



APRIL 11, 2024 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP and CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING

CITY GOVERNMENT

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The work session and City Manager's briefing was held at **11:03 a.m.**, in the 2nd Floor Media Room of City Hall. **Mayor Johnson** called the meeting to order and recognized **Alderman Purtee** to offer a prayer.

PRESENT:

Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
 Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, At-Large, Post 1
 Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
 Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
 Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
 Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 - Vice Chair
 Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 - 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

Workshop Agenda Items

[1. Tourism Ordinance/Tourism Service Vehicles](#)

[Exhibit 1: Tourism Update Presentation.pdf](#)

PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Special Events, Film & Tourism Senior Director Susan Broker.

Following the presentation, there were discussions and/or questions from City Council Members concerning the listed items below:

- Vehicles that amplify noise or have glass pipes.
- How to improve the quality of life for downtown residents as it relates to the trolley cars.
- Trolley car routes, how does it effect tour guides sharing history of the City.

- Parking of tourism vehicles in the downtown area.
- Possibility of updating the noise ordinance.
- Timeline of making any changes as directed in the ordinance.
- State law as it relates to the protection of industries that create noise.
- City Manager Melder will provide a report to Council Members on the trolley tour sound ordinance within the next two-four weeks.

- Horse drawn carriages
 - Horse drawn carriages as it relates to traffic safety.
 - Placing restrictions on the carriage operations.
 - Banning/transitioning from the horse drawn carriages.
 - impact on tourism
 - business owners/employees impact
 - providing a sunset for transition
 - When other cities banned, what was the outcome.
 - City Manager Melder will prepare a report for Council Members showing case studies from other cities. Timeline for the report is sixty days.

City Manager Melder thanked Susan Broker and Eddie Grant of Special Events, Film & Tourism; the Downtown Neighborhood Association; Team Savannah; and all the partners in the industry (TLC, Savannah Chamber of Commerce, Visit Savannah; and the business operators).

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone, stating it takes a team effort.

[2. Closed Executive Session: Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate](#)

At 12:23 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to hold a closed executive session regarding real estate, seconded by Ald. Lanier, Ald. Miller Blakely, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

At 1:30 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adjourn the closed executive session, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

[3. City Manager's Agenda Review](#)

No City Manager Agenda Review.

There was no action taken during the Workshop and Executive Session.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the pre-meetings at 1:30 p.m.

The video recording of the Workshop can be found by copying and inserting the link below in your url:

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=JFud49DzkP3Knepx>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Signature: _____

