

**CITY GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 5, 2006  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 2:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall. Mayor Johnson asked that we reflect in a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The minutes from the meeting of December 22, 2005 were approved upon motion of Alderman Osborne, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Otis S. Johnson, Presiding  
Mayor Pro-Tem Edna B. Jackson  
Alderman Tony Thomas, Chairman of Council  
Alderman Van Johnson, II, Vice-Chairman of Council  
Aldermen Clifton Jones, Jeff Felser, Mary Osborne and Kenneth Sadler

City Manager Michael B. Brown  
City Attorney James B. Blackburn  
Asst. City Attorney William W. Shearouse

**ABSENT:** Alderman Ellis Cook - Due to wife's illness  
Assistant City Attorney Lester B. Johnson, III

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Alderman Johnson reported that City Council held two Executive Sessions this morning for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried, Mayor Johnson was authorized to sign the affidavit. (**SEE "RESOLUTIONS"**)

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**PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Johnson acknowledged that the bottled water that was placed on each Council member's desk was given by the Gateway Employment and Management Enterprises. This is a group that provides mental health services.

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Mayor Johnson stated that the last couple of weeks have been gut-wrenching for many sectors of this community. We still have some unanswered questions on some of the latest homicides. Because we have had some high profile homicides, a lot of emotions have erupted in the community. It is at these moments we need to appeal to our rationality. Untimely deaths always evoke emotions. Mayor Johnson asked the community to please try to remain focus on the fact that we have to do what is necessary to ensure that **ALL** of our citizens are safe in their homes, on the streets, and in their businesses. We also have to ask the media to be as responsible as they can in reporting these incidences. Mayor Johnson explained that he said this because an article appeared in today's Savannah Morning News about the Police Department being down 66 officers. This is contrary to the information provided to City Council by the City

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Manager. He asked the City Manager to publicly clear up the issue of vacancies that we have been beating around for more than six (6) months and give Council the timeline on when we believe we will be fully staffed. We read in the newspaper and saw on television where there will be county deputies augmenting our Police Department. Mayor Johnson wanted to know what would be the deputies' role. How does this deal with the special units in making sure that all the beats are filled? As stated, he wanted the City Manager to report on what is the official vacancy and what is the plan with the Interim Chief to fill these vacancies. Mayor Johnson again asked the news media to try to be accurate in their reporting of these incidences because it stirs up emotions and creates fear. Some of it is warranted, but Mayor Johnson wanted to be sure if it is out there that it is warranted and not being stirred up with invalid information.

City Manager Brown reported that Chief Lovett and he share Council's extreme concern about making sure that we keep all of our posts filled. At St. Simons, he told Council we had 52 officers and this is correct. He told Council that we would begin to hire officers and this was done. We hired 27 officers three weeks ago and they are on our payroll. City Manager Brown said whatever issues were in the newspaper do not reflect the officers we hired. These officers are on payroll and are in training. They will begin the Academy next week and will complete the training in March, 2006. This is when these officers will hit the streets. City Manager Brown explained that these officers will continue to be in the training mode, but they are officers and are in our employ. They will be used in a public safety capacity. Chief Lovett told him today that after this class, he is at the point of recruiting another class. Chief Lovett believes there are 15 or more who will enroll into the Academy in April. Mr. Brown told Council that it is his diligent objective to have this issue resolved by July 2006. In addition, we will be recruiting the officers that Council approved in the budget. This is also for the civilians because we will hire them to allow the officers who now work in a non-weapon role to go out onto the streets. The City Manager said it is his objective with the assistance of Chief Lovett that by July they will do their best to resolve this. He wanted to assure Council that in the meantime it is not as if we will not go full force. We will use special units and whatever resources we can. City Manager Brown wanted it to be clear that in previous years we have always had any number of persons who left, but we then filled the Academy. Therefore, it should not be 60 versus 0. At this point, we are at 44. He clarified that the sheriff's deputies do have a warrant squad. This is what they normally do in our streets. The Chief and he have discussed using the deputies in this role. Normally, people who are wanted for warrants are the most persons at-risk in our community. The Chief has assured him that this is one of the roles that the deputies will play, looking for people who have outstanding warrants. As he has stated, they share Council's concerns and will do their level best as he told them to have aggressive policing. They also will work with the rest of the community with the other elements of the plan which are Juvenile Justice, Corrections, Parole, and Probation. Mayor Johnson entertained comments from Council.

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Alderman Clifton Jones said in reading the report with reference to the deputies, the use of the tasers was not clarified. In an answer to Alderman Jones's concern, City Manager Brown said he will have the Chief give him a report to clarify this issue. They do have tasers and are equipped now in handling warrants. Alderman Felser asked the City Manager if he was saying that with the 27 officers from the Academy that there are 44 vacancies today. City Manager Brown answered that just prior to this meeting, the Chief called him to confirm this number. Alderman Felser said his second question was more of a request for the City Manager to get with the Mayor, the Chairman of County Commissioners, and the County Manager with regards to the discussions that seem to be taking place in the public and media about the upcoming SPLOST vote. He believed that discussions need to be held with both bodies before the discussions take place publicly.

Mayor Johnson wanted everybody to know that our official vacancy number is 44 and not 66. We will proceed with the plan as outlined by the City Manager. This will be monitored and as other strategies to make our streets safer emerge, the public will be briefed. Our first Town Hall meeting for 2006 will be held on January 25 at the Civic Center at 7:00 p.m. A detailed update will be given not only on public safety, but on the other priorities of City Council. This Town Hall meeting will be a celebration of the first half of this administration. They will discuss what they have achieved and will discuss the challenges that still remain and what we will be striving to do to remove the challenges.

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**LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

As advertised, the following alcoholic license petitions were heard. No one appeared in objection of the issuance of the licenses and upon motion of Alderman Clifton Jones, seconded by Alderman Thomas and carried, they were approved:

**Alicia Danielle Cline t/a Belford's**, requesting a liquor, beer and wine (drink w/Sunday) sales license at 313 W. St. Julian Street.

**Sharon Mungin Dunbar t/a Food Lion #1181**, requesting a beer and wine (package) license at 8914 White Bluff Road.

**Keith Raymond Fletcher t/a Piggly Wiggly #100**, requesting a beer and wine (package) license at 2142 E. Victory Drive.

**Joe Donald Morgan, Jr. t/a Savannah Hospitality Group, LLC d/b/a Staybridge Suites**, requesting a beer and wine (package) license at 301 E. Bay Street.

**Vijay Patel t/a MA & SP Food Mart, Inc.**, requesting a beer and wine (package) license at 401 E. Montgomery Cross Road.

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Aaron Robert Reddick, Jr. t/a Piggly Wiggly #106, requesting a beer and wine (package) license at 43 W. Montgomery Cross Road.

Willie F. Roberts t/a Weldon Lodge #26, requesting a liquor, beer and wine (drink) license at 1508 Montgomery Street.

Thomas C. Rybak t/a Marriott Hotel Savannah, requesting a liquor, beer and wine (drink w/Sunday) sales license at 100 General McIntosh Boulevard.

Margie Ann Smith t/a The Market, requesting a liquor, beer and wine (drink w/Sunday) sales license at 6703 Abercorn Street.

Terry Michael Smith t/a The Savannah Gentlemens Club, requesting a liquor, beer and wine (drink) license at 325 E. Montgomery Cross Road.

LaKisha Michelle Phillips-Tyler t/a Food Lion #0347, requesting a beer and wine (package) license at 1915 E. Victory Drive.

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As advertised, hearing was held on the petition of Dimitri Chami t/a DC2 Design Interiors, LLC d/b/a DC2 Design, requesting a liquor, beer and wine (drink) license at 104 West Broughton Street, which is located between Whitaker and Barnard Streets in District 1. REPORT: The applicant meets basic requirements for the requested license. The business is a high value specialty retailer that seeks to serve alcohol as an ancillary service to customers. The petitioner has requested a continuance to January 19, 2006, to prepare an operations plan for proper alcohol sales. Recommend approval of the continuance to January 19.

The City Manager explained that this is a little unusual in that this location is zoned and allowed to have full alcohol sales, even lounges. The petitioner has what we call a premium household or home goods store and makes the point that some of their customers wish to have specialty drinks to be served with this type of retail. City Manager Brown believed this would be called "ancillary." Our concern is if it is ancillary that it is completely under control, low scale and that the issue be resolved whether or not minors, because we are looking at the change, would be allowed in the store. For these reasons, questions were raised. The location has been visited, but the petitioner has asked for a two weeks continuance so they could make submissions to us as to how they will operate the business to preclude these problems. City Manager Brown recommended that the two weeks continuance be granted. Alderman Jackson wanted to know if the petitioner was talking about the sale of or giving away the alcohol. City Manager Brown said from a licensing standpoint, he did not believe it makes a difference. But, he believed the petitioner was talking about the sale of alcohol. However, if they were going to give it to patrons as a gratuity, they would still need a license to do so. Mayor Johnson wanted the staff to check

into what kind of precedent this would set. On what grounds could we grant the request and deny another. The Mayor did not want to see every business on Broughton Street serving alcohol. Therefore, some parameters need to be set that gives us some guidelines as to who is eligible and who would not be eligible. This is definitely a precedent sitting application. Alderman Jackson said Council has talked about this before regarding the children. In a situation such as this, children will not be allowed on the premises. Mayor Johnson was hopeful that this kind of information would be brought to Council at the next hearing. Upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried, this hearing was continued to the meeting of **January 19, 2006**.

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## **ZONING HEARINGS**

Continued from the meeting of December 13, 2005, hearing was held on the petition of **Gary Sanders, Agent, Ciphers Design Group, Petitioner, David Fritts, Owner (Z-050519-86472)**, requesting to rezone 8 W. 37th Street from TN-2 (Traditional Neighborhood to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial). The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) recommends denial because the proposed rezoning is inconsistent with the City's Future Land Use Plan and will establish a zoning district that allows intensive commercial uses to be developed. **Recommend approval to rezone the property to TC-1. The property is bound on two sides by TC-1 zoning and the owner has recorded a restrictive covenant which states that it is to be used solely for residential use in perpetuity.**

The petitioner requested that this petition be continued to the meeting of February 16, 2006. Mayor Johnson entertained comments from the public on this rezoning request. No one came forward. Alderman Osborne wanted final closure on this rezoning request at the February 16, 2006 meeting. Alderman Osborne moved that the hearing of this application be continued to the meeting of February 16, 2006. This was seconded by Alderman Johnson and carried. **(CONTINUED TO THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2006)**.

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Continued from the meeting of December 13, 2005, hearing was held on the petition of **James P. Gerard, Agent, Ernest F. Mackey, III, Owner (Z-050922-61438-2)**, requesting to rezone 204 Brandywine Road from R-6 (One-Family Residential - 6 units per net acre) to R-4 (Two Family Residential - 12 units per net acre). MPC recommends denial because the proposed R4 rezoning is inconsistent with the City's Future Land Use Plan, would double the maximum permitted density per net acre and would permit two-family, three-family and four-family residential structures which could adversely impact the existing one-family detached neighborhood. **Recommend denial.**

Ms. Moore explained this rezoning request. The property is located between Habersham and Batten Streets. The existing zoning is R-6 which is one-family residential. The proposed zoning is R-4. The arterial map of this property was shown. The property contains a single-family house and

a garage apartment. In 2000, the City issued a permit for a garage with the second story space to be used as a game room and storage. However, the second story space was converted at some point into a dwelling and the garage was also converted into a dwelling. Essentially, the building now is a duplex in addition to the single-family home that is on this property. The petitioner is requesting the R-4 district in order to make the building legal. The R-4 district allows accessory uses and also allows duplexes, triplexes and quadruples. Ms. Moore said the zoning map shows that the entire Poplar Heights Subdivision is zoned R-6. This is the original zoning for 1960. There are a few properties that were developed for duplexes, but they are grandfathered in and even if this property is rezoned to the R-4 district, the petitioner does not have enough land area to be able to provide for this duplex. Several pictures were shown of this location. Ms. Moore said MPC believes that the R-4 district is not appropriate and, therefore, recommends denial of the petitioner's request. Mayor Johnson entertained comments from the public. No one came forward. Alderman Felser moved to deny the petition. This was seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried. (PETITION DENIED).

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**ORDINANCES**

**First and Second Readings**

Ordinance read for the first time in Council, January 5, 2006, read a second time, January 5, 2006 placed upon its passage, adopted and approved January 5, 2006 upon motion of Alderman Osborne, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX I, SECTION 208 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GA (2003) PERTAINING TO SECTION 7-1018 OF SAID CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE SPEED LIMIT SHALL BE THIRTY-FIVE (35) MILES PER HOUR ON THE STREETS NAMED HEREIN; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, in regular meeting of Council assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

**SECTION 1:** That Appendix I, Section 208 of the Code of the City of Savannah, Georgia (2003), pertaining to Section 7-1018 of said Code, as amended, shall be amended as follows:

**AMEND SECTION 208, THIRTY-FIVE MPH SPEED LIMIT TO INCLUDE**

**DELETE**

<b><u>Street</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>LENGTH</u></b>	<b><u>SPEED LIMIT</u></b>
Bona Bella Avenue	Lovett Dr.	City Limits	0.80 mi	35 MPH

**SECTION 2:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: JANUARY 5, 2006

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 5, 2006**

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Ordinance read for the first time in Council, January 5, 2006, read a second time, January 5, 2006 placed upon its passage, adopted and approved January 5, 2006 upon motion of Alderman Osborne, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX I, SECTION 208 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (2003) PERTAINING TO SECTION 7-1018 OF SAID CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE SPEED LIMIT SHALL BE THIRTY (30) MILES PER HOUR ON THE STREETS NAMED HEREIN; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, in regular meeting of Council assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

**SECTION 1:** That Appendix I, Section 208 of the Code of the City of Savannah, Georgia (2003), pertaining to Section 7-1018 of said Code, as amended, shall be amended as follows:

**AMEND SECTION 208, THIRTY MPH SPEED LIMIT TO INCLUDE:**

	<b><u>DELETE</u></b>			
<b><u>Street</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>LENGTH</u></b>	<b><u>SPEED LIMIT</u></b>
Bacon Park Drive	Waters Avenue	Jan Drive	1.50 mi	30 MPH
Morgan Street	Bacon Park Dr.	DeRenne Ave.	0.40 mi	30 MPH

**SECTION 2:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: JANUARY 5, 2006

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**AMEND SECTION 208, THIRTY MPH SPEED LIMIT TO INCLUDE:**

**ENACT**

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 5, 2006**

<u>Street</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>SPEED LIMIT</u>
Bacon Park Drive	Waters Ave.	Casey Canal	0.56 mi	30 MPH

SECTION 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: JANUARY 5, 2006

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Ordinance read for the first time in Council, January 5, 2006, read a second time, January 5, 2006 placed upon its passage, adopted and approved January 5, 2006 upon motion of Alderman Osborne, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX I, SECTION 208 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (2003) PERTAINING TO SECTION 7-1018 OF SAID CODE TO PROVIDE THAT SPEED LIMIT SHALL BE THIRTY-FIVE (35) MILES PER HOUR ON THE STREETS NAMED HEREIN; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, in regular meeting of Council assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

**SECTION 1:** That Appendix I, Section 208 of the Code of the City of Savannah, Georgia (2003), pertaining to Section 7-1018 of said Code, as amended, shall be amended as follows:

**AMEND SECTION 208, THIRTY-FIVE MPH SPEED LIMIT TO INCLUDE:**

<u>ENACT</u>				
<u>Street</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>SPEED LIMIT</u>
Bona Bella Avenue	Skidaway Road	City Limits	0.55 mi	35 MPH

**SECTION 2:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: JANUARY 5, 2006

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Ordinance read for the first time in Council, January 5, 2006, read a second time, January 5, 2006 placed upon its passage, adopted and approved January 5, 2006 upon motion of Alderman Osborne, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX I, SECTION 208 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (2003) PERTAINING TO SECTION 7-1018 OF SAID CODE TO PROVIDE THAT SPEED LIMIT SHALL BE TWENTY-FIVE (25) MILES PER HOUR ON THE STREETS NAMED HEREIN; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, in regular meeting of Council assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 5, 2006**

**SECTION 1:** That Appendix I, Section 208 of the Code of the City of Savannah, Georgia (2003), pertaining to Section 7-1018 of said Code, as amended, shall be amended as follows:

**AMEND SECTION 208, TWENTY-FIVE MPH SPEED LIMIT TO INCLUDE:**

<b><u>ENACT</u></b>				
<b><u>Street</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>LENGTH</u></b>	<b><u>SPEED LIMIT</u></b>
Bacon Park Dr.	Casey Canal	Jan Drive	0.73 mi	25 MPH
Bona Bella Ave.	Lovett Dr.	Skidaway Rd	0.25 mi	25 MPH
Morgan Street	Bacon Park Dr.	DeRenne Ave	0.40 mi	25 MPH

**SECTION 2:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: JANUARY 5, 2006

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**RESOLUTIONS**

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDING THE FOLLOWING STREETS ON THE RADAR PERMIT.**

CHATHAM COUNTY (INCLUDING THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA)

Pursuant to Section 40-6-183 of the Official Code of Georgia annotated concerning local authorities power to alter lawful speed limits, the following ordinance regulating speed limits within the City of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia is adopted.

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, that the following speed zones are hereby established based on an engineering and traffic investigation as prescribed by law.

<b><u>STREET NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM STREET</u></b>	<b><u>TO STREET</u></b>	<b><u>SEGMENT LENGTH</u></b>	<b><u>SPEED POSTED</u></b>
Bacon Park Dr.	Waters Ave	Casey Canal	0.56	30 MPH
Bacon Park Dr.	Casey Canal	Jan Dr.	0.73	25 MPH
Bona Bella Ave.	Lovett Dr.	Skidaway Rd	0.25	25 MPH
Bona Bella Ave.	Skidaway Rd	City Limits	0.55	35 MPH
Morgan Street	Bacon Park Dr.	DeRenne Ave.	0.40	25 MPH

**BE IT RESOLVED** that any person convicted of a violation of this ordinance shall be punished as provided for by law. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2006 UPON MOTION OF ALDERMAN JACKSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN OSBORNE AND CARRIED.

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**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah as follows;

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 5, 2006**

At the meeting held on the 5TH day of JANUARY, 2006 the Council entered into two closed sessions for the purpose of discussing personnel.

At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council reentered into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

1. The actions of Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for the closed session purposes are hereby ratified;
2. Each member of this body does hereby confirms that to the best of his or her knowledge, the subject matter of the closed session was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above;
3. The presiding officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the Council in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b);
4. The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2006 UPON MOTION OF ALDERMAN JOHNSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FELSER AND CARRIED.

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**TRAFFIC ENGINEERING REPORTS**

**Magnolia Park Subdivision Speed Limits.** The Magnolia Park Neighborhood Association has requested that the speed limit be lowered to 25 miles per hour (MPH) or less on the streets in the subdivision.

Traffic Engineering performed traffic studies including traffic volume counts and speed studies, observations and a review of accidents. The studies show that all of the streets in Magnolia Park have low volumes, none of which exceed 600 vehicles per day, with no indication of a cut thru traffic problem. Traffic entering the neighborhood from DeRenne from Woodland, Magnolia, and Morgan is dispersed onto each intersecting local street.

Traffic speed was found to be lower than the posted 30 and 35 mph limits; 15 mph speed advisory signs will be installed approaching the Bona Bella at Lovett Drive intersection and also for Colonial Drive and Speir Street; and the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Memorial Access Road and DeRenne is being investigated to facilitate left turns during peak hours.

Morgan is posted at 30 mph and has a volume of 556 vehicles per day, a 10 mph pace of 21-30 mph, and an 85th percentile speed of 27 mph. Bacon Park Drive is posted at 30 mph and has a volume of 119 vehicles per day, a pace of 19-28 mph, and an 85th percentile speed of 31 mph. Bona Bella is posted at 35 mph and has a volume of 275 vehicles per day, a pace of 26-35 mph, and an 85th percentile speed of 33

mph. Traffic speed is higher on Bona Bella but a lower speed limit is appropriate because of the abutting park, homes and church. Based on the low volumes, pace of traffic, and residential nature of the streets, the most appropriate speed limit is 25 mph.

upon motion of Alderman Jackson, seconded by Alderman Osborne and carried, approved to reduce the speed limit on Morgan (Bacon Park Drive to DeRenne), Bacon Park Drive (Casey Canal to Jan Drive), and Bona Bella (Lovett Drive to Skidaway Road) to 25 mph. **(SEE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS).**

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**Truck Prohibition - E. Fairmont Avenue.** The Traffic Engineering Department has conducted classification counts on Fairmont Avenue between White Bluff Road and Hodgson Memorial Drive based on citizen complaints about a problem with truck traffic on this residential street.

On E. Fairmont Avenue between White Bluff Road and Hanover Street, 202 single-unit trucks and 25 tractor trailers were recorded within a 24-hour period. The vehicular volume on this local residential street was almost 2,000 vehicles per day. This indicates that some traffic is utilizing this street as a cut thru route rather than the arterial Montgomery Cross Road, which is just to the south. There are no businesses along these two blocks which require truck deliveries; therefore it is recommended that a "no truck" restriction be implemented for E. Fairmont Avenue.

Upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried, approved that truck traffic be prohibited on E. Fairmont Avenue from White Bluff Road to Hodgson Memorial Drive. **(ORDINANCE TO COVER WILL BE DRAWN UP FOR PRESENTATION AT THE NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL).**

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## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**City Hall Historical Marker.** The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval for a historic marker to be placed east of City Hall in conjunction with the Savannah City Hall Centennial, 1906-2006, and for the S.S. Savannah/John Randolph marker at that location to be moved next to the S.S. Savannah Monument on W. River Street. Recommend approval.

City Manager Brown explained that this item is requesting formal authorization to place an historical marker. We do this when such marker is placed by the City. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of City Hall. Mr. Brown acknowledged Ms. Glenda Anderson, Research Library Director, Ms. Luciana Spracher and others who have worked on getting the marker to commemorate this important event. As Alderman Jackson asked and they talked about during the Pre-Council meeting, we will have events to commemorate this marvelous building. Some days the building shows its age, but we have been working to modernize it. City Manager Brown recommended approval of the request. Mayor Johnson thanked Ms. Anderson for all her efficient work. When he needs information, he can always get it from the Research Library. Alderman

Thomas moved for approval as recommended by the City Manager. This was seconded by Alderman Felser and carried. (APPROVED).

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**Acknowledge Receipt of Annexation Petition.** The City received an annexation petition for an approximately 155-acre tract located on Grove Point Road. The owner of the tract is Genesis Real Estate Group, Inc. The land under petition is contiguous to existing City territory, and therefore can be annexed by ordinance adopted by City Council. As required by state law, the County has been informed of receipt of this petition.

The owner plans to develop an approximately 50-lot residential single-family subdivision and is seeking annexation to gain access to the City's services. The City is the only provider of water and sewer service in the area with adequate capacity and to gain access to this utility service on in-city terms, the owner desires annexation. The cost of providing water and sewer service will be fully covered by development on the tract. Future municipal tax revenues from the tract will adequately cover the cost of providing services.

No action is required at this time other than acknowledging receipt of the petition. Ordinances to annex the territory and to adopt the existing County zoning will be on a future agenda.

Alderman Jackson realized that no action was required at this time, but she had a question. We have annexed several areas into the City which is good for the expansion of the City of Savannah. However, she was concerned about affordable housing for the citizens in Savannah. She questioned whether they could get the various developers to make a commitment to develop some affordable houses in these areas. Other communities are doing so. These communities have set aside that a certain percentage of the houses must be affordable. Presently, we do not know what is meant by "affordable." The average home today costs more than \$100,000. Alderman Jackson believed if Council is going to continue with what they have been saying for the last couple of years, they need to say to the developers that they want to see some affordable houses in these areas. Mayor Johnson believed it would be appropriate to ask the developers in these newly annexed areas to have a meeting with City Council to discuss the affordable housing issue with them. The developers are in this to make a maximum profit and he was certainly for this, but we have citizens that must have decent and affordable places to live. With the rising cost of real estate in the inner city, he did not know where these citizens will go unless Council does something such as recommended by Alderman Jackson. Mayor Johnson asked the City Manager to arrange a meeting in the immediate future with the developers so they could discuss this challenge.

The annexation petition was acknowledged by City Council.

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**Final Plat - York Place Townhomes.** Upon motion of Alderman Jackson, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried,

approved the final plat for York Place Townhomes, Lot 25-B, Shangri-La Subdivision, located on the north side of Tibet Avenue between Abercorn Street and Middleground Road.

**Final Plat - Hidden Pointe Townhomes - Phase 1.**

Upon motion of Alderman Jackson, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried, approved the final plat for Hidden Pointe Townhomes - Phase 1, which is located at the end of Navajo Road.

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Upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Clifton Jones and carried, the following **bids, contracts, and agreements** were approved:

**Unidata Software Support - Sole Source -**

**Requisition No. 164791.** Approved to procure annual Unidata software and maintenance support from Harris Computer Systems in the amount of \$28,450.00. The support will be used by the Information Technology Department to maintain the financial software used by the City.

The offer was received December 1, 2005.

**Printing of Cobblestone Employee Newsletter -**  
**Annual Contract Renewal - Bid No. 05.397.**

Renewed an annual contract to procure printing of the Cobblestone employee newsletter from Wynn Business Systems in the amount of \$10,168.00. The newsletter will be printed four times annually to provide information to City employees.

Bids were originally received November 9, 2004.

**Flygt Pump - Sole Source - Requisition No. 164094.**

Approved to procure one 20-horsepower influent submersible pump from ITT Flygt in the amount of \$10,059.60. The pump will be used at the Travis Field Treatment Plant in the return activated sludge wet well.

The reason why a sole source vendor is required is that these pumps must be Flygt pumps due to compability and standardization issues. ITT Flygt is the only dealer for this area.

The offer was received December 2, 2005.

**Various Fire Hose - One-Time Purchase - Quotation**  
**No. 05.109.**

Approved to procure various fire hose from Wally's Fire & Safety in the amount of \$35,860.00. The fire house will be used by the Savannah Fire Department to equip fire trucks for firefighting.

The reason for not selecting the low bidder is Chief Supply did not meet specifications.

Bids were received September 9, 2005.

**Restroom Improvements for Savannah Visitor**  
**Information Center - Bid No. 05.382.**

Approved to procure construction services for restroom improvements for the Savannah Visitor Center from Pioneer Construction in

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the amount of \$378,200.00. The services will convert an office space into two public restrooms and will include selective demolition, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and new finishes. The Center will remain open during construction.

The Minority Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) goal for this project was 24%: 18% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and 6% Women Business Enterprise (WBE). The low bidder met the goals with 18% and 6.7% WBE for a total of 24.8% participation.

Bids were received December 27, 2005.

**Demolition and Installation of Concrete Walkways in Wessels Park - One-Time Purchase - Bid No. 05.391.**

Approved to procure concrete installation services from Coastline Concrete in the amount of \$20,290.00. The services will be used for demolition of existing sidewalks and installation of new walkways and handicap ramps in Wessels Park, which is located at the intersection of Wessels and Massachusetts Avenues.

Bids were received December 20, 2005.

**Towing of Class II Vehicles - Annual Contract Renewal - Bid No. 05.373.**

Renewed an annual contract to procure towing services for Class II vehicles from Jackson Brothers Car Care in the amount of \$22,552.50. The services will be used by Vehicle Maintenance for towing inoperable heavy equipment such as street sweepers and garbage trucks.

Although only one bid was received, 17 towing contractors were originally solicited and others could have bid.

Bids were originally received July 8, 2003.

**Fixed Asset System - Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.**

The Savannah Airport Commission requests authorization to purchase from AVI (Asset Verification, Inc. a fixed asset tracking system which will allow the Finance Department to use a wireless barcode scanner to keep track of all fixed assets in a database and also allow digital photos to be attached to each asset. The systems will be accessible for use in the risk management phase of operations for insurance purposes. **APPROVED.**

**Fuel Tanks and Fuel Farm Upgrades - Bid No. 05.335-11-15 - Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.**

The Savannah Airport Commission requests authorization to enter into a contract with Interstate General Government Construction (IGGC), Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$392,002 to furnish and install two 30,000-gallon fuel tanks, a fuel pump, a spill containment structure, and fuel farm upgrades. **APPROVED.**

**Engineering Services for Water and Sewer Facilities for Phase II, Southwest Quadrant Area - Bid No. 05.358.**

Approved to procure engineering services for

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Phase II of the Southwest Quadrant water and sewer extension. The services are needed to provide design of both water and sanitary sewer systems for the International Paper tract which is under development.

Proposals were received October 21, 2005.

**Computers and File Servers - Annual Contract Renewal - Bid No. 05.403.**

Renewed an annual contract to procure desktop computers, laptop computers and file servers from Prosys Information Systems in the estimated amount of \$283,069.00. The contract will be used to obtain quality equipment for the City's computer network. Throughout the year, the Information Technology Department purchases 200 to 250 personal computers and one to five servers.

Four of the 21 responses received were responsive to the requirements of the Request for Proposals (RFP). The short-listed firms were interviewed and best and final offers were solicited.

Proposals were received October 28, 2003.

**Water and Sewer Agreement - Crawford Row Townhomes.**

BSBW, LLC, has requested a water and sewer agreement for Crawford Row Townhomes. The water and sewer systems have adequate capacity to serve this 4-equivalent residential unit development on Hull and McDonough Streets. The agreement is consistent with policy directives given by the Mayor and Aldermen and has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney for legal format. **APPROVED.**

**Michael A. Portman Water Agreement.** The structure at 402 W. Broughton Street owned by Michael A. Portman is under renovation with the assistance of the Savannah Development and Renewal Authority. A water agreement is needed for water service and for the installation of a fire suppression sprinkler system. This renovation project is eligible for participation in the fire suppression assistance program, which is intended to encourage upper floor redevelopment in the Broughton Street/Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard corridors. Under the agreement, the City water system will assist the owner for the actual cost of the fire suppression sprinkler system up to a maximum of \$35,000. The water system will recover this cost, with interest, over an eight-year period through a special water service fee to be included on the building's water bill. Failure to pay the fee will subject the property to cut-off of water service. **APPROVED.**

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Mayor Johnson reported that Alderman Cook was not present today because his wife is very ill. The Mayor asked that we keep the Cook family in our prayers.

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Alderman Johnson stated that they often talk about the benefit that is derived from this community from the members of City Council and City staff participating in organizations on the local, national and international levels. They celebrate these achievements. They have an

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achievement they are proud of which is the Clerk of Council, Dyanne C. Reese, is running for the 2nd Vice-President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. He understood that if Ms. Reese is elected as the Second Vice-President, within a couple of years she would be the President of the International Municipal Clerks Association. Ms. Reese has served this community more than 30 years. He believed this is wonderful. Alderman Johnson stated that he had a letter he wanted to offer into the records that Council would sign in support of Ms. Reese's application. He believed it would be an asset not only to Ms. Reese, but to Council. Alderman Johnson read the following letter into the records:

Dear Mrs. Reese:

It gives us great pleasure to offer this letter of support for your candidacy as the 2nd Vice-President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

You have served the City of Savannah, GA for over 36 years as Assistant Clerk and ultimately Clerk of Council. You are the longest serving Clerk in the 272 year history of the City of Savannah. You have been a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks since 1985 and have been very active in all levels of the organization, presently serving as the Region III Director.

You are also very active with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Georgia Municipal Association, and the National League of Cities. You are looked upon a leader among Municipal Clerks and your guidance is often sought out from your colleagues across the country.

On behalf of the citizens of Savannah, we offer our unanimous and solid support to your candidacy and wish you well as you seek election at the IIMC's Annual Conference in May 2006.

Upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Felser and carried, the above letter of support was approved.

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In the closing of today's meeting, Mayor Johnson read two verses from the poem "IF" by Rudyard Kipling.

There being no further business, Mayor Johnson declared this meeting of Council adjourned.

Dyanne C. Reese  
Clerk of Council