

Summary/Final Minutes – Work Session – March 3, 2016

Savannah City Government SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES COUNCIL WORK SESSION & CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING March 3, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding
Mayor Pro-Tem Carol Bell
Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council
Alderman Brian Foster, Vice-Chairman of Council
Van Johnson, II, (arrived at 10:30 a.m.), Tony Thomas
John Hall, Estella Shabazz (arrived at 10:20 a.m.), Bill Durrence

City Manager Stephanie Cutter
City Attorney W. Brooks Stillwell
Assistant City Attorney William Shearouse

Mayor DeLoach called the meeting to order.

Parking Matters: A Strategic Plan for Parking & Mobility in Savannah

Ralph DeNisco, Project Manager from Nelson Nygaard presented a PowerPoint Presentation
(Presentation on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council)

The following questions and comments were made during and after the presentation

Alderman Miller stated he believes parking is profitable for the City of Savannah and asked what is going to be done as it relates to the amount of time individuals have to wait to get in or out of parking garages.

Mr. DeNisco stated the City has been made aware of these issues due to the study. Veleeta McDonald, Mobility & Parking Services Director stated there have been instances when staff has been made aware of the wait time to exit garages when there are special events and as a result they have been accepting payments from people upon entering so they don't have to wait to see the attendant when they exit. She also stated it depends on the garage, Whitaker takes a little longer, traffic is a determining factor for Liberty Street. In addition, if there isn't an officer directing traffic it may cause traffic to back up as well.

Alderman Miller asked about the flat rate fees charged. Ms. McDonald replied flat rate fees are done on the weekend during certain times of the year for the Whitaker Street garage, and flat rate fees for other garages on the weekend.

Alderman Miller asked if all garages are open on the weekend. Ms. McDonald replied all garages are open on weekends with the exception of the Liberty Street garage because it wasn't being used as much as the others. Alderman Miller suggested instead of closing the garage on the

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weekend open it and allow free parking. He also stated it was brought to his attention by a business owner that one of the reasons there isn't enough parking for visitors is because of the amount of people that work downtown and park in garages.

Sean Brandon, Management Services Bureau Chief stated one of the sites discussed was Tybee Depot, if something is going to be built at the location it needs to compliment all development that may go out there. The parking fund has capacity through wither its reserves or through the issuance of revenue bonds to build a garage.

Alderman Miller asked if all electronic parking devices accept credit cards. Mr. Brandon replied no, the multi space meters, but the single head meters do not.

Mr. DeNisco stated the barriers have to be removed in order to make many of the recommendations made today work.

Alderman Thomas stated he has received feedback about broken meters and individuals that have received tickets although the meter is broken. He stated if the City is going to continue to accept cash we need to have people in place to make the transition smoother.

Alderman Foster asked will digital messaging be implemented at garages, for example if one garage is full they can tell them which ones have vacancies.

Mr. DeNisco stated that is a longer term goal but it may eventually come into play.

Alderman Durrence asked will some streets be made residential parking only. Mr. DeNisco replied it can become a very complicated effort if the resident has a party or out of town or overnight guest.

Alderman Bell asked is it a good assumption that the City is trying to phase out single head meters. Ms. McDonald replied yes. Mr. Brandon stated a multi space meter cost roughly \$8,000 and one can carry 6 to 12 meters.

Mr. Brandon stated every garage that is built here on out needs to have accommodating shuttle service. Mike Vaquer, Chatham Area Transit stated they are looking for opportunities to expand the shuttle service throughout the Downtown Area.

Alderman Miller asked Mr. DeNisco if Way Finding signage was incorporated in the study. Mr. DeNisco replied the City has the bones of a good program and can be augmented. City Manager Cutter stated last week additional Way Finding Signage was implemented and is ongoing throughout the Downtown area.

Mayor DeLoach thanked Mr. DeNisco for his presentation.

Arena and Cultural Arts Center

Mayor DeLoach stated he wanted to look at the possibility of tying in the development of the Cultural Arts Center with the School Boards decision to build one however, that will not happen as the School Boards plans are too far in process for them to make any changes. The Cultural Arts Center will be built in the original location previously planned.

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Mayor DeLoach stated he believes the Arena is another subject that needs to be held off until the study is complete. City Manager Cutter stated the recommendations from the study should be submitted any day.

City Manager Stephanie Cutter presented the City Manager's Briefing of the agenda items for the Council Meeting of March 3, 2016. The agenda is attached and made a part of the permanent record.

Mayor DeLoach adjourned this meeting.



Dyanne C. Reese, MMC,
Clerk of Council