



JUNE 12, 2025 - 2:00 p.m. - CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

CITY GOVERNMENT

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at **2:01 p.m.**, in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Eli Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. **Mayor Johnson** called the meeting to order, then recognized **Ald. Linda Wilder-Bryan** who introduced **The Reverend Doctor Bertice Berry, Deacon, Christ Church Episcopal** to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited in unison.

PRESENT:

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

ALSO, PRESENT:

City Manager Jay Melder
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Assistant to Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for June 12, 2025.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve agenda item #1, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on May 22, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - WS DRAFT MINUTES May 22, 2025 City Council Workshop Meeting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #2 and #3, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on May 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - RM DRAFT MINUTES May 22, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting, watermark.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #2 and #3, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

[4. City Council Consideration of Personnel Evaluations.](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2025 Evaluation and Amendment to City Attorney Contract.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 2025 Evaluation and Amendment to City Manager Contract.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: 2025 Evaluation and Salary Consideration for The Clerk of Council.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #4, seconded by Ald. Lanier and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated that council has been engaged in a multimonth, multi session in consideration of the performance of the three employees that work directly for council: City Manager Jay Melder, the City Attorney, Bates Lovett, and the City Clerk, Mark Massey. Council has completed their process and Mayor Johnson stated he would consider all three to be very good. He further stated, with the council's thanks, congratulations to Mr. Melder, Mr. Lovett, and Mr. Massey.

PRESENTATIONS

[5. A Proclamation Recognizing The 250th Birthday of The United States Army on June 14, 2025.](#)

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation to Hunter Army Airfield Lt. Col. Derick Taylor and Fort Stewart Retired Soldier Council Officer Co-Chair and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of Army Pete Hoffman. They were joined by Army Veterans Ald. Alicia Miller Blakely, Acting Chief of Management Services Melissa Carter, Water Resources Administrator Anthony Caston, and Police Chief Lenny Gunther.

[6. An Appearance by the PROUD Savannah Taskforce to Receive a Proclamation to Declare June 2025 as Pride Month in Savannah.](#)

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation to Acting Chair of the PROUD Task Force Pam Miller, Savannah Pride Center Program Director Jessica Saunders, Reverend Dr. Cale Robert Hall, and Ald. Kurtis Purtee.

[7. National Waste & Recycling Workers Week \(June 16-20, 2025\).](#)

Mayor Johnson recognized June 16-20, 2025 as National Waste & Recycling Workers Week. Solid Waste Senior Director Quannah "Q" Andrews, Chief of Government Operations Gene Prevatt, and various other Solid Waste Professionals introduced themselves.

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)

[8. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Chiragkumar Patel for Savannah Mart, a Convenience Store. The Establishment is Located at 2810 Skidaway Road Between Rowland Avenue and Shell Road in Aldermanic District 3.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Check List - Savannah Mart](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Savannah Mart](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Savannah Mart](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Savannah Mart](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Savannah Mart](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearings open for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve agenda item #8 including the good neighbor agreement, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked staff to make sure we have the good neighbor agreement and forward it to the Clerk.

[9. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Devendrabhai Patel for Corner Stop at 2314 Skidaway Road, a Convenience Store. The Establishment is Located Between East 39th and East 40th Streets in Aldermanic District 3.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Check List - Corner Stop](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Corner Stop](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Corner Stop](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Corner Stop](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Corner Stop](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearings open for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve agenda item #9 including the good neighbor agreement, seconded by Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked staff to make sure we have the good neighbor agreement and forward it to the Clerk.

[10. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) with Sunday Sale to Lindsey Pourciau for Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, a Restaurant at 7822 Abercorn Street. The Establishment is Located Between Mall Boulevard and White Bluff Road in Aldermanic District 4.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Check List - Jim 'N Nick's](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Jim 'N Nick's](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Jim 'N Nick's](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Jim 'N Nick's](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Jim 'N Nick's](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearings open for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #10, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[11. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Yadimar Patino for Mias Latin Super Market at 103 East Montgomery Crossroads, a Supermarket. The Establishment is Located Between Atwood Street and Cindy Avenue in Aldermanic District 4.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Check List - Mias Latin Supermarket](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Mia's Latin Supermarket](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Mia's Latin Supermarket](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Mias Latin Supermarket](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Mias Latin Supermarket](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearings open for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #8, #9, #10, and #11, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #11, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[12. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Vinay Patel for CBD+ at 802 Montgomery Street, a Convenience Store. The Establishment is Located Between West Bolton and West Gwinnett Streets in Aldermanic District 2. \(Continued from the May 22, 2025 City Council Meeting.\) \(THE APPLICANT HAS WITHDRAWN THE APPLICATION.\)](#)

[Checklist - CBD Convenience](#)

[Density Map - CBD+ Convenience](#)

[Alcohol Reports - CBD+ Convenience](#)

[Measurement Report - CBD+ Convenience](#)

[Security Plan - CBD+ Convenience](#)

Mayor Johnson announced that agenda item #12 was WITHDRAWN, as requested by the petitioner.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[13. Public Hearing on the Draft 2024 Savannah GPS Strategic Plan.](#)

[Resolution - Savannah GPS Strategic Plan](#)

[Savannah GPS Strategic Plan](#)

Mayor Johnson introduced agenda item #13 and asked the City Manager to give a top-level review and presentation.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open for agenda item #13.

No speaker(s).

Ald. Lanier moved to close the public hearing for agenda item #13, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated there will be another opportunity for public comment over the coming days.

ZONING HEARINGS

[14. Petition of Andria Canella on Behalf of Midtown Savannah Property Investments, LLC for a Special Use Permit to Permit Accessory Alcohol Sales in Association with Restaurant at 1722 Habersham Street \(PIN 20064 09015\) in Aldermanic District 2. \(File No. 25-001606-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 1722 Habersham Street \(File No. 25-001606-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 1722 Habersham St \(File No. 25-001606-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #14.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- a. Ald. Leggett moved to close the hearing for agenda item #14, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve agenda item #14, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)

[15. Petition to Annex ~159.7 Acres Located at 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(11045 01001A, 11046 01001B and 11047 01018\) from Chatham County to the City of Savannah.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Annexation Petition for 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(25-124\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Annexation Ordinance for 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(25-124\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #15, #16, and #17.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- City Manager Melder
- Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources
- a. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearings for agenda items #15, #16, and #17, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #15, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the public to know that a lot of the growth is happening in the fifth district, due to the fact that, that is where the land for development is, and a lot of the land is in Chatham County. She stated it is a wonderful thing that is happening in our city. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the citizens to know that our Mayor, the council, the city manager, our attorney, city clerk, and team Savannah, care about development and the different types of land we have to develop on. She further stated citizens telephone calls, research, all the work that is done as professionals, our Ogeechee River Keepers, our waterway keepers, all of you are not taken for granted.

In reference to agenda items #15, #16, and #17, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked the City Manager to explain how our development standards with our stormwater and wetlands can be impacted. City Manager explained that the city has robust regulations in place and this development will have to comply with those regulations. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked Mr. Edward Morrow, MPC representative, and Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources, to provide further explanations regarding the development regarding stormwater, wetlands, flooding, and flood prevention.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated that collaboration is key. She asked citizens to continue to call her and to meet with her to make her aware, so that she can continue to do the work, especially on this project.

Mayor Johnson advised the members of the public who completed speaker cards that they spoke at the previous meeting, so their comments have already been made a part of the record.

[16. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Forino Co., LLP to Amend the Future Land Use Map from Residential Suburban Single Family to Planned Development for 159.7 acres at 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(11046 01001A, 11046 01001B and 11047 01018\) to Support an Annexation \(File No. 25-001356-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet \(File No. 95-001356-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(25-001356-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(File No. 25-001356-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #15, #16, and #17.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- City Manager Melder
- Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources

a. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearings for agenda items #15, #16, and #17, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #16, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the public to know that a lot of the growth is happening in the fifth district, due to the fact that, that is where the land for development is, and a lot of the land is in Chatham County. She stated it is a wonderful thing that is happening in our city. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the citizens to know that our Mayor, the council, the city manager, our attorney, city clerk, and team Savannah, care about development and the different types of land we have to develop on. She further stated citizens telephone calls, research, all the work that is done as professionals, our Ogeechee River Keepers, our waterway keepers, all of you are not taken for granted.

In reference to agenda items #15, #16, and #17, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked the City Manager to explain how our development standards with our stormwater and wetlands can be impacted. City Manager explained that the city has robust regulations in place and this development will have to comply with those regulations. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked Mr. Edward Morrow, MPC representative, and Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources, to provide further explanations regarding the development regarding stormwater, wetlands, flooding, and flood prevention.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated that collaboration is key. She asked citizens to continue to call her and to meet with her to make her aware, so that she can continue to do the work,

especially on this project.

Mayor Johnson advised the members of the public who completed speaker cards that they spoke at the previous meeting, so their comments have already been made a part of the record.

[17. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Forino Co., LLP to Amend the Zoning Map from R-A \(Residential Agriculture – Chatham County\) and P-R-C \(Protected River Corridor – Chatham County\) to PD \(Planned Development – City\) for 159.7 acres at 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(11046 01001A, 11046 01001B and 11047 01018\) to Support an Annexation. \(File No. 25-001312-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Rezoning of 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(File No. 25-001312-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(File No. 25-001312-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Rezoning Ordinance for 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road \(File No. 25-001312-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #15, #16, and #17.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- City Manager Melder
- Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources

a. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearings for agenda items #15, #16, and #17, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #17, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the public to know that a lot of the growth is happening in the fifth district, due to the fact that, that is where the land for development is, and a lot of the land is in Chatham County. She stated it is a wonderful thing that is happening in our city. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the citizens to know that our Mayor, the council, the city manager, our attorney, city clerk, and team Savannah, care about development and the different types of land we have to develop on. She further stated citizens telephone calls, research, all the work that is done as professionals, our Ogeechee River Keepers, our waterway keepers, all of you are not taken for granted.

In reference to agenda items #15, #16, and #17, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked the City Manager to explain how our development standards with our stormwater and wetlands can be impacted. City Manager explained that the city has robust regulations in place and this development will have to comply with those regulations. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked Mr. Edward Morrow, MPC representative, and Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources, to provide further explanations regarding the development regarding stormwater, wetlands, flooding, and flood prevention.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated that collaboration is key. She asked citizens to continue to call her and to meet with her to make her aware, so that she can continue to do the work, especially on this project.

Mayor Johnson advised the members of the public who completed speaker cards that they spoke at the previous meeting, so their comments have already been made a part of the record.

[18. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 1, Personal Conduct, of Part 9, Offenses, of the Code of The City of Savannah, Georgia; to Regulate Urban Camping and Improper Use of Public Places; to Repeal All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes.](#)

[Exhibit 1: 052225 ORD Urban Camping.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #18.

Speaker(s):

- Jenn Dulong, Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless (CSAH) - IN SUPPORT
- Kristy Crill, The Dive Savannah - IN SUPPORT
- Calum Crampton - OPPOSED
- The Rev. Matthew W. Herring, Lutheran Church of the Ascension - OPPOSED

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the hearing for agenda item #18, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Purtee moved to approve agenda item #18, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. No vote was taken on this motion.

c. Mayor Johnson moved to amend, thereby adding an alternative review (report on the effectiveness) during a workshop on September 25, 2025, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. No vote was taken on this motion.

d. Ald. Purtee moved to approve agenda item #18 with an evaluation in 90 days (September 25, 2025) by the City Manager to determine/evaluate the pros and cons and provide any recommendations, seconded by Ald. Leggett and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated she is suppose to take care of citizens, business owners, everybody that is affected by this, and she knows council is supposed to do something about this. She further stated she is hopeful that we come up with some kind of ordinance that is fair and true to the people that we serve. Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked Mayor Johnson when we make this criminal, what we are going to do about the storage of things that people have, who is going to be responsible for storing it, and who is going to be offering services? She stated we got to do a better beckoning and reasoning when we, the city, make these things and put them on the book that last forever and ever. If we are going to approve this, we sure better have someplace for people to store their items and be able to come back and get them.

Ald. Purtee stated that this is a very touchy subject, and that the absence of action is often worse sometimes than the action itself. He further stated that what we find here is step 15 of a 20 step plan which we have implemented and have poured millions of dollars in the City of Savannah towards homeless eradication, towards trying to find a solution to homelessness. Ald. Purtee said that he think we have done a fairly good job of managing resources and getting folks the help they need. The truth is our police officers are already stretched because many of the calls they are dealing with these individuals. He stated that everyday police are out there dealing with a person with a mental health crisis who happens to be roofless. They are out there with somebody who is defecating a public space who happens to be homeless. Ald. Purtee expressed that these folds are riddled with mental health issues, addiction issues, and some, but not all, are actually part of the criminal element. He stated that this ordinance not a one-size-fits-all approach, this is just another tool. Ald. Purtee stated he does not see this as criminalizing homelessness. We are looking at the most vulnerable people in Savannah. Not only do they have mental health issues, not only are they struggling with addiction, they do not have a place to lay their head at night, and when they do, it is often in a public spot. Ald. Purtee stated he does not want this to be used as something to criminalize people. He wants this to be used as a place to offer them services. Ald. Purtee expressed that this is a tool to protect all people in Savannah. He stated that we can make this work in our favor for our community, for all, all of us, and all means all. [A speaker left/was asked to be removed for disrupting the meeting.]

Ald. Palumbo stated since we have all served together on city council, we have made those remarkable landmark investments in affordable housing, in housing first policies, not just a pioneer on Georgia's coast, but really in the entire state of Georgia and the southeast. He stated pound for pound per capita, we have made more investments in this space than nearly any city in the south. From the Veterans Village onto the American Rescue Plan Act that we have continued building this strategy together, forming the interagency council on homelessness, leading by the tip of the spear, even when others did not want us to place those investments. Ald. Palumbo stated that he has learned in this job that you have to listen to the experts that are on the field that are seeing it from their perspective. He further stated that our leaders at the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless are advocates who are living it every single day, and they are asking us for options. They are asking for a system that gives us tools for warnings, to help lift people up, and give them options to connect them for services. Ald. Palumbo encouraged Council to not only consider this, but continue to make those investments so we can get to that functional zero point. So that we can be the first city in America that solved it. Even if it is impossible, we need to keep trying.

Speaking on behalf of the residents of Gwinnett Street, Ald. Leggett spoke about a recognized homeless person seen pleasuring himself on someone's porch in front of children. The

residents expressed concern for services that are not available after 6pm, or services that are offered for a fee that the homeless individuals cannot pay. We are failing the homeless persons in many ways, like where are the dropoff places we can take them to at less convenient times. Police are doing the best they can do, but we have to educate the homeless population. Some homeless people are being dropped off in our city from other places, due to our services being provided. There are still so many questions attached. Services we say that we have need to be followed-up to make sure that we really are offering them.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated our job is to take care of all our citizens. In adding her comments, she said that we are policymakers and we have to make sure that we do the right thing. With respect to unsheltered citizens, some are good and some are not so good in terms of their actions. We open up our city facilities, work with our nonprofits, and our businesses offer support to them, like her business that feeds them everyday. She stated as lawmakers we have to take care of everybody, the good and the bad.

Ald. Lanier stated she can see the pros and the cons of this ordinance. With members who have championed this issue, she has to offer concessions and compromises. For someone who is sleeping outside, we need help. In listening, she will be able to make a decision.

Mayor Johnson stated he is still struggling with this issue. With all the speaker comment cards, all of them have an address, but the people we are talking about do not have an address. We have not heard from them. We go above and beyond to make sure that we are communicative and engaging people, but he is not sure we did that on this issue by talking to those who are affected. He stated he hoped to God that none of us have to spend a day being homeless, and he does not know what that feels like although there are people within our community who do. Over time, he has heard from so many people. He's heard that homelessness is bad for tourism and business, it's unsightly, they smell, we don't want to see them, move them someplace else. He submitted that if we pride ourselves in being a city of hospitality, then we are a city of hospitality for all, like people who can afford a hotel room, and those who sleep outside of the hotel. On the issue of doing criminal things, they are urinating, defecating, and pleasuring themselves, the same things he sees on St. Patrick's Day weekend, or any other given weekend. His answer to this is, those are criminal acts which should be prosecuted in a criminal manner. We estimate that there are about 40-60 individuals who are repeatedly criminal in their actions. He has not heard a significant plan to deal with those persons, and we know exactly who they are. He would like to treat them like criminals and remove them from our community. Mayor Johnson then told a story about Cale Hall ministering to homeless persons.

PURCHASING ITEMS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for One Waste Handler Dozer with Yancey Bros. Company in the Amount of \$629,832. The Waste Handler Dozer will be utilized by the Sanitation Department's Refuse Disposal Division to spread, push, and compact garbage at the Dean Forest Landfill. The new dozer will replace unit 8717, which is scheduled for replacement in the FY25 equipment replacement plan.(Fleet Services)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Waste Handler Dozer.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Waste Handler Dozer.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two Bucket Trucks from Fouts Bros. Inc., dba Smyrna Truck c/o Versalift in the Amount of \$351,000. The two bucket trucks will be used by Traffic Operations Division and Stormwater Management. They will replace units 9253 and 0812, both of which are scheduled for replacement in the FY25 Equipment Replacement Plan. (Fleet)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Bucket Trucks.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Bucket Trucks.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Economic and Land Use Study for the Savannah Civic Center with Robert Charles Lesser Company in an Amount not to Exceed \$150,000. The consultant will focus on the Civic Center site's redevelopment, including market and financial feasibility analyses, development strategies, cost-benefit modeling, and parking needs, all in alignment with priorities identified in the resolution adopted by the City Council on June 27, 2024. (Planning and Urban Design)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Economic and Land Use Study for the Civic Center.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2-Purchasing Notes-Economic and Land Use Study for the Civic Center.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item 21, seconded by Ald. Linda Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed 8-1-0. Ald. Lanier voted no.

[22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for One Pothole Patcher Truck with Reynolds-Warren Equipment Company, c/o LeeBoy, Inc. in the Amount of \\$328,302. The pothole patcher truck will be utilized by the Street Maintenance Division to perform timely and efficient pothole repairs across the City. The new pothole patcher truck will replace unit 6230, which is scheduled for replacement in the FY25 equipment replacement plan.\(Fleet Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Pothole Patcher Truck.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Pothole Patcher Truck.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal for Seimitsu Fiber Services in an Amount not to Exceed \\$500,000. This Contract will be used by the City of Savannah's Innovation and Technology Services Department to Bury the City's Aerial Fiber, adding redundant Fiber Paths, and any other Fiber Services Needed throughout the City. \(ITS\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Seimitsu Fiber Services Contract Renewal.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Seimitsu Fiber Services Contract Renewal.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Furniture Package for the Clerk of Council with JSI Furniture, Patterson Pope, and KI Walls c/o Mason, Inc. in the Amount of \\$100,000. This furniture will support the Clerk of Council's chambers as part of the City Hall restoration project. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Clerk of Council Furniture.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes- Furniture Package for Clerk of Council.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson moved to approve agenda item 24, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Electric Motor Repair with Carbone Technology Inc. in an Amount not to Exceed \\$278,908. The purpose of these services for repairing various sizes of electric motors and providing maintenance for two key maintenance programs. \(Water Reclamation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification-Electric Motor Repair](#)

[Exhibit2: Purchasing Note - Electric Motor Repair](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Pump Repair with GoForth Williamson, Inc. in the Amount Not to Exceed \\$100,575. These services will provide both routine pump maintenance and emergency repair services for all pumping systems associated with the Water Reclamation Plants. \(Water Reclamation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Pump Repair](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note- Pump Repair](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Materials for New Lift Station and Force Main Phase 2 from Ferguson Waterworks in the Amount of \\$2,796,912. The materials being purchased are pipe, fittings and valves for the "New Lift Station and Force Main Upgrades" construction contract. The purchase of the materials will expedite the installation of the new 30-inch force main from the Dean Forest Road at Pipe Makers Canal to the Travis Field Water Reclamation Facility. \(Public Works & Water Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Lift Station 193.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Lift Station 193.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

[28. Approval of Ald. Carolyn H. Bell's Nomination of Tara Scott Brown to Serve on the Traffic Calming Committee \(Post 1 - At-Large\), replacing Marion \(Mac\) Singleton.](#)

Ald. Bell moved to approve agenda item #28, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakley, Ald. Lanier, and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)

[29. First Reading Only - A Resolution Adopting the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan for the City of Savannah.](#)

[Resolution - Savannah GPS Strategic Plan](#)
[Savannah GPS Strategic Plan](#)

HEARD for First Reading Only.

AGREEMENTS

[30. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Forsyth Conservancy, Inc. and City of Savannah Which Outlines Mutually Beneficial Roles and Responsibilities to Promote and Maintain the Preservation, Historic Integrity, and Open Access of Forsyth Park for All of Its Users.](#)

[060625 MOU Forsyth Park.pdf](#)

Ald. Lanier moved to approve agenda item #30, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Savannah Harbor Owner, LLC for Savannah Harbor. This is for a development consisting of 242 single family homes on Hutchinson Island in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 1.](#)

[Exhibit 1 : Water & Sewer Agreement - Savannah Harbor.pdf](#)

Ald. Lanier moved to approve agenda item #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[32. Second Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) Between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the City of Savannah to Proceed with Preliminary Engineering Commitments Related to the I-16 at Montgomery Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Ramp and Overpass Removal \(PI No. 0011744\) Located in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2.](#)

[Draft MOA for Project #0011744 06.03.2025.pdf](#)

Ald. Bell moved to approve agenda item #32, seconded by Ald. Leggett. The motion passed 7-2-0. Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voted no.

[33. Request Approval to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County and the Savannah Economic Development Authority \(SEDA\) for the Vision 2033 Strategic Initiative.](#)

[Vision 2033 Strategic Initiative Memo, Intergovernmental Agreement, and Council Workshop Presentation.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #33, seconded by Ald. Leggett. The motion passed 7-1-1, as amended contingent on adding/inviting the School Board to be a part of the agreement. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no, and Ald. Purtee recused/abstained from the vote.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[34. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #34, authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the claim of Jamaine Williams (a worker's compensation matter) in the amount of \$65,000.00, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

[35. Approval of Major Subdivision Sweetwater Station Phase 12. The subject property is the twelfth phase in a subdivision named Sweetwater. This proposed phase totals 13.156 acres and will consist of 42 single family lots with varying lot sizes. The property is Aldermanic District 6 at Street Location: Sessile Oak Drive and Snowbell Court.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat: Major Subdivision Sweetwater Station Phase 12.pdf](#)
[Exhibit 2: MPC Decision Sweetwater Station Phase 12.pdf](#)

Ald. Purtee moved to approve agenda item #35, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Following various announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@cityofsavannah/videos>.



DRAFT