



**SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 2:00 p.m. - CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

The regular meeting was held at **2:00 p.m.**, in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. **Mayor Johnson** called the meeting to order, then recognized **Alderman Palumbo** who introduced **SCCPSS Board of Education President Roger Moss** to offer a prayer.

Mayor Johnson reminded everyone that it has been 23 years since 9/11/2001, when the country was victimized and lives were lost. We will never forget, and we remember those first responders and military personnel who continue to keep us safe. We are grateful for Fire Chief Kitchen and the Fire Department, as well. Then he asked to observe a moment of silence.

Mayor Johnson thanked School Board President Roger Moss' kindness and comradery, and he thanked School Superintendent Dr. Denise Watts, Todd Hagin, Ken Slats, Marketing and Public Information city staff, the City Manager and his team, and the Clerk of Council's office for their help in making preparations for the City Council to hold their meetings within the school board facility. He also acknowledged Board of Elections member Glynda Jones for being present.

**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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for September 12, 2024.](#)

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

Mayor Johnson announced there was a Show Cause Hearing scheduled for today; however, the petitioner requested a date certain continuance to October 10, 2024 for the revocation of the Alcohol License for Rajendra Patel of Octane Bar and Lounge.

b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone the Show Cause Hearing to October 10, 2024, seconded by Ald. Leggett and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on August 22, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - August 22, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve item #2, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### PRESENTATIONS

[3. A Proclamation Recognizing September 15, 2024 - October 15, 2024 as Hispanic Heritage Month and Appearance by HOLA Savannah Task Force Members in Observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The City of Savannah honors and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic Americans in our history across the nation, as well as celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans who currently serve our communities here in Savannah.](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2024 National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation.pdf](#)

READ and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to members of the Hispanic diaspora, H.O.L.A. Savannah, and Savannah employee and H.O.L.A. Chair Myriam Baker who accepted the proclamation in English and Spanish.

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

[4. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Rudy Gasdik for The Whiskey, a Bar Located at 224 West Bay Street. The establishment is located between Barnard Street Ramp and Montgomery Street in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - The Whiskey.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - The Whiskey.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - The Whiskey.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurements - The Whiskey.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - The Whiskey.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8.

No speaker(s).

a. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearings for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve item #4, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.

Ald. Leggett asked the City Manager/Attorney if it's legal for the City to place wording on all alcohol licenses that the license is a privilege and not a right. City Attorney Lovett advised the language could be added, so the applicants are absolutely aware of the law/fact. Ald. Leggett asked for that language to be added, especially in cases that rise to a Show Cause Hearing.

Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager to take his recommendation into consideration and bring back something, since this is an administrative function. City Manager Melder agreed to bring something (wording) back.

Ald. Lanier stated past conversations regarding alcohol licenses included whether the licenses should come before the City Council. She indicated her awareness that other jurisdictions have a more matter of fact licensing process of checking off the box, if you pass the scrutiny of the application, unless or until there is some other discrepancy.

Mayor Johnson indicated the conversation has been revisited from time-to-time. The appetite of the City Council today is not to turn it over to an administrative process.

On behalf of his district, Ald. Leggett stated he brought up this conversation as a result of discussions with neighborhood association presidents and issues they stand behind, like the alcohol licenses being a privilege and not a right.

[5. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) and Class E \(Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Rudy Gasdik for Wine Bar on the River, a Bar Located at 425 West River Street. The establishment is located between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Barnard Street in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Wine Bar on the River.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Wine Bar on the River.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Wine Bar on the River.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurements - Wine Bar on the River.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Wine Bar on the River.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8.

No speaker(s).

a. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearings for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve item #5, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated she is voting against this item because B. NiCole's Bistro applied for an alcohol license and was denied. She made a promise not to support any alcohol licenses to any bars within this community until we have equity.

[6. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Rudy Gasdik for River Street Mercantile, a Convenience Store Located at 427 West River Street. The establishment is located between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Barnard Street in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - River Street Mercantile.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - River Street Mercantile.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - River Street Mercantile.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurements - River Street Mercantile.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - River Street Mercantile.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8.

No speaker(s).

a. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearings for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Ald. Leggett moved to approve item #6, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

[7. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Mital Patel for Diamond Food Mart, a Convenience Store Located at 3017 Bull Street. The establishment is located between West 46th and West 47th Streets in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Diamond Food Mart.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Diamond Food Mart.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Diamond Food Mart.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurements - Diamond Food Mart.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Diamond Food Mart.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8.

No speaker(s).

a. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearings for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[8. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Nirav Sheth for Liberty City Convenience Store, a Convenience Store Located at 1940 Mills B. Lane. The establishment is located between Interstate 516 and Liberty Parkway in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Liberty City Convenience Store.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Liberty City Convenience Store.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Liberty City Convenience Store.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Liberty City Convenience Store.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Liberty City Convenience Store.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8.

No speaker(s).

a. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearings for items #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve item #8, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed, 7-2-0. Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voted no.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz advised this license approval is a new owner of an establishment that previously held an alcohol license within the boundaries of the fifth district alcohol overlay. The request is allowed within the overlay, if done within twelve months. This owner is in compliance with this requirement.

Ald. Lanier requested clarity and an explanation. Mayor Johnson explained applying within one-year for a new license is codified within the ordinance.

Ald. Lanier described another applicant within 20 feet of the first district overlay whose alcohol license was denied. She was advised by city staff to request a variance from the MPC which she paid over \$1000.00 to obtain. The city staff came back and said, oops you did not need to do that. She was later denied the alcohol license again. She has been denied for years.

Mayor Johnson explained the requirement again within the overlays, and he stated the applicant mentioned by Ald. Lanier was told they would not get a license because they are within the overlay. Ald. Lanier repeated her account of the events, then she emphasized her earlier point of needing a process absent of feelings and subjectivity, since these decisions affect people's life. She asked for a more fair system/process based on compliance versus a judgement call. Mayor Johnson repeated his account of the events.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked when will the City Council be revisiting the overlays. Mayor Johnson advised it will happen whenever the Council decides to do it. He further stated alcohol licenses may occur anywhere except within the overlays, which were set up due to the predominance of alcohol serving establishments within certain areas of the city.

Ald. Lanier stated that is not happening anymore. Mayor Johnson stated he is the one who started the overlays.

Ald. Miller Blakely again asked when will the City Council be discussing the overlays, and whether it is proper for her to make a motion that we have a date stamped time for talking about the overlays which were put in place over five years ago. A lot of things have changed in that area.

Mayor Johnson advised that the City Manager works for the Council, and the City Manager does not decide what issues will be discussed, the City Council decides that. The subject of alcohol overlays is not being discussed today.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

[9. Public Hearing on State-Mandated Annual Update to the Community Work Program Portion of the Capital Improvements Element \(Adopted by City Council in February 2023, Which Amended the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan \(Plan 2040\)\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Impact Fee Revenue by Public Service Facility.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Savannah Five-Year Community Work Program \(2025-2029\) Redline Draft.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Savannah Five-Year Community Work Program \(2025-2029\) Final Draft .pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Transmittal Resolution.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson sounded/read item #9.

City Manager Melder provided an overview.

Ald. Lanier explained to the City Manager why the impact fees initiative was implemented, not wanting residents in established areas paying for the amenities being placed in the new areas. She stated that she does not see where the allocations are going to those growth areas to pay for amenities. The trail is located in the established areas. A more appropriate expense would be an allocation for drainage, due to flooding of homes. Also growth areas like the Highlands need investments.

City Manager Melder responded the State-Mandated aspect of the program only allows certain uses which stormwater is not one. We can spend impact fees on parks and recreation, fire protection, law enforcement, and road improvements. Then he named specific areas, like public safety facilities in New Hampstead, the police substation in the Highlands, recreational areas in New Hampstead and Highlands areas, as well as road improvements in those areas. Trail systems are an allowable expense with impact fees. If we spend resources in older areas, we have to pay that same level of service in the new areas.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing for item #9.

Ald. Lanier moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### ZONING HEARINGS

[10. Petition of Donald Dyches on Behalf of Fort Argyle Storage, LLC and Fort Argyle, LLC for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential - Suburban Single-Family to Commercial - Suburban at 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road \(11048B01022 and 11048B01023\). Item supports annexation request \(File No. 24-003509-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 2501 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road FLUM \(File No. 24-003509-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road FLUM \(File No. 24-003509-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for item #10 and #11.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
- Don Dyches, representing the petitioner



Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the zoning hearing for item #10 and #11, seconded by Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda items #22, #23, and #24.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated she is reading a comment written from Kerrie Bieber pertaining to flooding issues. Mr. Morrow responded. Ald. Miller Blakely stated Ms. Bieber also made a request for a good neighbor agreement. City Manager Melder asked Mr. Dyches to respond, since the good neighbor agreements are between the developers and the neighbors. Mr. Dyches responded with an unwillingness to grant those neighbors an easement to address the flooding to their homes which has occurred for a number of years, because it could bind the owner to address flooding on the property (an easement) which could hamper the development potential of the property.

Ald. Lanier shared a story and asked at what point in the process do the inspectors review a property in order to determine the viability of building there, and to determine the need to place dirt or not. She asked how do we assure a development will protect the people who are going to live there. City Manager Melder responded it happens at the design and review phases, held at the Adams Complex with Development Services, Stormwater, and Traffic teams. Developers have to go through all of the site plan reviews to ensure that what's being designed and built meets Code. Design standards are continually being upgraded, i.e., flood height based on new HUD guidance. He further explained the city's recent flooding experience, and positive protections as a result of existing design standards. We rely on flood plain and flood zone data, and MPC's wetlands review for delineating where it is safe to build. Developers are accountable for building to our standard. The reviews happen after the zoning.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz said the petitioner/developer and City Manager have been put on notice regarding the design standards being met, since this project is in a flood zone area. With regard to the Development Services department and inspections, the design standards will be met before a COO is issued and during the process.

Written comment(s):

- . Kerrie Bieber - Expressed concerns

[11. Petition of Donald Dyches on Behalf of Fort Argyle, LLC and Fort Argyle Storage, LLC to Zone Approximately 7.21 Acres Located at 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road \(11048B01022 and 11048B01023\) from B-N \(Neighborhood-Business\) Zoning District to the B-N-CO \(Neighborhood Business-County\) Zoning District. Item supports annexation request \(File No. 24-002255-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Staff Report for 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road \(File No.24-002255-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road Rezoning \(File No. 24-002255-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for item #10 and #11.

Speaker(s):

- . Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
- . Don Dyches, representing the petitioner

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to close the zoning hearing for item #10 and #11, seconded by Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda items #22, #23, and #24.

Ald. Miller Blakely stated she is reading a comment written from Kerrie Bieber pertaining to flooding issues. Mr. Morrow responded. Ald. Miller Blakely stated Ms. Bieber also made a request for a good neighbor agreement. City Manager Melder asked Mr. Dyches to respond, since the good neighbor agreements are between the developers and the neighbors. Mr. Dyches responded with an unwillingness to grant those neighbors an easement to address the flooding to their homes which has occurred for a number of years, because it could bind the owner to address flooding on the property (an easement) which could hamper the development potential of the property.

Ald. Lanier shared a story and asked at what point in the process do the inspectors review a property in order to determine the viability of building there, and to determine the need to place dirt or not. She asked how do we assure a development will protect the people who are going to live there. City Manager Melder responded it happens at the design and review phases, held at the Adams Complex with Development Services, Stormwater, and Traffic teams. Developers have to go through all of the site plan reviews to ensure that what's being designed and built meets Code. Design standards are continually being upgraded, i.e., flood height based on new HUD guidance. He further explained the city's recent flooding experience, and positive protections as a result of existing design standards. We rely on flood plain and flood zone data, and MPC's wetlands review for delineating where it is safe to build. Developers are accountable for building to our standard. The reviews happen after the zoning.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz said the petitioner/developer and City Manager have been put on notice regarding the design standards being met, since this project is in a flood zone area. With regard to the Development Services department and inspections, the design standards will be met before a COO is issued and during the process.

Written comment(s):

- Kerrie Bieber - Expressed concerns

[12. Petition of Ellen Harris on Behalf of James Silver for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential General to Traditional Commercial at 0 William Street \(PIN 20084 04012\) on 0.27 Acres in Aldermanic District 3 \(File No. 24-003649-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003649-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: FLUM Map for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003649-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for items #12 and #13.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
- Ellen Harris, representing the petitioner

Ald. Lanier moved to the close the zoning hearings for item #12 and #13, seconded by Ald. Leggett and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda items #17 and #18.

[13. Petition of Ellen Harris on Behalf of James Silver for an Amendment to the Zoning Map from RSF-6 \(Residential Single Family-6\) to TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial-1\) at 0 William Street \(PIN 20084 04012\) with Conditions on 0.27 Acres in Aldermanic District 3 \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Rezoning of William Street \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Proposed Site Plan for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for items #12 and #13.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
- Ellen Harris, representing the petitioner

Ald. Lanier moved to the close the zoning hearings for item #12 and #13, seconded by Ald. Leggett and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda items #17 and #18.

[14. Petition of Robert McCorkle on Behalf of HOS Management, LLC for a Zoning Text Amendment to Article 7, Sec. 7.8 Savannah Downtown Historic District, Sec. 7.8.10\(b\) Historic District Height Map to Permit a Five-Story Development on Parcels Adjoining Cohen and Selma Streets with Conditions in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 24-000559-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Text Amendment to Sec. 7.8 \(File No. 24-000559-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 601 Cohen Street Concept Plan from 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: I-16 Perspective as of 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Savannah Station Hotel Program Study - updated 08.20.2024.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for items #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
- Robert McCorkle, representing the petitioner
- Sue Adler - OPPOSED
- Josh Yellin - IN SUPPORT
- David McDonald - OPPOSED
- Andrew Barrien Jones - IN SUPPORT conditionally
- Jim Hundsrucker - OPPOSED (completed speaker card only)

Ald. Leggett moved to the close the zoning hearings for item #14 and #15, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was away from the dais. See related agenda items #19 and #20.

Mayor Johnson stated hotel development is something of interest to Council and not treated lightly.

Ald. Bell commended the developer and owners for working cooperatively to come up with a compromise.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked Mr. McCorkle to see the petitioner. He introduced Anil Patel from HOS Management and architect Andy Lynch. She then asked how far the development is from the First Union Missionary Baptist Church and how parking will be offered (underground). Ald. Miller Blakely commended the Mickve Israel congregation for having the time and patience to come up with this plan. She expressed concern with the ability of the owner to sell their property to a non-taxing entity, and she questioned maintenance of the cemetery once the property is developed. Mr. McCorkle responded.

Ald. Palumbo stated schools are on his mind. He requested a condition for this item that they coordinate with the school system, principally Garrison School of the Arts, to coordinate pick-up and dropoff.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz stated this is a good example of multiple parties coming together. It is a good model and she commends everyone who came together.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated she is familiar with the graves. Community partnerships do work and this is a good example. The place (cemetery) is immaculate, and we need to do a better job across the city with how we take care of cemeteries. She expressed gratefulness to the Jewish Community and she thanked Ms. Adler.

Ald. Leggett asked what is our current height restriction by right (four stories). He asked the City Manager if there is any way we can add the conditions Mr. McDonald requested regarding not moving the red line anymore west. City Manager Melder responded. Ald. Leggett expressed that the addition of the Levi and Mordecai Sheftall lots will be a good addition to our tourism factor downtown.

Ald. Lanier rhetorically asked when did Savannah Station become a cocktail lounge. She stated this area used to be in the first district, prior to redistricting. She stated this is Frogtown, and her maternal great grandmother lived on Berrien Street. There will be large impacts to this area which she detailed, including downtown expansion. One of the threats to residents is the expansion west, which is believed to push people out, including people at Kayton, Frazier, and Yamacraw. She likes what's being proposed here and she believes it is a good spot, even protection of the cemeteries. She stated we are nervous about red lines on the west side, and as black people in this city. Ald. Lanier asked Mr. Morrow if the downtown expansion district allows large hotel developments throughout or only within the large hotel zone. He answered only within the hotel overlay. She wants to protect people who need protecting.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked regarding the housing projects if there's anything in place to change what is happening in those housing projects (demolition or redevelopment). City Manager Melder responded they are Housing Authority properties. He stated that all housing authority properties will have a covenant for its use, specifically to provide low-income housing. He is only aware of the demolition application for Yamacraw. The city will be responsible for the environmental review of that demolition.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked if this will be a large or small hotel, and Mr. McCorkle responded large, with a max of 100 rooms. If it was a small hotel, what would be the difference? Mr. McCorkle advised he is not specifically sure of all the differences, but as far as the map is concerned anything green can be large or small, and anything yellow can only be small.

Ald. Lanier asked about the pictures with the cemetery wall and the igloos. Mr. McCorkle advised they are small cat houses.

Mayor Johnson stated the time spent discussing this matter is appropriate and necessary, it should not be taken lightly, and it should be vigorously debated and discussed. The City Manager and him took a ride there with representatives from Mickve Israel. After expressing his thoughts, he asked the parties involved to work it out. He thanked the folks from Mickve Israel, HOS Management, and folks who reminded them of their obligations. He feels the schools need to be consulted and worked with, as Ald. Palumbo mentioned, due to speeding on Cohen Street. There are less desirable places that could go there.

The City Manager advised the developer is asking for 180 days for the text amendments to be conditioned upon the recordation of this agreement. Mr. Jones stated this means that if nothing is recorded and the transaction does not happen, the text amendments have no effect.

The City Attorney advised our text amendments cannot be bound by agreements between outside parties. The outside parties can agree to file the agreement as part of the deed, but if they don't, the city's text amendments still stand. We can't have a contingency based on outside forces. We can come back and retract the text amendments, and we will calendar reminder six months from now based upon their agreement.

Mayor Johnson asked the Clerk to make sure we calendarize it if it is approved.

City Manager Melder added that he recommended the Mayor and Aldermen to either approve both or deny both, to not over entitle the parcel with a project that is unknown.

Written comment(s):

- Andrew Barrien Jones - IN SUPPORT with one condition that the approval of the hotel overlay map be conditioned upon the recording of the Agreement within 60 days of the adoption of the hotel overlay map text amendment

[15. Petition of Robert McCorkle on Behalf of HOS Management, LLC for a Zoning Text Amendment to Article 7, Section 7.13 Hotel Development Overlay District, Figure 7.13-1 to Permit Hotel Development on Parcels Adjoining Cohen Street in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 24-000558-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Text Amendment to Sec. 7.13 \(File No. 24-000558-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 601 Cohen Street Concept Plan from 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: I-16 Perspective as of 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Savannah Station Hotel Program Study - updated 08.20.2024.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for items #14 and #15.

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- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
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Ald. Bell commended the developer and owners for working cooperatively to come up with a compromise.

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Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated she is familiar with the graves. Community partnerships do work and this is a good example. The place (cemetery) is emaculant, and we need to do a better job across the city with how we take care of cemeteries. She expressed gratefulness to the Jewish Community and she thanked Ms. Adler.

Ald. Leggett asked what is our current height restriction by right (four stories). He asked the City Manager if there is any way we can add the conditions Mr. McDonald requested regarding not moving the red line anymore west. City Manager Melder responded. Ald. Leggett expressed that the addition of the Levi and Mordecai Sheftall lots will be a good addition to our tourism factor downtown.

Ald. Lanier rhetorically asked when did Savannah Station become a cocktail lounge. She stated this area used to be in the first district, prior to redistricting. She stated this is Frogtown, and her maternal great grandmother lived on Berrien Street. There will be large impacts to this area which she detailed, including downtown expansion. One of the threats to residents is the expansion west, which is believed to push people out, including people at Kayton, Frazier, and Yamacraw. She likes what's being proposed here and she believes it is a good spot, even protection of the cemeteries. She stated we are nervous about red lines on the west side, and as black people in this city. Ald. Lanier asked Mr. Morrow if the downtown expansion district allows large hotel developments throughout or only within the large hotel zone. He answered only within the hotel overlay. She wants to protect people who need protecting.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked regarding the housing projects if there's anything in place to change what is happening in those housing projects (demolition or redevelopment). City Manager Melder responded they are Housing Authority properties. He stated that all housing authority properties will have a covenant for its use, specifically to provide low-income housing. He is only aware of the demolition application for Yamacraw. The city will be responsible for the environmental review of that demolition.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked if this will be a large or small hotel, and Mr. McCorkle responded large, with a max of 100 rooms. If it was a small hotel, what would be the difference? Mr. McCorkle advised he is not specifically sure of all the differences, but as far as the map is concerned anything green can be large or small, and anything yellow can only be small.

Ald. Lanier asked about the pictures with the cemetery wall and the igloos. Mr. McCorkle advised they are small cat houses.



Mayor Johnson stated the time spent discussing this matter is appropriate and necessary, it should not be taken lightly, and it should vigorously debated and discussed. The City Manager and him took a ride there with representatives from Mickve Israel. After expressing his thoughts, he asked the parties involved to work it out. He thanked the folks from Mickve Israel, HOS Management, and folks who reminded them of their obligations. He feels the schools need to be consulted and worked with, as Ald. Palumbo mentioned, due to speeding on Cohen Street. There are less desirable places that could go there.

The City Manager advised the developer is asking for 180 days for the text amendments to be conditioned upon the recordation of this agreement. Mr. Jones stated this means that if nothing is recorded and the transaction does not happen, the text amendments have no effect.

The City Attorney advised our text amendments cannot be bound by agreements between outside parties. The outside parties can agree to file the agreement as part of the deed, but if they don't, the city's text amendments still stand. We can't have a contingency based on outside forces. We can come back and retract the text amendments, and we will calendar reminder six months from now based upon their agreement.

Mayor Johnson asked the Clerk to make sure we calendarize it if it is approved.

City Manager Melder added that he recommended the Mayor and Aldermen to either approve both or deny both, to not over entitle the parcel with a project that is unknown.

Written comment(s):

- Andrew Barrien Jones - IN SUPPORT with one condition that the approval of the hotel overlay map be conditioned upon the recording of the Agreement within 60 days of the adoption of the hotel overlay map text amendment

[16. Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for a Text Amendment to Sections 7.8.10, 7.9.10, 7.10.11, 7.11.10, and 13.5 of the Zoning Ordinance to Address the Definition of True Stucco \(File No. 24-003913-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for a Text Amendment Regarding Stucco \(File No.24-003913-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Proposed True Stucco Ordinance \(File No. 24-003913-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for item #16.

Speaker(s):

- Jonathan Mellon, representing the MPC Historic Preservation

Ald. Palumbo moved to close the zoning hearing for item #16, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Ald. Leggett was away from the dais. See related agenda item #21.

Mayor Johnson stated he has learned more and more about fake and true stucco.

Ald. Lanier inquired that we are not restricting anything, we are adding an additional use/opportunity (correct).

Ald. Bell appreciated the explanation.

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

[17. Petition of Ellen Harris on Behalf of James Silver for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential General to Traditional Commercial at 0 William Street \(PIN 20084 04012\) on 0.27 Acres in Aldermanic District 3 \(File No. 24-003649-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003649-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: FLUM Map for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003649-ZA\).pdf](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved (to approve item #17) 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.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan stated we normally talk to all people impacted. Ms. Gigi, Parkside Association President, wrote a letter regarding the protection of two large trees. The will of the people agree with MPC. She read a statement into the record from the letter, and she asked that they keep the agreement.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked the developers representative (Ellen Harris) if they agreed to the request, which she answered yes.

[18. Petition of Ellen Harris on Behalf of James Silver for an Amendment to the Zoning Map from RSF-6 \(Residential Single Family-6\) to TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial-1\) at 0 William Street \(PIN 20084 04012\) with Conditions on 0.27 Acres in Aldermanic District 3 \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Rezoning of William Street \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Proposed Site Plan for 0 William Street \(File No. 24-003648-ZA\).pdf](#)

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

\*\*\*Mayor Johnson made an announcement that the City Manager informed them our Savannah Fairgrounds was just awarded "Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)." Delayed does not mean denied, after being denied. Our collaboration with the State surely was beneficial. Great news to the City Manager and his team.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan asked if this project is for senior citizens for which the City Manager responded yes.

[19. Petition of Robert McCorkle on Behalf of HOS Management, LLC for a Zoning Text Amendment to Article 7, Sec. 7.8 Savannah Downtown Historic District, Sec. 7.8.10\(b\) Historic District Height Map to Permit a Five-story Development on Parcels Adjoining Cohen and Selma Streets with Conditions in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 24-000559-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Text Amendment to Sec. 7.8 \(File No. 24-00559-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 601 Cohen Street Concept Plan from 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: I-16 Perspective as of 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Savannah Station Hotel Program Study - updated 08.20.2024.pdf](#)

Ald. Leggett moved (to approve item #19) that the first reading be considered the second and the ordinance placed upon its passage and passed, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[20. Petition of Robert McCorkle on Behalf of HOS Management, LLC for a Zoning Text Amendment to Article 7, Section 7.13 Hotel Development Overlay District, Figure 7.13-1 to Permit Hotel Development on Parcels Adjoining Cohen Street in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 24-000558-ZA\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Text Amendment to Sec. 7.13 \(File No. 24-000558-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 601 Cohen Street Concept Plan from 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: I-16 Perspective as of 06.05.2024.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Savannah Station Hotel Program Study - updated 08.20.2024.pdf](#)

Ald. Leggett moved (to approve item #20) that the first reading be considered the second and the ordinance placed upon its passage and passed, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson advised we will reconvene this item on our agenda in six months.

Ald. Palumbo asked if we have a pledge to work with the school system (yes).

Mayor Johnson recognized Rabbi Robert Haas for being present, and he requested his assistance with putting the community agreement in Hebrew.

[21. Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for a Text Amendment to Sections 7.8.10, 7.9.10, 7.10.11, 7.11.10, and 13.5 of the Zoning Ordinance to Address the Definition of True Stucco \(File No. 24-003913-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for a Text Amendment Stucco Text Amendment \(File No.24-003913-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Proposed True Stucco Ordinance \(File No. 24-003913-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Shabazz moved (to approve item #21) 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, 8-0-1. Ald. Leggett was away from the dais.

#### ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[22. Approval for the Annexation of 7.21 Acres Located at 2505 and 2521 Fort Argyle Road. The property owner desires to connect to City utilities at inside city rates.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Annexation Petition - Fort Argyle Road.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Annexation Ordinance - Fort Argyle Road.pdf](#)

HEARD for first readings only, items #22, #23, and #24. See related agenda items #10 and #11.

[23. Petition of Donald Dyches on Behalf of Fort Argyle Storage, LLC and Fort Argyle, LLC for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential-Suburban Single-Family to Commercial - Suburban at 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road \(11048B01022 and 11048B01023\). Item supports annexation request \(File No. 24-003509-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 2501 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road FLUM \(File No. 24-003509-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road FLUM \(File No. 24-003509-ZA\).pdf](#)

HEARD for first readings only, items #22, #23, and #24. See related agenda items #10 and #11.

[24. Petition of Donald Dyches on Behalf of Fort Argyle, LLC and Fort Argyle Storage, LLC to Zone Approximately 7.21 Acres Located at 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road \(11048B01022 and 11048B01023\) from B-N \(Neighborhood-Business\) Zoning District to the B-N-CO \(Neighborhood Business-County\) Zoning District. Item supports annexation request \(File No. 24-002255-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Staff Report for 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road \(File No.24-002255-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road Rezoning \(File No. 24-002255-ZA\).pdf](#)

HEARD for first readings only, items #22, #23, and #24. See related agenda items #10 and #11.

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

[25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Janitorial and Floor Care Services with Klean-Pro Facility Services, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$51,666. This contract will provide janitorial services for the Sanitation facilities. \(Sanitation\)](#)

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

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Janitorial Sanitation.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract for the Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Job Training Program with Summit Training Specialist, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$71,400. The Child Development Associate \(CDA\) job training program will serve 120 income eligible scholarship recipients. \(Human Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Child Development Associate Training Services \(Emerge\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Child Development Associate Training Services \(Emerge\).pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Securing Structures with Beers Housing, Inc in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$77,662. The Code Compliance Department will utilize this contract for the removal of unsafe structures that can attract criminal activity or other unwanted elements. \(Code Compliance\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Securing Structures Services.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Securing Structures Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Illegal Dumping Clearing Services with Sam-Jay Services, Inc. \(LOCAL\) in An Amount Not to Exceed \\$87,600. The Park & Tree Services Division will utilize this contract for clearing services of illegal dumped items on City owned properties and right-of-ways within the City of Savannah. \(Park & Tree\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Illegal Dumping Clearing Services.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Illegal Dumping Clearing Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System \(SCADA\) with Layer 3 Communications \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$119,989. SCADA is a system of software and hardware elements that maintains efficiency in the City's Water Supply and Treatment Department by controlling processes locally or remotely. \(Water Supply & Treatment\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Portable Radios with Motorola Solutions in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$175,560. This contract will be used by the Innovation + Technology Services Department to purchase replacement radios for the Savannah Fire Department \(SFD\) to replace aging radios that have fallen out of production. \(Innovation + Technology\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Motorola Portable Radios SFD.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Motorola Portable Radios SFD.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Grounds Maintenance of Canals & Ditches with J. Corbett Enterprises, Inc. \(LOCAL\)\(DBE\) in An Amount Not to Exceed \\$302,245. The Park & Tree Department will utilize this contract for grounds maintenance services on various canals, ditches, and their associated rights-of-ways, and easements within the City limits. \(Park & Tree\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Grounds Maintenance for Canals & Ditches.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Grounds Maintenance for Canals & Ditches.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[32. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Crossroads Water Reclamation Facility Clarifier Drain Repairs with Ruby-Collins, Inc in the Amount of \\$275,583. The repairs will include replacement of broken plug valves on the drain lines of the three secondary clarifiers at the Crossroads Water Reclamation Facility. \(Public Works & Water Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Crossroads Clarifier Repairs.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Crossroads Clarifier Repairs.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[33. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal for Electronic Time Keeping System with Workforce Systems Group/TCP Software in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$213,580. The contract extension will provide City-wide implementation of the electronic timekeeping system which will increase operational efficiency, reduce manual workload and errors, and provide auditing capabilities to accurately track and manage time, attendance, payroll, and FLSA \(Fair Labor Standards Act\) Requirements. \(Human Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Modification Electronic Time Keeping System.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Modification Electronic Time Keeping System.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[34. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Building Envelope Design with Raymond Engineering-GA, Inc. \(LOCAL\)\(DBE\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$400,000. The City of Savannah has ongoing needs for business envelope design services and ongoing observation on various building envelope projects, which may vary in complexity, on an as-needed, on-call basis. Following disaster events, damage assessments of roofs and water damage in City facilities, and safety evaluations will be needed as well. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Building Envelope Design Services.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchase Note - Building Envelope Design Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[35. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Design Services of the Eastside Gym Addition at PARC with Hussey Gay Bell \(LOCAL\) in the Amount of \\$452,500. These services will be used to develop addition plans to construct a gym at the existing building at PARC. The program of spaces will include a gymnasium, player locker rooms, gym office and storage, public restrooms, and lobby. \(Capital Projects\). \(Continued from the August 22, 2024, Council Meeting\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - PARC Eastside Gym.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - PARC Eastside Gym.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[36. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 to the Existing Agreement with C.E. Garbutt Construction Company for the City Hall Restoration Phase 1 Project in the Amount of \\$107,475. This contract modification is for additional Scope of Work to replace the finishes in the 2nd floor Media Room. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - City Hall Restoration Project.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - City Hall Restoration Project.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve purchasing items #25 through #36, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[37. Approval to Procure Wayfinding Stanchions, Panels, and Signage from Lavi Industries, in the Amount of \\$81,300.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[38. Approval to Procure Taxiway Lighting Equipment from Allen Enterprises, Inc., in the Amount of \\$99,600.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[39. Approval to Execute a Work For Hire Agreement with BenL Consulting International d/b/a Ben Lao & Associates, in the Amount of \\$144,800.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[40. Approval to Procure Common Use Passenger Processing System Gate Positions and Gate Information Displays from Infax, in the Amount of \\$221,122.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[41. Approval to Renew a Five-Year Contract with GoApron for a Gate Management System, in the Amount of \\$267,300.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[42. Approval to Participate in a Robmark Advertising Campaign to Promote New Air Service, in the Amount of \\$287,678.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[43. Approval to Procure Security Screening Equipment from Leidos Corporation, in the Amount of \\$317,611.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve items #37 through #43, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[44. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit the FY2024 and FY2025 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) and Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and Grant Agreement with the Subrecipient Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Inc. for Federal Assistance as the Project Sponsor.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Authorize Submission of FY24 CoC Application.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve item #44, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.



Ald. Miller Blakely expressed a concern regarding the homeless population which is getting completely out of hand. She is concerned that the Chatham-Savannah Homeless Authority is not doing enough. She detailed her recent experiences and observations. She also noted what she has observed in Charleston, SC, regarding how they appear to have addressed homelessness, which is no longer seen/visible there. She stated we need to do more than what we have been doing. She suggested police visibility at the civic center.

Mayor Johnson stated we are not criminalizing homelessness. People can be in public spaces, whether unsightly or not smelling good. He does not want or expect the police to move people from public spaces. Two members of this City Council sit on the Authority for the Homeless. This particular agenda item helps us do what we need to do.

Ald. Purtee stated he has seen significant improvement, including the formation of the interagency council on homelessness. Previously everyone worked in silos. Nobody wants to see homelessness, but some of them have particular issues. We have seen less homelessness in the City of Savannah, which has been counted. More occurs on the southside because there are several wooded and undeveloped areas. He commended the Savannah Police Department for putting forth an effort with the Homeless Authority liaison, looking at this holistically. Nobody wants a day center in their backyard. The point-in-time count is down 23% from where we were last year. We have had success with reuniting people with their families and getting help for veterans.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan commended the work of the Homeless Authority, especially the day centers that are available. We can't outrun homelessness, but we can try to patch it up. She agrees with Ald. Purtee who also attends the meetings, and we do a good job particularly in the third district. Anyone of us can be homeless, if we missed six months. The Homeless Authority is just one of the integral parts. She thanked the Homeless Authority, and the Police Department (the Chief and our Resource Officers). It is lucrative for homeless persons to panhandle, and we created a city ordinance to try to control that issue. We have learned that a lot of homeless persons do not want to be helped. We have to do more with these interagency departments. She is very proud of the tiny houses in the third district, providing 120 living spaces for homeless persons. We have to continue doing things for mental health and single moms. Anita Smith-Dixon, Family Promise, and Mercy Housing do an amazing job. The Homeless Authority cannot do it by themselves, and they have gone to weekends to monitor the homeless on the weekends.

Mayor Johnson added we are in the middle of the budget process and we will be asking for us to put our necks further into the game. We need day centers on the southside to expand our services, so there will be some opportunities if you feel we are not doing enough.

Ald. Bell suggested a workshop presentation from the Homeless Authority to inform Council of some of the issues and progress to see what has been done and what is planned. City Manager Melder advised they were planning to do a presentation around the strategic plan to include both the city and the county.

Ald. Lanier stated she is glad that others have seen a decrease, however the west side neighborhoods have seen a stark increase in the homeless population and they are not people who used to live there. A new population of homeless people are being seen now since the Presidents Street fire. A very respected resident stated she saw a white van dropoff homeless people in Feldwood. We do not want that population and poverty dumping in our community. We are concerned about keeping people in their houses, whether accessory dwelling units (ADUs), affordable housing fund, allowing duplexes, and other things that have made them sustainable which are now non-compliant.

[45. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Transmit the Draft 2024 Capital Improvements Element Annual Update for Regional and State Review. The CIE Annual Update is required each year to comply with the Georgia Development Impact Fee Act and to maintain the City of Savannah's qualified local government certification.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Impact Fee Revenue by Public Service Facility.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Savannah Five-Year Community Work Program \(2025-2029\) Redline Draft.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Savannah Five-Year Community Work Program \(2025-2029\) Final Draft.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Transmittal Resolution.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve item #45, seconded by Ald. Lanier and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### AGREEMENTS

[46. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Savannah Economic Development Authority \(SEDA\), Bryan County, Bulloch County, Chatham County, and the City of Savannah to Conduct a Comprehensive Analysis of the Housing Market and Provide a Housing Market Needs Assessment and Planning Services for the Four-county Area.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Intergovernmental Agreement - Housing Study.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Intergovernmental Agreement - Housing Study \(Redline\).pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve items #46 through #51, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[47. Approval of Modification No. 2 and Extension of the PY2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) Year-Round Youth Sub-award Period of Availability for WIOA Services.](#)

[Exhibit 1: PY23-25 Adult and DW Statement of Grant Awards.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: PY23 Youth Grant Award.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve items #46 through #51, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[48. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the FY2024 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Award in the Amount \\$250,000, Transferring Dislocated Worker Funds to the Adult Funding Stream. The award will be used to provide training and supportive services to adults who are unemployed or underemployed from October 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region.](#)

[Exhibit 1: FY24 Dislocated Workers Transfer to Adult Funds.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve items #46 through #51, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[49. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Initial PY24 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Awards for Adult \(\\$161,516\) and Dislocated Worker \(\\$417,154\) Programs. The awards will be used to provide programs from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, and adults who have lost their jobs. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Initial Allocation - PY24 Dislocated Worker Grant Award.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Initial Allocation - PY24 Adult Grant Award.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve items #46 through #51, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[50. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the PY24 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Grant Award in the Amount of \\$1,056,927. The award will be used to provide youth programs from April 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026, to low-income youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region.](#)

[Exhibit 1: PY24 Youth Grant Award.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve items #46 through #51, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[51. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with West Highland Developers, LLC for Tract N Townhomes. This is for a development consisting of 158 townhomes in Aldermanic District 1.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Water & Sewer Agreement - Tract N Townhomes.pdf](#)

Ald. Palumbo moved to approve items #46 through #51, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[Exhibit 1: MOU - Friends of Forsyth Park Conservancy Inc.pdf](#)

No action was taken. Agenda item #52 was withdrawn as requested by the City Manager.

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

[53. Authorize the Sale of Timber at the New Hampstead Conservation Tract. The City obtained a forest stewardship management plan from the Georgia Forestry Commission \(GFC\) to assist the City in safe and productive management of this important property and recommended the City engage an experienced forestry management consultant and timber broker to implement the forestry management plan.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Map Attachment - New Hampstead.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Timber Harvesting Agreement - New Hampstead.pdf](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #53 and #54, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[54. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Land Lease with Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC \(AT&T\). Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC \("AT&T"\) currently leases two parking spaces in the State Street Parking Garage from the City of Savannah.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Bellsouth Land Lease Agreement - State Street Parking Garage.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map Attachment - State Street Parking Garage.pdf](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #53 and #54, seconded by Ald. Purtee and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[55. Settlement #1.](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve the claim (worker's compensation matter) of Henry Mitchell in the amount of \$50,000.00, seconded by Ald. Palumbo, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

[56. Approval to Rename Magnolia Park, Located at the Corner of Bacon Park Drive and Morgan Street, to Robert "Bobby" Sturgess Park.](#)

[Exhibit 1: SIGNED Decision - Sturgess Park 24-003715-HM.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Staff Report - Sturgess Park.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Submittal Packet - Sturgess Park.pdf](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #56, seconded by Ald. Bell and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[57. Approval of an Honorary Street Designation for "Linda B. Harris Way" on the Portion of Live Oak Street Between East 35th and East 36th Streets.](#)

[Exhibit 1: SIGNED - HSMC Linda B Harris Way Honorary Naming 24-003712.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Support Letter - Linda B Harris Way.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Submittal Packet - Linda B Harris Way.pdf](#)

Ald. Bell moved to approve items #57, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[58. Approval of Major Subdivision: Oakwood at New Hampstead Phase 1C. This proposed property totals 8.293 acres and will consist of 33 lots with varying lot sizes. The property is accessed from Highgate Boulevard in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Major Subdivision: Oakwood at New Hampstead Phase 1C.pdf](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #58, #59, #60, and #61, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[59. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Tract N, Phase 3, The Highlands at Godley Station. The proposed property totals 3.758 acres and will consist of 36 single family lots with varying lot sizes. The property is located at Slade Street and Goodleigh Circle in Aldermanic District 1.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat - Major Subdivision Tract N Phase 3 The Highlands at Godley Station.pdf](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #58, #59, #60, and #61, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[60. Added Item: Authorize the City Manager to Accept the PY24 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Award for National Dislocated Worker/Disaster Recovery Grant \(NDW/DRG\) Program in the Amount of \\$215,000. The award will be used to provide disaster recovery activities from August 5, 2024, through June 30, 2025, to assist with temporary loss of employment, clean-up projects, demolition, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of destroyed public structures, facilities and lands within the 10-county region communities affected by Hurricane Debby.](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #58, #59, #60, and #61, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[61. Added Item: Authorize the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act FY2024 Rapid Response Grant Award in the Amount of \\$50,000. The award will be used to implement general Dislocated Worker workforce training activities. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region.](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve items #58, #59, #60, and #61, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ald. Bell and Mayor Johnson expressed condolences to Karen Bogans and her family.

Ald. Leggett expressed condolences to the Leroy "Monk" Harris family, former Miami Dolphins and Philadelphia Eagles running back.

Ald. Wilder-Bryan announced next week's celebration of former Mayor and Georgia State Representative Edna Branch Jackson's 80th birthday.

Ald. Miller Blakely announced that two African American icons lost their lives this week, Frankie Beverly and James Earl Jones. She expressed deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to their families and the community.

Ald. Lanier announced that on the first weekend in October (Friday and Saturday) is the 51st Whipper Nation weekend. On Friday will be the Cool Blue Celebration at the gym on West Street, and Saturday at Fellwood Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz announced that one of her constituents is really loving on the fifth district and she is having an event at Cann Park on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. called "Love the Block."

City Manager Melder congratulated and welcomed Melissa Carter and Joe Shearouse to Interim Chief ranks, stepping up to serve in these positions during the transition.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting at **4:52 p.m.**

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

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=a93tZBSWoJCowCgy>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

