

Meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m.

June 11, 2020 City Council Workshop

## **SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES COUNCIL WORK SESSION & CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING June 11, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the City Council work session and City Manager's Briefing was held at 11:01 a.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Palumbo who then offered the Invocation.

**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  
Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell  
Police Chief Roy W. Minter, Jr.  
City Attorney Bates Lovett  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Date: Jun 11 2020 (11:00 a.m.)

### **Workshop Agenda Items**

[1. My Brother's Keeper Alliance Pledge](#)

PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson.

Following the presentation, Mayor Johnson announced he is creating a Taskforce to evaluate policies and procedures and to provide community input. Mayor Johnson asked each Council Member to nominate one (1) resident to represent Savannah for the Taskforce by tomorrow, close of business (Friday, June 12, 2020).

Mayor Johnson has asked Police Chief Minter to provide the use of force incidents for the past three (3) years; an overview of the City's professional standards that bear complaints; and an annual and in-service review of training.

Mayor Johnson, Police Chief Minter and Council Members participated in a discussion and comment period.

## [2. Public Safety Update](#)

PRESENTED by Roy W. Minter, Jr., Chief of Police.

Chief Minter gave an update on crime statistics, traffic fatalities, and gun violence control. He reported on the current status of police recruitment and staffing. The Chief announced that the youth and community events have been paused during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the presentation, there were comments and a discussion with Chief Minter, Mayor Johnson, and Council Members.

## [3. Gun Violence Update](#)

Gun violence update was included in the public safety update.

## [4. Hotel/Motel Tax Update](#)

City Manager Pat Monahan gave a brief overview of the hotel/motel tax. He introduced Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell who offered a slide presentation.

Mr. Bell briefly discussed the old hotel/motel tax and presented the three (3) new authorization paragraph options for the City, if they wanted to increase the hotel/motel tax. The staff recommended authorization paragraph option three: O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b) which allows the City to increase the tax rate from six percent to eight percent.

Mr. Bell asked the Mayor and Aldermen to adopt a Resolution requesting the Chatham County Legislative Delegation to introduce local legislation that moves the City into the new authorization paragraph [O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b)]. The Resolution must specify the tax rate, identify the tourism projects under the new tax, and specify how proceeds will be allocated. He outlined the time table for the response. Mr. Bell outlined how the current hotel/motel tax is allocated.

Mr. Bell defined the Canal District Master Plan, Conversion of the Historic Water Works and surrounding area, and the Waterfront Redevelopment.

Mr. Bell introduced Ms. Denise Grabowski to give the Council an overview of the \$10 million Tide-to-Town Urban Trail System (Truman Linear Trail Segment); and the \$5 million West Bay Street/Dorothy Barnes Pelote Bridge Project.

Following the presentation, Mr. Bell, Ms. Garbowski and Mr. Monahan answered questions from the Mayor and Aldermen in a discussion format.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:36 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=w0qghvCTbMmm>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: June 25, 2020

Initials: mm