
SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JUNE 25, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held via Zoom video communications at 6:38 p.m. Mayor Johnson requested Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely to introduce Reverend Dr. Leonard Small, Pastor of Litway Missionary Baptist who provided the invocation.

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
Interim Chief Operating Officer Brett Bell
Planning & Urban Design Director Bridget Lidy
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Date: Jun 25 2020 (6:30 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for June 25, 2020](#)

- a. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda. There was no second to the motion.
- b. Alderman Palumbo moved to amend the Regular Meeting Agenda by adding Item #25, Nomination of Caila D. Brown to the Traffic Calming Committee (District 4), Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing held on June 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

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

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on June 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Palumbo 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 a Contract for the Installation of 19 Street Light Poles from Georgia Power in the Amount of \\$38,517 \(Event No.7890\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #4, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING ITEMS

[5. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Two Heavy Equipment Vehicles from Yancey Brothers Caterpillar in the Amount of \\$1,566,517 \(Event No.7888\)](#)

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

[6. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Three Dump Trucks from Robert International Trucks in the Amount of \\$333,122.34 \(Event No.7144\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 and #8, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[7. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No.1 for Additional Design Services for Upgrades to Lift Station No. 23 with Hussey, Gay Bell and DeYoung, Inc. in the Amount of \\$205,805 \(Event No 6356\)](#)

Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned the DBE status and requested additional information. After discussion, it was agreed upon to table Item #7 while Assistant City Manager Lloyd made further inquiries with the Office of Economic Development on the certification (DBE & local status) of Griffin & Davis.

TABLED

Later in the Meeting:

City Manager Monahan reported that the Office of Economic Development certified that Griffin & Davis was registered as a qualified and local DBE.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely moved to approve Item #7, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[8. Authorize the City Manager to Award a Contract for Architectural Services with Cogdell Mendrala Architects \(Local\) for up to \\$300,000 \(Event No.7615\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #6 and #8, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[9. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to an Agreement with Hurt Norton & Associates for Professional Services in the amount of \\$84,000](#)

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

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

[10. Approval of a Class E \(Wine\) \(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Deika Patel of J & J Foodmart at 848 Staley Avenue \(Aldermanic District 5\) WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT](#)

There were no speakers.

WITHDREW Item #10, as requested by the applicant and announced by Mayor Johnson.

[11. Approval of Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales for Cuauthemoc Ortiz of Tequila's Town Tacos & Tequila at 1611 Habersham Street \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearing for Item #11.

There were no speakers.

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

b. Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #11, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ZONING HEARINGS

[12. Approval to Rezone 65.28 Acres of Property on Stillwood Drive and Cedar Grove Avenue \(Savannah Country Day School\), District 6 \(File No. 20-000090-ZA\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearing for Item #12.

Marcus Lotson of MPC gave a description of the property.

Alderman Purtee requested the Savannah Country Day School to remain in the community for the next fifteen years and a master plan be developed showing any additional projects on the school campus. He would like community involvement in any future decisions.

Alderman Purtee recommended approval of the first reading today, to allow time for meetings/discussions with the community, and hold the second reading at the July 9, 2020 Meeting.

Speakers:

-Attorney Harold Yellin - requesting OI-E Zoning

-Mr. Benjamin Hill, resident - opposes

-Mr. Kef Wilson, Headmaster of Savannah Country Day School

Alderman Purtee moved to close the hearing, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Johnson suggested Mr. Lotson of MPC be included in the community meetings.

PETITIONS

[13. Approval of a Petition to Name the City FEMA Lots Located at 202 Chatham Street to 'Harmon Creek Park'](#)

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #13, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES - FIRST AND SECOND READING

[14. Approval of the Annexation of Two Parcels with an Aggregate of 1,036.69 Acres Located on the Southwest Bypass \(Veterans Parkway\) in the Vicinity of Old Burkhalter Road](#)

City Manager Monahan gave an in depth description of Items #14 and #16 as it relates to the property description, job creation, the issuance of the bonds, and the tax revenue generated by the City.

Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter expressed her displeasure with the project and the City's issuance of bonds at this time. She read a letter from a resident in that area, Ms. Smith, who voiced her concerns with the project and the adverse effects it will create in the area.

Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and City Manager Monahan addressed the concerns of Ms. Smith's letter and advised her to contact her County representatives and MPC to express her concerns. After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #14, Aldermen Palumbo and Purtee seconded. The motion passed, 7-2-0, with Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter and Aldерwoman Miller Blakely voting no.

[15. Approval to Rezone 65.28 Acres of Property on Stillwood Drive and Cedar Grove Avenue \(Savannah Country Day School\), District 6 \(File No. 20-000090-ZA\)](#)

HEARD, Item #15 for FIRST READING only, as announced by Mayor Johnson.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

[16. Approval to Zone Two Parcels with an Aggregate of 1,036.69 Acres Located on Southwest Bypass \(Veteran's Parkway\) in the Vicinity of Old Burkhalter Road \(Rockingham Farms\), Petitioner Bridget Lidy on Behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen, Aldermanic District 5, File No. 19-0006681-ZA](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #16, Aldерwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed, 7-2-0, with Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter and Aldерwoman Miller Blakely voting no.

RESOLUTIONS

[17. Adoption of a Resolution Extending the 90-Day Pilot Open Container Zone in Specific Areas of the Victorian Neighborhood, Thomas Square Neighborhood and Forsyth Park](#)

Bridget Lidy, Director of Planning and Urban Design, gave a description of the Resolution.

Clerk of Council Mark Massey reported the receipt of various comments received from the public that were distributed to the Mayor and Aldermen.

Speakers:

-Ms. Trudy Herod - supported

-Mr. Bob Rosenwald - supported zones 1 & 2, and opposed zone 3

Alderman Leggett requested the Resolution to be revised to exclude the playground, and table Item #17 until the playground can be excluded. He stated that he does not want drinking in the playground.

Mayor Johnson explained it would probably take 90-days to rewrite and resubmit the Resolution and asked Alderman Leggett the difference between the park and the playground.

Alderman Palumbo suggested trying out the pilot program with the go-cup, and the current boundaries, and then evaluate and make changes after witnessing the program.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked Ms. Lidy the boundaries, the area extends from Victory Drive down to Anderson Lane along Bull Street. Ms. Lidy replied, yes.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter requested information on education/training for alcohol assumption, rape and sexual assaults.

City Manager Monahan announced the 90-day pilot ends on September 25, 2020, Mayor Johnson requested this item come before Council sometime close to the September 25th date.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #17, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed, 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no.

[18. Adoption of a Resolution Imposing Temporary Stay on Enforcement of Certain Ordinances to the Extent Needed to Aid Local Businesses in their Recovery from the Adverse Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #18, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[19. Adoption of a Resolution to Imposing a Temporary Stay on the Issuance of New Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for Convenience and Package Stores within Aldermanic District 3](#)

Speaker:

-Mr. Marlon Marchena - opposed temporary stay, general contractor,
1300 Wheaton Street

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan discussed her reasons for the 90-day stay on alcohol sales in District 3. She indicated that studies have shown there is an increase in violent crime in neighborhoods with numerous establishments that sell alcohol.

Attorney Lovett indicated the 90-day stay would not effect Mr. Marchena, since he applied for his alcohol license before the 90-day stay was approved.

Mayor Johnson suggested Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan meet with Mr. Marchena and develop a good business relationship.

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #19, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

[20. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with Atlantic Marine Warehouse Company for Georgia Marine Warehouse Phase 3](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #20, Aldерwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

[21. Denial of a Request to Encroach on Canal Bank Road Right-of-Way - Petition #190531](#)

Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #21, as recommended by staff (Denial), Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[22. Approval of a Second Amendment to the Lease for 602 East Lathrop Street \(PIN 10536 01003A\)](#)

Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #22, Aldерwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[23. Approval of a First Amendment to the Motorcoach Parking Lot Lease for 602 East Lathrop Avenue \(PIN 1-0536-01-003A\)](#)

Aldерwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #23, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[24. Approval of a First Amendment to the Lease for 2250 East Victory Drive; Currently Used as the Eastside Precinct for Savannah Police Department](#)

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

BOARD APPOINTMENT:

25. Appointment of Caila D. Brown to the Traffic Calming Committee - District 4 representative, as recommended by Alderman Palumbo.

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #25, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked when will there be another executive session for the purpose of discussing external review complaints from City departments and an update on the City Manager search.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Monahan expressed concern about having discussions about employee complaints. Human Resources should be handling employee complaints and not City Council during executive sessions.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely has received several letters and e-mails with employee complaints and asked should she send those letters to the City Manager.

Mayor Johnson suggested sending all complaints to the City Manager. The City has several ways for employees to express grievances. Aldermen are not involved in employee complaints/grievances. Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager to put in writing what is being done with employee complaints. Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked the City Manager, under Item #5, why was the strategic priority listed under neighborhood revitalization for the \$1,566,517. City Manager Monahan replied that it was a mistake.

Clerk of Council Mark Massey reminded the Mayor and Aldermen to complete and submit their Personal Financial Report and the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR) due June 30, 2020.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:01 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=d6Ca7dNh0G6t>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: July 9, 2020

Initials: mm