

**Special Meeting to Consider the Use of Eminent Domain**  
**Meeting Begins at 5:30pm**

August 29, 2019 Special City Council Meeting

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT  
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
August 29, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.**

The Special Meeting of the City Council was held at 5:33 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding  
Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn H. Bell  
Alderman Brian Foster, Vice-Chairman of Council  
Alderman Van R. Johnson, II, District 1  
Alderman Bill Durrence, District 2  
Alderman John Hall, District 3  
Alderwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5

**ABSENT:** Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council  
Alderman Tony Thomas, District 6

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

City Manager Patrick C. Monahan  
Assistant to the City Manager Bret Bell  
City Attorney Bates Lovett  
City Attorney Denise Cooper  
Director of Real Estate David Keating  
Special Projects Coordinator Glenn Hull  
Public Communications Director Nick Zoller  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Mayor DeLoach called the City Council Special Meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Upon sounding the first agenda item, Mayor DeLoach recognized Assistant City Attorney Denise Cooper. After providing the purpose of the special meeting, she asked Director of Real Estate Services David Keating to give an overview of his department and the road widening project of Delesseps Avenue for the record. He indicated that the project involves 1.4 miles from Waters Avenue to Skidaway Road, including 120 parcels most of them being residential.

Thereafter, Mr. Keating gave a description of each property under consideration, the process for acquisition and an update on the current status of each property.

Date: Aug 29 2019 (5:30pm)

Special Meeting Agenda Items

[1. Motion to Approve Resolution Authorize Use of Eminent Domain to Acquire a Portion of 1304 Delesseps Avenue.](#)

Residential property. City requesting 15' easement only. Property owner deceased in December 2015, property title not conveyed, therefore no owner of record.

Alderman Durrence moved to approve, seconded by Alderman Foster. The motion passed unanimously.

[2. Motion to Approve Resolution to Authorize the Use of Eminent Domain to Acquire a Portion of 2017 Delesseps Avenue.](#)

Two Parcels side by side, same owners. City is requesting 1.32' for right of way and an additional 15' for easement for parcel one. 1.5' for right of way and an additional 15' easement of parcel two. The City made offer to owners, the offer was rejected. The City has negotiated with the owners since February 2019 with no resolution. Owners wanted their own appraisal considered but never produced that appraisal to the City after 8 contacts with the last one being on July 17, 2019.

Alderdwoman Dr. Shabazz asked for the fair market value of the two parcels. According to the appraisals from GDOT, Mr. Keating stated parcel one was appraised at \$5,400.00 and parcel two at \$4,200.00 for a total of \$9,600.00.

Alderman Johnson questioned if the owners were properly served and contacted and Mr. Keating answered yes but they did not appear. Alderman Hall moved to approve, seconded by Alderman Durrence. The motion passed unanimously.

[3. Motion to Approve Resolution to Authorize the Use of Eminent Domain to Acquire a Portion of 2019 Delesseps Avenue.](#)

Mayor DeLoach informed Council the owners of this property are the same as Item #2, same situation.

Alderman Hall moved to approve, seconded by Alderman Durrence and Alderman Foster. The motion passed unanimously.

[4. Motion to Approve Resolution to Authorize the Use of Eminent Domain to Acquire a Portion of 2119 Delesseps Avenue.](#)

Residential property. The City is requesting 1.3' right of way and 14' of easement. Owner has rejected the City's offer after 15 contacts.

Alderman Foster moved to approve, seconded by Alderman Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

[5. Motion to Approve Resolution to Authorize the Use of Eminent Domain to Acquire a Portion of 1302 West Gwinnett Street.](#)

City Attorney Lovett requested Item #5 be continued to the September 26, 2019, meeting.

Alderman Johnson moved to continue/hold the agenda item #5 until the September 26 meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously.

Given the City does not use eminent domain very often, Mayor DeLoach requested the number of eminent domain situations used during the past few years. The City Manager cited that Chatham County has used eminent domain the last eight years for two hundred parcels and for the past four years for seventy-five parcels for the Bay Street widening and two other projects.

Alderman Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, Alderwoman Shabazz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

The video 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=0YTYwavwUIBg>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: September 12, 2019

Initials: mm