

Meeting will begin at 6:30p.m.

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April 23, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 23, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 6:31 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson requested Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz to introduce Pastor Kendra Crawford, representing Morning Glory Temple of Deliverance, Pastor Crawford then offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which 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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve the April 23, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Date: Apr 23 2020 (6:30 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #1, #2, and #3, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #1, #2, and #3, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on April 9, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #1, #2, and #3, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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.)

[4. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No.2 for the Design Services Contract for City Facilities at Interchange Court to Hussey, Gay, Bell, & DeYoung in the Amount of \\$9,170 \(Event No. 5001\)](#)

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Items #4 and #6 as presented, per the recommendation of the City Manager, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[5. Authorize the City Manager to Approve Contract Modification No.2 for Summerside Park with Johnson-Laux in the Amount of \\$5,405.25 \(Event No. 7381\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #5, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked Mayor Pro-Tem Shabazz if the residents concerns expressed at the last meeting were addressed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz suggested she and Alderwoman Gibson-Carter meet to further discuss the Summerside Park modifications.

[6. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Repair Services from Cummins Sales and Services in the Amount of \\$25,832.68 \(Event No. 7803\)](#)

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Items #4 and #6 as presented, per the recommendation of the City Manager, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING ITEMS

[7. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 3 to the Contract with Perkins+Will in the Amount of \\$410,630 to Extend the Design of Stiles Avenue Improvements \(Event No. 6044\)](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #7, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-0 with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter not voting.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked the City Manager to elaborate on the expense for Item #7, payment to Perkins and Will. She asked the City Manager how the City will interact/work with the Georgia Ports Authority on the project in that neighborhood.

Alderwoman Lanier has concerns with the traffic issue in the neighborhood. She detailed the Georgia Ports Authority's street improvements in that area and how it will improve the traffic flow.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed a need for the City to diversify when selecting engineers, architects and contractors on projects. The City needs to use more local businesses.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked the City Manager for a breakdown on how the local DBE's will obtain a percentage of this project.

8. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No.1 for the Savannah River Landing (Eastern Wharf) Parking Garage Project with Raymond Engineering up to \$132,000 (Event No. 5720)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #8, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed, 7-2-0, with Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, Alderwoman Lanier, Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo and Alderman Purtee voting yea. edMayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voted no.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned the City Manager as it relates to the City's portion of the expense since the insurance should have shouldered the expense after the fire.

9. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Meals for the Summer Lunch Program from the Savannah-Chatham Board of Education up to \$300,000 (Event No. 7804)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 and #11, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Builder's Risk Insurance for the Savannah Arena from USI Insurance Services, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$650,000 (Event No. 7827)

Alderman Lanier moved to approve Item #10, Alderman Miller Blakely and Alderman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed, 7-2-0, with Mayor Johnson, Alderman Miller Blakely, Alderman Lanier, Alderman Leggett, Alderman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo and Alderman Purtee voting yea. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Gibson-Carter voted no.

Alderman Miller Blakely asked the City Manager to detail the reason why the City is paying for the builders risk insurance on this project. Alderman Palumbo asked the City Manager to clarify the funding source of the project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz is concerned with the budget during the pandemic and if we do this project, we need to include local businesses.

[11. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Directional Boring with D&C Directional Boring, LLC up to \\$100,000 \(Event No.7512\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 and #11, Alderman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

[12. Approval of a Class B \(Beer\) \(Brewer\) Alcohol License to Pratt E. Mathews of Hop Atomica at 535 East 39th Street \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #12, #13, #15, and #16.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Item #12, #13, #15, and #16, Alderman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #12, #13, #15, and #16, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[13. 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. \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #12, #13, #15, and #16.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Item #12, #13, #15, and #16, Alderman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #12, #13, #15, and #16, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[14. Approval of a Class E \(Wine\)\(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Deika Patel of J & J Foodmart at 848 Staley Avenue \(Aldermanic District 5\) CONTINUED TO MAY 14, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone Item #14 to the May 14, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[15. Approval of Class C \(Liquor\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Theodore R. Mosley of Staybridge Suites at 301 East Bay St. \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #12, #13, #15, and #16.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Item #12, #13, #15, and #16, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #12, #13, #15, and #16, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[16. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Jamesetta Whipple-Duncan of Etta's Southern Cafe & Winery Restaurant at 1308 Montgomery St. \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearings for Items #12, #13, #15, and #16.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the alcohol license hearings for Item #12, #13, #15, and #16, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Items #12, #13, #15, and #16, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ZONING HEARINGS

[17. Approval to Rezone 65.28 Acres of Property on Stillwood Drive and Cedar Grove Avenue \(Savannah Country Day School\) CONTINUED TO MAY 28, 2020](#)

Mr. Marcus Lotson, MPC announced the petitioner has requested Item #17 be continued to the May 28, 2020 meeting.

Alderman Purtee moved to continue/postpone Item #17 to the May 28, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

[18. Amend the Eastern Wharf Planned Development to Include a Sign Ordinance \(Petitioner Harold Yellin on behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC\)](#)

City Manager Monahan reported the petitioner met and had discussions with interested parties and all issues were addressed.

Alderman Lanier moved to approve Item #18, Alderman Gibson-Carter and Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-0, Mayor Johnson, Alderman Gibson-Carter, Alderman Miller Blakely, Alderman Lanier, Alderman Leggett, Alderman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, and Alderman Purtee voted yea, and Mayor Pro-Tem Shabazz voted no.

Alderman Lanier reminded Council she asked to pull this item from the last meeting, so residents and the petitioner could meet and negotiate issues. The meeting occurred, Alderman Palumbo attended the meeting with a successful outcome. Alderman Lanier expressed her satisfaction in knowing the process works when the petitioner and residents meet to negotiate and resolve any challenges.

RESOLUTIONS

[19. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Third Modification of a Promissory Note and Loan Agreement Between the City of Savannah and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority \(GEFA\)](#)

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #19, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

[20. Approval of a Mutual Aid Agreement with Savannah Technical College](#)

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #20, #21, and #22, Alderman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion was not voted on. Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #20, Alderman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[21. Approval of a Mutual Aid Agreement with Georgia Southern University](#)

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #20, #21, and #22, Alderman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion was not voted on. Alderman Purtee recused himself from the discussion and vote on Item #21, Georgia Southern University is his employer.

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #21, Alderman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderman Gibson-Carter, Alderman Miller Blakely, Alderman Lanier, Alderman Leggett, Alderman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Palumbo voted yea. Alderman Purtee recused himself from the vote.

[22. Approval to Amend the City Manager's Employment Agreement To Month-By-Month Until Appointment Of New City Manager](#)

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #20, #21, and #22, Aldерwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion was not voted on. Alderman Purtee moved to approve Item #22, Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked for the salary of the City Manager. Aldерwoman Miller Blakely reported the salary is twenty thousand dollars per month and asked if the contract needed revisions. The Mayor and Aldermen expressed their satisfaction with City Manager Monahan's performance,

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

[23. Approval of a Petition #190323 for Encroachment of Stoops, Entrance, Canopy, and Subterranean Foundation at 1404 Montgomery Street.](#)

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #23 and #24, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion was not voted on. Aldерwoman Miller Blakely questioned the approval of Item #22. Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #23, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[24. Approval of a Second Amendment to the Land Lease for the Arena Parking Lot](#)

City Manager Monahan reported, based on discussion with Mayor Johnson and Council, Item #24 was pulled from the Agenda. Continued/postponed to the May 14, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

[25. Approval of the Final Plat for a Major Subdivision \(Spring Lakes Phase 6\)](#)

Aldерwoman Lanier reported there were discussions with the Highlands residents and they agreed to move forward with this final plat. Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #25, Aldерwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Johnson announced Governor Kemp's Order to reopen some businesses tomorrow and asked citizens to do what needs to be done to stay safe. He gave an update on the coronavirus statistics in Chatham County and reported that the City Manager is maintaining the regulations on local cemeteries to observe social distancing. He offered condolences to Alderman Leggett on his grandmother's death. Mayor Johnson recognized Clerk of Council Mark Massey who announced Georgia Cities Week has been postponed to the week of October 4th. Mayor Johnson announced The Georgia Municipal Association Meeting scheduled for June has been cancelled.

Aldermen expressed their support of the position/decisions made by Mayor Johnson during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though the Governor has issued a reopen order, they urged residents to stay home until all the data is clear and our State is safe to reopen.

Alderman Leggett announced his grandmother who lives in New York passed away on yesterday. He expressed the pandemic has not reached it's peak and residents should continue to follow all safety precautions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reminded citizens there will be a City wide yard waste pickup beginning Monday, April 27, 2020 through Friday, May 1, 2020 (one week only).

Alderwoman Miller Blakely inquired about the City Attorney contract renewal. She advised residents who have received their stimulus checks to be wise and safe in their spending.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter reminded citizens to complete the 2020 Census Form. She reminded citizens of the increase of domestic violence in light of the pandemic and to remember there is help available for those experiencing that type of situation. She asked the City Manager for an update on the grant funds for the City. She requested a work session on the 2020 Census for the next meeting. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter suggested the City Manager use the City's current staff for the scheduled one-time pickup for sanitation to save the City money instead of using outside contractors.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:54 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=V11W7tm2LvmW>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: **May 14, 2020**

Initials: *mm*