



SEPTEMBER 28, 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 6:30 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for September 28, 2023.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the agenda for Thursday, September 28, 2023, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter was not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on September 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: DRAFT MINUTES_September 14, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #2, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter was not present for the vote.

PRESENTATIONS

[3. An Appearance by America's Second Harvest Staff and Proclamation Recognizing September as Hunger Action Month.](#)

Mayor Johnson offered his apologies and indicated the Proclamation recognizing September as Hunger Action Month was originally scheduled for two (2) weeks ago, but was omitted from the agenda.

READ by Mayor Johnson and PRESENTED to America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia Executive Director Mary Jane Crouch.

Ms. Crouch thanked Mayor and Council for the recognition and for realizing that hunger is an issue in Savannah. She indicated the goal of America's Second Harvest is to make sure all children do not experience hunger or worry about their next meal.

[4. A Proclamation Declaring September 22, 2023, as International Day of Peace in Savannah. To commemorate the International Day of Peace in Savannah, "Peace in the Park" will be held on Sunday, October 1, from 12-4 p.m. at Daffin Park.](#)

READ by Mayor Johnson and Alderman Palumbo and PRESENTED to Mediation Center Executive Director Jill Cheeks.

Ms. Cheeks announced the second annual 'Peace in the Park', Sunday, October 1, 2023, in Daffin Park from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She thanked Mayor and City Council for the recognition and proclamation. Ms. Cheeks announced/acknowledged the seven (7) 2022 Peace Builders Ambassadors: Mayor Van Johnson; Ms. Lizann Roberts; Reverend Da'Henri Thurmond; Ms. Beatrice Severson; Ms. Eshanti Walker; Ms. Brittney Curry; and Reverend John Ruhl. Each Peace Builder Ambassador received the Peace Builders Ambassador Pin. The 2023 Peace Builders Ambassadors for 2023 will receive their Pins on Sunday at the presentation in Daffin Park, on stage, at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Cheeks announced the elected official receiving the 2023 Peace Builder of the year is Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan.

[5. Presentation by the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission \(MPC\) - Building a Network for Regional Resilience.](#)

[CERN-2023-09-20-SavCityCouncil-FINAL.pdf](#)

PRESENTATION by Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) Planner Anna B. McQuarrie on the findings of the Coastal Georgia Network for Regional Resilience.

Mayor Johnson thanked MPC for the outstanding work on the Findings and indicated resiliency will be equated with mankind's survival. We need to be prepared to recognize and be prepared for the change and we need to know how to mitigate or prevent the change.

City Manager Melder thanked the MPC for their work on the Findings.

The PowerPoint presentation is on file for viewing in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

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

[6. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for One \(1\) Leaf Vacuum Trailer from Environmental Products Group in the Amount of \\$59,800. The leaf vacuum will be utilized by the Park and Tree Department to collect piles of leaves that need to be removed during City Park maintenance. The new leaf vacuum trailer is a planned FY23 fleet addition to support the departments' back-to-basics initiative. \(Fleet Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Leaf Vacuum Trailer.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Leaf Vacuum Trailer.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[7. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Six \(6\) Utility Tractors from Shea Tractor and Equipment in the Amount of \\$265,729. The six \(6\) utility tractors will be utilized by Greenscapes Maintenance for mowing athletic fields and parks, and by the Industrial and Domestic Water and Water Reclamation Departments for department facilities maintenance. The utility tractors are planned FY23 replacements. \(Fleet Services\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[8. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of One \(1\) Hydraulic Excavator from National Equipment Dealers, LLC. in the Amount of \\$299,950. The hydraulic excavator will be used by the Stormwater Management Division to maintain the drainage canals in the City. The annual maintenance of the canals ensures positive drainage and reduces the incidence of flooding during rain events. The new hydraulic excavator will be replacing unit #1203, which is a planned replacement for FY23. \(Fleet Services\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed

unanimously, 9-0-0.

[9. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Three \(3\) Bucket Trucks from Fouts Bros Inc., dba Smyrna Truck in the Amount of \\$423,345. The bucket trucks will be utilized by the Innovation and Technology Services \(ITS\), Signals and Street Lights, and Facility Maintenance Departments for various maintenance related tasks. \(Fleet Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Three Bucket Trucks.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Three Bucket Trucks.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[10. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 with Alan Jay Fleet in the Amount of \\$1,446,327. This modification will be used to equip 106 police vehicles with warning lights, seat partitions, center consoles, face plates and MDT stands, decals, and other necessary equipment, which are used for routine law enforcement services. \(Fleet Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - SPD Pursuit Vehicles Warning Devices.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - SPD Pursuit Vehicles Warning Devices.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[11. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Annual Contracts for Janitorial Services with Jani-King of Savannah \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$1,027,464. This contract will be used to provide janitorial services for 55 city facilities approximating 680,000 SF. This contract has a 38% DBE goal. \(Facilities Maintenance\)](#)

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Turning Target System and Ballistic Protective Knee Wall \(Protective Ground Barrier for Target System\) with Action Target Inc., in the Amount of \\$166,213. The Savannah Police Department \(SPD\) will utilize this system to safely train officers in dynamic settings, preparing them for real-world encounters. \(Police\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Action Target System.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Action Target System.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Rehabilitation of Three \(3\) City Swimming Pools with Smith Aquatics, Inc. in the Amount of \\$614,829. Repairs will be made to the Daffin Park, W.W. Law, and Tompkins Center pools. The repairs include re-plastering, installing lane line tiles, and other upgrades. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

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

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

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed concern for several pools being closed this Summer and asked City Manager Melder if the pools will be repaired. City Manager Melder stated the City owns four (4) pools: Daffin Park Pool; W.W. Law Pool; Tompkins Pool; and Bowles Ford Pool. The School Board owns an additional four pools. The City is negotiating with the School Board for an agreement to program and have life guards at the additional four pools. The School Board recently completed a pool maintenance program for their four pools.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed concern for the pool located near or in Tatemville (near Staley Avenue) that was closed for the summer. City Manager Melder indicated that pool is owned by the Board of Education and the City is negotiating now with the School Board for an agreement. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recommended the City recruit and train staff for the pools/parks/centers before the summer months. City Manager Melder indicated, most of the life guards transitioned from the City's swimming program to serving as a life guard at one of the City's pools.

Alderman Leggett asked City Manager Melder if the \$614,829. was an estimate. City Manager Melder answered, that figure is the precise number. The work/repairs have been noted. Alderman Leggett thanked Chief Young for the detailed information on keeping Council updated on the progress of the pools.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked City Manager Melder where the four (4) School Board pools are located. City Manager Melder answered: Jenkins High School Pool; Shuman Elementary School Pool; Brock Elementary School Pool; and Staley Avenue Pool (Haven Elementary School).

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #13, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderman Leggett, and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for the Ogeechee Road Water & Sewer Relocations with Georgia Department of Transportation \(GDOT\) in the Amount of \\$684,432. The City of Savannah entered into an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation to construct water and sewer utility relocations along Ogeechee Road. The additional funding requested is for the difference between the Engineer's Opinion of Probable cost and the project Bid for Construction, recently accepted by GDOT. \(Public Works & Water Resources\)](#)

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

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

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked City Manager Melder if the signs and meeting for the residents of Ogeecheeton and Tremont Park with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) have taken place as requested at a prior City Council meeting. City Manger Melder indicated staff is working on scheduling a meeting and the signs will be replaced once the project is completed. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter indicated the residents of Ogeecheeton and Tremont Park are requesting temporary signs during the construction process.

Mayor Johnson indicated the project is owned by the State and permanent signs will be erected at the finish of the project. The rights of way along the project are State-owned, temporary signs would be in the construction zone and would most likely not be allowed.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed concern that the residents of the two communities should have signage for any visitors coming to the neighborhoods, since the location is adjacent to a highly traveled roadway. Mayor Johnson indicated the residents were aware of the projects and the removal of signs prior to the beginning of construction. The rights of way is owned by the State and GDOT will provide the necessary signage for residents and visitors that will be safe for traffic flow.

Alderwoman Lanier acknowledged receipt from residents for temporary signage during construction. The City should have its rights of way to place temporary signs, similar to the GDOT rights of way. Alderwoman Lanier requested a report from traffic engineering on the amount of accidents in that area during the construction process.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter moved to approve Item #14, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

[15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for a Pilot Odor Control System from PureAir Filtration, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$80,000. This system will address the recurring issues associated with the President Street Water Reclamation Plant, reducing the moisture content of the bio-solids disposed at landfills in addition to air regulations imposed by EPA. \(Water Reclamation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - PureAir Filtration, LLC Modification.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - PureAir Filtration, LLC Modification.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 through #12, and #15, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

AGREEMENTS

[16. Agreement Between the City of Savannah and Georgia Power for Light Up Savannah Initiative – Georgia Power Audit and Inventory Assessment.](#)

Mayor Johnson discussed the issue of public safety as it relates to lighting in the City. He explained the agreement/partnership with Georgia Power to provide an audit for lighting in the City of Savannah.

City Manager Melder indicated the agreement is necessary for the City to make continued progress for safety and quality of life goals for the residents of the City. The audit will provide data for the City to have information where lighting is needed for safety, traffic, and crime issues. The expense is included in the budget for now and the future. Mr. Melder introduced Georgia Power Regional Vice President Audrey King.

Ms. King introduced two Georgia Power colleagues, Accountant Nealy Scott and Solutions Sales Manager J. Cameron Hardin. She discussed the benefits of the lighting audit for Savannah residents and thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to discuss the agreement.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter requested the budgeted amount for the audit. City Manager Melder indicated the amount is \$700,000, over two years.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked how long will the audit take and what area of the City will the audit cover. Ms. King answered, the audit will take approximately three months to complete and will cover the entire City of Savannah.

Alderman Leggett thanked Ms. King, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Hardin for the partnership and assistance during Hurricane Idalia. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan thanked Ms. King and her team for providing consistent service to the residents of Savannah.

Alderwoman Lanier asked if there will be real time reporting during the audit process. Ms. King indicated Georgia Power is willing to provide update during the audit.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #16, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderwoman Miller Blakely announced the Circus will be in Savannah tomorrow, hosted by Casual Cal.

The first African-American touring circus with Ring Master. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter will be the guest Ring Master. Alderwoman Miller Blakely states she had tickets to share. Anyone interested in the tickets can contact her or meet her at the front door at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow. The Circus will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz invited all seniors to Seniors Night Out at Liberty City Community Center on Saturday, at 7:00 p.m., hosted by the men of Liberty City. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Alderwoman Lanier announced Coach Ronald Booker's dedication at 12:00 noon on Saturday at the corner of Hopkins Street & Victory Drive. All are welcome to attend, including Beach High School Alumni and the many girls he coached at Beach High School.

Mayor Johnson thanked Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd for working on the Lighting Up Savannah project.

After being contacted by family members, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked for the status of street naming for Pastor Matthew Southall Brown. Mayor Johnson indicated, right now it does not meet the requirements to be presented before Council. The family has been notified by staff members.

Mayor Johnson wished Alderman Leggett a Happy Birthday.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter wished Alderwoman Miller Blakely a Happy Birthday, which was celebrated on Tuesday, September 26th.

Alderman Purtee announced this Saturday is the Great Savannah Day Cleanup. Each community will have their own programs, but he invited all citizens to come out to keep Savannah beautiful.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan thanked Chief Taffanye Young, Housing Director Martin Fretty, Mayor Johnson, CHSA Director Anita Smith-Dixon, and Sherry Butler from Wells Fargo for the \$100,000 check for down payment assistance and housing repairs. There is a joint program to move children off the floor and into beds, with the Savannah Housing Authority, Earlene Davis, Executive Director; Pastor Hubbard; Livinggood's Furniture Store; and the YMCA. There were twenty-one beds donated for the program, and the Lion's Club in Pooler donated crocheted blankets. Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan announced Mayor Johnson will celebrate a birthday on October 3rd.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

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

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=F3BaFjk8tUWwbyjK>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____