



## December 11, 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 2:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Following the roll call, Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order. He then recognized Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz who introduced Reverend Kaggi Kimathi Scott, Pastor of the West Broad Seventh-day Adventist Church, 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  
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  
Assistant City Manager Taffanye Young  
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams  
City Attorney Bates Lovett  
Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones  
Assistant to the Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for December 11, 2025.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve item #1 with changes read by Mayor Johnson to postpone agenda item #20 until January 22, 2026, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated that he was asked to remove agenda item 20 (the stormwater utility rate ordinance) from the agenda at this time and to defer deliberation of this item until January 22, 2026. He stated that the council will vote the (stormwater utility rate ordinance) up or down because he thinks the staff has put in a lot of work at the council's direction.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked that when the council have discussion on this particular item that was removed, will there be an opportunity to get stakeholders involved, will there be another meeting to know exactly what the pros and cons are, or will this be something that the city staff takes care of? She stated that we have another opportunity to get stakeholders involved on this momentous event that is going to change the scope of a lot of people's lives. Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated that to not have an open discussion about what is needed and what is not needed is still a disservice.

Mayor Johnson stated that staff has been working on this and the council had established the stormwater utility in December of 2024. He noted that extensive work had done to include:

- meetings in all six districts which members of council hosted,
- surveys,
- shared information, and
- created a nine member committee that the council had appointed to help.

Mayor Johnson stated that again, he wanted to make sure we (council) provide additional time. He stated we will create additional opportunities, but ultimately we charged staff to give us the options. Mayor Johnson stated that the council just need to provide direction.

Ald. Lanier stated we have had the first reading on this item and it is coming back in January. She asked City Manager Melder was there an opportunity within what is allowed within the statute to make any edits between the first reading and the second reading. (Yes).

Ald. Wilder-Bryan encouraged the citizens to participate and to be engaged so that the decisions the council make are in line with the decisions that the community makes.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of the Action Minutes for the Budget Retreat Held on November 17, 2025, at 8:30 a. m.](#)

[ActionMinutes\\_2025-11-17 Budget Retreat without PPT.pdf](#)

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

Ald. Wilder-Bryan called for a discussion. She stated the (budget retreat) presentation should have been allowed for council to have questions and answers. Ald. Wilder-Bryan further stated that we (the council) want to be able to ask questions so that the council can make sure they get a return on their investment. She stated that she met with the City Manager who stated he would try to make sure that the council would have more than one day for a budget retreat for a \$600M budget that the council has to decide where that money goes.

Mayor Johnson stated to that record, he offered as many opportunities as you wanted to talk and to ask any questions you liked. He further stated that the City Manager and staff had made themselves available to any Alderperson that wanted to ask any questions or to receive clarification.

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on November 25, 2025, at 9:00 a. m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - WS DRAFT MINUTES November 25, 2025 City Council Workshop watermark.pdf](#)

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

[4. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on November 25, 2025, at 2:00 p. m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - RM DRAFT MINUTES November 25, 2025 City Council Meeting watermark.pdf](#)

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

\*Mayor Johnson entertained a motion that an executive session regarding litigation and real estate was held earlier, following the work session presentation for which no action was taken. All members were present for the executive session, including the City Manager, City Attorney, and Deputy Clerk of Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve as stated above, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### [5. Presentation by Human Resources for Bridge to Success Student Internship Program Fall 2025 Student Completion \(Human Resources\)](#)

City Manager Melder, Sr. Director of Human Resources Jeff Grant, Assistant Director of Human Resources Tiffany Martin, and Human Resources Recruitment Coordinator Kadatra Ortiz presented to the following Bridge to Success Student Internship Program's 2025 Fall Student Cohort interns who completed the program, they are our first cohort:

Tachelle Horne, Madison Washington, Charles Edward Donaway, III, Hudson Burchstead, Emma Gillen, Djorn Barrett, Weronika Kupiec, Kailee Mack, Janalin Parsons, Laylah Walker, Lauren Walker, Lauren Silvers, Gavin Hoppe, Weilum Helena Chien, and Melodie Watson Davis.

##### [6. Presentation by Human Resources for National Caregivers Appreciation \(Human Resources\)](#)

City Manager Melder, Human Resources Sr. Director Jeff Grant, and Human Resources Technician Stephanie Levert presented by honoring caregivers across Team Savannah. The honorees who joined the presenters at the podium were Miriam Baker, Earline Mathews, Donna Cooper, Pearlette Schuman, Andrea Bossart, Jenneida White, Lisa Edwards, Aislee Jackson, and Judy Stewart.

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

##### [7. Approval of a Class E \(Beer and Wine\) Alcohol License to Dipesh Patel for Chu's at 1336 West Bay Street. The establishment is located between Carolan and Kirkland Streets, a Supermarket in Aldermanic District 1. This existing business is in the West Savannah Overlay District, but the business meets the requirements. \(New Owner/Existing Business\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Chu's](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Chu's](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Report - Chu's](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Chu's](#)

[Exhibit 5: Safety Plan - Chu's](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Lanier moved to approve agenda item #7, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

##### [8. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Bhavesh Patel for Quick Stop #92, at 1450 West Bay Street Between Carolan and Cleland Streets, a Convenience Store in Aldermanic District 1. This existing business is in the West Savannah Overlay District, but the business meets the requirements. \(New Owner/Existing Business\)](#)

[Exhibit 1- Checklist - Quick Stop #92](#)

[Exhibit 2 - Density Map - Quick Stop #92](#)

[Exhibit 3 - Alcohol Reports - Quick Stop #92](#)

[Exhibit 4 - Measurement Report - Quick Stop #92](#)

[Exhibit 5 - Security Plan - Quick Stop #92](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Lanier moved to approve agenda item #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for Eliza Thompson House at 5 West Jones Street. The establishment is located between Whitaker and Bull Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business).

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Eliza Thompson House](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Eliza Thompson House](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Report - Eliza Thompson House](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Eliza Thompson House](#)

[Exhibit 5: Safety Plan - Eliza Thompson House](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) and Class E (Beer and Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for Easy Bay Inn at 225 East Bay Street. The establishment is located between Jefferson and Barnard Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business).

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - East Bay Inn](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - East Bay Inn](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Report - East Bay Inn](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - East Bay Inn](#)

[Exhibit 5: Safety Plan - East Bay Inn](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

11. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for Kehoe House at 123 Habersham Street. The establishment is located between Whitaker and Bull Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business).

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Kehoe House](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Kehoe House](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Report - Kehoe House](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Kehoe House](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Kehoe House](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Lanier moved to approve agenda item #11, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[12. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for The Gastonian Hotel located at 220 East Gaston Street. The establishment is located between Abercorn and Lincoln Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. \(New Owner/Existing Business\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Gastonian](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Gastonian](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Report - Gastonian](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Gastonian](#)

[Exhibit 5: Safety Plan - Gastonian](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve agenda item #12, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[13. Approval of a Class D \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Victoria Domingo for All American Liquor LLC, a package shop located at 4317 Ogeechee Road. The establishment is located between Chatham Parkway and Heathcote Circle in Aldermanic District 5. \(New Owner/Existing Business\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - All American Liquor](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - All American Liquor](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Report - All American Liquor](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - All American Liquor](#)

[Exhibit 5: Safety Plan - All American Liquor](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Purtee moved to close the alcohol license hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #13, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

[14. Final Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the 2026 Proposed Service Program and Budget.](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open for agenda item #14. See related agenda item #36.

No speaker(s).

Ald. Lanier moved to close the public hearing for agenda item #14, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated we (the council) reduce the millage rate in July, and yet, we still have our largest budget we have ever had. He stated that this has been the work of an outstanding City Manager and Budget Team.

#### ZONING HEARINGS

[15. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Text Amendment to Section 7.13 Hotel Development Overlay District in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 \(25-004589-ZA\). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. \(Planning & Urban Design\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet Hotel Text Amendment \(25-004589-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map of Victorian, Streetcar, and Cuyler-Brownville Districts.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Hotel Overlay Expansion Study 07.20.2025.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for agenda items #15 and #16. See related agenda items #17 and #18.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED
- Gloria Williams, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED
- David McDonald, Downtown Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED
- Courtney Cartledge, SUPPORTED
- Travis Coles, NEUTRAL

Written Comments:

- Hugh S. Golson, OPPOSED
- Jason L. Combs, SUPPORTED
- Adris Wood, SUPPORTED
- Barry Atwood, SUPPORTED
- Morgan Whitney & Kristen Hayes, SUPPORTED
- John W. Rimes, SUPPORTED
- Brooke Mollenkamp & Charles Herman, SUPPORTED
- Adrienne Dickerson, SUPPORTED
- Roe Zaplinski, SUPPORTED
- Whitney Shephard, SUPPORTED
- Ryan Madson, SUPPORTED
- Carolina Braunschweig along with signed Letters from various petitioners, SUPPORTED
- Michael T. Owens, Tourism Leadership Council, OPPOSED
- LaRaine P. Montgomery, SUPPORTED
- Sarah Cuda, SUPPORTED

Ald. Palumbo moved to close the zoning hearings for agenda items #15 and #16, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson stated that this is something that he has been in favor of for quite some time in terms of the petition. He quoted Mr. Morrow by stating 'progress is a slow march'--you have to go through the meetings, do your due diligence, you have to have stakeholders' input, and you have to go through the processes to do this.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked a question regarding what was being requested. City Manager Melder stated it would be a prohibition on large hotels--17 rooms or above would be prohibited. Ald. Miller Blakely also asked about the number of STVRs in that district. She asked if the petitioners were saying that they were okay with putting an inn or boutique hotel. Mr. Morrow replied by stating that the petition was for the elimination of the possibility of hotels; that is why it is option zero. City Manager Melder also provided further description of the petitioners request and the prohibition of hotels verse inns.

Mayor Johnson stated he has been very fond of saying that we have to maintain balance between residents and commercial growth, and to that end, tourism has been the goose that has laid the golden egg in Savannah. It is part of our brand, and it is a part of who we are. Mayor Johnson stated what makes us the city we are is because we are a great place to visit and we are even a more phenomenal place to live. So, residential development is key to us to make sure that we remain livable. Mayor Johnson stated that we have to have balance, predictability, stability, and protections. He stated as we continue to grow and people find more ways to be creative and draw people here, we have to also protect those who have chosen to make Savannah their home.

Mayor Johnson stated that this was a true citizen movement. He thanked Ms. Nancy Maia, Ms. Perry, Ms. Gloria Williams, Jason Combs, and all who were locked in and engaged. Mayor Johnson also thanked them for not being deterred by the process because the process itself is very daunting.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked Ms. Gloria Williams of the Culyer-Brownsville Neighborhood Association if she heard her say that their neighborhood association did not want more of the short-term vacation rentals in Culyer-Brownsville area. Ms. Williams stated that they are growing and their preference is stability, home ownership. Ald. Miller Blakely then asked how many short-term vacation rentals are over in the Culyer-Brownsville area. (There are hundreds of short-term vacation rentals and there is no limit on the number of owner occupied.) She asked City Manager Melder, when are we going to look at expanding the STVRs in the city so that other areas in our city can have the privilege of having that extra income coming into their homes. (Whenever the council would like to entertain that ordinance.) Ald. Miller Blakely stated she was speaking for the public because people who live on the southside would like to have the opportunity to have STVRs in their community as well, and she thinks it is unfair that we could have all of this extra income coming into the downtown and specific areas and not in other areas.

Mayor Johnson stated that he thought the attorney had cautioned the council in terms of addressing some of ordinances which is considered to be the gold standard in the state. He stated that there is work currently going on in the general assembly regarding that (STVRs); so he thinks the attorney's previous advice has been to the council is to leave well enough alone during this time. Mayor Johnson also stated that STVRs destroys housing affordability because what that does is it makes people purchase homes and use them as STVRs, which then leads to less affordable housing and drives up rent. He stated that he thinks we have to be very careful. Mayor Johnson expressed that certainly, this not what we are talking about right now and he thinks the council can revisit this at the beginning of the year through a theoretical expression because, at one end you open one door, you create a bunch of other unintended consequences.

Ald. Purtee stated that he does meet with the associations (Windsor Forest, Coffee Bluff, and Wilshire Estates) on the southside, and they do not want STVRs on the southside. Ald. Purtee stated that folks have written him, called him, and showed up to meetings, and they do not want this in their neighborhoods.

Ald. Bell thanked Ms. Williams, Jason Combs, and Nancy Maia for the work they have done and for the engagement of citizens as a resident of one of those neighborhoods. She stated she appreciated how they have been there to answer questions to make sure that the residents understood what has been proposed.

Ald. Leggett stated he wanted to echo and raise up the neighborhood association presidents. He stated he does not think people realize what went into the preparation of getting to where we are now. It was a lot of conversation and he applauded them for having the courageous conversation with not only residents but with the developers about what they would tolerate and what they would work towards.

Ald. Palumbo stated he wanted to echo the sentiments to commend the petitioners. He stated since 2023 the petitioners have carried the standards, pulled together their own money, banded together as joint neighborhood associations, coordinated neighborhood meetings, and suffered significantly to be able to get to the finish line here through continuous delay, analysis by paralysis, and what have you. Ald. Palumbo stated that even today, the council is debating economic policy right up until the finish line. He expressed that this is a symptom of the larger problem that we need to have a comprehensive vision when it comes to our visitors industry and the City of Savannah. Ald. Palumbo stated we (the council) are here to listen to the people that brought this petition forward, and he supports the petitioners on the mission in the vision.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated she was not so concerned about having STVRs in the 3rd District. She stated she wanted to continue to work on and finish the study regarding ADUs. Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated that we want to make sure the accessory dwellings are obtainable in all of the districts and not just in Districts 1 and 2. Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated that political engagement is what drives them (the council), and usually, the council have political engagement like this the day before we vote. She stated that we need to do better in making sure people get the information so that they can act in a timely manner. Ald. Wilder-Bryan thanked the citizens that know the council is listening. She further stated that it is very important that citizens send their

opposition letters to the Clerk of Council so that they know what the pulse is, and the pulse is that there is not that much opposition for this.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated she wanted the public to see a model of when the community comes together, the community engage, meet, organize, and on top of that, the community shows up. She expressed to those, who are looking to have matters here in city council to pass or to be opposed, to look at this because our chambers were full of residents who stood strong in their opinion and they were there together united.

Ald. Lanier congratulated all of the neighborhood people because community organizing is the hardest job in all of this work. She stated that she often says that our policies should be resident driven and community led, and this is what it looks like. Ald. Lanier stated we (the council) has since adopted our Savannah GPS because we all believe in that we should have more engagement and having our residents drive the work that we do here. She stated that we want to be good representatives, so, congratulations on the work that you all have done.

[16. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Zoning Map Amendment to Expand the Hotel Overlay in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 \(25-004592-ZA\). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. \(Planning & Urban Design\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet Hotel Map Amendment \(25-004592-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map of Victorian, Streetcar, and Cuyler-Brownville Districts.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Hotel Overlay Expansion Study 07.20.2025.pdf](#)

See agenda item #15.

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

[17. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Text Amendment to Section 7.13 Hotel Development Overlay District in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 \(25-004589-ZA\). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. \(Planning & Urban Design\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet Hotel Text Amendment \(25-004589-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map of Victorian, Streetcar, and Cuyler-Brownville Districts.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Hotel Overlay Expansion Study 07.20.2025.pdf](#)

Ald. Leggett moved (to approve #17, Study Option 3, "Option Zero") that the first reading be considered the second and the ordinance placed upon its passage and passed, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[18. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Zoning Map Amendment to Expand the Hotel Overlay in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 \(25-004592-ZA\). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. \(Planning & Urban Design\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet Hotel Map Amendment \(25-004592-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map of Victorian, Streetcar, and Cuyler-Brownville Districts.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Hotel Overlay Expansion Study 07.20.2025.pdf](#)

Ald. Leggett moved (to approve #18) that the first reading be considered the second and the ordinance placed upon its passage and passed, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[19. Approval of the 2026 Revenue Ordinance. \(Revenue Department\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2026 Revenue Ordinance](#)

[Exhibit 2: 2025 Budget Memo on Water and Sewer Rates 2026 thru 2030 v1](#)

[Exhibit 3: MEMO FY26 Revenue Ordinance Proposed Fee Changes and Modifications](#)

[Exhibit 4: Sanitation Fund Memo for 2026 - revised 9-23-2025 #2](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve item #19, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[20. Adoption of the Amendment to the 2026 Revenue Ordinance to establish a Stormwater Utility Rate Ordinance within the City of Savannah Code of Ordinances \(FY 2026 Revenue Ordinance\). \(Water Resources Department\). This Item is Continued to January 22, 2026.](#)

[Exhibit-1 draft-sw-utility-rate-ordinance 11182025.pdf](#)

[Exhibit-2 memo revenue-ord-amendment sw-utility-rate-ord 111825.pdf](#)

[Exhibit-3 savannah stormwater utility project memo 11 18 2025 es 1.pdf](#)

POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 22, 2026.

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

[21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for AI Water Leak Detection Survey Services with Oldcastle Infrastructure in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$249,900. \(Water Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - AI Water Leak Survey](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - AI Water Leak Survey](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for \(4\) Roll-Off Container Trucks for Sanitation with Sansom Equipment Company, c/o Automotive Fleet Group in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$977,200. \(Fleet Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Roll-Off Container Trucks.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Roll-Off Container Trucks.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Axon Skydio Drones, Software, Docking, and Maintenance with Axon Skydio in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$53,712. Purchased with SCAD Serves Grant funds.\(SPD\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Axon Skydio Drone.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Axon Skydio Drone.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Flock Safety Camera System with Flock Safety in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$193,500. Purchased with SCAD Serves Grant funds.\(SPD\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Flock Safety Camera System.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Flock Safety Camera System.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Cameras, Emergency Phones, and Emergency Call Towers with Netplanner in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$232,596. Purchased with SCAD Serves Grant funds.\(SPD\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Axon Skydio Drone.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Axon Skydio Drone.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Lab Equipment with Seal Analytical in the Amount of \\$54,278. \(Water Reclamation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1 Funding Verification - Auto Analyzer 500.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 - Purchasing Notes - Auto Analyzer 500.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for On-call Architectural Services to Hussey, Gay, Bell in the Amount of \\$500,000. \(Capital Projects Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Architectural Design and Technical Svcs.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Architectural Design and Technical Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification with J.E. Dunn to establish the Guaranteed Maximum Price \(GMP\) for Construction of the New Northwest Precinct in the Amount of \\$15,600,000. \(Capital Projects Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - CMAR for Northwest Precinct.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - CMAR for North West Precinct.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell.  
The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Wellness Platform with WellRight, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$85,302. \(Human Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Wellness Platform.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Wellness Platform .pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract with TIC-The Industrial Company for the Comprehensive Restoration and Revitalization of the Coffee Bluff Marina in the Amount of \\$396,262. \(Capital Projects Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Coffee Bluff Marina Repairs.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Coffee Bluff Marina Repairs.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Bricks, Concrete, Stone Construction and Repairs with Savannah Paving Company in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$710,100. \(Park and Tree\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Brick, Concrete, Stone Construction Repairs.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Brick, Concrete, Stone Construction Repairs.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[32. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Service Delivery and Infrastructure Expansion with Ernst & Young, LLP in the Amount of \\$184,000. \(Planning & Economic Development\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Service Delivery and Infrastructure Expansion.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Service Delivery and Infrastructure Expansion.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #21 through #32, seconded by Ald. Bell. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[33. Approval of a Three-Year Agreement to Sponsor the Club Car Championship in Partnership with SEDA and the Savannah Chamber, in the Amount of \\$47,500.](#)

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

[34. Approval of Change Order No. 4 with Shamrock Concrete Construction for the Demo Air Cargo Phase 1B Project, in the Amount of \\$61,955](#)

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

[35. Approval of Task Work Order No. 15 with Mead and Hunt, Inc. for the Northwest Area and Runway 10 Tree Clearing Project, in the Amount of \\$209,471](#)

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

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

[36. Adoption of the 2026 Service Program and Budget, Five-Year Capital Plan.](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve item #36 with changes read by Mayor Johnson to exclude the Stormwater Utility, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan commended City Manager Melder and staff for entertaining the idea to include at least a Sunday out of the month and at least one night, and for making something good happen out of our budget where our homeless people know that they really are citizens in our community.

[37. Approval of a Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Chatham County, the Savannah Economic Development Authority \(SEDA\), and the Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. \(CHSA\) to Establish and Provide First Year Funding for the New Countywide "Housing United" Initiative. \(Housing Services Department\)](#)

[Exhibit 2 Housing United Agenda Item Recommendation.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 1 Housing United Resolution.pdf](#)

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

[38. Resolution Renaming the Savannah Civic Center to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MLK Jr. Renaming Resolution 12.04.2025.docx](#)

Mayor Johnson moved to approve agenda item #38, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson announced that on January 17, 2026, we are going to some type of dedication service.

City Manager Melder recognized and publicly honored Municipal Archives and History Officer Luciana Spracher for being the recipient of the Governor's Award for Art and Humanities. He asked Ms. Spracher to provide the history behind the award. Ms. Spracher stated she was given the award for her work here in archives, which she does not do alone. She stated she could not do anything without her team: Kelly Zacovic, Megan Kerkhoff, and Kelly Westfield. Ms. Spracher stated all of the initiatives and work that the archives do is a community and citywide effort. History matters!

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[39. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to settle the workers' compensation claim of Tyrone Houston for \$60,000, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

[40. Approval of the City of Savannah's 2026 State Legislative Agenda. \(IPA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1. 2026 State Legislative Agenda](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #40, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz publicly applauded and thanked Chief of Public Information & Affairs Joe Shearouse and staff for their work and the continued work after the approval of this agenda.

[41. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, Edgewater Phase 2A, New Hampstead. Aldermanic District 5. \(Development Services Department\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: PLAT of Edgewater Phase 2A, New Hampstead.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 MPC recommendation of approval.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Sagis Map.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Vicinity Map.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson thanked City Manager Melder, City Attorney Lovett, the Clerk of Council and his team, and Team Savannah for the work they do. He stated we are the greatest city on earth because we have the greatest team of public servants on earth.

Following additional announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:40 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://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/?folder=ALL>.



DRAFT