



MARCH 27, 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 **2:00 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 **Pastor J. Michael Culbreth, founding pastor of ConneXion 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 March 27, 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 March 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - WS DRAFT MINUTES March 13, 2025 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

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

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on March 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus - RM DRAFT MINUTES March 13, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved that an executive session regarding personnel, litigation, and real estate was held earlier for which no action was taken and authorizing the Mayor to sign an affidavit and resolution, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. All members were present, including the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk of Council.

PRESENTATIONS

[4. An appearance by THE Savannah State Tigers Men's Basketball Team, the 2025 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference \(SIAC\) Men's Basketball Champions.](#)

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation to Savannah State Tigers Men's Interim Head Coach Clevan Thompson, Director of Athletics Opio Mashariki, and players who introduced themselves by giving their names, the position they play, their hometowns, and their year of matriculation.

[5. A Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The Bryd Cookie Company.](#)

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation to Byrd Cookie Company CEO Stephanie Lindley and family.

[6. An Appearance by the Savannah Music Festival \(SMF\) to Announce the 2025 SMF Festival.](#)

Mayor Johnson recognized Executive Director Gene Dobbs Bradford to introduce this year's festival.

Ald. Palumbo invited everybody to join him at the Zydeco Dance Party on April 5th at 5pm, taking place at the Ships Of The Sea Maritime Museum.

Mayor Pro Tem announced they already have their tickets for Branford Marsalis.

Mayor Johnson presented Ald. Linda Wilder-Bryan with the Environmental Justice Pioneer Award from the Harambee House and Dr. Mildred McClain for her valuable contributions to the fight and protection of Mother Earth.

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 Christopher Moody of Baby's General Store a Restaurant at 410 East 37th Street. The Establishment is Located Between Plant and Price Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Baby's General Store](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Baby's General Store](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Baby's General Store](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Baby's General Store](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Baby's General Store](#)

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

No speaker(s).

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

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

[8. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Richard Kessler of Foley House Inn, an Inn at 14 W Hull Street. The Establishment is Located Between Whitaker and Bull Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Foley House Inn](#)

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

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Foley House Inn](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - The Foley House Inn](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - The Foley House Inn](#)

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

No speaker(s).

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

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

[9. Approval of a Class B \(Beer\) \(Manufacturer\) Alcohol License to Elizabeth Massey for The Laundry Diner, a Restaurant Located at 1401 Paulsen Street. The Establishment is Located Between East Anderson and East 31st Street in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - The Laundry Diner](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - The Laundry Diner](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - The Laundry Diner](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - The Laundry Diner](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - The Laundry Diner](#)

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

No speaker(s).

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

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

[10. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Michael Watts for Joe & Vera's at 23 West Broughton Street, a Restaurant. The Establishment is Located Between Whitaker and Bull Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Joe and Vera's](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Joe and Vera's](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Joe and Vera's](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Joe and Vera's](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Joe and Vera's](#)

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

No speaker(s).

a. Ald. Leggett moved to close the hearings for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. 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 \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) and Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Bryan Cornelius for AC Hotel Savannah Historic District, a Hotel Located at 601 East River Street. The Establishment is Located Between East Broad Street Ramp and East River Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - AC Hotel Savannah Historic District](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - AC Hotel Savannah Historic District](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - AC Hotel Savannah Historic District](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - AC Hotel Savannah Historic District](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - AC Hotel Savannah Historic District](#)

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

No speaker(s).

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

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

[12. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Jian Ren for Shu Hot Pot and Korean BBQ, a Restaurant at 20 East DeRenne Avenue. The Establishment is Located Between Bull and Abercorn Streets in Aldermanic District 4.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Shu Hot Pot & Korean BBQ](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Shu Hot Pot and Korean BBQ](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Shu Hot Pot & Korean BBQ](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Shu Hot Pot & Korean BBQ](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Shu Hot Pot Korean and BBQ](#)

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

No speaker(s).

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

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

ZONING HEARINGS

[13. Petition of Warner Moore, Agent, on Behalf of Wjmoore Properties, LLC, and Joakima Davis-Moore, Jwmoore Properties, LLC, to Amend the Future Land Use Map from Residential Single-Family to Traditional Commercial for ~0.21 Acres at 1421 W. Gwinnett Street and 1425 W. Gwinnett Street \(PINs 20050 16021 and 20050 16022\) in Aldermanic District 1 \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for FLUM at 1421 and 1425 E Gwinnett Street \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for W. Gwinnett Street \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: FLUM Amendment for 1421 and 1425 W Gwinntt St \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #13 and #14. See related agenda items #15 and #16.

Speaker(s):

- Subhashi Karunaratne, MPC Representative
- Rose Cody - asked how much money was being offered to impact the properties on Bowden Street and/or how far they are planning to come up Bowden Street
- Warner Moore, representing the petitioner (did not speak)

Ald. Lanier moved to close the public hearing for agenda items #13 and #14, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson asked about the use of alcohol. Ms. Karunarthne responded that everything which falls within the zoning use is applicable.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated that in Section 5.12.8, V. states the minimum square footage is 450 sqft, what is the maximum? City Manager Melder responded whatever the lot size will be able to accommodate. Ms. Karunarthne responded later that the maximum is 5,500 sqft.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked the City Manager about the recommendation in relationship to the residential use. Is there any type of agreement to ensure that the property is not converted to a non-residential use? She stated she has watched where people have bought property, then 3-5 years later something else is there that we did not approve. City Manager Melder responded, including that the MPC recommendation allows the property to change from residential use to a restricted/limited (TN use) but commercial use, TC-1. City Attorney Lovett added that the zoning conditions if approved with restrictions would restrict the property, if a subsequent owner buys the property they can come back and ask Council to change it up. Then Council has the authority to say yes or no.

Mayor Johnson reminded Council this corner has been in disrepair for quite sometime. The petitioner requested it to be declared surplus in order to combine it with an adjoining lot. This is a natural progression.

Ald. Lanier advised this is a new structure and the lot next to it was needed for parking, and that's why the City sold him that property. The community and leadership has spent considerable time making sure this works for the community. They are trying to restore a pattern on that corner which was retail and commercial many years ago, including famous artists who performed right there on that corner. Everybody is onboard and she is glad that the Bowden Street resident came down because they made sure that it was not going to be

something put there that would inhibit the feel of any residents already in place. There is another business coming soon next to the church very similar to this which is already zoned for it. This is the pattern, no one had any problems, but we needed to have these questions answered.

Mayor Johnson added this will further develop a community based opportunity that is conducive to the neighborhoods that surround it.

[14. Petition of Warner Moore, Agent, on Behalf of Wjmoore Properties, LLC, and Joakima Davis-Moore, Jwmoore Properties, LLC, to Amend the Zoning Map from TR-2 \(Traditional Residential-2\) to Traditional Commercial-1 \(TC-1\) with Conditions for ~0.21 acres at 1421 W. Gwinnett Street and 1425 W. Gwinnett Street \(PINs 20050 16021 and 20050 16022\) in Aldermanic District 1 \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 1421 and 1425 W Gwinnett Rezoning \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for W. Gwinnett Street \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 1421 and 1425 W Gwinnett St \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #13 and #14. See related agenda items #15 and #16.

Speaker(s):

- Subhashi Karunaratne, MPC Representative
- Rose Cody - asked how much money was being offered to impact the properties on Bowden Street and/or how far they are planning to come up Bowden Street
- Warner Moore, representing the petitioner (did not speak)

Ald. Lanier moved to close the public hearing for agenda items #13 and #14, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson asked about the use of alcohol. Ms. Karunarthne responded that everything which falls within the zoning use is applicable.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated that in Section 5.12.8, V. states the minimum square footage is 450 sqft, what is the maximum? City Manager Melder responded whatever the lot size will be able to accommodate. Ms. Karunarthne responded later that the maximum is 5,500 sqft.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked the City Manager about the recommendation in relationship to the residential use. Is there any type of agreement to ensure that the property is not converted to a non-residential use? She stated she has watched where people have bought property, then 3-5 years later something else is there that we did not approve. City Manager Melder responded, including that the MPC recommendation allows the property to change from residential use to a restricted/limited (TN use) but commercial use, TC-1. City Attorney Lovett added that the zoning conditions if approved with restrictions would restrict the property, if a subsequent owner buys the property they can come back and ask Council to change it up. Then Council has the authority to say yes or no.

Mayor Johnson reminded Council this corner has been in disrepair for quite sometime. The petitioner requested it to be declared surplus in order to combine it with an adjoining lot. This is a natural progression.

Ald. Lanier advised this is a new structure and the lot next to it was needed for parking, and that's why the City sold him that property. The community and leadership has spent considerable time making sure this works for the community. They are trying to restore a pattern on that corner which was retail and commercial many years ago, including famous artists who performed right there on that corner. Everybody is onboard and she is glad that the Bowden Street resident came down because they made sure that it was not going to be something put there that would inhibit the feel of any residents already in place. There is another business coming soon next to the church very similar to this which is already zoned for it. This is the pattern, no one had any problems, but we needed to have these questions answered.

Mayor Johnson added this will further develop a community based opportunity that is conducive to the neighborhoods that surround it.

[15. Petition of Warner Moore, Agent, on behalf of Wjmoore Properties, LLC, and Joakima Davis-Moore, Jwmoore Properties, LLC, to Amend the Future Land Use Map from Residential Single-Family to Traditional Commercial for ~0.21 Acres at 1421 W. Gwinnett Street and 1425 W. Gwinnett Street \(PINs 20050 16021 and 20050 16022\) in Aldermanic District 1 \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for FLUM at 1421 and 1425 W Gwinnett Street \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for W. Gwinnett Street \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: FLUM Amendment for 1421 and 1425 W Gwinntt St \(File No. 24-001813-ZA\).pdf](#)

Ald. Lanier 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 Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[16. Petition of Warner Moore, Agent, on behalf of Wjmoore Properties, LLC, and Joakima Davis-Moore, Jwmoore Properties, LLC, to Amend the Zoning Map from TR-2 \(Traditional Residential-2\) to Traditional Commercial-1 \(TC-1\) with Conditions for ~0.21 acres at 1421 W. Gwinnett Street and 1425 W. Gwinnett Street \(PINs 20050 16021 and 20050 16022\) in Aldermanic District 1 \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 1421 and 1425 W. Gwinnett Rezoning \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for W. Gwinnett Street \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 1421 and 1425 W Gwinnett St \(File No. 24-001759-ZA\).pdf](#)

Ald. Lanier 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 Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[17. A Joint Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia and Brianna Paxton for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sections 3.12 Special Exceptions, 3.21 Variances, 5.4 Principal Use Table, 5.9 Traditional Residential Districts, 5.12 Traditional Neighborhood Districts, 5.13 Traditional Districts, 8.1 Residential Use Standards for Limited and Special Uses \(File No. 24-004284-ZA\). \(Postponed from the March 13, 2025 City Council Meeting.\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet \(File No. 24-004284-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: City Council Housing Savannah Action Plan Update.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Final Proposed Revisions 10.09.2024 \(File No. 24-004284-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Zoning Revisions as of 03.20.2025 \(File No. 24-004284-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Draft Ordinance as of 03.20.2025 \(File No. 24-004284-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson stated we previously held a hearing on this item. Mayor Johnson then opened the floor for public comments for agenda item #17.

Speaker(s):

- Rev. Claire Marich (representing 23 congregations) - IN SUPPORT due to the deficit of housing
- Pastor J. Michael Culbreth - IN SUPPORT of affordable housing

Ald. Lanier stated she wants to make this work, to move forward, and ensure Ms. Paxton gets what she came to get. However, there are some more people involved in this matter. We are trying to find something that will work for most of the people involved. She asked the City Manager for some help. At this time, they would like to structure this to be able to move forward with Ms. Paxton's request, with adjustments that dealt with Carver Village and Cuyler-Brownville which are not included. We had some other areas we were looking at and they have not been able to be included. They have already committed to doing the work, and staff has met with the leadership from the area, but there were more questions than answers. They need to remove R-6, until they can have a series of meetings that staff has planned and the residents are expecting.

Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager for his recommendation. The City Manager responded, finishing with the fact that no neighborhood will be impacted with this vote (the text amendment that lays out the criteria). The map which comes next lays out the geographic area.

Ald. Lanier stated that the next time when we do the map will be contingent on this text amendment being considered today. Residents have problems with the text, like duplexes, setbacks, and properties that are next to each other that can change the nature/pattern of these communities. It is not ready for the R-6 people. These other people have not had the ability to work on these issues, like Ms. Paxton has been able to do. This matter is going to be long-lasting. Residents are having a fit about the MPC signs that will be erected beginning tomorrow. The matter will require a door-to-door outreach due to its impact.

Mayor Johnson stated we are not leaving without moving forward on this matter, in some way or another. His stated his confusion is that we thought we had a path forward. Then people said we want to be included and it grew. Now he is hearing, no we do not want to grow, but go back to where we were. It was November when we had a hearing, and now it is March, then it's August and later it will be next year. There is a paralysis of analysis that occurs when thinking about something and doing nothing. We know the path to affordability is density. We have to change the way we do business in order to achieve it. It was requested that we be more inclusive, so that everyone could take advantage of what density provides. We should not let another day go by where we don't at least have something.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked about the summary timeline. Why can't we just wait until April to do everything? City Manager Melder responded. Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated you probably already have a map, so why didn't she (Ms. Paxton) present it. City Manager Melder indicated that we have to notice the map, and we are managing how to incorporate feedback. Deferring to the Alderwoman from the First District, she advised that she will be very vocal about whatever someone in the Third District says about not getting what they were able to get in the First District. Based on the neighborhoods where this is getting started (Victorian, parts of Live Oak, Thomas Square, and Metropolitan), she believes there is an opportunity to include/add the Third District. Two weeks is not enough time to roll/iron everything out. City Manager Melder responded.

Ald. Bell asked Ald. Lanier if moving forward today is in conflict with the text amendment, specific to the neighborhoods mentioned (Yes, if they decide to become a part of the affordable housing overlay they will be subject to this text). The City Manager recommended moving forward without the inclusion of or removing the RSF-6, which includes those First District neighborhoods.

Ald. Lanier added that is what she was recommending, to pull out the RSF-6, but she is still a little bit concerned with the language knowing that if they put the affordable housing overlay in your area it will address duplexes, multiple duplexes side-by-side, subdividing a lot, and setbacks. As proposed, bringing your own money to the table you would have to make it affordable, versus using the Housing Authority Fund or other governmental resources/loans. The concern is that you should not have to make the housing affordable if you are bringing your own money to the table.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked about the map contained in the Tuesday Night memo.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz asked about a neighborhood that was not talked about today is Cann Jackson Park. She stated she raised her hand in a negative for this because her constituents asked her not to vote for what was being proposed at that time. With the new text amendment and the overlay, are any of her neighborhoods in her district (fifth) subject to text amendment or the overlay anticipated in the future? The City Manager responded that the proposed Affordable Housing Overlay will come before the City Council next. The text amendment mentions no neighborhoods, rather districts. The map will define (the) where geographically in the city those districts exist within that map and where the program will be eligible. The proposed maps previously sent to City Council twice, there are no Fifth District neighborhoods in that map. They have removed the Cann Jackson Park neighborhoods from the feedback that was given in November. Regarding the conversation mentioned by Ald. Lanier, she asked if a private citizen/company bring their own money to the table, then how do we make them not subject to this text amendment and further over to the overlay versus those who are using public money from the City or loans. City Manager Melder responded.

Mayor Johnson stated we are going to do something. We can't complain about housing affordability and don't do the things that help create affordability. We have all heard that housing prices remain unaffordable, and they are getting more unaffordable. Our Housing Savannah Taskforce said that as well, prescribing some avenues which we can pursue this.

Ald. Palumbo stated he appreciates this discussion dearly. For the first time in a long time, we are way overthinking this thing. We have been discussing this matter since November and we punted this thing in February and March. He thinks the package is good, as is. He thinks it does not go far enough and he thinks it is diluted. He is willing to take it a little bit, so that it can be

amended later. Ald. Palumbo detailed a story regarding having enough food for a family dinner. He stated he knows we can do better, and this (proposal) does not go far enough. He advised the City Manager that he remains available, he will do it in the Fourth District, and he will work with the neighborhoods to find out where it is. His ultimate dream is that if there was a duplex there at one time, there can be a duplex there today, and similarly for a quadplex. The world did not end when the neighborhoods were built, so the world will not end when they are put there again. We are going to have a choice, whether we are going to spread the love all throughout the City of Savannah and feed a whole lot of people, or we can have massive developments hunting and picking throughout our community that are painful no matter where they are put. I rather share the burden with all of us, with a beautiful, walkable, dense place that we all know, love, and call home. He stated he has read the agenda item and looked at the memos from the City Manager, and he is ready to make a motion for approval, whereupon he made the following motion.

a. Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #17, seconded by Ald. Purtee. (No vote was taken on this motion.)

b. Ald. Lanier moved (a substitute motion) to approve agenda item #17 removing the R-6 designation/elements, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed, 7-2-0. Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Purtee voted no.

Mayor Johnson restated we can't complain about not having affordable housing if we aren't willing to take the bold moves to get us there, and density has to be citywide.

Written comment(s):

- Rev. Claire Marich - IN SUPPORT

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

[18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for West Victory Drive Medians Irrigation and Planting with Tidewater Landscape Management, Inc., in An Amount not to Exceed \\$272,385. This contract will be utilized by the Park and Tree Department for the installation of landscape and irrigation along West Victory Drive from Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard to Ogeechee Road. \(Park & Tree\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - West Victory Drive Medians Irrigation and Planting.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - West Victory Drive Medians Irrigation and Planting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz highlighted the maintenance coming to this area, and she thanked the City Manager and the Park & Tree Director. Then she asked the City Manager to provide an overview of what is coming to this particular area.

Mayor Johnson added that Ald. Lanier shares the other side of West Victory Drive with Ald. Shabazz.

Ald. Bell echoed the sentiments that were made. She is very appreciative to Park & Tree, as well, for the work they are doing particularly in that neglected area of Victory Drive. We are looking forward to that (project), and also she is happy to see some of the other areas scattered around town that Park & Tree is working in. She stated she hopes they make it to Broughton Street pretty soon.

Ald. Miller Blakely referenced what Ald. Bell said, she appreciates what they are doing with that median area. But she would love to see the median area on Middleground Road taken care of better than what it is right now. Also Abercorn Street needs attention over by Oglethorpe Mall, we got to do better.

In reference to what Ald. Miller Blakely said, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz clarified areas on Abercorn Street to include areas from DeRenne down to Tibet and Middleground.

Mayor Johnson reminded members of Council that they can get improvements to any area as a part of the budget process each year.

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve agenda item #18, seconded by Ald. Leggett and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two \(2\) X-Ray Systems from Logos Imaging, LLC in the Amount of \\$86,281. The Police Department will utilize this equipment for their Bomb Unit. Acquiring these systems are essential for our Bomb Unit to respond to terror events or threats. \(SPD\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Logos X-Ray System.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Logos X-Ray System.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19 through #24, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Third Party Administrative Services with Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$292,341. The Risk Management Department will use the Third-Party Administrative Services for adjusting services for workers' compensation and auto liability claims. \(Risk Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification- Third Party Administrative Services.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes- Third Party Administrative Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19 through #24, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for HVAC Maintenance for Water Treatment Facilities to Boan Mechanical \(LOCAL\) in the amount not to exceed \\$120,000. The contract will be used to provide preventative maintenance and emergency services 85 HVAC systems provide adequate cooling for variable frequency drives \(VFDs\) which control the pumps and equipment needed to distribute and treat water/wastewater. \(Water Reclamation and I & D Plant\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification Water Plants HVAC Modification](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note-Water Plants HVAC Modification](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19 through #24, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition \(SCADA\) with Emerson Power & Water Solutions, Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$103,924. This contract will be used by the Water Supply and Treatment Plant to provide software updates, technical support, and other repair services associated with the SCADA network. \(Public Works\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - SCADA Annual Renewal.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - SCADA Annual Renewal.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19 through #24, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Computer Replacement and New Purchases from Dell Marketing LP in the Amount Not to Exceed \\$1,067,000. This contract will be used by the Innovation and Technology Services Department to provide end-user devices such as laptops, desktops, monitors, and rugged tablets. \(ITS\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Dell Device Replacement.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Dell Device Replacement.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19 through #24, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Smartsheet Enterprise Software Licenses from Smartsheet in the Amount Not to Exceed \\$214,414. The Innovation and Technology Services Department will use the software throughout the City as a project management center that allows city staff to assign tasks, track the progress of projects and tasks, manage calendars, and share and edit documents. \(ITS\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #19 through #24, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Geographic Information System \(GIS\) Assessment and Roadmap with Woolpert in the Amount of \\$100,161. The proposed GIS Assessment and Roadmap project is a critical investment in modernizing and optimizing the City of Savannah's GIS. \(ITS\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - GIS Assessment.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - GIS Assessment.pdf](#)

Ald. Shabazz highlighted the great work being done by GIS. We are moving forward with modernization, and she asked the City Manager to advise to the public exactly what we are doing here.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda item #25, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[26. Approval of Catering Services by the SERG Group at the 2025 RBC Heritage, in the Amount of \\$35,037.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Approval to Purchase Two All-Terrain Vehicles from Verde, Inc. in the Amount of \\$79,990.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[28. Approval to Procure Emergency Vehicle Equipment and Installation from ProLogic ITS, LLC, in an Amount Not To Exceed \\$55,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[29. Approval to Procure Taxiway Light Fixtures and Connection Kits from Allen Enterprises, Inc., in the Amount of \\$37,240.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[30. Approval to Execute a Contract with Rite Lite Signs, Inc., for All Services Associated with the Terminal Roadway Signage Project, in the Amount of \\$372,553.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Approval of a Three-Year Frequent Parker Program Service Agreement with R-Solutions, in the Amount of \\$360,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[32. Approval to Purchase One Garbage Truck from Roberts Truck Center, in the Amount of \\$93,599.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[33. Approval of a Three-Year License Subscription for M-Files Document Management System from Laminin Solutions, in the Amount of \\$83,226.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[34. Approval to Purchase Four Portable Message Boards from K&K Systems Inc., in the Amount of \\$60,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[35. Approval to Purchase One Pavement Line Striping System, Ride on Driver and Scarifier System from Chaves Brothers Management, LLC, in the Amount of \\$37,904.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[36. Approval to Purchase One Commercial Lawn Spray Rig from SiteOne Landscape Supply, in the Amount of \\$27,433.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[37. Approval of Change Order No. 3 with EE Reed Construction for Design Modifications to Building 2, the Air Cargo Facility, in the Amount of \\$1,605,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[38. Approval of the 2025-2026 Airport Liability Insurance Program with Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, Inc., in the Amount of \\$1,132,941.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[39. Approval to Execute an Elevator and Escalator Preventative Maintenance Agreement with Elevated Facility Services, in the Amount of \\$758,869.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[40. Approval to Procure Services from Brooks Building Solutions to Upgrade the Building Automation Software \(BAS\) & Global Controllers, in the Amount of \\$250,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[41. Approval to Execute a Contract for Professional Services with Club Choice Ireland Limited, in an Amount Not To Exceed \\$40,000.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve agenda items #26 through #41, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[42. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to (approve agenda items #42 and #43) authorize the City Attorney's office as indicated below, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

- Resolve the worker's compensation claim of Grayling Parker for \$211,401.00.
- Resolve the claim of Lawrence Harris for \$50,000.00.

[43. Settlement #2](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to (approve agenda items #42 and #43) authorize the City Attorney's office as indicated below, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

- Resolve the worker's compensation claim of Grayling Parker for \$211,401.00.
- Resolve the claim of Lawrence Harris for \$50,000.00.

Following various announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:08 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>.

