 - Chairman
Alderwoman 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 began at 9:39 a.m. at the Savannah Civic Center, O’Connor Room. The invocation was offered by Alderman Purtee.

Welcome and opening remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for returning to the visioning session and asked all in attendance to remember families of victims impacted by the collapsed bridge in Baltimore, MD, and he extended his support to their leaders. Ald. Bell extended her thoughts and prayers for the recovery of Kevin ‘Catfish’ Jackson who remains in ICU, a well-known member of the Savannah community, and a generous philanthropist.

Vision Session #4:

Utilizing a round robin concept, Ms. Demeter asked Council Members to discuss their individual issues/concerns, and how to resolve the issue. She then reviewed the priority topics from the previous day.

Strategic Planning Kickoff:

Facilitator Ruth Demeter articulated the major priorities presented and discussed by the Council during the previous sessions and asked Council Members to prioritize those goals over a four-year term.



Ms. Demeter congratulated the Mayor and Council on a successful visioning session for the past day and a half. She indicated after the lunch break Mr. Rashad Young will discuss with the Council the strategic priorities and how to accomplish a plan of action to address those priorities in a timely manner.

Lunch:

Review of Strategic Priorities:

Rashad Young discussed the priorities submitted and discussed by the Council Members and asked Members to identify ways the staff and administration can prioritize those goals over the next four-year term. Council Members submitted suggestions on paper and discussed options. Mr. Young will compile the information and submit a working plan for Council.

City Manager Melder summarized the session. He expressed his gratitude to Council Members for taking the time to identify their priorities and values. He asked Council Members for their consensus on accepting the six major strategic priorities. City Manager Melder will report back to Council Members on the progress and/or completion of the plan by Mr. Young.

Mayor's Closing Remarks:

Mayor Johnson asked Council Members and City Manager Melder if the agenda for the workshop for Thursday needed any revision. City Attorney Lovett indicated there was no need for an Executive Session. Consensus from the Mayor and Council Members was to have a working lunch workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024, prior to the 2:00 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Johnson thanked Ms. Demeter, the Council Members, and all in attendance for their support.

With no further business coming before the assembly, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

There was no action taken during the visioning session.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____