

July 22, 2019 Special City Council Meeting

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
July 22, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.**

The special meeting of the City Council was held at 5:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Following the pledge of allegiance led by Mayor DeLoach, Mayor Pro-Tem Bell offered the invocation.

PRESENT: Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding
Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn H. Bell
Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council
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
Alderman Tony Thomas, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:
Interim City Manager Patrick C. Monahan
Assistant to the City Manager Bret Bell
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox
Special Projects Coordinators Daphne Williams and Glenn Hull

Upon calling the meeting to order, Mayor DeLoach began by stating the purpose of the meeting to discuss SPLOST VII which started back in January 2019. He reviewed various steps that were taken by the City Council and staff to develop a list of projects which totaled \$1.2 billion. Starting somewhere, the City will move forward and be thankful for the portion that will be received from the County, and seek to spend it wisely for the community in an effort to receive a positive vote for SPLOST VII.

Date: Jul 22 2019 (5:30PM)

Special Meeting Agenda Items

[1. Motion to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County for the 2020-2026 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax](#)

Public Comment

1. Ms. Caila Brown, Executive Director of Bike Walk Savannah - advocated for restoring a minimum of \$1 million for the Tide-to-Town initiative (design and construction), as well as updating the terminology within SPLOST to pedestrian infrastructure, rather than sidewalks.

There were no other speakers.

Following public comment, the Mayor reviewed a proposed list of projects for the Council’s consideration. He wanted everyone to know that there were a lot great items of things that need and want to be done, some items are included in the list and some are not. The list was taken and a program was developed to provide a program that focused on the City's infrastructure and improving the areas along Casey Canal and the Arena.

The City needs to do what it can to take care of the infrastructure. It's estimated that it will take approximately \$30 million every six years to take care of our roads so they're are on a twenty year cycle. The City is not quite to that point with our dollar figures but with this program and what the City has in it's Budget, the City will come close to making that figure on a regular basis. The City will then provide be able to provide quality roads for the citizens to use and enjoy.

There were other projects considered such as the Southside Community Center, Tide to Town (will realize federal funds), Streetscape Phase 1, and Liberty City (Parking & Facility). The following chart was distributed to Council for their consideration.

SPLOST 2020-2026 Alternative 1.

| Project | Requested | | Funding | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Southside Community Center | \$10,000,000 | | \$1,000,000 | Design money, then bond building |
| Tide-To-Town | \$1,000,000 | | \$1,000,000 | Start 90-mile trail project through City |
| Abercorn Streetscape, Phase 1 | \$3,000,000 | | \$3,000,000 | CNU recommendations: Forest River to N |
| Liberty City (Parking and Facility) | \$300,000 | | \$300,000 | Request for added parking/facility upgrade |
| Total= | \$14,300,000 | | \$5,300,000 | |
| Reduced Funding Options | Original Estimate | Revised | Yield Amount | Comments |
| Casey Canal South Drainage | \$25,000,000 | \$22,000,000 | \$3,000,000 | Estimated engineering cost (not rounded) |
| Street Resurfacing | \$25,049,915 | \$22,749,915 | \$2,300,000 | 25 miles per \$1M=568 miles (goal 700) |
| Total= | | | \$5,300,000 | |

The Mayor recognized each of the Councilmembers to ask questions, offer their input, comments and priorities.

Alderman Johnson questioned who made the decision for Alternative 1. Mayor DeLoach explained the process.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell requested the Interim City Manager's process for collecting and identifying the projects for the Alternative 1 list. Mr. Monahan described the process and reasoning for the selections.

Alderman Thomas asked for the total requested for Casey Canal project from the Interim City Manager. There followed discussion and explanations from Mr. Monahan as to the total project cost, any additional federal funding and how the current funds would be used. Mr. Thomas questioned the \$1 million for the Southside Community Center and how long it would take to use that amount. Mr. Monahan indicated it would take approximately eighteen months. There were discussions related to a bond issue for the Center and the timing to get everything finished by the deadline of May 2021.

Alderman Miller commended the Mayor on his strategy for the Alternative 1 list and stated, as long as there is enough money there for the Casey Canal South project, he is satisfied with the list.

Alderman Foster requested of staff and Interim City Manager for any prior estimates on the amount for the Abercorn Streetscape project. Mr. Monahan indicated there was approximately \$10 million dollars for the project.

Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz explain her request for the SPLOST VII projects. She submitted three recommendations to the Interim City Manager: the Springfield Canal Drainage Improvement Phase 1; Fairgrounds Infrastructure Improvements; and Project DeRenne Blvd. Phase 1 Project. She discussed the importance of having the three projects included for the constituents of District 5. She asked for bonding of the three projects from her list for the Southwest side of the City.

Alderman Johnson expressed the importance of the SPLOST program and the capital issues it would relieve from the City's General Fund. He discussed the projects submitted for District 1 and his disappointment they are not included: Woodville and Tremont Park Community Centers and Hudson Hill Community Park. He also expressed his concern for The Highlands area traffic conditions. Alderman Foster discussed the possibility of the City looking at issuing over \$100 million in TSPLOST bonds in the near future as some of the surrounding municipalities have previously considered.

The following motions were made:

- a. Alderman Durrence moved to approve "Alternative 1," Alderman Miller seconded. The motion carried, 7-2-0. Alderman Johnson and Alderwoman Shabazz voted no.
- b. Alderman Durrence moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and submit it to Chatham County, Alderman Miller seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1. Alderman Johnson recused himself.
- c. Mayor DeLoach moved to close the meeting, Alderman Miller seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: August 1, 2019

Initials: MM