



**APRIL 10, 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 **2:05 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. Carolyn H. Bell** to introduce **Elder Jamal Barrow, Jonesville Baptist Church** to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**PRESENT:**

- Mayor Van R. Johnson, II
- 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
- Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 - Vice Chair
- Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 - Chairman
- Alderwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5 - Mayor Pro Tem
- Alderman 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 April 10, 2025.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve agenda item #1, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. 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 March 27, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - WS DRAFT MINUTES March 27, 2025 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

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

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on March 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - RM DRAFT MINUTES March 27, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

[4. An Appearance by Coastal Georgia Advocacy Center to Receive a Proclamation Declaring April 2025 National Child Abuse Prevention Month.](#)

\*Mayor Johnson first took moments of mayoral privilege by recognizing the following:

- Clerk of Council Mark Massey for recently being elected as the Region III Director of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC); and,
- Savannah Youth Council (eighth graders) who were present in the audience, along with their advisor and mentor Taylor Turner.

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation to the Coastal Children's Advocacy Center declaring April 2025 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Executive Director Rose Grant-Robinson received the proclamation on behalf of her board and staff. She spoke and invited people to their grand reopening scheduled for April 25th at 3pm. Joining Ms. Grant-Robinson were her staff Kristen Borders, Jordan Fields, Ana Hancock, and board member Taylor Mungan.

[5. An Appearance by the City of Savannah's 14U – Savannah Windsor Forest Basketball Team and 17U – Savannah Royal Lions Boys Basketball Teams for their outstanding achievement in winning the GRPA State Basketball Tournament.](#)

Mayor Johnson presented and welcomed both teams with recognition for winning the GRPA State Basketball Tournament Championship. Coaches Todd Rhodes, Jr. Cherrie Keitt, Anthony Jordan, and Kevon Cooper recognized the players (present and in school), City of Savannah Recreation Services Activity Coordinator Mr. Kevin Smith, and Ms. McDonald & Ms. Richards who have been serving as Team Mom, cheerleaders, and more.

[6. Presentation of the Employee Engagement Team and Recognition of the 2024 Employee of The Year Winner.](#)

Mayor Johnson welcomed City Manager Melder and the Employee Engagement Team to recognize last year's winner, Senior Compliance Officer Judy Stewart.

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

[7. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Dhaval Desai for Element Hotel at 26 West Fairmont Avenue. The Establishment is Located Between White Bluff Road and Abercorn Extension in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Element Hotel](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Element Hotel](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Element Hotel](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Element Hotel](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Element Hotel](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearings open for agenda items #7 and #9.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the public hearings for agenda items #7 and #9, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #7, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[8. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Linda Stephens for Ave Bar and Grill, a Restaurant located at 1721 Waters Avenue. The establishment is located between East 33rd and East 34th Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Ave Bar and Grill](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Ave Bar and Grill](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Ave Bar and Grill](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Ave Bar and Grill](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Ave Bar and Grill](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearing open for agenda item #8.

Speaker(s):

- Judee Jones, Revenue Director
- a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the public hearing for agenda item #8, seconded by Ald. Purtee, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve agenda item #8, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated that it says there are no concerns from the police department, this is a new request, and it is operating as a restaurant. He asked for the operating hours. Sunday through Thursday, noon to midnight, and Friday & Saturday, noon to 2:30 a.m. He inquired if there were any complaints from the neighborhood or the police department (no). For consistency sake, he inquired about the timing given previous complaints made in that area about establishments operating into the night, and he wants to be sure they are operating as a restaurant from opening to closing. City Manager Melder responded by discussing the more transitional styled establishments. Mayor Johnson stated he wanted to make sure that staff monitors the different types of establishments. This is a new owner.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated there is no established neighborhood association associated with this area, so who was contacted (Eastside Neighborhood did not express any objection).

Ald. Lanier asked if we have (in Code) a time when restaurants should close. City Manager Melder responded up until 12:00 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and up until 2:55 a.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

Ald. Miller Blakely indicated she and other members have frequented this establishment which has been around for a long time, and they sell food until they close.

Ald. Purtee stated he sees on the safety plan that they do not require hired security on the premises, namely at 2:30 in the morning.

Ald. Leggett stated he met with the previous owners who are working with the new owner, Ms. Stephens. The neighborhood surrounding this establishment are in support of the request. Part of their cleanup plan includes helping an older lady who lives next door. He has been assured by the applicant that this neighbor will be a part of their everyday plan. When moving forward with liquor licenses, he would like staff to be more diligent in our application process before it reaches City Council.

Mayor Johnson stated we have to ask staff questions and let them do their work.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated she wants City Council to hold everyone who requests a liquor license to the same standard. Every time a black business comes up, we hold them to a higher standard and ask them tougher questions than the others. She asked if the other two (applicants) which came before them were held to this standard, if not we need to change the way we do business as a city.

Mayor Johnson detailed they are not the same type of license. One is for a hotel and the other one is for a cigar store. They are not restaurants. He stated he is asking questions he feels are valid to ask, including whether the establishment will remain a restaurant throughout the night regardless of race, color, or ethnicity, or the food they serve.

[9. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Ashok Lakhani for Exotic Cigars at 507 East River Street, a Cigar Store. The establishment is located between East Broad Street Ramp and Lincoln Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Exotic Cigars](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Exotic Cigars](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Exotic Cigars](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Exotic Cigars](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Exotic Cigars](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol license hearings open for agenda items #7 and #9.

No speaker(s).

- a. Ald. Palumbo moved to close the public hearings for agenda items #7 and #9, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve agenda item #9, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### ZONING HEARINGS

[10. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment for ~1.49 Acres at East President Street \(PIN 20006 03002\) to change the I-L \(Light Industrial\) to PD \(Planned Development\) within Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for E. President Street \(File No.25-000899-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for E. President Street \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for E. President Street \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #10, #11, and #12. See related agenda items #13, #14, and #15.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC Representative
  - Susan Gorecki - OPPOSED to a third access road leading into the Upper East River Community
  - Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner Josh Yellin
  - John Gaskin, representing the petitioner Thomas Behm
- a. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearing for agenda items #10, #11, and #12, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Later in the meeting:

- b. Mayor Johnson moved to re-open the hearing for agenda item #12, seconded by Ald. Lanier and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- c. Ald. Palumbo moved to re-close the hearing for agenda item #12, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson asked Mr. Yellin a question about written public comment received from Mr. Peeples who reached out to them to express his concerns, but he never received a response. Mayor Johnson expressed that he is not feeling comfortable. Mr. Yellin responded by asking to organize the agenda items differently. He feels that comments being made are about different items. He explained the differences between each item. Regarding Mr. Peeples' comment, the curb cut is already there. DOT controls it and has rights of condemnation. They have no rights to stop them. Mayor Johnson asked Mr. Yellin if Mr. Peeples was called back. Mr. Yellin stated he does not know if he was called back. The road in question is there now and DOT may take it away tomorrow. They can do nothing about DOT's plans to improve Presidents Street, and they have to follow guidance given by DOT. Mr. Yellin continued to explain the differences between each of the agenda items. Mayor Johnson asked City Manager Melder to offer input/explanation.

Ald. Leggett asked the City Manager how long city and MPC staff have worked on these items. He would appreciate staff coming to the Alderpersons ahead of the game, so they can have conversations with members of the public and developers to work through issues before City Council meetings. City Manager Melder responded. Mr. Yellin continued to provide a detailed explanation of the items and how the agenda items progressed through the MPC. Ald. Leggett discussed the history of approving zoning items in one way, then finding out years later they have been changed or amended.

Ald. Lanier stated the property used to be in the first district prior to redistricting, the city owned it, and there was a swap. With respect to downgrading the property for residential or mixed use from light industrial, this is a subject of interest/desire in the first district. She indicated this is already the development pattern of the area, but we need to allow for input from the residents and protect the sanctity of the community.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan wished she saw that the developer made a follow-up call. She indicated she is alarmed by the mention in the MPC packet that the property is located in the Hitch Village/Fred Wessels Homes Neighborhood who have many restrictions in their area and she doubted they have been notified given they will be impacted the most. There are traffic and safety issues in this area. Regarding the master plan that was used, it is kinda obsolete. Definitions of planned development seem to vary. She is also concerned about when a neighborhood association does not exist or is not mentioned. She objects to this because she needs more information based on the impacts to everybody. We've got to do better.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked Ms. Gorecki about her concern of more direct access to her community. Then, Ald. Miller Blakely asked Mr. Yellin about his comments regarding DOT and his client's need. Mr. Yellin responded.

Additional comments were made about separating the agenda items.

Mr. Yellin requested the opportunity for Mr. John Gaskin from Patrick Malloy Communities LLC to speak, since he may not be able to attend in two weeks.

Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager if Mr. Gaskin's explanation was also his understanding. City Manager Melder repeated points made earlier, noting that this area is the City of Savannah's first and only Tax Allocation District (TAD).

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz provided an statement/overview to Mr. Gaskin regarding his experience during today's discussion.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated that she is concerned about Mr. Peeples' and Ms. Gorecki's concerns, and she asked if the developer if he was no longer concerned about the road (third access) referred to by Ms. Gorecki.

Mr. Yellin added additional remarks in another attempt to clarify the agenda items and stating that only items #11/#14 (the master plan) have anything to do with that access road.

Ald. Lanier stated what is happening here makes sense, but it is also not always what you do, but how you do it. Such as these separate matters coming to the City Council at the same time. This City Council is concerned about having citizens included in the conversations, at the table, and negotiate/drive some of the decision-making and development. We need to take into consideration information provided by the City Manager regarding the development plan and how the grid should be laid out. Some issues raised by citizens might be resolved through traffic calming or settled in some other way. This is the plan and sometimes plans have to be tweaked. With additional time, Ms. Gorecki and her neighbors will be able to sit down with the developer to discuss their concerns and assist them wherever they can.

Mayor Johnson stated we went around the world, but we came back to where we needed to be. He is comfortable with approving agenda item #15, because the issue actually deals with agenda item #14 which is on first reading anyway. Mr. Gaskin does not have to come back and we still have time to address the remaining issues.

[11. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to the Savannah River Landings \(Eastern Wharf\) Planned Development Master Plan for the Inclusion of ~1.49 Acres Located at East President Street \(PIN 20006 03002\) within Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 25-000900-ZA\).](#)

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Speaker(s):

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- Susan Gorecki - OPPOSED to a third access road leading into the Upper East River Community
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a. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearing for agenda items #10, #11, and #12, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Later in the meeting:

b. Mayor Johnson moved to re-open the hearing for agenda item #12, seconded by Ald. Lanier and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

c. Ald. Palumbo moved to re-close the hearing for agenda item #12, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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Ald. Miller Blakely asked Ms. Gorecki about her concern of more direct access to her community. Then, Ald. Miller Blakely asked Mr. Yellin about his comments regarding DOT and his client's need. Mr. Yellin responded.

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[12. Petition of Thomas Behm on Behalf of Ballantry PMC 30 Adlers, LLC and SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to Savannah River Landings \(Eastern Wharf\) Planned Development Master Plan to 400 and 500 Pilot Street, 300 Passage Way, and East President Street \(PINs 20006 05007, 20006 05013, 20006 05083, 20006 05084, and 20006 05088\) within Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 25-000901-ZA\).](#)

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Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #10, #11, and #12. See related agenda items #13, #14, and #15.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC Representative
- Susan Gorecki - OPPOSED to a third access road leading into the Upper East River Community
- Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner Josh Yellin
- John Gaskin, representing the petitioner Thomas Behm

a. Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearing for agenda items #10, #11, and #12, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Later in the meeting:

b. Mayor Johnson moved to re-open the hearing for agenda item #12, seconded by Ald. Lanier and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager if Mr. Gaskin's explanation was also his understanding. City Manager Melder repeated points made earlier, noting that this area is the City of Savannah's first and only Tax Allocation District (TAD).

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Mayor Johnson stated we went around the world, but we came back to where we needed to be. He is comfortable with approving agenda item #15, because the issue actually deals with agenda item #14 which is on first reading anyway. Mr. Gaskin does not have to come back and we still have time to address the remaining issues.

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

[13. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment for ~1.49 Acres at East President Street \(PIN 20006 03002\) to change the I- \(Light Industrial\) to PD \(Planned Development\) within Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for E. President Street \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for E. President Street \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for E. President Street \(File No. 25-000899-ZA\).pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved (to approve agenda item #13) that the first reading be considered the second and the ordinance placed upon its passage and passed, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[14. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to the Savannah River Landings \(Eastern Wharf\) Planned Development Master Plan for the inclusion of ~1.49 acres located at East President Street \(PIN 20006 03002\) within Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 25-000900-ZA\).](#)

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[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for PD \(File No. 25-000900-ZA\).pdf](#)

Ald. Leggett requested additional time on this agenda item, #14. Due to a lack of unanimous consent, agenda item #14 was heard on first reading only.

City Manager spoke to the City Council regarding connectivity (downtown expansion zone) and the look/character of the Eastern Wharf.

Mayor Johnson advised that this delay will allow the City Council time to review the matters more closely and allow the City Manager to provide any clarifying information.

[15. Petition of Thomas Behm on Behalf of Ballantry PMC 30 Adlers, LLC and SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to Savannah River Landings \(Eastern Wharf\) Planned Development Master Plan to 400 and 500 Pilot Street, 300 Passage Way, and East President Street \(PINs 20006 05007, 20006 05013, 20006 05083, 20006 05084, and 20006 05088\) within Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 25-000901-ZA\).](#)

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Ald. Leggett moved (to approve agenda item #15) that the first reading be considered the second and the ordinance placed upon its passage and passed, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson asked if the parties were good, and he asked Mr. Yellin to call people back.

Mr. Morrow (MPC representative) advised there is a fairly robust system for creating the neighborhoods and getting information out there for who should be contacted. If there is no appointed neighborhood organization, it is really difficult to schedule a meeting. Established standards are minimal standards. With regard to this particular petition, the Housing Authority is the usual point of contact. Staff always reaches out to notify people that things are happening, if they happen to know someone. An applicant cannot be held to a standard, if there is no designated neighborhood.

Mayor Johnson stated that maybe we need to include that/something. It is our responsibility to make sure they know, when we do know who to contact. We must make sure there is a mechanism by which that occurs.

Ald. Leggett stated some of them have representatives within their tenant associations.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan advised that she made that comment. She clarified that when there are not established meetings, it does not mean that we cannot go knock on doors for those people who are personally impacted by their quality of life. A lot of people are not on social media.

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

[16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for New Parking Garages Owner's Representative with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$773,685. This contract is for owner's representative consultation services for assistance with the design and construction of two parking garages: a 450-space Forsyth Park Parking Garage and a 600-700-space Eastern Wharf Garage with residential units above. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- New Parking Garages Owner's Representative.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes- New Parking Garages Owners Representative.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #16, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated several comments were received in opposition of this request, so he pulled it to bring light to the request for public consumption.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked Mayor Johnson to allow the City Manager to give an explanation regarding the agenda item regarding parking at Forsyth Park. The City Manager responded by

providing a detailed explanation of the agenda item.

[17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Polymers from Polydyne, Inc. in the Amount Not to Exceed \\$120,000. Two Polymers are utilized to coagulate raw water and to dewater millions of wet sludge to form a solid and dispose of in a landfill yearly. \(Water Reclamation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Polymer](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Polymer](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

[18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Floodplain Management Plan with WSP USA, Inc. \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$80,968. The Development Services Department is requesting this service because as an active participant in the Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) Community Rating System \(CRS\), the City is required to develop and submit a revised Floodplain Management Plan \(FMP\) to FEMA every 5 years. \(Development Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Floodplain Management Plan.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes- Floodplain Management Plan.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

[19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Multimodal Transportation Implementation Plan with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$500,000. Kimley-Horne and Associates, Inc. will prioritize mobility for the City by integrating transportation modes, prioritizing key projects to boost mobility and economic growth, setting Vision Zero-focused goals, ensuring equitable access, reducing delays, and promoting safety and environmental sustainability. \(PED\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Multimodal Transportation Implementation Services.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes- Multimodal Transportation Implementation Services.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #19, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Ald. Lanier spoke about the plan and the related costs regarding Vision Zero and traffic calming. There are changes in our economic climate. In meeting with her residents, they continue to bring up traffic calming. She discussed the changes relating to who can make traffic calming requests, whether it came from the District Alderman, Neighborhood Presidents, or residents/neighbors. Now that the resident/neighbors are making the requests, the requests are being denied for not qualifying, including signage requests. She stated we have gotten some traffic calming in Cuyler-Brownville, Carver Village, and Cloverdale. City Manager Melder responded. Ald. Lanier stated once again she is going to support the request because she is hoping to see a change.

Ald. Palumbo stated to his fellow Council members that this is his favorite portion of the program. His colleagues are not talking about what they are doing, but about what they are getting. Self interests are okay. Today we stand at a crossroads in Savannah's history. The decision for us today isn't about infrastructure, it's the possibility, and what City do we want to become. Savannah Moves represents a plan for tomorrow, integrating all modes of transportation (walking, biking, cycling, trucks, traffic, airplanes, self-piloting drones). We all suffer when a parent can't reach their work place, when a senior can't cross the street, and when a child can't ride their bike without fear. Vision Zero is not just a policy goal. He asked can we all agree that this \$500,000.00 expenditure is going to save lives and actually do something. He says we chose vision over complacency.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated Ald. Lanier was so nice in what she was saying in reference to West Savannah and Hudson Hill, marginalized areas not getting traffic calming devices. When she rides in districts of the City of Savannah, she sees traffic calming devices all over the place. Nothing against Vision Zero, let's have equity for all areas. She asked to be on the Traffic Calming Committee and was voted against by her colleagues to be on it.

Mayor Johnson stated that due to the advocacy of Ald. Lanier there are traffic calming devices in the first district. Staff has worked to put traffic calming in the first district, and he will support putting more traffic calming in the next SPLOST, equitably around the City.

[20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Equipment with Templeton and Associates in the amount not to exceed \\$250,000. The Water Reclamation Department uses a range of equipment to treat and process millions of gallons of wastewater and supply reclaimed water to the City. \(Water Reclamation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Dewatering & Filtration Equipment Templeton](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note- Dewatering & Filtration Equipment](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

[21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification and Renewal for Armed Security Services for Various City Facilities with Sunstates Security Services \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$2,938,492. This contract provides armed security services at the following locations: City Hall, Government Operations Headquarters, Ellis Square, Coastal Georgia Center, I & D Water, President Street Plant, Forsyth Café, Visitor Center, Adams Complex, and City Garages in addition to special details upon request. \(Risk Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Armed Security Services for Various City Facilities.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes- Armed Security Services for Various City Facilities.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

[22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Design for Fell Street Pumping Station in an Amount not to Exceed \\$732,655 \(LOCAL\). The 50-year-old pump station is undersized and in a deteriorated condition and in need of re-design. \(Stormwater Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Design Services Fell Street Pump Station](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note- Design Services Fell Street Pump Station](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

[23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Equipment for the Savannah Police Department \(SPD\) Headquarters Renovation Project with MGT \(LOCAL\) in the Amount Not to Exceed \\$120,000. Innovation and Technology Services will use these switches and other equipment as needed for the SPD Headquarters renovation project to provide connectivity to the City's network. \(ITS\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Equipment for SPD Headquarters.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract with Suncoast Restoration and Waterproofing, LLC in the amount of \\$613,650. This contract is to perform crack and spall repairs in the Whitaker Street Garage. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Whitaker St. Garage Repairs.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Whitaker St. Garage Repairs.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.

**SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION**

[25. Approval of Change Order No. 1 with ECS Southeast for Special Inspections for the Taxiway G Bridge Project, in the Amount of \\$36,860.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[26. Approval to Procure Public Safety Radios from Williams Communications Inc., in the Amount of \\$119,942.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Approval to Purchase Two Explosive Trace Detection Devices from Rapiscan Systems, in the Amount of \\$77,526.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[28. Approval to Participate in the 2025 Visit Savannah Co-Op Digital Advertising Campaign, in the Amount of \\$300,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[29. Approval for Search Engine Optimization and Reporting Services with Agency of Record RobMark, in the Amount of \\$25,920.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[30. Approval to Purchase One Front Deck Mower with a Cab from Shea Tractor & Equipment Company, Inc., in the Amount of \\$48,465.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Approval to Purchase One All-Terrain Vehicle from Logistics365, Inc., in the Amount of \\$27,091.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #25 through #31, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[32. Authorize Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. \(CHSA\) to Make a \\$1,230,000 Loan from the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund in Support of a 2025 LIHTC Application to Develop 41 Affordable Housing Apartments on Vacant Land at 1700 Drayton Street and 104 E. 34th Street. \(Housing Department\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution Authorizing SAHF Favorable Financing Supporting 1700 Drayton 2025 LIHTC Application](#)

Mayor Johnson moved to approve agenda item #32, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Ald. Leggett was away from the dais during the vote.

**AGREEMENTS**

[33. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Lennar Carolinas, LLC for Edgewater at New Hampstead Phases. This is for a development consisting of 156 single-family homes off Little Neck Road in the Travis Field service area in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1 : Water & Sewer Agreement - Edgewater at New Hampstead Phase 2.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #33, #34, and #35, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[34. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Riverbend Savannah J, LLC for Rockingham Tract 6A-2, Building 7B. This is for a development consisting of a warehouse and office space of Feldspar Drive in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Water & Sewer Agreement - Rockingham Tract 6A-2 Building 7B.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #33, #34, and #35, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[35. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Riverbend Savannah J, LLC for Rockingham Tract 6A-1, Building 7A. This is for a development consisting of a warehouse and office space off Feldspar Drive in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1 : Water & Sewer Agreement - Rockingham Tract 6A-1 Building 7A.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #33, #34, and #35, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[36. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Savannah Chatham Public School System for Windsor Forest High School. This is for a development of a replacement school at 12419 Largo Drive in the Wilshire service area in Aldermanic District 6.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Water & Sewer Agreement - Windsor Forest High School.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #36, seconded by Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Ald. Purtee abstained/recused himself from the vote for business purposes.

[37. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Manger Building Property Owner, LLC for the Manger Hotel. This is for a development consisting of 224-room hotel, restaurant, fitness center, assembly hall and office space on East Congress Street in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Water & Sewer Agreement - Manger Hotel.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #37 and #38, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[38. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with the Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority for an Amended and Restated Hotel Motel Tax in Accordance with State Law O.C.G.A. 48-13-51\(b\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: H. M Tax MOA City of Savannah and SGCCA.docx](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #37 and #38, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[39. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #39 (Authorizing the City Attorney's office to resolve the worker's compensation claim of Rukhsar Nawaz for \$65,000.00), seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

[40. Approval of Major Subdivision West Tract 3, 4, and 5, Hill Durrence Tract. These proposed western tracts created a total of 125.093 acres and will consist of a residential complex near the Fort Argyle Road entrance and multiple warehouses towards the center and rear of the western portion. The property is in Aldermanic District 5 at Street Location: Kaizen Parkway at Fort Argyle Road \(Note: Item withdrawn at the petitioner's request\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat: Major Subdivision West Tract 3, 4, and 5 Hill Durrence.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 MPC Decision.pdf](#)

Agenda item #40 was withdrawn at the petitioner's request by consent.

Following various announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:21 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>.

