



FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 6:30 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 **6:32 p.m.** Mayor Johnson recognized **Alderwoman Bernetta Lanier** who introduced **Reverend Stephen Robertson, Pastor of Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church**, to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT:

Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, 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
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman
Alderwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ALSO, PRESENT:

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

As a point of personal privilege, Mayor Johnson announced in the State of Georgia, February 23, 2023, is designated as 'The Ahmaud Arbery Day'. This is the day he lost his life three years ago. February 23 will forever be known annually in the State of Georgia as "The Ahmaud Arbery Day".

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for February 23, 2023.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the regular meeting agenda for February 23, 2023, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman 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 February 7, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: DRAFT MINUTES February 7, 2023 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

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

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on February 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - February 7, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

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

PRESENTATIONS

[4. An Appearance by Dr. Bonzo Reddick, the Newly Appointed Health Director of the Coastal Health District.](#)

PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, and he stated that the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health Dr. Kathleen Toomey appointed Dr. Reddick as the District Health Director for the Savannah area.

A brief background was provided by Mayor Johnson of Dr. Reddick's education and career accomplishments. Dr. Reddick is a native of Savannah and was happy and honored to be back home to serve the residents of the coastal district. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for the recognition and indicated he can be reached by contacting Public Information Officer Ginger Heidel. Dr. Reddick introduced his two children, Juliana and Gavin.

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

[5. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Jacqueline Somesso for Sloppee Toppee, a Restaurant at 1308 Montgomery Street Located between West Henry and West Anderson Streets in Aldermanic District 2. \(City Manager recommends denial\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Sloppee Toppee.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Sloppee Toppee.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Sloppee Toppee.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Sloppee Toppee.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Sloppee Toppee.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 6: SPD Memo to the City Manager - Sloppee Toppee.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Item #5.

City Manager Melder recommended denial of Item #5. The applicant currently has an alcohol license for another establishment; however, City Manager Melder expressed his concerns with information received from Savannah Police Department (SPD) on a routine background check for alcohol license. The applicant is currently under federal indictment for charges that he felt disqualify her for an alcohol license.

Speaker(s):

- Jacqueline Somesso, applicant (spoke 3 times) - Applicant explained she faced the same allegations by the State, but they were dismissed. Ms. Somesso stated the federal charges/allegations, will be dismissed. Charges were related to a love relationship, whereby the applicant admitted was the wrong choice, but she was not involved in his activities and she since has dissolved the relationship.

Ms. Somesso asked Council to approve the alcohol license to permit her to sell/operate the Sloppee Toppee Restaurant much like the current establishment she operates, Liquid Cafe.

Ms. Somesso indicated she reached out to the neighborhood association and a meeting was scheduled, but canceled. She also stated that she reached out to the District Alderman for a meeting with the neighborhood association prior to today's meeting, but received no response. Ms. Somesso stated she has been in business for 25 years, employs numerous residents, has a mentorship program and is active in the community. She introduced Derrick Law Staton, as the responsible party on the alcohol application, and the manager and operator of the restaurant.

- . Tony Riley, IN SUPPORT. Mr. Riley stated due to his former candidacy for County Commissioner, on the application for public office the question is asked have you committed a crime of moral turpitude. Ms. Somesso has not been adjudicated of a crime; therefore, she should be qualified for an alcohol license.
- . Mayor Johnson asked City Attorney Lovett to address the alcohol license application versus running for a public office as it relates to moral turpitude.
- . Attorney Lovett stated, when running for public office you cannot be convicted of moral turpitude (as per the legal definition). For Ms. Somesso, it is discretionary decision for Council. An alcohol license is a privilege not a right. She has checked all the boxes to appear before Council to request an alcohol license. Based on all the information provided on the application and provided by the City Manager, Council will render it's discretionary vote.
- . Nancy Maia (Victorian Neighborhoods Association) – OPPOSED

Written comment(s) received:

- . Joseph Serpa (Old Savannah Tours) – OPPOSED
- . Nancy Maia (Victorian Neighborhoods Association) – OPPOSED

Mayor Johnson asked City Manager Melder if his recommendation was based on findings related to the current establishment owned by Ms. Somesso. Mr. Melder indicated his recommendation is based solely on the current federal indictment for the new alcohol license application.

- a. Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Item #5, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- b. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to reopen the alcohol hearing, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- c. Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Item #5, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- d. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter moved to approve Item #5. The motion was not voted upon.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked City Manager Melder if Liquid Cafe, in the 5th District, has any violations from SPD. Mr. Melder replied, there are a list of violations from SPD dating back to 2007. Recent violations from Revenue reveal returned checks, calls concerning Liquid Cafe and Sloppee Toppee (old location), but City Manager Melder indicated his current recommendation for denial is directly related to the serious federal charges against Ms. Somesso; conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, cocaine methenamine cocaine base, heroin, marijuana, maintaining a drug involved premises, bank fraud, possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Mr. Melder indicated if the applicants charges are dropped or dismissed, his recommendations to Council may change.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz discussed her knowledge of the Liquid Cafe and Ms. Somesso's operation of the business. She has first-hand experience working with Ms. Somesso in the 5th District and has no problem with her style of operating a business.

Since the State charges have been dropped and Ms. Somesso expects the federal charges to be dropped, Mayor Johnson asked Ms. Somesso would she like to pause Council's decision after the federal charges are dropped. Today, Council will vote on the information presented (by City Manager Melder). Ms. Somesso stated since Mr. Staton is the responsible party on the alcohol application, she did not understand why the federal charges against her are a factor. City Attorney Lovett explained, Mr. Staton is listed as a responsible party and the manager, but Ms. Somesso is the applicant and the alcohol license is issued to the applicant.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely stated to Ms. Somesso, Sloppee Toppee was located on Liberty Street. Did the alcohol license get revoked (no). City Attorney Lovett replied, in 2018 or 2019, City Council changed the transfer law such that alcohol licenses or business ownership cannot be transferred to another location or to a new owner. You must apply for a new alcohol license.

Alderwoman Lanier asked when the charges occurred (City Attorney Lovett replied, allegedly in 2019). Alderwoman Lanier asked why did Council grant Ms. Somesso an alcohol license

in January 2023 for her other location. Attorney Lovett replied, because the indictment was just recently unsealed. Alderwoman Lanier stated, if the applicant met the requirements, she should be granted the license.

Alderman Palumbo stated judgment of the applicant is the purview of Council. It is Council's responsibility to take into consideration all factors based on location, frequency of alcoholic establishments, the background, character, and moral turpitude of the applicant in determining issuance of an alcohol license.

Alderman Leggett stated the neighborhood association as well as the neighbors are not targeting minorities or small business, but the issue is the quality of life in the Victorian District. Is this a bar or restaurant, the neighborhood has no objection to a restaurant. Every district and each neighborhood is different, but as Alderman of the 2nd District, he must listen to the residents.

Alderwoman Lanier expressed how complexions of communities are changing and the neighborhoods are requesting safe eating and meeting places. The alleged charges have not been proven at this location, and Ms. Somesso has proven herself a good business woman and community advocate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked Ms. Somesso if she could wait until the alleged charges are dropped, as Mayor Johnson suggested, before pursuing the alcohol license for Sloppee Toppee. Ms. Somesso stated she appeared today to defend herself for the alcohol license.

Alderwoman Lanier called for the vote.

An unnamed man in a wheel chair expressed appreciation for Ms. Somesso's establishment and supports her request for an alcohol license.

Mayor Johnson asked Alderman Leggett if the neighborhood association and Ms. Somesso met to discuss the neighborhood concerns about a restaurant becoming a club. Alderman Leggett indicated there was no meeting. Mayor Johnson indicated, Council encourages the applicant and neighborhood association meet prior to coming before Council. Communication is very important before decisions are made. Is there an opportunity for the neighborhood association and the applicant to meet and discuss concerns and possibly establish a good neighbor agreement. Ms. Maia and Ms. Somesso agreed to meet.

e. Alderman Leggett made a motion to continue Item #5 for two weeks (March 9, 2023, City Council meeting) to allow time for a good neighbor agreement, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely expressed concern that Ms. Somesso will only be able to serve beer and wine if she only operates a restaurant.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed concern that Ms. Somesso will miss an opportunity to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Holiday thereby realizing increased revenue for the year. She discussed the responsibilities of the Council to unify the community rather than make divisions. She apologized to Ms. Somesso on behalf of the entire Council for any slander she may have experienced during the meeting and congratulated her on keeping her head high.

Alderman Purtee asked how many calls were made for the Liquid Cafe. City Manager Melder agreed to forward the information to Council.

f. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter moved to approve Item #5 with a good neighbor agreement or contingencies to be entered into after approval, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion failed, 3-6-0. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voted yes. Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo and Alderman Purtee voted no.

Mayor Johnson asked Alderman Leggett to facilitate the meeting between Ms. Somesso and Ms. Maia.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked how will the motion to continue Item #5 to the March 9, 2023, Council Meeting affect Ms. Somesso's business as it relates to the St. Patrick's Day Holiday. Ms. Judee Jones indicated a State alcohol license will be necessary to sell alcohol. The State is currently in a renewal period, so a time definite is uncertain for approval. Mayor Johnson indicated, if the alcohol license was approved today by City Council, there is no

guarantee it would make the date required for the St. Patrick's Day Holiday. Ms. Jones agreed.

[6. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Pok Holbrook for Korea Garden, a Restaurant at 20 East DeRenne Avenue between Bull and Abercorn Streets in Aldermanic District 4.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Korea Garden.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Korea Garden.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Korea Garden.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Korea Garden.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Korea Garden.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Item #6.

No speaker(s).

a. Alderman Palumbo moved to close the alcohol hearing for Item #6, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #6, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[7. Second of Two Public Hearings to Adopt the Impact Fee Ordinance. \(Note: The Resolution to Adopt Capital Improvements Element must occur prior to approving this item\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: City of Savannah Methodology Report Revised as of 02.17.23.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: City of Savannah Capital Improvements Element Final Document.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: City of Savannah Capital Improvements Element Approval 01.19.2023.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Redlined Version of the Savannah Impact Fee Ordinance and Maximum Fee Schedule as of 02.17.2023.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Proposed Final Version of the Savannah Impact Fee Ordinance and Maximum Fee Schedule as of 02.17.2023.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #7.

City Manager Melder thanked consultants, staff and advisory committee for all the work and assistance on the impact fee ordinance over the past year. There are four items on the agenda related to impact fees: (1). public hearings #2; (2). consideration of the Capital Improvement Element (CIE) which includes the capital improvement projects and the percentages of those projects which will be paid for by impact fees based on the City's current level of service; (3). consideration of the impact fee ordinance (the highest fee has been reduced by 25%); and (4). consideration of an exemption for affordable housing projects from payment of development impact fees. City Manager Melder's recommendation is an adoption of impact fees as proposed or no adoption.

Speaker(s):

- . John Mowry (Home Builders Assoc.) – OPPOSED
- . Keri Martin (Home Builders Assoc.) – OPPOSED
- . Ben Wall Jr. (garbage man and developer) – OPPOSED
- . Blake Greco and Daniel Ben-Yisrael – OPPOSED
- . William Ross, consultant

Written comment(s) received:

- . Mike Vaquer, on behalf of Home Builders Assoc. - OPPOSED

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan expressed her concern for housing that is affordable. The burden of infrastructure and services for a new community should not be the responsibility of all taxpayers. Residents of new communities should bear some of the burden of expense for their community. She asked City Manager Melder to explain how affordable housing would be affected if the impact fee ordinance is approved. City Manager Melder replied, there is a Resolution on the agenda to exempt affordable housing from payment of development impact fees (up to 25%) for Council's consideration.

Alderman Palumbo discussed impact fees as it relates to the effectiveness of how taxpayers and homeowners will be affected. New growth does not pay for itself; this is a blunt tool that will affect everyone. Alderman Palumbo stated there are better places to raise revenue. He recommends extending Council's decision, at least until we see what will happen to House Bill 514 that would at least exempt affordable housing and workforce housing from impact fees.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz read a statement as it relates to impact fees. She thanked everyone involved in the research and preparation of the impact fee ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz recommended a review of the impact fee after 24-36 months to analyze its effectiveness, if approved.

Alderwoman Lanier discussed new growth and development as it relates to the City's responsibility to put policies (equity policies) in place to change the trajectory of automatic poverty. New growth and development should be shared by people who will benefit instead of the entire City.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if the money collected in a specific geographical area must be spent in that area. Consultant William Ross replied, no law requires money collected in that area needs to be spent in that area. Council will prioritize where the money is spent as collected. Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked City Manager Melder what would be the next step if the impact fee ordinance fails. City Manager Melder replied, the growth will continue so the City will need to provide public infrastructure and public services. The City will need to provide resources from other revenue; property taxes, sales taxes, the City's portion of hotel/motel taxes, and other franchise fees. Mr. Melder discussed the many aspects of impact fees as it relates to all types of land use and single family homes. Alderwoman Miller Blakely commented, if SCAD (Savannah College of Arts & Design) had paid taxes to the City, there would probably not be a need for an impact fee ordinance.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if there is an opportunity to exempt existing projects. City Manager Melder, cited section 3, page 3 of the ordinance, to grandfather existing projects. She asked when the consultant firm was hired, September 9, 2021. Was that a unanimous vote (yes). Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked the amount paid to the consultants (up to \$92,000.).

Alderman Purtee discussed the changes in the 6th District (Sweetwater Station and Windsor Forest) and the lack of infrastructure and traffic calming. The established residents should not be burdened with the expense of new developed communities.

Mayor Johnson thanked the Home Builders Association for their participation. He discussed the unexpected growth experienced in District 1 (Godley Station area). Development should help pay for itself. The City has a responsibility to help provide and prepare for exponential development.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the public hearing for Item #7, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion closed unanimously, 9-0-0.

ZONING HEARINGS

[8. Petition of Josh Yellin \(Agent\) on Behalf of Michael T. Condon of Vintage Home Builders, LLC \(Owner\) to Amend the Zoning Map from TN-3 \(Traditional Neighborhood-3\) to TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial-1\) for a 0.18 Acre Parcel Located at 1401 Paulsen Street \(PIN 20054 10001\), District 2 \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Photos of 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: The Laundry Concept.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Draft Ordinance for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for Items #8 and #9.

Speaker(s):

- . Marcus Lotson, MPC representative
- . Josh Yellin, representing applicant.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if this is a nightclub. Attorney Yellin explained the State brewery license law and replied, it is operated as an American style diner.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if a background check was completed. City Manager Melder replied, yes.

Alderman Leggett moved to close the zoning hearings for Items #8 and #9, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[9. Petition of Josh Yellin \(Agent\) on Behalf of Michael T. Condon of Vintage Home Builders, LLC \(Owner\) for a Special Use Permit with Conditions to Allow a Microbrewery at the 0.18 Acre Parcel Located at 1401 Paulsen Street \(PIN 20054 10001\), District 2 \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005906-ZA\) - Revised.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps - 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Photos - 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: The Laundry Concept - 1401 Paulsen Street.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for Items #8 and #9.

HEARD after Item #11.

Speaker(s):

- Marcus Lotson, MPC representative
- Josh Yellin, representing applicant

a. Alderman Leggett moved to close the zoning hearings for Items #8 and #9, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #9 with conditions (special use permit), seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[10. Petition of Robert McCorkle \(Agent\) on Behalf of Paul Amrien \(Owner\) to Amend the Zoning Map from RSF-6 \(Residential Single Family - 6,000 square foot lot minimum\) to OI \(Office Institutional\) for a 1.14 Acre Property Located at 5106 Skidaway Road \(PIN 20137 01003\), District 3 \(File No. 22-005903-ZA\). Petitioner has requested to continue until March 9, 2023.](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to continue Item #10 to the March 9, 2023, City Council Meeting at the request of the petitioner, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[11. Petition of Josh Yellin \(Agent\) on Behalf of Michael T. Condon of Vintage Home Builders, LLC \(Owner\) to Amend the Zoning Map from TN-3 \(Traditional Neighborhood-3\) to TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial-1\) for a 0.18 Acre Parcel Located at 1401 Paulsen Street \(PIN 20054 10001\), District 2 \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Photos of 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: The Laundry Concept.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Draft Ordinance for 1401 Paulsen Street \(File No. 22-005905-ZA\).pdf](#)

HEARD after Item #8.

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #11, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[12. Adoption of the Impact Fee Ordinance. \(Note: The Resolution to Adopt Capital Improvements Element must occur prior to approving this item\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: City of Savannah Methodology Report Revised 02172023.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: City of Savannah Capital Improvements Element Final Document.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Compliance with the Development Impact Fee Act \(01192023\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Final Version of the Savannah Impact Fee Ordinance and Maximum Fee Schedule as of 02172023.pdf](#)

HEARD after Item #21.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #12, seconded by Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Alderman Palumbo voted no.

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

[13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Street Sweeper Brooms with Keystone Plastics, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$135,000. The Sanitation Department will use the street sweeper brooms for the operation of the City of Savannah's Sanitation Street Cleaning Division. \(Sanitation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Street Sweeper Brooms.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Street Sweeper Brooms.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Aluminum Sulfate with Chemtrade Chemicals Corporation in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$800,000. Aluminum Sulfate is used for the water treatment process to assist in the coagulation removal of solids from incoming raw water. \(Industrial & Domestic Water Plant\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Sidewalk, Curb, and Cobblestone Repair with Savannah River Utilities \(LOCAL\) \(Prime\) and Savannah Paving \(Secondary\) in the Amount of \\$240,000. The increase will fund the construction of improvements of the Springfield Canal and permanent concrete traffic tables that will replace existing temporary tables, which will allow for the relocation of temporary tables to new approved locations. \(Transportation Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Sidewalk, Curb, and Cobblestone.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Sidewalk, Curb, and Cobblestone.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[16. Notification of an Emergency Purchase to Remove Multiple Ballfield Lights with Trinity Electrical Services, Inc in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$76,820. The services will be used to provide an appropriate and safe level of service for the Recreation & Leisure Services Department's Youth Baseball Programs at the Guy Minick Complex. \(Recreation & Leisure Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Guy Minick Complex Field Lights.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Guy Minick Complex Field Lights.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Heavy Equipment Rentals with Savannah River Utilities \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$419,295. Heavy equipment must be readily available on-site at the Dean Forest Landfill and the Sanitation Department uses this contract to stay Environmental Protection Division \(EPD\) compliant. \(Sanitation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Heavy Equipment Rental.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Heavy Equipment Rental.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Pharmacy Benefit Manager with Maxor in the Amount of \\$18,684,650 over three \(3\) years. The contract is used by the City of Savannah to provide pharmacy prescription services for the self-funded pharmacy plan. \(Human Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Pharmacy Benefit Manager.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Pharmacy Benefit Manager.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 and the Annual Renewal for Armed Security Services with Sunstates Security, LLC in an Amount of up to \\$2,840,971. This contract covers the following locations: City Hall \(24hr\), President Street Water Plant \(24hrs\), Floyd Adams Complex \(24hrs\), Parking Garages \(24hrs\), Coastal Georgia Center, Ellis Square, I&D Water Treatment Plant, Forsyth Café, 5515 Abercorn Building, and the Thomas Gamble Building. Additionally, coverage is provided for special events such as St. Patrick's Day and the Christmas Tree Detail. Total number of annual hours is approximately 110,000. \(Risk Management\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Armed Security Modification.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Armed Security Modification.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked City Manager Melder if Sunstates Security is paying their employees at least \$15.00/hour. (The minimum paid salary is \$17.00/hour).

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract to Procure Two Fire Engines/Pumpers Equipment and Either One Truck or Rescue Vehicle from Sutphen Corporation in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$4,500,000. The primary purposes of a fire apparatus are transporting firefighters, water supply, and carrying equipment for a wide range of firefighting and rescue tasks. Due to the rapid growth and annexation of land under new development, there is a need to add fire apparatus in the south-west areas of Savannah and Hutchinson Island. \(Fleet\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13 through #20, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[21. Adoption of the Capital Improvements Element \(CIE\) as an Amendment to the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan \(Plan 2040\) \(Note: The Resolution to Adopt the CIE must occur prior to the 2nd Public Hearing and Reading of the Development Impact Fee Ordinance\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Proposed Resolution to Adopt the Capital Improvements Element.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Compliance with the Development Impact Fee Act \(01192023\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: City of Savannah Capital Improvements Element Final Document.pdf](#)

a. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #21, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Alderman Palumbo voted no.

Alderwoman Lanier questioned the use of 'so moved'. Clerk of Council Massey stated 'so moved' is considered improper. It is requested to use, 'make a motion to' or 'make a motion that'. Mayor Johnson indicated he accepted 'so moved' in this case.

b. Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #21, seconded by Mayor Johnson and Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Alderman Palumbo voted no.

[22. Adoption of a Resolution to Exempt Affordable Housing from the Payment of Development Impact Fees as Outlined.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Proposed Resolution to Adopt the Affordable Housing Exemption Resolution - Red Line Version.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Proposed Resolution to Adopt the Affordable Housing Exemption Resolution - Revised.pdf](#)

HEARD after Item #12.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #22, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[23. Authorize the City Manager to Accept Donation of Real Property Located at 2100 Little Neck Road \(37.59 acres\) Near the Intersection of New Hampstead Parkway for a Future Public Safety Site at No-Cost to the City Aside from Real Estate Closing Fees.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Map - 2100 Little Neck Rd .pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Recorded Plat - 2100 Little Neck Rd. .pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #23, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Approve the Fourth Amendment to a Lease Agreement at 1900 Victory Drive, Suite B5, for the Savannah Police Department's Office of Professional Standards Located at the McAlpin Square Shopping Center.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Map Attachment - 1900 E. Victory Drive.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Fourth Amendment - 1900 E. Victory Drive.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked City Manager Melder the monthly lease amount. City Manager Melder replied, \$662.67 monthly to cover prorated expenses, but the City has occupied the space for years at no charge to the City.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan congratulated Major Young on her promotion; there is another Eastside Captain serving in the 3rd District.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #24, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[25. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve the claim of Terrell Jones (worker's compensation matter) in the amount of \$85,000.00, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

[26. Approval of the Installation of a Historical Marker on Public Property in Dixon Park Near the Intersection of East Henry Street and Java Place to Commemorate Suffragist and Community Leader Mamie George Williams. In 1924, Williams became the first woman from Georgia and the first African American woman in the nation to serve on the Republican National Committee.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Signed Board Recommendation for Mamie Williams Marker.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: HSMC Submittal Packet for Mamie George Williams Marker.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan included, Ms. Williams was able to register 40,000 black females to vote, a rare accomplishment in those times.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #26, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[27. Added Item - Appearance by the Savannah Arts Academy Girls Cross Country Team Along with Coach Steven Ricciardi to Recognize the Team for Winning the 2022 GHSA Class 2A State Championship.](#)

HEARD after Item #4.

PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson.

Coach Ricciari introduced the five girl team and gave a brief description of the cross country terrain. One of the members of the team, Margaret Wade, won the individual state cross country crown in the GHSA Class 2A 3.1 mile course. Coach Ricciari thank Mayor and Council for the recognition.

[28. Added Item - Savannah Airport Commission - Approval to Execute a 5-Year Contract with Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, in the Amount of \\$506,000.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve item #28, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderwoman Lanier announced and invited the public to the 5th Annual Weeping Time Festival on Saturday, March 4, 2023, in Waterworks Park near the Enmarket Arena. Alderwoman Lanier wished Alderwoman Gibson-Carter a Happy Birthday.

Aldewoman Wilder-Bryan thanked the sanitation deparment (Gene Prevatt). Rock-the-Block starts in March.

Alderman Leggett honored the life of Coach Aubrey Whiting. He coached Little League Football for the Boys Club. He passed this morning. Condolences to his family. Alderman Leggett asked the public to continue to celebrate the Hurricane Basketball Team, number one in the Region for semi-pro teams. He thanked City Manager Melder and staff for moving quickly to help preserve the baseball season for local youth.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recognized the life work of long-time activist and community advocate Clara Mae Curry who passed earlier this month. She invited the public out to Morrisville at Daffin Park, Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for Fit Over Fifty.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz sent condolences to the family of Clara Mae Curry. She thanked the seniors in the 5th District for 'Love In The Air' for Valentines Day. She thanked City Manager Melder and staff for recreation reimaged.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely sent condolences to the family of Booker T, services are this Saturday at St. Paul at 11:00am.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz expressed sympathy on the passing of one of her mentors and sent condolences to Clerk of Council Massey, his mother and family on the passing of 'Tommy Dortch' (his step-father). He was a mentor to many in Georgia and across the Nation. She will attend the services this Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 11:00am in Atlanta. Mayor Johnson sent his condolences to Ms. Dortch and family.

Mayor Johnson announced that Saturday on behalf of 100% Savannah, there will be an event, 10:00am - 1:00pm at Savannah Gardens, 520 East Crescent Street, food, music and community resources. Bring a copy of your Georgia Power bill to see if your eligible for free energy efficiency programs.

Mayor Johnson announced on Monday, February 27th, the Today Show will do a segment from Savannah. More information will be provided tomorrow. Mayor Johnson and WSAV-TV News Anchorwoman Kim Gusby will highlight Savannah to the World as a place to come. The segment will only be 3-4 minutes, but it will be watched around the World. The public is invited to come out to support the segment (possibly Forsyth Park). Aldermen/Alderwomen will receive more information.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:27 p.m.

A 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=mXSRdvCOwnxT>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____