



DECEMBER 7, 2023, 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 2:03 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized **Aldерwoman Bernetta Lanier who introduced Pastor Samuel Pointer of Bethel Apostolic Church,** to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT:

Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Aldерwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Aldерman Detric Leggett, District 2
Aldерwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Aldерman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman
Aldерwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Aldерman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ALSO, PRESENT:

City Manager Joseph A. Melder
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

Mayor Johnson announced today marked the beginning of Hannukah (at sundown), and he acknowledged and requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the recent passing of two city employees: Ronnie Hopkins, Jr.; and Debbie Miles Fields.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for December 7, 2023.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the agenda for December 7, 2023, seconded by Aldерwoman Lanier and Aldерman Palumbo. 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 November 21, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.](#)[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - November 21, 2023 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on November 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.](#)[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - November 21, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

[4. Adoption of the 2024 Meeting Calendar for the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah.](#)[Exhibit 1: 2024 Council Meeting Schedule - Final Draft.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt Item #4, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[5. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, and Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Christopher Clarke for Orale Tacos, a Restaurant Located at 36 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The establishment is located between West Congress and West Broughton Streets in Aldermanic District 2. \(Item was continued from the November 21, 2023 City Council Meeting at the Petitioner's Request\).](#)[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Orale Tacos.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Orale Tacos.pdf](#)[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Orale Tacos.pdf](#)[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Orale Tacos.pdf](#)[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Orale Tacos.pdf](#)

Alderman Leggett moved to continue/postpone Item #5 to the January 11, 2024, City Council Meeting, as requested by the petitioner, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[6. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, and Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Alexander Bender for The Hawthorn Minibar and Lounge, a Bar Located at 524 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The establishment is located between West Huntingdon and West Gaston Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Hawthorn Minibar.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Hawthorn Minibar.pdf](#)[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Hawthorn Minibar.pdf](#)[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Hawthorn Minibar.pdf](#)[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Hawthorn Minibar.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

a. Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #6, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[7. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, and Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Alessandro Marra for Frali Gourmet, a Restaurant Located at 217 West Liberty Street. The establishment is located between Tattnall and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Frali Gourmet.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Frali Gourmet.pdf](#)[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Frali Gourmet.pdf](#)[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Frali Gourmet.pdf](#)[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Frali Gourmet.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

a. Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #7, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[8. Approval to Add a Class E \(Wine\) \(By the Package\) to Existing Class C \(Liquor, Beer, and Wine\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Michael Vaudrin for Ordinary Pub, a Restaurant Located at 217 ½ West Broughton Street. The establishment is located between Jefferson and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Ordinary Pub.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Ordinary Pub.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Ordinary Pub.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Ordinary Pub.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Ordinary Pub.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

a. Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #8, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[9. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, and Wine\) \(By the Drink\) and a Class K \(Transitional\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Fred Stringer for Rack 'Em Up Bar & Lounge, a Restaurant Located at 2411 Skidaway Road. The establishment is located between East 40th and East 41st Streets in Aldermanic District 3.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Rack 'Em Up Bar & Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Rack 'Em Up Bar & Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Rack 'Em Up Bar & Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Rack 'Em Up Bar & Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plans- Rack 'Em Up Bar & Lounge.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan commended the new owner, Mr. Stringer, for cleaning up the property and establishing positive relations with the community with an agreement. Even through the establishment is in the overlay district, it was grandfathered to continue operating. Alderwoman Lanier asked what type of agreement was established. City Manager Melder indicated a good neighbor agreement was adopted into the security plan.

a. Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #9, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[10. Approval of a Class G \(Wine\) \(Complimentary\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Shanay Frazier for Studio 18 Salon, a Nail Salon Located at 4410 Ogeechee Road. The establishment is located between Chatham Parkway and Salt Creek Road in Aldermanic District 5.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Studio 18 Salon.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Studio 18 Salon.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Studio 18 Salon.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Studio 18 Salon.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Studio 18 Salon.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

a. Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol hearings for Items #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[11. Final Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the 2024 Service Program and Budget.](#)

Mayor Johnson indicated this is the final public hearing for the FY2024 Budget. City Manager Melder gave comments explaining the FY2024 Budget addresses additional benefits for retirees and increased compensation for employees. The Budget also includes updates for recreational facilities and civic infrastructure. Mayor Johnson added the FY2024 Budget was achieved with no increases in taxes and no draw on the City's reserve account.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing for Item #11.

Speaker(s):

- Bob Eason – retirees
- Stanley Mosley – retirees
- Mike Nichols – retirees
- Warren Andrews – retirees
- William Black - retirees

Alderman Palumbo moved to close the public hearing for Item #11, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda Items #22 and #33.

Written comment(s):

- Virginia Mobley – splash pad/pool concerns

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked City Manager Melder to explain the up to 15% increase for employees. City Manager Melder gave a detailed explanation of the increases for employees. Alderwoman Miller Blakely thanked all staff for the employee increases.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz thanked all the retirees for staying the course until the City was able to provide additional benefits. She thanked City Manager Melder and the entire City staff, especially Finance, Budget Management Office, and Human Resources for a job well done.

Alderman Purtee expressed concern for the starting pay for police officers and asked how the City will compete with other local municipalities. City Manager Melder explained the police officers salaries included bonuses, benefits, and additional incentives. Alderman Purtee recommended a market study analysis for police officers compensation for the next budget cycle. Mayor Johnson indicated when looking at the pay for police officers, the complete compensation packet should be considered.

Alderman Palumbo thanked staff for an efficient budget process and the positive overall growth of the City's services.

ZONING HEARINGS

[12. First Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of Mayor and Aldermen for the City of Savannah for the Historic Savannah Foundation to Change the Future Land Use Map Category of the 0.11-Acre Property Located at 505 West 36th Street \(20066 48011\) from Traditional Neighborhood to Traditional Commercial in Aldermanic District 1 \(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 505 West 36th Street FLUM \(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 505 West 36th Street FLUM.\(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearing for Item #12.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, representing MPC**

Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #12, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda Item #17.

Written comment(s):

- Gloria William, Cuyler Brownville Neighborhood Association President – IN SUPPORT

[13. Second Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of Mayor and Aldermen for the City of Savannah for the Historic Savannah Foundation \(Owner\) to Change the Zoning for the 0.11-Acre Property Located at 505 West 36th Street \(20066 48011\) from Traditional Residential-1 \(TR-1\) to Traditional Commercial-1 \(TC-1\) in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 23-005399-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 505 West 36th Street Rezoning \(File No. 23-005399-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 505 West 36th Street Rezoning.\(File No. 23-005399-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearing for Item #13.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing MPC

Alderman Palumbo moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #13, correcting the record to read District 1, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda Item #18.

Written comment(s):

- Gloria William, Cuyler Brownville Neighborhood Association Present – IN SUPPORT

[14. First Petition of Fiddler Investments, LLC on Behalf of Andrew Johnson and Richard Rodenberg to Change the Future Land Use Map Category for the 0.241-Acre Property Located at 2025 Texas Avenue \(20060 20010\) from Residential-Suburban Single-family to Residential-Single family in Aldermanic District 3.\(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 2025 Texas Avenue FLUM \(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2025 Texas Avenue FLUM \(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearings for Items #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing MPC

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to close the zoning hearing for Items #14 and #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda Items #19 and #20.

[15. Second Petition of Fiddler Investments, LLC on Behalf of Andrew Johnson and Richard Rodenberg to Rezone the 0.241-Acre Property Located at 2025 Texas Avenue \(20060 20010\) from Residential Single Family-6 \(RSF-6\) to Residential Single Family-5 \(RSF-5\) in Aldermanic District 3 \(File No. 23-005383-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1 MPC Recommendation for 2025 Texas Avenue Rezoning \(File No. 23-005353-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2025 Texas Avenue Rezoning \(File No. 23-005383-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearings for Items #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing MPC

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to close the zoning hearing for Items #14 and #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. See related agenda Items #19 and #20.

[16. Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of Mayor and Aldermen for the City of Savannah to Amend Article G, Design Standards of the Subdivision Regulations, Article 3.0, Application and Review Procedures, and Article 7.0, Overlay Districts of the Zoning Ordinance to Require a Certificate of Appropriateness for Subdivisions within the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 23-005697-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Correspondence from Historic District Board of Review.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Summary of Text Amendments \(File No. 23-005697-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance Revisions \(File No. 23-005697-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearing for Item #16.

Speaker(s):

- Bridget Lidy, Planning & Urban Design Senior Director – petitioner
- Andrew Jones – IN SUPPORT
- Ellie Isaacs – IN SUPPORT
- Ryan Jarles – IN SUPPORT
- David McDonald – IN SUPPORT
- Karen Jarrett – OPPOSED by requesting it to be continued for MPC review
- Richard “Dicky” Mopper - OPPOSED

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #16, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0. See related agenda Item #21.

Written comment(s):

- Paul & Caren Cobet – IN SUPPORT
- Mariah Ringhoff – IN SUPPORT
- Regina Roney – IN SUPPORT
- Don Steinberg – IN SUPPORT
- Rick Roney – IN SUPPORT
- A. Cory Highland – IN SUPPORT
- Andrew Jones – IN SUPPORT
- Justin A. Godchaux – IN SUPPORT
- Martha A. Barnes – IN SUPPORT
- Eleanor Rhangos – IN SUPPORT
- Birgit and Kurt Reiff – IN SUPPORT
- Teresa Jo Styles – Concerned re: how this may affect her property
- Katie Glusica – IN SUPPORT
- Arthur Scinta & Catherine Campbell – IN SUPPORT

City Manager Melder indicated notices were mailed to residents that would be impacted. As a representative of the land owner, City of Savannah. City Manager Melder has no objections to the changes.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked Mr. Mopper what will be the effects on the Civic Center that he mentioned. Mr. Mopper answered, there would need to be subdivisions and recombinations in order for any redeveloped. She asked has the changes gone before MPC. City Manager Melder indicated this matter does not require MPC review, it is a City ordinance. Alderwoman Miller Blakely expressed concern that she feels the matter is being fast-tracked. City Manager Melder indicated the due

diligence process was met. Alderwoman Miller Blakely recommends bringing the matter before MPC for further review and for citizen input.

Alderman Leggett asked how many neighborhoods would be effected by the overlay. Ms. Lidy answered, 2; the Downtown Neighborhood Association and the Forsyth Neighborhood Alliance. Alderman Leggett asked how long has the City worked on the Ordinance. Ms. Lidy answered, actively since August 2022. Alderman Leggett indicated neighborhood associations have been involved in the process and have given input. Ms. Lidy indicated, The Historic Board of Review was included in the process with positive input.

Alderwoman Lanier expressed concern that the City did not include MPC in the review process when the City's prior process has always been to include MPC. City Manager Melder stated The Historic Board of Review is part of MPC and has approved the changes. He also stated, the City has not changed the process of vetting property with MPC.

Mayor Johnson clarified the role of MPC as it relates to the City. MPC does not change or establish ordinances for the City, that is the roll of City Council. MPC is an advisory body. Mayor Johnson recommends the ordinance (Item #21) for a First Read only. This will afford time for any additional questions to be answered and any further information requested by residents to be supplied.

MPC Executive Director Melanie Wilson indicated MPC worked with City staff on the document, but the item did not go before the MPC as a Commission for another public hearing. City Manager Melder indicated The Historic Board of Review made recommendations to City Council and those recommendations are before Council.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed concern for sacred land throughout the City being desecrated. Going through MPC would alleviate some of those issues. She discussed other subdivisions in the City and how the City should have major subdivisions go before MPC for review.

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

[17. First Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of Mayor and Aldermen for the City of Savannah for the Historic Savannah Foundation to Change the Future Land Use Map Category of the 0.11-Acre Property Located at 505 West 36th Street \(20066 48011\) from Traditional Neighborhood to Traditional Commercial in Aldermanic District 1 \(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 505 West 36th Street FLUM \(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 505 West 36th Street FLUM \(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 505 West 36th Street FLUM \(File No. 23-005400-ZA\).pdf](#)

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #17, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[18. Second Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of Mayor and Aldermen for the City of Savannah for the Historic Savannah Foundation \(Owner\) to Change the Zoning for the 0.11-Acre Property Located at 505 West 36th Street \(20066 48011\) from Traditional Residential-1 \(TR-1\) to Traditional Commercial-1 \(TC-1\) in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 23-005399-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 505 West 36th Street Rezoning \(File No. 23-005399-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 505 West 36th Street Rezoning \(File No. 23-005399-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 505 West 36th Street Rezoning \(File no. 23-005399-ZA\).pdf](#)

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, correcting the record to read District 1, Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #18, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[19. First Petition of Fiddler Investments, LLC on Behalf of Andrew Johnson and Richard Rodenberg to Change the Future Land Use Map Category for the 0.241-Acre Property Located at 2025 Texas Avenue \(20060 20010\) from Residential-Suburban Single-family to Residential-Single family in Aldermanic District 3. \(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 2025 Texas Avenue FLUM \(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2025 Texas Avenue FLUM \(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 2025 Texas Avenue FLUM \(File No. 23-005385-ZA\).pdf](#)

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #19, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[20. Second Petition of Fiddler Investments, LLC on Behalf of Andrew Johnson and Richard Rodenberg to Rezone the 0.241-Acre Property Located at 2025 Texas Avenue \(20060 20010\) from Residential Single Family-6 \(RSF-6\) to Residential Single Family-5 \(RSF-5\) in Aldermanic District 3 \(File No. 23-005383-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 2025 Texas Avenue Rezoning \(File No. 23-005383-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 2025 Texas Avenue Rezoning \(File No. 23-005383-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 2025 Texas Avenue Rezoning \(File No. 23-005383-ZA\).pdf](#)

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #20, seconded by

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[21. Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of Mayor and Aldermen for the City of Savannah to Amend Article G, Design Standards of the Subdivision Regulations, Article 3.0, Application and Review Procedures, and Article 7.0, Overlay Districts of the Zoning Ordinance to Require a Certificate of Appropriateness for Subdivisions within the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District in Aldermanic District 2 \(File No. 23-005697-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Correspondence from Historic District Board of Review.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Summary of Text Amendments \(File No. 23-005697-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance Revisions \(File No. 23-005697-ZA\).pdf](#)

HEARD for First Reading Only, as ordered by Mayor Johnson.

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

[22. Approval of the 2024 Revenue Ordinance. Each year, City Council adopts a Revenue Ordinance to authorize the collection of taxes and fees.](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2024 Revenue Ordinance Update Memo.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 2024 Sanitation Fund Rate Memo.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: 2024 Water and Sewer Fund Rate Memo.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: 2024 Revenue Ordinance.pdf](#)

HEARD after Item #33.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #22, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

Mayor Johnson thanked staff for a successful budget process. He recognized those staff members responsible for completion of the FY2024 Budget by asking the Office of Management and Budget, Finance, and Human Resources Departments to stand.

[23. Zoning Map Amendment for Bryan Wardlaw from Landmark 24 on Behalf of William Fawcett \(Owner\) to Rezone ~105 Acres on Wild Heron Road \(PIN 21003 03001\) from A-1 \(Agriculture-1\) to RSF-5 \(Residential Single Family-5\) and RMF-1 \(Residential Multifamily-1\) with Conditions in Aldermanic District 6 \(File No. 22-002692-ZA\). \(Item continue to the December 19, 2023 City Council meeting at the Petitioner's Request\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Wild Heron Road \(File-no-22-002692-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Context Aerial Map for Wild Heron Road \(File No. 22-002692-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Maps for Wild Heron Road \(File No. 22-002692-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Traffic Impact Analysis for Wild Heron Road \(File No. 22-002692-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Typical Street Sections for Wild Heron Road \(File No. 22-002692-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 6: Development Standards for Wild Heron Road \(File No. 22-002692-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 7: Initial Master Plan for Wild Heron.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 8: Master Plan with Conditions for Wild Heron.pdf](#)

CONTINUED/POSTPONED Item #23, as announced by Mayor Johnson.

Written comment(s):

- Petra Echaui – IN SUPPORT

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

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Truman Parkway Vegetation Maintenance with Sabe, Inc. \(LOCAL\)\(DBE\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$161,850. These services are used for on and off- ramp debris removal, tree pruning, and all vegetation undergrowth within the City limits. \(Park & Tree\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Truman Parkway Vegetation Maintenance.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Truman Parkway Vegetation Maintenance.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24, #25, #26, #27, #29, and #30, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[25. Notification of an Emergency Purchase to Replace the Failing Uninterrupted Power Supply \(UPS\) for the Kerry Street Radio Tower from Eaton in the Amount of \\$82,950. The Innovation + Technology Services Department used Eaton's services to replace the malfunctioning UPS at the Kerry Street Tower, which facilitates Savannah's radio network. \(ITS\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Kerry Street Tower UPS.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Kerry Street Tower UPS.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24, #25, #26, #27, #29, and #30, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for AssetWorks Enterprise Asset Management \(EAM\) Upgrade and Renewal from AssetWorks in the Amount of \\$208,089. AssetWorks EAM would be an expansion of the FleetFocusFA system currently being used by Fleet Services. It will allow Fleet Services to upgrade the outdated FleetFocusFA software and, migrate and store the existing data on a cloud platform supported by AssetWorks. \(ITS\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24, #25, #26, #27, #29, and #30, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 1 and Renewal for Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss with International Assurance of Tennessee, Inc. in the Amount of \\$884,082. This is a contract to provide for catastrophic claims reinsurance coverage for the City's self-funded medical and pharmacy plans. \(Human](#)

[Resources](#)[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss Insurance Services.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss Insurance Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24, #25, #26, #27, #29, and #30, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Final Close-out Modification for Dundee Cottages Infrastructure with Johnson-Laux \(LOCAL\) in the Amount of \\$127,473. This modification is needed for the removal of additional unsuitable debris found at the site over the contract allowance, revisions to the site plans to accommodate an updated building footprint including additional grading and the installation of a knee wall, and additional utility underground work for electrical, water, and sewer. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Dundee Village.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Dundee Village.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #28, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

[29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for President Street Plant Structural Repairs with Midwest Maintenance in the Amount of \\$229,635. The President Street Reclamation Plant requires numerous repairs which include cracks and spalls in the ceiling, floor, and walls. The work also includes removing lead-based paint in the affected areas and repainting the repaired areas. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - President Street Plant Repairs.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - President Street Plant Repairs.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24, #25, #26, #27, #29, and #30, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Fire Station 6 and 8 Restoration with Lynn Construction in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$336,392. This project will address deferred maintenance throughout Fire Station 6 located at 3000 Liberty Parkway in Aldermanic District 5, and Fire Station 8 located at 2824 Bee Road in Aldermanic District 3, to include the common areas, living quarters, restrooms, and offices. The work will include interior improvements such as new flooring, paint, and lighting throughout the facility and improvements to the restrooms. \(Facilities Maintenance\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Fire Station 6 & 8.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Fire Station 6 & 8.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24, #25, #26, #27, #29, and #30, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Final Close-out Modification for the Travis Field Force Main with Ruby-Collins, Inc. in the Amount of \\$263,835. This modification includes re-mobilization of driller, deeper excavation due to unexpected deep existing utilities, and revised fitting connections. \(Public Works & Water Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Travis Field Force Main.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Travis Field Force Main.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #31, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

[32. Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Final Close-out Modification for Travis Field Water Reclamation Facility Project with Ruby-Collins, Inc in the Amount of \\$1,314,538. This modification is needed due to changes, additional buildings/enclosures to protect equipment, electrical control changes for added monitoring capabilities, and site safety improvements \(Public Works & Water Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Travis Field WRF.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Travis Field WRF.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #32, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

RESOLUTIONS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)[33. Resolution to Approve the FY 2024 Proposed Service Program and Budget.](#)

HEARD after Item #11.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #33, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

[34. Approval of a Resolution Making Available an Amount Not to Exceed \\$12.5 Million from the Water and Sewer Fund for the Purpose of Funding the Acquisition and Construction of Public Improvements on Hutchinson Island Pursuant to a Development Agreement Between The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah and Savannah Harbor Partners, LLC.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution Authorizing Interfund Transfer.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Development Agreement.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked City Manager Melder to explain the transaction in detail for the residents. City Manager Melder explained the transaction. City staff determined it was more cost effective to borrow the money from the City than issue bonds, and also pay the interest to the City. This was a cost-savings issue.

Alderwoman Lanier expressed the City made a smart move with this transaction.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #34, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter abstaining.

AGREEMENTS

[35. Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) Between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the City of Savannah to Proceed with Preliminary Engineering Commitments Related to the I-16 at Montgomery Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Ramp and Overpass Removal \(PI No. 0011744\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Letter from Georgia Department of Transportation \(PI 0011744\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Memorandum of Agreement between Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Savannah \(PI 0011744\).pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier asked City Manager Melder if any prior City Councils voted to remove the overpass. City Manager Melder indicated the City cannot vote to remove the overpass, it is owned by GDOT; Item #35 is for approval of a preliminary engineering report. Alderwoman Lanier stated, in the FY2023 budget projection lists, there is \$180,000 for a study to remove the I-16 flyover, is that amount part of this grant. City Manager Melder answered, yes, the \$180,000 is the City's portion (20%) of the grant amount.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if this is part of Reclaim the Old West Broad Street Plan from years ago. City Manager Melder answered, the City of Savannah never adopted that Plan; this is not connected with that Plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #35, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 7-2-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no.

MISCELLANEOUS

[36. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Flannery Ward Lots 65, 66 & 67. The subject property is the first phase and only anticipated phase of the Flannery Ward Subdivision. This proposed subdivision is located on West 38th Street between Montgomery Street and Jefferson Street, totals 0.403 acres, and will consist of seven \(7\) single family lots to be occupied by single family attached buildings in Aldermanic District 2. \(This item was postponed from the November 21, 2023, Council Meeting\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat Major Subdivision Lots 65, 66, & 67, Flannery Ward.pdf](#)

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #36, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no.

[37. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Oakwood at New Hampstead Phase 1A. The subject property is the first phase of a subdivision named Oakwood at New Hampstead located on Highgate Boulevard off Little Neck Road. This proposed phase totals 12.953 acres and will consist of 42 single family lots with varying lot sizes. Oakwood Phase 1A has its own dedicated entrance located off Highgate Boulevard.](#)

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #37, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed 7-2-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no.

[38. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Portion of Lot 1, Savannah Economic Development Authority. This proposed property totals 576.21 acres and will consist of 10 lots with varying lot sizes located in the New Hampstead Area at cross streets Old River Road and Four Lakes Parkway. Savannah Chatham Manufacturing Center is a major subdivision plat for the Savannah Economic Development Authority, platted as future manufacturing development sites for prospective clients looking to invest in the Savannah Area.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat - Major Subdivision Savannah Chatham Manufacturing Center Subdivision.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson recommended a traffic study be conducted by the City of Savannah, Chatham County, and SEDA.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #38, conditionally, with City of Savannah, Chatham County, and SEDA to conduct a traffic study, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderwoman Miller Blakely expressed deep concern that a young man who was incarcerated for two years due to a police false report is now hired in the Savannah Code Enforcement Department. She recommended adding two (2) additional people to the Civil Service Board for a non-biased representation and decision making. Mayor Johnson indicated this was not the proper forum for that discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz invited everyone to the Evergreen Cemetery Dedication, Saturday at 9:30 a.m. on ACL Blvd. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderman Purtee, and Pastor Charles Roberson of Kingdom Life Christian Fellowship is presenting "Blessings on the South Side", Saturday, December 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 1,000 gifts and 1,000 bags of groceries will be given away. The public is invited.

Mayor Johnson announced funeral services for Debbie Fields will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul A.M.E. Church. The arrangements for Mr. Ronnie Hopkins, Jr. have not been finalized.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan invited all to Pegasus Riding Academy Executive Director Peggy Noon's 10th Annual Parade; contact her on the web <https://prasav.org/>.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 3:54 p.m.

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

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=nowJ96BXn4x4aQtK>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____

