



FEBRUARY 27, 2025 - 6:00 p.m. - SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The special called meeting was held at **6:00 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.

PRESENT:

Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
 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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[1. Public Hearing Regarding the Ability to Opt Out of the State's Version of Homestead Exemption, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2.](#)
[Local Government HB 581 Opt-Out Period Ends March 1.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open for agenda item #1 at 6:03 p.m.

Speaker:

- Genie Brazzeal--IN SUPPORT, asked when it will be resolved.

Ald. Palumbo moved to close the hearing for agenda item #1, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

[2. Approval of a Resolution by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Opt Out of the Homestead Exemption, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2.](#)
[RES HB581_Opt Out.jnh.01312025.docx](#)

Ald. Wilder-Bryan moved to approve agenda item #2, seconded by Ald. Shabazz, Ald. Lanier, and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Ald. Miller Blakely encouraged the public to please look into getting the Stephen's Day Homestead Exemption if they do not have it. She stated it is important, especially for the elderly. It will make sure your property stays at the value of when you actually purchased your house.

Mayor Johnson stated he thinks the feeling of Council is that we need to engage our Tax Commissioner and Tax Assessor's office. He further stated that maybe we can hold workshops over the next month or make space available in city facilities to help bring those entities to our residents who are interested in filing. He also asked the public information office to make sure we have some graphics pushed out about the April 1st deadline.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the special meeting at **6:15 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>

