



SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Leggett to introduce Pastor Charles O’Berry of the House of Freedom Worship Center Savannah, who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding

Alderman Keshia Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1, Chairman
 Alderman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
 Alderman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
 Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
 Alderman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
 Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman
 Alderman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
 Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ALSO, PRESENT:

Acting City Manager Michael Brown
 City Attorney Bates Lovett
 Clerk of Council Mark Massey

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for July 22, 2021](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting \(Closed Executive Session re: Personnel\) held on July 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus_SCM DRAFT MINUTES_July 6, 2021 City Council Special Meeting_\(re_Personnel\).pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2, #3 and #4, seconded by Alderman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously.

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager’s Briefing held on July 8, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus_WS DRAFT MINUTES_July 8, 2021 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2, #3 and #4, seconded by Alderman

Lanier. The motion passed unanimously.

[4. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on July 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus RM DRAFT MINUTES July 8, 2021 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2, #3 and #4, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[5. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, Wine\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Tod Whitaker for Wright Square Cafe, A Restaurant at 21 W. York Street, Between Whitaker St. And Bull St. in District 2. No Concerns Noted by Police Department or Neighborhood Association. No Issues with Littering or Loitering at Location. Distance Measurement Met. \(Existing Business/New Owner\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Wright Square Cafe.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Wright Square Cafe.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Wright Square Cafe.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Wright Square Cafe.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #5, #7 and #8.

Clerk of Council Massey reported the following speaker was in Council Chambers:

Speaker(s):

- . Michael Higgins - Supports but did not speak (speaker card).
- a. Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Items #5, #7 and #8, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #5, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[6. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) and Class A \(Wine\)\(Caterer\) Alcohol License to Robert Evangelista for Bellwether House, A Hotel at 211 E. Gaston St. Between Abercorn and Lincoln St. in District 2. No Concerns by Police or Issues with Littering or Loitering. Distance Measurement Met. \(New Owner/Location\) Request Continuance to 08/12 Meeting to Discuss Neighborhood Concerns.](#)

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

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

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

[Exhibit 4: Zoning Report - Bellwether House.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Measurement Report - Bellwether House.pdf](#)

Alderman Leggett moved to continue Item #6 to the August 12, 2021 Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[7. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Daniel Bathon III for the Phoenix, a Restaurant at 1006 E. Broad St. Between E. Waldburg St. and E. Bolton St. in District 2. No Concerns by Savannah Police Department. Neighbor Agreement Signed by Neighborhood Association and Applicant. Distance Measurement Met. \(New Owner/New Location\).](#)

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

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

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

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

[Exhibit 5: Good Neighbor Agreement - The Phoenix.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #5, #7 and #8.

Clerk of Council Massey reported the following speakers were present via Zoom video:

Speaker(s):

- . D. H. Bathon, III - Applicant (did not speak).
- . Tom Oxnard - on behalf of Applicant - stated his support.
- a. Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Items #5, #7 and #8, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #7, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[8. Approval of a Class E \(Beer, Wine\)\(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Mark Johnson for Tru by Hilton Savannah Airport, a Hotel at 90 Stephen W. Green Dr. Between I-95 and Clyde Martin Dr. in District 1. No concerns by Savannah Police Department or Issues with Littering or Loitering at Location. No Active Neighborhood Association. Distance Measurement Met. \(New Existing Business/New Request\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Tru by Hilton Savannah Airport.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Tru by Hilton Savannah Airport.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Tru by Hilton Savannah Airport.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Tru by Hilton Savannah Airport.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #5, #7 and #8.

No Speaker(s):

- a. Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Items #5, #7 and #8, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #8, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[9. Approval to Submit a Resolution Transmitting the Draft Chatham County – Savannah 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the Coastal Regional Commission and to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Plan provides a unified, long-term vision for Savannah and the unincorporated Chatham County in the topics of land use, housing, economic development, transportation, natural resources, and quality of life.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation - Draft Comprehensive Plan Submittal](#)

[Exhibit 2: Resolution - Draft Comprehensive Plan Submittal](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #9.

Acting City Manager Brown briefly explained the process for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan which paves the way for impact fees for the City. He emphasized this is a draft and recommended approval for submission to DCA for comments.

Alderwoman Lanier reported there were concerns from the Westside leadership because there were no community meetings, possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Westside leadership would like meetings before the end of the month for input in the Plan. Mayor Johnson indicated the Centers are now open and the City can proceed with scheduling meetings for citizen comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz recommended MPC provide a model that can be used in all neighborhood districts for comments.

No Speaker(s):

- a. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the hearing for Item #9, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier. The motion unanimously.
- b. Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #9, in draft form, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Lanier noted the Plan is for Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County and asked Mr. Brown if the seven (7) municipalities would participate in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Brown answered, the other seven municipalities opted out of the Plan.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely emphasized, for the public, this is a draft and not the final Plan. She encouraged interested residents to attend the public meetings for their input.

ZONING HEARINGS

[10. Petition of Dana Braun \(Agent\) on behalf of 42/43 LLC \(Owner\) for a Special Use Permit to Allow Alcohol Sales by the Drink in Association with a Restaurant at 9 West 43rd Street \(PIN 20074 24002\), in the Starland Area in Aldermanic District 2. \(File No. 21-002668-ZA\). MPC recommends approval with conditions \(Hours of Operations form 7am-10p.m and overflow parking area for a minimum of five spaces.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - 9 West 43rd Street](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map of Surrounding Alcoholic Beverage License Establishments - 9 West 43rd Street](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz requested additional research and clarification on the establishment of which District. Mayor Johnson asked Acting City Manager Brown to work with MPC staff on clarification of which District the establishment resides.

Alderman Leggett moved to continue Items #10 and #17 to the August 12, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[11. Petition of Krishan Gandhi on behalf of HOS Management \(Property Owner/Petitioner\) to Amend the Zoning Map for 815 Wheaton St \(PIN 20033 12033\) from IL \(Light Industrial\) to IL-T \(Light Industrial-Transition\). MPC recommends approval with conditions - No bar; tavern; nightclub; substance recovery; pawnshop; check cashing; title pawn; package store; adult-oriented businesses; private club/lodge](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - 815 Wheaton Street](#)

[Exhibit 2: Draft Ordinance - 815 Wheaton Street](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #11.

Speaker(s):

- Marcus Lotson, MPC representative gave a brief outline of the zoning request change.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Leggett are requesting a meeting with the petitioner to discuss a business agreement for the establishment prior to moving forward with Items #11 and #18.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to continue Items #11 and #18 to the August 26, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

[12. Petition of Harold Yellin \(Agent\) on behalf of Alice Keller \(Owner\) for a Map Amendment to Rezone Little Neck Road \(PINs 21007 01001 and 21007 01002\) from R-A-CO \(Residential-Agricultural-County\) to PD \(Planned Development\) MPC recommends approval with condition that the applicant enters into an agreement with Chatham County regarding issues related to stormwater, traffic, and canal access.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - Rezone Little Neck Road](#)

[Exhibit 2: Draft Ordinance - Rezone Little Neck Road](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #12.

Speaker(s):

- . Marcus Lotson, MPC representative gave a detailed description of the rezoning request.
- . Kerri Bieber - Opposes.
- . Travis Burke, Engineer - Supports.
- . Harold Yellin, Agent for petitioner - Supports.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked Mr. Lotson for clarification on which District the development would reside. Mr. Lotson answered, possibly District 5. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz stated there should be more due diligence performed prior to Council's vote.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked if the agreement with Chatham County has been received. Mayor Johnson indicated if the agreement with Chatham County is not received, there will be no moving forward with the development.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter stated the West Chatham residents are concerned with disruption to the community. She informed Council the property was the burial ground of slaves and she had concerns that Mayor Johnson had received contributions to his campaign. She asked if he would recuse himself. Mayor Johnson declined.

Attorney Yellin discussed the years he has worked on this project with Chatham County and the meetings with the City related to the annexation of the property into the City, due to City services. He asked Alderwoman Gibson-Carter for the names of the concerned West Chatham residents. Mr. Brown indicated along with the names, residents should disclose their addresses of residence in the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue Items #12 and 19 to the September 9, 2021 meeting, seconded by Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously.

[13. Petition of Bridget Lidy \(Agent\) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sec. 7.11.14 of the Streetcar Historic Overlay District Pertaining to Density and Height Standards in TC-2 \(Traditional Commercial-2\) Zoning Districts for Parcels within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Montgomery Street Corridor between Anderson Lane and Victory Drive](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - Zoning Text Amendment](#)

[Exhibit 2: Draft Ordinance - Zoning Text Amendment](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #13.

Speaker(s):

- . Marcus Lotson, MPC representative explained the text amendment in detail.
- . Bridget Lidy, Urban Planning & Design **Director**
- . Melanie Wilson, MPC Executive Director

Written comment(s):

- . John R. Bennett, acting Chair of SDRA – Supports.
- . Jason Combs, VP of the Thomas Square Neighborhood Assoc. – Supports.

Alderman Leggett asked Mr. Lotson if any buildings are higher within the stated area. Mr. Lotson answered no. Alderman Leggett has concerns with the current height maximum of construction along MLK and Montgomery. Mr. Lotson indicated the current maximum height is 40 feet.

For clarity, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked if the new amended language would change the maximum height in the area from 40 feet to 55 feet. Mr. Lotson answered yes. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz has concerns of destroying the historic integrity of the area with the change in height to 55 feet and the rapid gentrification. Alderwoman Miller Blakely agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz.

Alderwoman Lanier recommended having policies in place pertaining to anti-gentrification. Alderman Palumbo recommended MPC and Ms. Lidy identify the importance of the text amendments right now; there is no current distinctions of how the change would impact the area and any benefits to the City.

Mayor Johnson asked Mr. Lotson and Ms. Lidy if they were aware of any individuals who might have approached MPC or the City which would necessitate the City's review of this item at this time. Mr. Lidy indicated she has spoken to an individual who is looking at developing property in this area; this precipitated the review of ordinance text. She clarified the height as 45 feet for a maximum of three stories; and the amendment as 45 feet for four stories.

Ms. Wilson explained why the text amendment came before MPC, but recognizes the need for a more specific detailed corridor/land use plan for the area. If Council requests a more specific detailed corridor/land use plan, MPC will provide the information.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to refer Items #13 and #20 back to MPC for the development of a more detailed corridor/land use plan, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[14. Petition of Bridget Lidy \(Agent\) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Amend Section 7.10.4 Contributing Resources Map \(of the Cuyler-Brownville Historic Overlay District\) of the Zoning Ordinance to Include 90 buildings of historic and architectural significance that were not previously included. Both the MPC and the City sent letters of intent to property owners.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - Proposed Cuyler Brownville Contributing Resources \(new document uploaded 7-22-21\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 Map - Proposed Cuyler Brownville Contributing Resources.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: List - Proposed Cuyler Brownville Contributing Resources.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Ordinance Revision - Proposed Cuyler Brownville Contributing Resources.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #14.

Speaker(s):

- Marcus Lotson, MPC representative, introduced Ms. Michalak.
- Bridget Lidy, Urban Planning & Design Director.
- Leah G. Michalak, MPC Historic Preservation - provided a presentation for Council regarding the 90 buildings in the Brownville Historic District; requesting to reclassify some of the buildings as historic, protecting them from demolition.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely, Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo thanked Ms. Michalak and expressed their gratitude for the additional 90 historic buildings. The area was established in 1867 as the closest neighborhood to downtown for freed slaves.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the hearing for Item #14, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter informed Ms. Lidy there are other neighborhoods seeking the same historic destination. Ms. Lidy asked Alderwoman Gibson-Carter to have individuals contact her and she will work with MPC for strategies to move forward.

[15. Petition of Michael Garcia from LS3P Associates, Ltd. \(Agent\) on behalf of Brent Watts from Cabretta Capital \(Owner\) to Amend the Zoning Map for 315 W. 38th Street \(PIN 20065 25001\) from TN-2 \(Traditional Neighborhood- 2\) to TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial-1\). MPC Recommends Approval. Aldermanic District 2. \(File No. 21-002322-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - 315 W. 38th Street](#)

[Exhibit 2: Supporting Documents - 315 W. 38th Street](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance - 315 W. 38th Street](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #15.

Speaker(s):

- Marcus Lotson, MPC representative, gave a brief outline of the zoning map amendment.
- Kerri Bieber – Opposes.
- Travis Burke, engineer – Supports.
- Brent Watts, petitioner (did not speak).
- Michael Garcia, Project Designer - described building design and parking spaces.
- Harold Yellin, agent for petitioner – Supports. Gave an in depth description of the project naming approval acquired and supporters.

Written comment(s):

- Jason Combs, VP of the Thomas Square Neighborhood Assoc. – Supports.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked Mr. Lotson if staff recommended denial. Mr. Lotson indicated during MPC staff's initial review there was concern for the number of units. The petition was revised and resubmitted to MPC, at which time MPC recommended approval.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked Mr. Yellin for the median rents for the project. Mr. Watts answered, market rate and number of units will determine rents (\$1,600 - \$3,000 for large 1-bedroom unit). Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked if tax credits are received, how can workforce housing afford the units. Mr. Watts explained the smaller workforce house will be closer to \$1,000. She also had concerns for parking (Attorney Yellin reported there will be 22 parking spaces).

Alderman Leggett discussed neighborhood concerns of the units becoming vacation rentals. He suggested language in the agreement to disallow vacation rentals in the building. Attorney Yellin stated the petitioner is agreeable to disallowing vacation rentals in the property for five years, then revisit the language of the agreement. Alderman Leggett reported the neighborhood association

wants the language to read no short term vacation rentals for the life of the project. Mayor Johnson indicated there could be a 'deed restriction' associated with the agreement.

Mayor Johnson thanked Attorney Yellin for serving on the Housing Task Force and asked if he would give a description of affordable housing versus workforce housing. Attorney Yellin described affordable housing and workforce housing as it relates to the City of Savannah.

Alderwoman Lanier asked how can you assure the rental rates will remain affordable for the workforce (downtown area, \$40,000 salary). She suggest the City adopt policies to regulate workforce rent rates. Mayor Johnson and Attorney Yellin discussed how the City could avoid students occupying the intended workforce housing units.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter discussed various issues of concern associated with the project:

- Council has a responsibility to protect the neighborhood corridors;
- this area has experienced a high rate of gentrification;
- the property is in close proximity to SCAD, there will be some student applications;
- the City needs policies to regulate workforce rent rates;
- the rent rates for the project are too expensive; and
- the City should create policies to help/support developers in decisions for projects.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked if the tax credits would be from the City or the Federal Government, and how does it relate to the project. Mr. Watts answered, it is historic tax credits that off-set the rents from Federal and State Government.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to close the hearing for Item #15, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[16. Petition of Michael Garcia from LS3P Associates, Ltd. \(Agent\) on behalf of Brent Watts from Cabretta Capital \(Owner\) to Amend the Zoning Map for 315 W. 38th Street \(PIN 20065 25001\) from TN-2 \(Traditional Neighborhood- 2\) to TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial-1\). MPC Recommends Approval. Aldermanic District 2. \(File No. 21-002322-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation - 315 W. 38th Street](#)

[Exhibit 2: Supporting Documents - 315 W. 38th Street](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance - 315 W. 38th Street](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Leggett moved to approve Item #16, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed, 6-3-0. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan voted no.

[17. Petition of Dana Braun \(Agent\) on behalf of 42/43 LLC \(Owner\) for a Special Use Permit to Allow Alcohol Sales by the Drink in Association with a Restaurant at 9 West 43rd Street \(PIN 20074 24002\), in the Starland Area in Aldermanic District 2. \(File No. 21-002668-ZA\). MPC recommends approval with conditions \(Hours of Operations form 7am-10p.m and overflow parking area for a minimum of five spaces.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - 9 West 43rd Street](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map of Surrounding Alcoholic Beverage License Establishments - 9 West 43rd Street](#)

Alderman Leggett moved to continue Items #10 and #17 to the August 12, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[18. Petition of Krishan Gandhi on behalf of HOS Management \(Property Owner/Petitioner\) to Amend the Zoning Map for 815 Wheaton St \(PIN 20033 12033\) from IL \(Light Industrial\) to IL-T \(Light Industrial-Transition\). MPC recommends approval with conditions - No bar; tavern; nightclub; substance recovery; pawnshop; check cashing; title pawn; package store; adult-oriented businesses; private club/loodge](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - 815 Wheaton Street](#)

[Exhibit 2: Draft Ordinance - 815 Wheaton Street](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to continue Items #11 and #18 to the August 26, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

[19. Petition of Harold Yellin \(Agent\) on behalf of Alice Keller \(Owner\) for a Map Amendment to Rezone Little Neck Road \(PINs 21007 01001 and 21007 01002\) from R-A-CO \(Residential-Agricultural-County\) to PD \(Planned Development\) MPC recommends approval with condition that the applicant enters into an agreement with Chatham County regarding issues related to stormwater, traffic, and canal access.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - Rezone Little Neck Road](#)

[Exhibit 2: Draft Ordinance - Rezone Little Neck Road](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue Items #12 and #19 to the September 9, 2021 meeting, seconded by Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously.

[20. Petition of Bridget Lidy \(Agent\) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sec. 7.11.14 of the Streetcar Historic Overlay District Pertaining to Density and Height Standards in TC-2 \(Traditional Commercial-2\) Zoning Districts for Parcels within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Montgomery Street Corridor between Anderson Lane and Victory Drive](#)

[Exhibit 1: Recommendation Packet - Zoning Text Amendment to Sec. 7.11.14 of the Streetcar Historic Overlay District](#)

[Exhibit 2: Draft Ordinance - Zoning Text Amendment to Sec. 7.11.14 of the Streetcar Historic Overlay District](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to refer Items #13 and #20 back to MPC for the development of a more detailed corridor/land use plan, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman

Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[21. Petition of Bridget Lidy \(Agent\) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Amend Section 7.10.4 Contributing Resources Map \(of the Cuyler-Brownville Historic Overlay District\) of the Zoning Ordinance to Include 90 buildings of historic and architectural significance that were not previously included. Both the MPC and the City sent letters of intent to property owners.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet - Proposed Cuyler-Brownville Contributing Resources](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map - Proposed Cuyler-Brownville Contributing Resources](#)

[Exhibit 3: List - Proposed Cuyler-Brownville Contributing Resources](#)

[Exhibit 4: Proposed Ordinance Revision - Proposed Cuyler-Brownville Contributing Resources](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #21, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[22. Approval to Amend the 2021 Revenue Ordinance, Adopt the 2021 Property Tax Millage Rate, and Adopt the Special Service District Tax Rate for the Water Transportation District. \[Proposed millage rate of 12.739 mills is unchanged from the final rate for 2020\]](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2021 Millage Rate Ordinance.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for Item #22.

Speaker(s):

- Charles A. Feagain (Lives in District 2 on W. Perry Street) – Opposes. He asked the City Attorney to have the City conduct the hearings at the specified times as published.
- Gene Robinson (not a City resident/lives on Blackshell Road - notaxesnow@gmail.com) – Opposes. He read the proposed amendment to the Constitution and offered a copy to any interested person.

Mayor Johnson indicated there were two (2) hearings today, one at 4:00 p.m. and one at the Regular Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Citizens were encouraged to send or attend meetings to provide comments.

Acting City Manager Brown cited two separate dedicated hearings were available for citizens. On the issue of the tax increase, it is a 2% tax increase for services. No services were discontinued during the recession and there were no increases of sanitation rates or water and sewer fees. He is recommending the 2% tax increase.

Mayor Johnson instructed the Clerk of Council to contact Mr. Robinson and send Council Members a copy of the proposed amended Constitution.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

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

[23. Approval to Amend Section 6-1214 of the Alcohol Ordinance Entitled, 'Consumption of Alcohol on City Streets', to Allow the Use of Aluminum Cups on Public Right of Way Within a Specified Boundary Area \(See Narrative for Exact Boundaries\). Current Ordinance Allows Paper and Plastic Cups Only; One-Per Person; Up to 16 Ounces. Recommend Approval.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Map - Current Open Container Boundaries.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: COS Code of Ordinances - Section 6.1214 Consumption of Alcohol on City Streets- CURRENT.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: COS Code of Ordinances - Section 6.1214 Consumption of Alcohol on City Streets- RED LINE CHANGE.docx](#)

Mayor Johnson thanked Alderman Palumbo, Assistant to City Manager Joe Shearouse, Jr., and other various organizations for their work on allowing the use of aluminum cups on public right of ways.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked Alderman Palumbo, how much will the aluminum cups cost the business owners. Alderman Palumbo responded, questions should be addressed to the Chair. The aluminum cups are more cost affective than other sustainable alternatives such as cups made of corn. Mayor Johnson indicated each business can purchase as many or as little as their budgets will allow. Participation is totally voluntary and the business will purchase the cups from the vendor.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed her concerns with not getting items put on the agenda. Mayor Johnson explained the process of getting items on the agenda with the support of other Council Members.

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #23, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed, 6-3-0. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voted no.

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 Policy Management and Training System for the Savannah Police Department with LexiPol in the Amount of \\$75,246. \(Grant-funded; Provides a centralized digital platform for policies with faster updates in response to new state and federal legislation. Also includes online library of training courses and videos to enhance personnel safety.\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - LexiPol](#)

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Renovations to the John S. Delaware Center, Located at 1815 Lincoln Street, to Johnson-Laux Construction (Local, DBE) in the Amount of \$1,059,162 (Facility is several decades old and in need of improvements. Project includes: installation of new windows, flooring, appliances and cabinets, painting, landscaping, and redesign of main entrance).

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Joint Delaware Center Renovation.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Joint Delaware Center Renovation.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Sandblasting and Recoating Three Metal Clarifiers, Used to Remove Bio-Solids from Wastewater Through a Sedimentation Process at the President Street Plant, with E and D Coating, Inc. (Local) in the Amount of \$786,639. (Each clarifier holds 1.6 million gallons of water, Plant treats 18 million gallons daily; Work protects structural integrity).

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Sand Blasting](#)

[Exhibit 2: Bid - Sand Blasting](#)

[Exhibit 3: Purchasing Notes - Sand Blasting](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Replacement Parts for the Belt Press Machine at the Crossroads Treatment Plant, to Ovivo in the Amount of \$42,079. Machine used to compact and dewater excess bio-solids from the waste stream. Allows dried transport of sludge. Longer lead times require staff maintain more on-hand part inventory to prevent equipment downtime and permit violations.

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Ovivo Belt Parts](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Ovivo Belt Parts](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Ecosorb Odor Eliminator with OMI Industries in the Amount of \$70,000. The chemical neutralizes industrial odors at the President Street Plant, providing a more friendly environment for the surrounding neighborhoods.

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Eco-Sorb Odor Control Solution](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Eco-Sorb Odor Control Solution](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for the Upgrade of City Works, an Asset Management System used by Public Works Departments to Maintain Water Infrastructure, with Woolpert, Inc. in the Amount of \$75,397.50. Current version of system no longer supported by vendor. Requires upgrade to new version and re-integration with City's billing system. Cost covers both.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Final Close-Out Modification for the Highlands Fire Station, Located at 480 Highlands Boulevard, with Dabbs-Williams General Contractors in the Amount of \$153,959. Modification is needed to cover a net cost increase for additional upgrades, reimbursements, and cancellations necessary for project completion and closeout. [See narrative for itemized list]

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Highlands Fire Station – Summary Contract Modification](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Highlands Fire Station – Summary Contract Modification.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for the Parking Access and Revenue Control System (PARCs) for Parking Services from Carolina Time & Aspis Parking in the Amount of \$117,440. System provides barrier gates and pay stations at all City garages, including management software. Modification is needed for additional networking and wiring to properly install system.

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Parking Garage Conduit.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #24 through #31 per Acting City Manager Brown's recommendation, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

32. Approval of a Contract with Danton Hydroblasting, LLC for the Runway 10-28 Paint Cleaning and Thermoplastic Sign Replacement Project in the Amount of \$67,066.

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

33. Approval to Procure Services from Allen Enterprises, Inc. for the Airfield Lighting Control and Monitoring System (ALCMS) Upgrade for an Amount Up To \$29,960.

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[34. Approval of Task Work Order No. 14 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Planning, Design and Construction Phase Services for the North Baggage Carousel Replacement Project, for an Amount Up to \\$61,953.](#)

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[35. Approval of a Contract with Twist Aero, LLC for the Passenger Boarding Bridge Pre-Conditioned Air Unit Replacement Project in an Amount Up to \\$580,030](#)

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[36. Approval to Execute a Contract with Johnson-Laux Construction, LLC for the Rental Car Facility Improvements Project, in an Amount Up to \\$5,463,647.](#)

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[37. Approval of Change Order No. 2 with Reeves Construction Company for the Site Clearing Areas T, U, V and Parking Improvements Project for an Amount Up to \\$100,178](#)

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[38. Approval of Task Order No. 12 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for the Final Design and Construction Phase Services for the Security Checkpoint Expansion, for an Amount Up to \\$841,498](#)

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[39. Approval of Task Work Order No. 13 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Final Design Services for the Terminal Concourse Expansion Project, for an Amount Up to \\$201,501](#)

Mayor Johnson moved Items #32 through #39 up on the Agenda, after Item #9.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #32 through #39, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[40. Approval of a Resolution to Annually Adopt an Operating and Capital Budget, a Strategic Priorities Plan and Fiscal Capacity Analysis Plan Beginning in 2021 and Each Fiscal Year Thereafter.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Fiscal-Capacity-Plan.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Miller Blakely had concerns with the language being an automatic annual renewal without Council vote. Mayor Johnson explained, Council will annually adopt a new plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #40, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[41. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Shabazz moved to approve Item #41, authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve a personal injury claim involving Bryanne Jenkins in the amount of \$37,000.00, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[42. Approval to Add Granite Slab to Chatham Artillery Monument in Emmet Park \(Located on the Eastern End of Bay Street\) to Commemorate and Honor the Service of Men and Women Assigned to the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, Savannah, Georgia Army National Guard for Their Service in Afghanistan from 2018-2019. Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval with condition.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Signed HSMC Board Decision - Chatham Artillery.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Submittal Packet - Chatham Artillery.pdf](#)

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Item #42, seconded by Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[43. New Item: Appointment of the Savannah City Manager](#)

Mayor Johnson announced the upcoming departure of Michael Brown as Acting City Manager, effective July 30, 2021, pursuant to receipt of his resignation letter.

Mayor Johnson moved to appoint Heath Lloyd as Acting City Manager, effective July 30, 2021, at the same interim rate of \$20,000.00/month through September 10, 2021, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Johnson moved to appoint Joseph "Jay" Melder as City Manager, starting September 10, 2021, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson advised his motion is contingent on the terms of employment being voted upon at the next City Council meeting and pursuant to a satisfactory background examination.

Lastly, Mayor Johnson thanked Mr. Melder and the entire City Council for their hard work during this process. He thanked the search firm of Developmental Associates and their representatives, Steve and Heather. He thanked the City Attorney for being intrinsically involved and helping the City Council to get to this point. And Mayor Johnson thanked the citizens who came and participated in the forums, and for their patience with the City Council during this process. Finally, he thanked Heath Lloyd whom they are counting on to help lead during the transition, and Michael Brown for being a consummate professional.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:01 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=pgS500xnZgcD>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____

