

Meeting will begin at 2:00p.m.

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April 09, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 09, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:03 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson requested Alderman Palumbo to introduce Deacon Kevin Veitinger of The Community of St. Joseph, representing the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. “Rev Kev” then offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1, Chairman
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

OTHERS PRESENT:
City Manager Pat Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Mayor Johnson wished all the Jewish residents a happy Passover and Christian residents a happy Holy Week celebration. He has designated April as "National Second Chance" month for those residents who have previously participated in criminal activities.

Date: Apr 09 2020 (2:00 pm)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Agenda for the April 9, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #1, Adoption of the April 9, 2020 Agenda as presented, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1 with Alderwoman Lanier not voting.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter requested an amendment to the motion, to authorize the City Manager to proceed with hazard pay to those employees mentioned in the correspondence received last evening and essential staff, retroactive to the Declaration of March 19, 2020.

Mayor Johnson informed Council that as part of the Agenda today, the City Manager will present the hazard pay plan of the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting \(re: COVID-19 and City Operations\) on March 19, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting \(re: COVID-19 and City Operations\) on March 20, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

[4. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting \(re: COVID-19 and City Operations\) on March 23, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

[5. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting \(re: COVID-19 and City Operations\) on March 24, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

[6. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting \(re: COVID-19 and City Operations\) on March 25, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

[7. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 26, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

8. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (re: COVID-19 and City Operations) on March 27, 2020

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

9. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (re: COVID-19 and City Operations) on March 30, 2020

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

10. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (re: COVID-19 and City Operations) on March 31, 2020

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 through #10, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

11. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing on March 12, 2020 - HELD on March 26, 2020 (Report from City Attorney and City Clerk)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #11 and #12, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-1. Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no and Alderwoman Lanier was not present. City Attorney Bates Lovett reported that he and Clerk of Council Mark Massey, reviewed the Work Shop and Regular Meeting Minutes videos of March 12, 2020 and confirmed that Mr. Edminster was discussed in the Work Shop and voted on in the Regular Meeting. Alderwoman Miller Blakely requested the City Attorney to provide her with the specific time and language of the nomination of Mr. Edminster from the recording.

12. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 12, 2020 - HELD on March 26, 2020 (Report from City Clerk and City Attorney)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #11 and #12, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-1. Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no and Alderwoman Lanier was not present. City Attorney Bates Lovett reported that he and Clerk of Council Mark Massey, reviewed the Work Shop and Regular Meeting Minutes videos of March 12, 2020 and confirmed that Mr. Edminster was discussed in the Work Shop and voted on in the Regular Meeting. Alderwoman Miller Blakely requested the City Attorney to provide her with the specific time and language of the nomination of Mr. Edminster from the recording.

CONSENT AGENDA - (This section shall include all routine items for which it is anticipated there will be no debate or requests for public input. Any Alderman can remove consent items for discussion or separate consideration.)

13. Notification of an Emergency Procurement of a Distribution Pump Motor from Macs Industrial Motor Works in the Amount of \$39,578 (Event No. 7766)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #13 as stated, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

PURCHASING ITEMS

14. Authorize the City Manager to Renew an Annual Contract for Civil Design Services with Wolverton & Associates, Inc. up to \$450,000 (Event No. 4486)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the importance of approval for Purchasing Items #14 through #19 at this time. She asked the City Manager to provide an explanation of the essential need of each Item and requested a separate vote for each Item.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan explained the essential use and the source of funding for each item.

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #14, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed, 6-2-1. Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Leggett, Alderman Palumbo and Alderman Purtee voted yea. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no, and Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Twickenham Greenspace with Johnson-Laux Construction, LLC (State Contract Pricing/DBE) in the Amount of \$185,985.68 (Event No.7782)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the importance of approval for Purchasing Items #14 through #19 at this time. She asked the City Manager to provide an explanation of the essential need of each Item and requested a separate vote for each Item.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan explained the essential use and the source of funding for each item.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #15, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked that Live Oak Park be included as one of the City Parks to receive a face-lift/revitalization.

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for the Placentia Canal Drainage Improvements with Griffin Contracting, Inc in the Amount of \$486,140 (Event No. 7722)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the importance of approval for Purchasing Items #14 through #19 at this time. She asked the City Manager to provide an explanation of the essential need of each Item and requested a separate vote for each Item.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan explained the essential use and the source of funding for each item.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #16, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

17. Notification of an Emergency Repair and Upgrade to the Sewer Force Main for Lift Station No.126 from D&C Directional Boring, LLC in the Amount of \$650,000 (Event No. 7794)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the importance of approval for Purchasing Items #14 through #19 at this time. She asked the City Manager to provide an explanation of the essential need of each Item and requested a separate vote for each Item.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan explained the essential use and the source of funding for each item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #17, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

18. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Technology Equipment for Various City Departments from Dell, Inc. (State Contract Pricing) in the Amount of \$352,870.43 (Event No.7784)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the importance of approval for Purchasing Items #14 through #19 at this time. She asked the City Manager to provide an explanation of the essential need of each Item and requested a separate vote for each Item.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan explained the essential use and the source of funding for each item.

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Item #18, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

19. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Nine Police Vehicles From Wade Ford (State Contract Pricing) in the Amount of \$272,248.30 (Event No. 7788)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the importance of approval for Purchasing Items #14 through #19 at this time. She asked the City Manager to provide an explanation of the essential need of each Item and requested a separate vote for each Item.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan explained the essential use and the source of funding for each item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #19, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Lanier was not present.

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

[20. Approval of a Class B \(Beer\) \(Brewer\) Alcohol License to Pratt E. Mathews of Hop Atomica at 535 East 39th Street \(Aldermanic District 2\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 23, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone Items #20 and #21 to the April 23, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[21. Approval of a Class C \(Beer and Wine\)\(By the Drink\) and Class D \(Beer and Wine\)\(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Jeff Notrica of Riverstreet Beer and Wine at 503 East River St. \(Aldermanic District 2\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 23, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone Items #20 and #21 to the April 23, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[22. Public Hearing and Second Reading of the Downtown Savannah Authority Bond Application for Approximately \\$83.0 million to Partially Fund Construction of a New Trial Courthouse](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing for Item #22.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned if the City's Bond Rating would be effected by the issuance of the Bonds.

Clerk of Council Mark Massey read a public comment received via email from Mr. Chuck Feagain in opposition of the issuance of the Bonds and the method of the public hearing.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter stated she felt the issuance of the Bonds are not fiscally prudent.

a. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the public hearing, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #22, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed, 5-4-0. Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Leggett, Alderman Palumbo and Alderman Purtee voted yea. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voted no.

ZONING HEARINGS

[23. Approval to Rezone 65.28 Acres of Property on Stillwood Drive and Cedar Grove Avenue \(Savannah Country Day School\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 23, 2020](#)

Alderman Purtee moved to continue/postpone Item #23 to the April 23, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter did not vote.

RESOLUTIONS

[24. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Extension of the Mayor's March 19, 2020 and March 24, 2020 First Amended Declaration of Local Emergency](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #24, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[25. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Various 2020 Capital Budget Adjustments](#)

Mayor Johnson explained the City's position on essential staff and the City's obligation to continue services throughout the City and the Hazard Pay Policy.

After a summary/outline, of the City's current and expected financial status, City Manager Monahan reported that he will sign an Executive Order to proceed with hazard pay to those essential staff members beginning April 12th through May 29th at \$2.50/hour, 40/hour week.

Alderman Miller Blakely asked the City Manager to update Council on the \$10 million dollar find from the previous administration.

Alderman Gibson-Carter requested the City Manager to send a written report to Council of the financial position of the City as just stated.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz read into the record the definition of hazard pay as defined by the US Department of Labor. She suggested delaying the vote on Item #3, New Civic Center Arena, until the City Manager has met with staff to further identify the project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo commended the City administration for providing provisions to employees, safety materials and continuing payroll.

Alderman Lanier requested the City Manager give Council a line-by-line explanation of FY20 CIP Amendment #1. She suggested the City Manager rename Item #3, New Civic Center Arena, to a more explicit title. Alderman Lanier discussed in detail the Parking Fund, Canal District and Arena monies as it relates to spending now and after the pandemic.

Alderman Miller Blakely requested the City Manager to identify those items from FY20 CIP Amendment #1 that are included in SPLOST funds. She asked the City Manager for a definition of the type of sign being used for the Cloverdale Sign. She asked for further information/explanation of Item #1, Parking Services Fund, from the City Manager.

Alderman Gibson-Carter asked the City Manager to specifically identify those employees who will receive hazard pay. She suggested excluding any Arena Project monies until after the pandemic and Items #2, #3, and #6 not be included as approved at this time.

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #25, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion was not voted on.

Following discussions, it was the consensus of Council to vote on the seven (7) FY20 CIP Amendment #1 Items individually. Council voted as follows:

1. (#1) Circulator Capital Contribution in the amount of \$1,003,880.03; (#4) Fire Building Maintenance in the amount of \$30,000.00; (#5) Cloverdale Sign in the amount of \$10,000.00; and (#7) Washington

Avenue Median Improvements in the amount of \$525.06.

Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter moved to approve Items #1, #4, #5 and #7 of FY20 CIP Amendment #1, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Aldерwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.(#2) Stiles Avenue Extension in the amount of \$411,490.47. **Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #2 of FY20 CIP Amendment #1, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-0 with Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.**(#3) Canal District Master Planning in the amount of \$245,000.00. **Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #3 with the amended language from City Manager Monahan, of FY20 CIP Amendment #1, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-0 with Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.**(#6) City Facility Relocation in the amount of \$55,756.75. **Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #6 of FY20 CIP Amendment #1, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-0 with Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

[26. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Declare Surplus and Available for Sale a Portion of City-owned Right-of-way Located on Cindy Avenue](#)

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #26, Aldерwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz requested the City Manager to explain the transfer of the funds for the benefit of the public.

Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter requested updated information on the request from the Inner City Night Shelter on Inner City property and what is the City's status on assisting the homeless population. She requested that the Inner City Night Shelter's request be seriously considered.

Mayor Johnson suggested an Executive Session next week to discuss real estate issues.

City Attorney Lovett suggested Thursday, April 16, 2020 before or after the weekly meeting via Zoom video.

Aldерwoman Miller Blakely spoke regarding on surplus property in District 5 and indicated that she would later meet with the City Manager and Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz to discuss the property.

[27. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Declare Select Greenwich Statuary Pieces Surplus and Available for Sale to the Public](#)

Mayor Johnson briefly described a list of the items available to the public for sale.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan remarked that the City bought Greenwich Cemetery in 1937, and this sale will generate monies to maintain the Cemetery.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #27, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion was not voted on.

Alderman Palumbo amended the motion to exclude Item #1 - a 17th Century Italian Marble Corinthian Capital Statue.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #27 as amended, by excluding item #1 - An Italian 17th Century Marble Corinthian Capital Statue, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Johnson suggested the City Manager get the items reappraised to bring the City more money.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely commended Ms. Beverly Trotter, Savannah Youth Council, D&D Photography, Second Ebenezer Baptist Church, Agape' Outreach Ministry, and CORE with actor Sean Penn for going into the community yesterday to donate gift cards of ninety dollars to the constituents.

Alderwoman Lanier thanked Ms. Brenda Curtis and Ms. Michelle Howard for joining her on yesterday to distribute bags of food to residents in the Hudson Hill area. She asked for the status on the City Manager search.

Mayor Johnson asked everyone to get masks and while out to cover themselves and be safe. He thanked all City staff and expressed appreciation to all.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

The audio recording of the Council Meeting can be found by copying and inserting the below link in your url:

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=96kfZaQpdygo>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: April 23, 2020

Initials: mm