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**JANUARY 12, 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 introduced Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams, retired Pastor of First African Baptist Church of East Savannah 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  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey  
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

Following the invocation, Mayor Johnson exercised a point of personal privilege by presenting a proclamation to Reverend Thomas E. Williams for his retirement after 36 years as pastor of the First African Baptist Church of East Savannah. The proclamation was read by Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan and Mayor Johnson with Reverend Williams wife and 2 daughters in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for January 12, 2023.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve/adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda for January 12, 2023, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Meeting Regarding LOST Held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - December 15, 2022 Special Called Council Meeting.pdf](#)

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

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - December 20, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

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

#### ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

[4. Resolution to Fix and Publish Qualifying Fees and Period for City of Savannah 2023 Municipal Election.](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2023 Election Resolution.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #4, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### PRESENTATIONS

[5. Appearance by and Recognition of the Galvan Foundation, Inc.'s Commitment to Improve Housing and Quality of Life in the Cuyler-Brownsville Neighborhood through the Development of 19 City-owned Properties for Mixed-income Affordable and Workforce Housing and the Donation of \\$1,000,000 to the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund for Use in Cuyler-Brownsville.](#)

Mayor Johnson stated the City is making monumental strides in providing affordable housing for residents. The Galvan Foundation is prepared to make a commitment to improve housing and quality of life in the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood.

City Manager Melder stated Council was briefed during the Work Shop of the Galvan Foundation commitment to develop 19 City-owned properties for housing and a donation of \$1 million to the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund for use in the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood.

Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Lanier, Housing & Neighborhood Services Director Martin Fretty, CHSA Executive Director Anita Smith-Dixon, Housing Savannah, Inc. Executive Director Laura Lane McKinnon, and other board members and staff from various related organizations were on hand to accept the donation.

Mr. Fretty discussed the importance of receiving funds from Galvan Foundation and the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood improvements that will be realized by the donation/investment.

Vice President Dan Kent of Galvan Foundation expressed how impressed the agency was after reading the Savannah Affordable Housing Plan and their decision to invest in the City. He thanked the City for the opportunity to invest and look forward to working with Alderwoman Lanier, Mr. Fretty, Ms. Smith-Dixon and City staff on the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood improvements.

[6. Appearance by the Benedictine Military School's Football Team Along with Coach Danny Britt to Recognize the Team for Winning the 2022 Class 4A Division State Football Championship Game.](#)

Mayor Johnson recognized the Benedictine Military School's Football Team winning the 2022 championship game. In attendance were Benedictine Coach Britt, Captain Za'Quan Bryan, Student Body President and Captain Charlie Iannone, Captain James Moore, Headmaster Father Frank Ziemkiewicz, and Principal Dr. Jacob T. Horne.

Coach Britt and Father Ziemkiewicz expressed thanks to the City for their support and thanked Mayor and Council for the recognition.

Various Council Members expressed words of thanks and congratulations to the team, the school, and parents of football team members.

[7. Appearance by Representatives of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Committee to Formally Request the 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade Permit.](#)

Mayor Johnson PRESENTED the Parade Permit to Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association President Deborah Adams, and Association Members Linda Jones, Judee Jones, Carrie Howard, and Glenda Jones.

Ms. Adams presented Mayor Johnson with a cake and fruit basket as a token of appreciation from the Parade Committee. She announced Carolyn Blackshear and State Representative Carl Gilliard are the 2023 Parade Grand Marshals and Minister Latasha Barnes as Trailblazer.

The Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 16, 2023, beginning at East Broad Street & Liberty. She also announced the appearance of Ms. Vickie Winans on February 19, 2023, 4:00 p.m. at Tabernacle on Allen Street, no cover charge. The public is invited.

Mayor Johnson PRESENTED a Citation for feeding children through the agency Save Our Youth Savannah, to Minister Latasha Barnes from July 30, 2022. She was unable to appear for the presentation on July 30.

[8. Recognition of the Legacy and Contributions of Luis Amaro of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless.](#)

Mayor Johnson and Alderman Purtee recognized Luis Amaro for his work with the homeless.

Executive Director Jennifer Darsey acknowledged the outstanding work and service Case Manager Amaro provided to homeless individuals. She thanked City Council for the honor bestowed on Luis Amaro. Team members of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless were in attendance.

Following the recognition/acknowledgments, Mayor Johnson asked for a moment of silence to honor Luis Amaro.

[9. Appearance by Representatives of the Savannah Interagency Diversity Council to Receive a Proclamation Announcing Traffic Jam 2023.](#)

PRESENTED and READ by Mayor Johnson to Savannah Interagency Diversity Council (SIDC) members, including Board Chair William Bill Gettis, GBI Attorney and Special Prosecutor Diane McCloud, Chatham Area Transit Outreach Manager Valerie Ragland, Tharros Place Executive Director Julie Wade and Outreach Coordinator Kate Templeton, and Mary's Place of the Coastal Empire, formerly the Rape Crisis Center, Executive Director Doris L. Williams.

Mr. Gettis accepted the proclamation and thanked Mayor Johnson and City Council for the recognition and asked for continued collaboration. He announced a law enforcement workshop on January 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Savannah State University, Howard Jordan Auditorium, and on January 28, 2023, a general public main conference, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Union. Lunch will be served at both events.

Ms. McCloud shared sex and labor trafficking statistics in an effort to show the importance for the public to be aware of the increased problems with trafficking. Ms. Wade and Ms. Williams thanked City Council for their recognition and asked for the public's support.

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

[10. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Brittany N. O'Neal for Cru Lounge, a Restaurant Located at 1639 East Victory Drive between Grenoble and Wicklow Streets in Aldermanic District 3. \(Continued from December 8, 2022\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Cru Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Cru Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Cru Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Cru Lounge.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Cru Lounge.pdf](#)

HEARD after Item #15.

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Item #10.

**Speaker(s):**

- . DeWayne Nathaniel Martin, representing the applicant/petitioner
- . Brittany N. O'Neal, applicant

**Written comment(s) received:**

- . B.J. Lowenthal – OPPOSED
- . Morgan Taylor – OPPOSED
- . Angie & Carle Lee Richardson – OPPOSED
- . Michael Hough, et al. received July 14, 2022 meeting – OPPOSED

Mayor Johnson asked if the business model included the consumption of Hooka, the City has a smoke-free ordinance that does not allow smoking. Mr. Martin indicated the establishment will not have Hooka or allow smoking.

Alderman Leggett asked if the establishment secured adequate parking. Mr. Martin indicated a certified parking plan was submitted and approved by the planning & development department in December 2022.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if the petitioner has met all the requirements of the alcohol application, how long has the applicant tried for the license, and is the business in the alcohol overlay area in District 3.

City Manager Melder indicated the business is not in a alcohol overlay district, has met all administrative requirements to appear on the agenda with the City Manager's recommendation for approval.

Alderwoman Lanier indicated since the applicant has met all legal requirements for the alcohol license, Council's approval is subjective. Granting an alcohol license to a business is a privilege, but she does not see any red flags.

**a.** Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to close the alcohol hearing for Item #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**b.** Alderwoman Gibson-Carter moved to approve Item #10, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion failed, 4-5-0. Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Purtee voted no.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked why the denial. Mayor Johnson indicated the question was inappropriate.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter indicated applicants/petitioners invest money and time in a business before coming to Council. She asked City Manager Melder if the process could be revised to alleviate loss should the alcohol license be denied.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed her concern for the Cru Lounge and their time and money spent only to be denied an alcohol license when all requirements are met. Since her time on Council, no other applicant had as many requirements to meet approval. She discussed the lack of African-American owned bar and liquor establishments in Savannah and how bias, disparity and racism play a role in who is allowed to do business in the City of Savannah. She expressed her concern for exposing the City to litigious actions.

Alderman Purtee asked City Attorney Lovett if this will open the City to any litigious matters.

Attorney Lovett stated anyone can sue anyone for anything, but he believes the actions taken today by Council are legal.

Alderman Purtee stated he trust the judgment of the 3rd District Alderwoman and will vote as she deems appropriate.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely expressed her concern that the Cru Lounge was denied an alcohol license and feels it egregious since the applicants originally applied in March 2022. She feels the denial of this license is based on the personal vendetta of the Alderwoman of the 3rd District against black-owned businesses.

Mayor Johnson indicated Alderwoman Miller Blakely's comment was inappropriate and each Member of Council vote their own convictions. Each Member is entrusted to respect each Member.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked the petitioner how much was invested to establish the business (\$330,000.00). She asked City Manager Melder what process should applicants follow to alleviate the loss of funds if the alcohol license is denied by Council.

Mayor Johnson indicated applicants/petitioners should work with staff on the front end as it relates to alcohol and zoning before appearing before Council for approval, but this will not guarantee a license/approval.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked Mayor Johnson how the public can prevent the same circumstances as the Cru Lounge since this has happened only two other times during her serving on Council and it only happened to black-owned businesses. Do applicants need to be non-black. Mayor Johnson stated Alderwoman Gibson-Carter's remarks were inappropriate.

**c.** Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to deny Item #10, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed, 5-4-0. Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voted no.

Following the vote, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan stated she is not against black-owned businesses.

[11. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Clayton Ehmke for The Haunt, a Restaurant at 606 Abercorn Street between East Hall and East Huntington Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

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

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

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

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - The Haunt.pdf](#)

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

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Items #11 through #15.

**Speaker(s):**

- . Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if this petitioner/owner was the same as in 2021. City Manager Melder indicated, it is the same owner. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if the City received clarity on the past sexual assault allegations. City Manager Melder confirmed the sexual assault allegations were addressed and all due diligence is completed with the Savannah Police Department.
- . Corporal Detective Sosbe of the Savannah Police Department ABC Unit reported the sexual assault allegations were investigated by the Special Victims Unit and all allegations were dismissed with no criminal charges pressed against the individual.

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Items #11 through #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #11, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[12. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Ankurkumar Patel for Nest, a Bar/Lounge at 126 West Bay Street, Top Floor, between River Street Access and East Upper Factors Walk in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Items #11 through #15.

**No Speaker(s).**

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Items #11 through #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #12, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no.

[13. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License for William W. Wilder, III for Pizza Party, a restaurant at 1201 Habersham Street between East Henry and East Duffy Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Pizza Party.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Pizza Party.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Pizza Party.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Pizza Party.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Pizza Party.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Items #11 through #15.

**No Speaker(s).**

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Items #11 through #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.



**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #13, #14 and #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[14. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Juan C. DeJesus for Alligator Soul Restaurant, a Restaurant at 114 Barnard Street between West Broughton and West State Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Alligator Soul Restaurant.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Alligator Soul Restaurant.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Alligator Soul Restaurant.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Alligator Soul Restaurant.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Alligator Soul Restaurant.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Items #11 through #15.

**No Speaker(s).**

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Items #11 through #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #13, #14 and #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[15. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Ryan C. Rans for Ruth's Chris Steak House, a Restaurant at 111 West Bay Street between Whitaker and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Ruth's Chris Steak House.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Ruth's Chris Steak House.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Ruth's Chris Steak House.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Ruth's Chris Steak House.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Ruth's Chris Steak House.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Items #11 through #15.

**No Speaker(s).**

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Items #11 through #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #13, #14 and #15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**ZONING HEARINGS**

[16. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Jeremy Huggins, 12500 Apache, LLC, to Rezone 2.08 Acres Located at 12500 Apache Avenue \(PIN 20861 02001\) from RSF-E \(Residential Single-Family-Estate\) to B-M \(Maritime Business\), Aldermanic District 6 \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for Items #16 and #17.

**Speaker(s):**

- . Marcus Lotson, MPC representative

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if this was the old Bells Landing Property (yes). She indicated the City had an opportunity to purchase that property but did not follow through with the purchase. Hopefully, the development will be open to the public (restaurant).

Mayor Johnson indicated at the time the property was for sale, the City's funding source was not approved. City Manager Melder indicated hotel/motel tax was to be used for the purchase (hotel/motel tax was not approved). The City contacted the sellers several months ago, but the cost were not in line with the property value. The City approached the sellers a third time but the property was sold.

- . Alderman Purtee requested #16 and #22 be heard for first reading only.

Alderman Purtee moved to close the zoning hearing for Items #16 and #17, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**Written comment(s) received:**

- . Josh Yellin, representing the applicant/petitioner, with 159 petition signatures – IN SUPPORT

Alderman Purtee had several community meetings. This is a project needed in the sixth District for growth and development. A good neighborhood agreement is currently being developed, but was not completed at the time of the meeting.

Alderman Purtee requested Item #16 as FIRST READING ONLY, pending the signed good neighborhood agreement.

[17. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Jeremy Huggins, 12500 Apache, LLC, to Secure a Special Use Permit at 12500 Apache Avenue \(PIN 20861 02001\) for Accessory Alcohol Sales by the Drink in Association with a Marina Restaurant, Aldermanic District 6 \(File No. 22-004426-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 12500 Apache \(File No. 22-004426-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004426-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for Items #16 and #17.

### **Speaker(s):**

- . Marcus Lotson, MPC representative
- a. Alderman Purtee moved to close the zoning hearing for Items #16 and #17, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.
- b. Alderman Purtee moved to continue/postpone Item #17 (Special Use Permit) to the January 26, 2023, City Council Meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-1-0. Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no.

[18. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of for Savannah Country Day School to Rezone ~ 0.81 Acres at 0 Merrydell Drive \(PIN 20653 01001\) from RSF-6 \(Residential Single Family-6\) to OI-E \(Office and Institutional-Expanded\) with Conditions, Aldermanic District 6 \(File No. 22-005457-ZA\). Continued to February 7, 2023.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 0 Merrydell Drive \(File No. 22-005457-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 0 Merrydell Drive \(File No. 22005457-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 0 Merrydell Drive \(File No. 22-005457-ZA\).pdf](#)

Alderman Purtee moved to continue/postpone Item #18 to the February 7, 2023, City Council Meeting, as requested by the applicant/petitioner, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderman Leggett recused/abstained from the vote due to a business conflict.

[19. Petition of John D. Northrup, III on Behalf of Capital Development Partners to Zone 10 Parcels of ~52.86 Acres on Buckhalter Road \(PINs 10942 01003, -02A, -02B, -02C, -02D, -02F, 02E, -007, -008, -009\) from R-A \(Residential Agricultural\) to R-A-CO \(Residential Agricultural-County\) to Support an Annexation \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Staff Report for Buckhalter Road \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for Buckhalter Road \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for Buckhalter Road \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for Item #19.

### **Speaker(s):**

- . Bridget Lidy, Planning & Urban Design Director
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #19, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely being absent for the vote.

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

[20. Petition of John D. Northrup, III on Behalf of Capital Development Partners to Zone 10 Parcels of ~52.86 Acres on Buckhalter Road \(PINs 10942 01003, -02A, -02B, -02C, -02D, -02F, 02E, -007, -008, -009\) from R-A \(Residential Agricultural\) to R-A-CO \(Residential Agricultural-County\) to Support an Annexation \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Staff Report for Buckhalter Road \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for Buckhalter Road \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for Buckhalter Road \(File No. 22-005494-ZA\).pdf](#)

HEARD after Item #21.

Alderwoman Lanier asked to view the master plan of this area (City) and what is the City's intentions for this area. Will the entire area be designated for light industrial.

City Manager Melder indicated there will be more smaller parcels around the Rockingham Farms development.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked that the record reflect her support of the annexation off Buckhalter Road.

Director of Planning & Urban Design Bridget Lidy explained along the north side of Buckhalter Road, are the ten parcels between the Monsieur School to the Buckhalter Road

Extension. Staff anticipate the developer will work with resident from the Buckhalter Extension to Veteran Parkway, and that will be the last part of the Rockingham Farms development. The goal is to have all the parcels annexed into the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz thanked Ms. Lidy for all her hard work over the past year with residents, the developers and Rockingham Farms to finalize the development.

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #20, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed, 7-0-2, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderman Palumbo being absent for the vote.

[21. Approval to Annex 52.860 Acres Located off Buckhalter Road near Veterans Parkway. The property will be developed as industrial warehouses as part of the Rockingham Farms development.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Annexation Petition - Capital Development Partners.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Annexation Ordinance - Capital Development Partners.pdf](#)

HEARD before Item #20.

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #21, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

[22. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Jeremy Huggins, 12500 Apache, LLC, to Rezone 2.08 Acres Located at 12500 Apache Avenue \(PIN 20861 02001\) from RSF-E \(Residential Single-Family-Estate\) to B-M \(Maritime Business\), Aldermanic District 6 \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 12500 Apache Avenue \(File No. 22-004424-ZA\).pdf](#)

HEARD for FIRST READING ONLY, as requested by Alderman Purtee.

Alderman Purtee

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

[23. Second Reading of an Ordinance Pertaining to the Proposed Redistricting of Savannah Aldermanic Districts Pursuant to the 2020 U.S. Census Data.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Ordinance of the Charter Amendment for the 2022 Redistricting.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson thanked Mr. Marcus Lotson and the MPC staff for their assistance in the redistricting of Savannah Aldermanic Districts by providing information and maps.

On behalf of MPC staff and SAGIS, Mr. Lotson expressed appreciation for the recognition from City Council and thanked all staff that participated in accumulating maps and information. MPC Senior Planner Melissa Paul-Leto was also in attendance. Council Members expressed appreciation and thanks to MPC Executive Director Melanie Wilson for her support and her staff's assistance.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #23, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

**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 a Stormwater Inspection Vehicle from Environmental Products Group, Inc. in the Amount of \\$262,875. The inspection vehicle will be utilized by the Stormwater Department to perform regular stormwater pipeline inspections and maintenance throughout the City. \(Fleet\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Stormwater Inspection Vehicles.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Stormwater Inspection Vehicles.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #27, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

[25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Professional Services for the City of Savannah Microsoft G5 Implementation Project with Enabling Technologies in the Amount of \\$74,670. Enabling Technologies will assist with the implementation of several new Microsoft solutions acquired with our recent license agreement upgrade. \(ITS\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - eGroup Professional Services.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - eGroup Professional Services.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #27, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.



[26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for an Annual Maintenance for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System \(SCADA\) with Emerson Process Management \(LOCAL\) in the Amount of \\$94,262. This annual maintenance contract maintains the SCADA network used by the Public Works and Water Resources Department. \(Water Resources\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #27, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

[27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 1 and Renewal for Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss Carrier with International Assurance of Tennessee, Inc. in the Amount of \\$870,000. This contract is used by the City of Savannah to provide for catastrophic claims reinsurance coverage for the City's self-funded medical and pharmacy plans. \(Human Resources\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Stop Loss Carrier.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Stop Loss Carrier.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #27, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

#### SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[28. Approval of the 2023 Airports Council International – North America Premier Airport Membership Dues, in the Amount of \\$31,069.](#)

HEARD after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #28 and #29, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[29. Approval to Execute Change Order No. 1 for the Terminal Security Checkpoint Expansion Project with Collins Constructions, Inc., in the Amount of \\$2,754,258.59.](#)

HEARD after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #28 and #29, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

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

[30. Resolution to Transfer 19 City-owned Vacant Properties in the Cuyler-Brownsville Neighborhood to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority \(LBA\) to Facilitate the Development of Affordable and Workforce Housing by the Galvan Foundation, Inc.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Transfer of Title of 19 City-Owned Properties in Cuyler-Brownsville.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Transfer of Title Request Letter - 19 City-Owned Properties in Cuyler-Brownsville.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #30, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[31. Resolution to Transfer a Vacant Lot Known as 214 Cumming Street to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority \(LBA\) to the Owner-occupied House at 216 Cumming Street to Facilitate the Development of a Room Addition and Driveway.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Transfer of Title for Property at 214 Cumming Street.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Transfer of Title Request Letter - 214 Cumming Street.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #31, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[32. Resolution to Transfer a Vacant House at 4214 Sumter Street to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority \(LBA\) to Facilitate Its Repair by CHSA Development, Inc. for Sale or Rent of the Property as Affordable Housing.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Transfer of Title for Property at 4214 Sumter Street.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Transfer of Title Request Letter - 4214 Sumter Street.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #32, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[33. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Substantial Amendment for the FY 2021- 2022 One Year Action Plan to HUD to Include the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.](#)

[Exhibit 1: HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Resolution.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #33, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely, Alderman Leggett and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

#### AGREEMENTS

[34. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Second Allocation of FY2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Awards for Adult \(\\$800,420\) and Dislocated Worker \(\\$1,099,433\) Programs. The awards will be used to provide programs from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, and adults who have been laid off from their jobs. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region.](#)

[Exhibit 1: FY23 Adult Statement of Award.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: FY23 Dislocated Worker Statement of Award.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #34 and #35, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

[35. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the FY2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Award Transferring Dislocated Worker Funds to the Adult Funding Stream in the amount \\$225,000. The award will be used to provide training and supportive services to adults who are unemployed or underemployed from November 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region.](#)

[Exhibit 1: FY22 Dislocated Worker Transfer Statement of Award.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #34 and #35, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

[36. Approval of a Major Subdivision - Savannah Highlands Phase 8. This subdivision is part of the Highlands Development in the North Godley PUD. This proposed phase totals 19.476 acres and will consist of 60 single family lots with varying lot sizes. It is located along the northern right-of-way line of Highlands Boulevard.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat for Major Subdivision Savannah Highlands Phase 8.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier expressed concern by residents of the increased traffic, the lack of traffic lights, accidents in the area, and traffic calming in the Highlands area. City Manager Melder indicated City staff is currently working on traffic calming and additional amenities in the Highlands area. There are resources needed for the area and staff is working to identify \$26 million for Benton Blvd. Phase I and II, and additional work for increasing Highlands Blvd. In addition, staff is working with the traffic signal engineer to alleviate some of the congestion in the area.

City Manager Melder indicated it will take time and additional resources to address all the concerns of residents for improvements in the Highlands. He recommends continuing Item #36 to the February 7, 2023 Council Meeting in order to allow staff time to prepare a memo outlining the needs/requirements of the Highlands community. Alderwoman Lanier agreed with City Manager Melder. This would allow more dialogue with the residents in the Highlands community.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to continue/postpone Item #36 to the February 7, 2023, Council Meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

[37. Approval to Name a Unnamed Park Located at 1000 Bowden Street to "George Washington Carver Neighborhood Park."](#)

[Exhibit 1: Naming Petition for George Washington Carver Park.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson indicated City staff was notified by the Carver Village Neighborhood Association of the desire to name the unnamed park.

Alderwoman Lanier introduced Mr. Donald Jones, President of the Historic Carver Village Neighborhood Association to present to Council the Associations recommendation of naming the unnamed park. The George Washington Carver Neighborhood Park was voted unanimously by members of the Historic Carver Village Neighborhood Association as the name for the unnamed park. Mr. Jones asked for Council's support of the change. Other Association members in attendance included: Mr. Al Porterman, Ms. Gray, and Mr. Robert Meyers. Mr. Jones recognized Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs Joe Shearouse and thanked him for his support and work on the project.

Alderwoman Lanier thanked members of the Historic Carver Village Neighborhood Association along with Mr. Shearouse for their work on the project.

Mayor Johnson thanked Alderwoman Lanier and members of the Association for naming the park in the neighborhood he played in growing up.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz expressed her thanks to those who worked on the project in naming the park.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #37, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote.

Following the vote, Mr. Jones thanked Council for the unanimous vote in naming the park and expressed his desire to one day see a George Washington Carver monument in the park.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

City Manager Melder acknowledged this is the first meeting for Lenny Brian Gunther as Chief of Police for the City of Savannah.

Mayor Johnson announced the MLK festivities will be held on Monday, January 16, 2023.

Aldерwoman Miller Blakely announced Savannah State is sponsoring SEAC. There will be 29-30 college basketball teams coming to the City. She asked for residents to support the teams and requested a listing of local businesses, especially black-owned, for the visitors to patronize.

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan gave a 'shout out' to Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols for lending District 4 Alderman Nick Palumbo an electric car for testing purposes.

Alderman Leggett gave a 'shout out' to multiple athletics who played on the Georgia football team with a 60+ win. There were 4 players from Savannah/Chatham County on the team.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:33 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=CtqLIWJf9let>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

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

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

