



AUGUST 13, 2026 - 11:00 a.m. - SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The special called meeting of the City Council was held at **11:00 a.m.**, in Council Chambers.

PRESENT:

- Mayor Van R. Johnson, II
- Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
- Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
- Alderwoman Linda Wilder, 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

ABSENT:

- Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, At-Large, Post 1
- Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1

ALSO PRESENT:

- City Manager Jay Melder
- City Attorney Bates Lovett
- Clerk of Council Mark Massey
- Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones

Special Meeting Agenda Items

- [1. Public Hearing on 2026 Property Tax Millage Rate](#)
 - [Exhibit 1: State of Georgia Notice of Tax Increase.pdf](#)
 - [Exhibit 2: 2026 Tax Digest and Five Year History.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson provided a general overview of the purpose of the Special Called meeting regarding the 2026 property tax millage rate.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open for agenda item #1 and asked whether anyone present wanted to speak on this item. (No speakers were present.) Mayor Johnson asked the Clerk of Council whether there were any written comments and if so, whether they had been provided to members of council. The Clerk confirmed written comments were received and distributed to members of council.

Written Comments:

- Hugh Kimbrough -- OPPOSED
- Tim Thompson -- SUPPORTED CURRENT RATE
- Holly Shaw -- OPPOSED
- Deborah Rios -- OPPOSED
- Anya Monefiore -- OPPOSED
- Anne Butler -- OPPOSED
- Ethan Waters -- OPPOSED

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearing, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0. Ald. Bell and Ald. Lanier were absent.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the special called meeting at 11:06 a.m. No action was taken.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____

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

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

