

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MAY 22, 1998, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 22, 1998.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Eddie DeLoach gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four  
David L. Saussy, District One (Arrived approximately 9:10 a.m.)  
Martin S. Jackel, District Three (Arrived approximately 9:45 a.m.)  
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five  
Ben Price, District Six  
Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

ABSENT: Joe Murray Rivers, District Two

IN ATTENDANCE: Russ Abolt, County Manager  
R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
Barbara B. Wright, Acting Clerk

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**V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

**1. RESOLUTION TO REQUEST SUPPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO SEPARATE THE CGRDC AND CADD A.**

Chairman Hair said, the first item on the agenda is a request for resolution to support —, the current legislative delegation to support the separation of the RDC and the CADD A Boards. You've probably seen a letter to this effect. Basically, both of these boards have already voted to request the Legislature to separate, and they've just asked for a resolution from the City and the County to support that. The City's already given the resolution, so I would ask us to approve a resolution that we'll just simply support both of these boards. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The

motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers and Jackel were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt a resolution requesting the Legislative Delegation to support the separation of the CGRDC and CADDA Boards. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers and Jackel were not present.]

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**VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

None.

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**VII. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. FBI RECOGNITION OF COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM AND ITS OFFICERS.**

Chairman Hair said, next is a special presentation. We have the FBI recognition of our Counter Narcotics Team and its officers.

County Manager Russ Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen. I'll introduce Chief Sprague who will introduce many others who, in effect, went well beyond the call of duty. Chief, please.

Chief Thomas Sprague said, Mr. Chairman —. Chairman Hair said, good morning, Chief. Chief Sprague said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen. In 1994, y'all sanctioned the creation of an inter-agency drug fighting unit that became the Counter Narcotics Team. Since 1996, it's been commanded by Commander Steve Smith. During the last two years, a long-term investigation came to fruition. Commendations are forthcoming from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, emanating from the Director's office. At this time I would like to introduce Special Agent —, Supervisory Special Agent William Kirkconnell, who is the agent in charge of the Savannah office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Agent William Kirkconnell said, thank you Chief. Chairman, Commissioners, I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to be here today. On April 20<sup>th</sup> it was my great pleasure to participate in the presentation of awards issued by FBI Director Louie Free to well-deserving current and former agents of the CNT who provide a critical support to the public corruption investigation known as Broken Oak. By way of background, in November of 1995, a joint investigation was initiated by the FBI and CNT to explore allegations that law enforcement officers in the Savannah/Chatham County area were willing to compromise their positions in exchange for cash. The subsequent investigation determined that the officers were willing to compromise their positions by escorting drug couriers carrying narcotics in and around Savannah, guarding drugs at specific locations, providing information regarding drug intervention activities, selling seized narcotics as well as selling firearms, both stolen and otherwise, to a known convicted felon. This investigation continued and in April of 1996 an FBI group went undercover and investigation was initiated. During this joint investigation approximately 600 audio/video tape conversations were recorded. Audio and video recording devices were placed inside an apartment, inside a warehouse facility and in numerous automobiles utilized by cooperating witnesses and undercover agents. Eleven undercover agents were introduced into this case, three of whom were involved in day-to-day activities, with the remaining undercover agents acting as couriers escorting both fictitious and true cocaine in and out of the Savannah area. A large number of surveillance personnel were required as approximately 45 individual scenarios were conducted wherein police officers provided assistance to couriers. Many of these scenarios occurred over a two or three day period. Long term investigations of a covert nature in a community the size of Savannah are at times difficult; however, prove even more challenging when subjects of the investigation are law enforcement personnel. The success of this investigation was achieved as a result of the joint efforts of many agencies. Absolutely essential was the leadership and investigative support received from agents of the CNT. This joint investigation culminated when on September 10, 1997, in excess of 60 law enforcement personnel with the FBI, CNT, Chatham County, Savannah and Garden City police departments as well as the U. S. Marshal's Service were mobilized in the early morning hours in order to conduct surprise arrests. Each of the 11 officers were taken into custody without incident. Of the five officers arrested —, of the 11 officers arrested, excuse me, five quickly pled guilty and five others were convicted on all counts in subsequent jury trials. I take great pleasure in again congratulating and thanking, on behalf of FBI Director Free, the following current and former agents of the CNT for their service to our community and their dedication to the success of this difficult investigation. And Chairman and Commissioners, if I may, as I call out their names I would like them just to come forward. Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Agent Kirkconnell said, to Chatham County Police Department Chief, Tom Sprague, whose leadership, first as the Commander of CNT when this investigation began until April 1996, when he became the Chatham County Police Chief. Chief

Sprague. To Commander Steven Smith for his leadership and investigative support of this investigation as Commander of CNT following Chief Sprague's departure until the investigation's ultimate conclusion, and to the following current or former CNT investigators, whose day-to-day commitment and involvement in every facet of this investigation was critical to its success. First, Savannah Police Department Captain Everett Ragan [phonetic] who could not be here, Savannah Police Department Lieutenant Harold Ragan [phonetic], Chatham County Police Department Lieutenant Edward Williams, Chatham County Police Department Captain Dave Jenkins, who could not be here, Savannah Police Department Sergeant Butch Ward, Chatham County Police Department Mike Izzo, Chatham County Police Department Officer Scott Reese, and Savannah Police Department Corporal Geraldine Spears.

Agent Kirkconnell said, Chairman, Commissioners, once again I would like to thank you for this opportunity to be here today and to commend these agents for a very —, for a job well done. [Applause.]

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We certainly appreciate the FBI recognizing the cooperation of our local officers. We appreciate the work they did.

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**VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS**

action is contemplated at today's meeting, staff report and file material has not been duplicated in your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (\*).

- 1. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES. Tabled at meeting of April 25, 1997. Further note: Assigned to committee at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 2. BOARD CONSIDERATION ON CHANGING THE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR. Tabled at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 3. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATION TO EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REGARDING NOTIFICATION AS TO PARTICIPATING EMPLOYEES. Tabled at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 4. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS (CHAIRMAN HAIR). Tabled at meeting of October 24, 1997, until budget deliberations.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Chairman Hair said, before I get into Items 5 and 6, I need to ask the attorney a question. Can we discuss both of those at one time or do we have to vote on the licenses separately if we vote today? Attorney Hart said, it would probably be better for purposes of the record to vote on the license separately —. Chairman Hair said, separately. Attorney Hart said, in two separate motions. Chairman Hair said, well, we can discuss them and then take two separate votes? Attorney Hart said, you can discuss them together, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. The first thing we would need, if the Commissioners are desirous, we need to take Items 5 and 6 off the table. Commissioner Price said, I move that we untable Items 5 and 6. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of untabling vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

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- \* **5. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1998 IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW EXCURSION VESSEL "SOUTHERN ELEGANCE." APPLICANT: ERIC M. RAHN, WINNING STREAK, INC., D/B/A SOUTHERN ELEGANCE, LOCATED AT 618 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD, FORMERLY The Lightship Tavern (FOR SALES AT THIS LOCATION). TABLED AT MEETING OF APRIL 24, 1998.**  
**[DISTRICT 4.]**

Commissioner Price moved to untable Items 5 and 6. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Chairman Hair read Items 5 and 6 into the record for joint discussion. Chairman Hair said, I'll open it up for discussion at this time. Any Commissioners want to —.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to, but I think you've got people on both sides that are in the audience and I'd like to hear from them first and then wrap it up. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Our normal policy is to do Commissioners first, but that will be fine. Would —, it doesn't really make any difference. Everybody will have a chance to say whatever they want to say. Let's hear from the petitioner first, that's normally our policy, so is there anyone here —? I know I saw Mr. Rahn here. If y'all would like to come forward, and then we will hear from the audience, those in opposition.

Mr. Clifford Meads said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Mr. Meads said, I'm Clifford Meads. I'm the President of Target Market Management Corporation, and my company has been retained by Greater Atlantic, Inc., to do some marketing for them and get them positioned in the market place in Savannah. My comment is going to be very brief because I think you need to hear from Eric [Rahn] and the owners of the vessel and we need to get some clarification of some issues out there, but I wanted to say that this particular company came here in October of last year. They started off by coming to the Chamber of Commerce and visiting with myself and some of the folks there. We gave them some demographics of the visitation industry here in Savannah, where it's been, where it's going, and obviously it's no secret, tourism is very big in this part of the country, but particularly in Savannah, Georgia. So they quickly became aware of what there is available here and they started their due diligence process and they talked to several different marinas and they went around town and they spoke with some Chatham County Commissioners, as well as some City folks, and began the process of setting up the business, and through that process it brings us to today, and we're at the point where they're applying for a liquor license. We have down here on a board —, Eric [Rahn], if you want to show that, the different agencies that they have dealt with and the different permits that they've applied for and the approval process with which they have gone through. It's been quit extensive. It's not like I've heard some people say that they've kind of slipped into town and quietly did their stuff when I submit to you that when you go through a process like this and you get —, you have to deal with the Corps of Engineers and you have to deal with DNR and you have to deal with the Chatham County process with which you get your business license, it certainly is not a secret as to what you're trying to do, as well as have neighborhood meetings and a public hearing as well. So, I'm going to let Eric [Rahn] kind of go through some things about the ship, the specifics of it, how big it is, how many people it seats, but we think it's important to know that —, where we are at this point, how long ago it started, who we've talked to and where —, what permits are in place that have been approved. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Clifford. Mr. Rahn.

Mr. Eric Rahn said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Mr. Rahn said, Commissioners, again my name is Eric Rahn. I've been involved in the maritime gaming industry for the past 17 years. My company, Greater Atlantic Casinos provides casino concessions to the cruise industry. We presently operate about 20 casinos on cruise ship liners for Costa Cruise Lines, P&O Cruise Lines, Royal Olympic Cruises, Renaissance Cruises, Club Med and Regal Cruise Lines. We are recognized in our industry, both in the casino industry and the cruise industry, as being the leaders and highly regarded in our market place. The shareholders of Greater Atlantic formed Winning Streak, Inc., which is doing business as Southern Elegance Cruises, to enter the one-day cruise market, or what's typically known as cruises to nowhere. It is our intent to operate a first-class operation which will benefit and offer to the citizens and tourists of Chatham County an alternative form of entertainment. I want to make it clear that our company requires passengers to be 21 years of age in order to sail on our vessel. Southern Elegance is a 165-foot period-looking vessel. She's 36 feet in width, she draws 7-foot of water and has a height of 51 feet. Her features are quite unique in that she has the look of a period style river boat, but built on an ocean-going hull. The company has spent a considerable amount of money in upgrading this vessel to ensure her smooth sailing off the coast of Georgia. She has exceptional lifesaving equipment and the most modern navigational equipment.

The interior spaces consist of three floors which combine over 12,000 square feet of interior and public deck space. We have seating capacity for gaming of roughly —, gaming and entertainment of roughly 305 seats onboard the vessel. This is a combination of gaming and lounges. Although the ship is U. S. Coast Guard certified for 500 passengers, I want to make it clear that the vessel itself is required to carry lifesaving equipment for this number of passengers, but it's not our intent to carry this amount of people. We can't physically do that once we outfit the ship with its gaming equipment. We will be carrying only 375 people of which between 45 and 60 of that will be crew and staff on board. So we have a variance of about 305 passengers which we'll be carrying as the maximum load. It is the company's position that we want to offer a quality product in this community. We feel through our years of experience in dealing in the cruise industry that we have expertise in this field and that we have started this process in our due diligence back in October. We've worked through the process, as you can see here, and so far we have been successful in getting those licenses and approvals from all the various agencies. We come before you today to address the issue of obtaining two liquor licenses from Chatham County. The first license is for The Old Lightship Tavern, which has been licensed —, a licensed establishment for serving liquor since 1982. This facility, as confirmed by the Fire Marshal, has a seating capacity for 60 people. We respectfully request that you grant us a favorable response today in regards to issuing this license.

Mr. Eric Rahn said, the second license we're here to seek your approval on today is for the vessel. This license is to serve liquor for the period of time the vessel is in Georgia State waters, in route to, in and out of international waters. Again, we respectfully request that you act favorably in issuing the company appropriate approvals. We feel that we've worked diligently within the framework of the Chatham County, State and Federal ordinances and have been successful in being granted all our licenses. In closing, before you —, we propose a project that we think will be a benefit to this community. We feel we're great business partners. We plan to keep very pro-active within this community. We have the opportunity to hire over 150 full and part time people to work in this company. We estimate an economic impact of over \$8 million by bringing our business to this community, and we look forward to serving Savannah and Chatham County in a pro-active businesslike manner. At this time I'd like to turn the podium to Tiece Ziblut of Hunter, Maclean, Exley and Dunn to speak to the legal issues of the processes we have gone through to this date. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Rahn. Mr. Rahn said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Ms. Tiece Ziblut said, I think the folks that have spoken before me have certainly summarized the issues and I'll be very brief because I suspect you have some questions that we'd like to respond to. I thought maybe one of those —, the key issue that's been a big concern has been the parking requirements and we wanted to address that. We've got a nice display here that our Vanna White will help us with, so, you know, I thought I printed it very large, and I'm not sure anyone can read it, but I'll go through the numbers specifically anyway. We basically went through the Zoning Ordinance with a fine tooth comb to find out some direction on what the requirements would be, and we found that as to the vessel that the ordinance was a little bit vague and it didn't tell us exactly what we needed, but the ordinance does say that where it is vague and where it doesn't supply a precise number or calculations for parking, then it's up to the Zoning Administrator to make that decision based on certain criteria. So with those rules in mind let me walk through it. The parking requirements under the ordinance with regard to Sail Harbor Marina, the marina itself, we have 80 slips at the marina and there'll be 80 slips after the reconfiguration that will allow for the vessel to be there, and the ordinance requires one half of a parking space per slip. That's 40 parking spaces. The ordinance also requires one-half of a space per employee. There's two employees, Mr. and Mrs. Rahn, that run the marina. That's 41 spaces for Sail Harbor Marina itself. Now with regard to the vessel, as Mr. Rahn stated, the vessel itself will carry 305 patrons. We've calculated the number, however, as 375. That includes the employees that will be on board and the crew members, so that's how we came up with that number and that's a very inflated number by our terms. Again, the Zoning Ordinance was not very clear, but we likened this to things like gymnasiums and restaurants that require parking on a one to four basis, and that's one to four based on seating. So we came up with 94 spaces for the vessel, and again this was in conjunction with the Zoning Administrator and his call to the MPC for guidance on how to handle this. Now we haven't —, we originally did not calculate numbers for the restaurant space because it's our contention that the same people that use the marina and the same people that will use the vessel will be the only people that are in the restaurant. There have been some concerns about that, so we've added those numbers in anyway. The restaurant has a capacity, as Mr. Rahn stated, of 60 persons. Again, the Zoning Ordinance requires seating of one to four —, parking for one to four, so that's 15 more spaces. We add the marina and the vessel and the restaurant spaces and come up with 150 parking spaces will be required under the ordinance. Now here's where there's some room for the Zoning Administrator to make his decision. Under our parking plan we came up with 34 designated spaces, and bear in mind what we tried to do was have the least impact on this parcel of land, save as many trees as possible, work with the parking that's there now, reconfigure it to where it looks really nice, do some landscaping, but have as little impact as possible on the area, and one solution that the Parking [sic] Administrator came up with for us —, thank you —, was to utilize valet style parking, and what we have are the designated spaces here [indicating] and this is the water here [indicating], the designated spaces are in pink here, and this is the valet parking area. I don't know if you can see that Commissioner Saussy, but I can turn it. Commissioner Saussy said, I can see it. Ms. Ziblut said, the way that was calculated, the valet parking spaces is in 15,000 square feet. Now we worked with the Zoning Administrator to find out what size you'll count for vehicle to come up with how much square feet you need and he tells us 8 feet by 16 feet is an average amount for valet style. You can pack the cars in a lot closer because you basically only need room for one door to open up. You'll be taking cars out one at a time on a row. So we calculated that out at 128 square feet per car. When you do the math, you come up with 117 cars can park in that valet area. So the valet parking and the designated parking that we've provided comes up with 151 spaces, so we actually beat the requirement by one. And, again, that's including calculating in the parking that would be required for the restaurant, assuming that all the people that came to the restaurant weren't already participating on the vessel or involved with the marina, which again we don't expect.

Ms. Ziblut said, the final point I'd make is part of the consideration under the Zoning Ordinance is to calculate in the parking requires the consideration of how many people will be coming by automobile versus how many people would be coming by common carrier. Now we realize that tourists aren't going to want to necessarily drive all the way out to Wilmington Island and, in fact, many tourists in town aren't going to come by car. They'll come by train, bus, plane, whatever, and stay at a nice hotel in town, and we are working with various tour bus companies in town, taking bids to find out who we'd like to work with, but we plan on operating bus shuttle services around Savannah. So we're hoping that the majority of people will be coming

by bus anyway. And, again, that's a factor the Zoning Administrator is instructed to consider in coming up with the numbers for the parking. Are there any questions about the parking?

Chairman Hair asked, any Commissioners have any questions? Commissioner Murray said, not at the present time, but I will have some questions. Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you. Does that conclude the petitioner's presentation? Commissioner Price said, I have some other related questions for them. Chairman Hair asked, for them? Commissioner Price said, yes. Chairman Hair said, well, go ahead and ask them now. I think it would be appropriate.

Commissioner Price said, Wilmington Island is a highly residential area. I don't know how many other location that you operate out of, Mr. Rahn, where you may not have the close proximity of the residents and the homes that are there. One of my concerns is the fact that you'll be coming back late at night. I want some assurance from you that when you return to dock that the noise level from the boat will be at a point where you won't be waking people up, and can you explain what you have as far as entertainment, as far as music, as far as what —, what are your plans and what are the safeguards in place to make sure that you're not infringing on personal rights or property rights of these individuals who want to be able to sleep at night?

Mr. Rahn said, that's a very good question and we have addressed that in our company policies and we have done this —, have had to address this in the past in other operations. In coming back is our concern, as is yours, that we don't disrupt the tranquility of Wilmington Island. Our entertainment is basically done in two separate areas on the interiors of the ship. Coming back in we would not have any loudspeakers on the exterior of the ship. The type of music that we plan on playing is either piped in music from our internal music system and/or having local entertainers on board playing piano and/or string instruments. Again, as we come in down the Savannah River towards Turner's Creek, it is going to be mandatory that everybody be inside. We're not going to allow people to be out on the deck as we come in. This is for safety and also to prevent the noise level from becoming obsessive, and so this allows our marine crew to get around our decks easier so that we can handle coming into Turner's Creek and disembarking our passengers in a quite and orderly fashion. The other requirement and the reason we tried to go to a valet system is so that we can have the cars prepped and ready for when the people do disembark they can get to their cars and exit in a controlled and orderly fashion. It's also our intent to have the buses there waiting so when they do disembark, they can get right on their bus and we can bring them back to downtown Savannah.

Commissioner Price said, another concern I've heard about is the maneuverability of the ship getting into Sail Harbor. I once had a boat there at that location and I know that if you're not careful, you can end up on a sandbar. Mr. Rahn said, right. Commissioner Price said, I know that from personal experience, but my question is I see where the Corps of Engineers and everybody else as far as the navigation of the Turner's Creek and that area, can you speak on what is the —, your understanding of the depths of the water in that area and the —? Mr. Rahn said, we have sounded the waters. Our captain, who's a U. S. Coast Guard certified captain, and we've also consulted with a lot of local captains in the area, who've used Turner's Creek, who've taken us out on their vessels. We have done soundings at low time. That's Spring mean low tide, and have found that our vessel is capable of traveling in these waters. We wouldn't bring a vessel of this size and this investment into an area that we didn't feel was adequate to maneuver into these waters. Our vessel also has bow thrusters. She's twin-screwed, twin-ruddered. She can turn on her own access. She requires a crew of nine to maneuver her. We have hired Myrick Construction, who is a local contractor, marine contractor, to come and put in our mooring dolphins. We have exceeded the requirements needed to protect our investment and to moor our vessel in a safe and orderly process.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? Anybody else have any questions before we hear from the other side? Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I heard the comment earlier that you have done all y'all's due diligence. I was just curious, when was the first time y'all heard about this taking place? I think you —, how long have you been working on this process? Mr. Rahn said, since October, and in December of this year we had an informal meeting which we invited all the Commissioners to the Hyatt to introduce our company, to introduce myself and our project. Subsequently, we've had meetings with various Commissioners to discuss this project on an on-going basis. Commissioner DeLoach said, I hadn't heard from you, that's the reason I —, maybe I missed for some reason —, well, I didn't get to the December meeting. Maybe that's what it was. I haven't had a call, but I'm sure everybody else did. What I was curious about, on the parking requirement —. Did you get one? I didn't. Commissioner Price said, I heard of the invitation, but I wasn't able to attend. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you get a call? Chairman Hair said, yes, I did. The invitation —, the calls actually came from the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Durham [phonetic] at the Chamber of Commerce was the one that set the meeting up, but she did the local and I think you were there, David [Saussy], I remember you were there when I was there. They did —, I don't think this company actually was responsible for setting it up, I think the Chamber was handling the contacts, and I did —, I was invited. They had a full presentation in a conference room over there at the Hyatt, and —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I just was —, I was just curious about it. It just to me, you know —. Chairman Hair said, well, the Chamber, I know, was handling that not the company.

Commissioner Murray said, well, as a follow-up on that, I got the invitation, too, and was not able to go, but was the location discussed at that meeting? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes, it was. Commissioner Murray said, Sail Harbor was discussed at that meeting? Commissioner Saussy said, no, not Sail Harbor at the time. Commissioner Murray said, I said location. The location is Sail Harbor. That's all we've been talking about since they've been making their presentations. Mr. Rahn said, Wilmington Island was discussed at that. Chairman Hair said, yes, it —, I think they —, at that time they didn't know, and I think they discussed the alternatives, if I recall. It's been five months, but I do think they discussed several alternatives. Commissioner Murray said, well, I think the question most people have is the fact why didn't we know about Sail Harbor sooner, and I think that's probably one of the questions. You say Wilmington Island, you know, you can go just about anywhere on Wilmington Island. Mr. Rahn said, well, we were basically in discussions with the Sheraton people and Sail Harbor was one because of it's location to international water. As we all know, the complexities surrounding the Sheraton transaction and the length of time and the ambiguity of knowing when that transaction was going

to close made that site —, had to be dropped from the list as a alternative to what our business required. Commissioner Murray said, well, it seems like it's a much better than where you are right now and it has closed. I think the main reason is probably because Mr. Foster does not want it there. Mr. Rahn said, I had discussions with Mr. Foster. Commissioner Murray said, I think y'all had some discussions with his son yesterday, but they do not want the boat there from what they told me, and you'd also asked for 300 parking spaces from them, if I'm not mistaken, instead 150 or 151, whatever you have now. Mr. Rahn said, I don't recall that discussion. Commissioner Murray said, and I questioned why you need more parking spaces there with the same vessel that you have where you are now with the same vessel. Mr. Rahn said, well, I don't recall that conversation what you had with Mr. Foster is —. Commissioner Murray said, he's not here to discuss it one way or the other, but that's what he told me directly. Mr. Rahn said, again, we've gone through, you know, the ordinances, we've gone through the zoning people and we feel we've met the requirements.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to follow up on that. The reason I made that comment is a lot of times when folks are planning on doing events or having things in a neighborhood, they sort of try to get the neighborhood involved and get them —, Mr. Foster, a good example yesterday. He's in the process of developing a hotel over there. He had a group meeting, had everybody from Wilmington Island, make sure everybody wanted, you know, to be involved, participate. I think maybe this one went the other way. I think we got all the permits out of the way, for instance, the Corps of Engineers. I suppose if we had about 500 people up in arms and in protest concerning the arrival of this ship into Sail Harbor and you were to go to the Corps of Engineers and approach them about the possibility of mooring there, I think that, really I think that the things would change a little bit if those folks were involved in it at the beginning rather than the end, and what I'm saying there is I think most of this —, I wouldn't say it was under —, there's no —, I'm not questioning whether it was legit and everything was above board and all that. I'm not saying any of that. What I am saying is, when you go in an area and you don't want to be —, you want to get in there and you understand the possibility that the folks that are around there are not interested in you being there, you go towards the, getting all the other things out of the way so that as they come forward and as the people come forward you can say, yes, I got the Corps of Engineers here, I've got Hunter, Maclean handling, yes, I got this and I've got there, and so forth and so on. It makes you legitimate, a little more legitimate each time you get these hurdles out of the way before you, boom, come up here and say I'm bringing a ship in here, it's 135 feet long, I'm going to put about 300 people coming down the road and then, hey, give me a license, I've got a —, I really —. Mr. Rahn said, I'd like to respond to that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Rahn said, I think your comments are not fair. We in January contacted the Citizens for Logical Growth on Wilmington Island. We had discussions with Col. Bourne and his committee. We discussed our project. They didn't feel they had a problem with our project. We had scheduled to attend a few of the meetings, one of which we had to cancel because of a conflict, and didn't feel that it was necessary at that time. They did not ask us to come forward and present our case to them. Commissioner DeLoach said, in other words, they weren't interested in where it was going to be located. Mr. Rahn said, we discussed everything with them. Commissioner DeLoach said, but they weren't interested in where it was located. I mean, today, we're here today and we've got a group of people that are upset that for some reason in January weren't upset. Well, I mean, what is it? Did it take them that long to figure it out? I mean, we've got people that are upset about this thing being in Wilmington Island and where it's going to be located, and you're standing there telling me that, hey, we told them everything and everything was above —, and I'm not questioning whether it was above board or not. That's not the point. The point is, did everybody know exactly where it was going and did everybody in a sense say they're —, we're happy with this and we're looking forward to you being here because if it did what we had then and what we've got now, it's just two different pictures we get in and I've got a, you know, I represent the people who were here, I do not represent the boat that's coming. So I need to make sure that if Frank's [Murray] people at Wilmington Island if they're not happy, we need to represent them. We don't need to represent the boat. And I —, that's my problem there with this whole issue is today you say that you met with them in January and they had no problem with it. Today I have that same group here to protest this. We have a problem here with what really happened, and I've got a feeling what really happened is what I've been saying all along. Nobody really knew what was going to take place until we uncovered the present, and when we did we got a pig in a poke. We're not happy about that here in Chatham County. Based on the —, I mean, based on what the people that are going to be most —, you know, the ones that are going to be impacted the most, Frank's [Murray] district, it doesn't make any sense. If you've got to have the thing, why not move it out away from all the citizens, somewhere else away. That would be my question on that.

Ms. Ziblut said, if I could respond. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Ms. Ziblut said, first, as to the organization, quite frankly, we were taken a little bit by surprise that things seemed to be going smoothly. The concerns that the people talked about were not nearly what they are today. We have been a little bit surprised in this whole process. As to the timing matters, there have been a lot of concerns expressed and, as Mr. Rahn addressed earlier, that, you know, we've been sneaking into town, and that is not true. In fact, we pressed you. You can ask anyone in the Inspections Department, we pressed for them to act very quickly on this so we could come to this body much sooner than we originally did, and they said, whoa, we've got a lot of questions to ask you, we've got to go through these issues and these issues, and we did that, but we did that at the same time that we were pursuing the Corps of Engineers' approval and that's one thing, and I can tell you because I'm the one that had to handle both and I have not spent a lot of time with my ten-month-old daughter as a product —, as a result, so I can tell you that we've concurrently being pursued and we weren't trying to handle anything differently. We've been above aboard with all those —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not questioning that issue. My point is that I have a group of citizens that this gentleman sits there and says he met with them and, you know, everybody's in love, we're all happy here, and we're going to open up and we're going to live —, and then he said, okay —. Ms. Ziblut said, we want to overstate the matter. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, well, let's overstate it because, I mean, you're saying, hey, you've done everything and yet I've got the same group of citizens that you say didn't have a problem with it here to protest the issue. So, we represent them, we don't represent you. If you be in here, if you come here, then it might be a different story, but as of today, we have to represent them, and they're not happy.

Chairman Hair said, I have a question of Mr. Anderson. Where is Mr. Anderson? And then I —. Greg [Anderson], would you come to the podium please? I think we need to remember what we're here for today. We're here today either to deny or approve a liquor license. We're not here to debate gambling, whether gambling's legal or not legal. We're here to approve or disapprove liquor licenses, and I think it's important that we remember that. The second thing I want to ask you is, has this company worked with you in the process of finding out how they could meet the ordinances? Mr. Gregori Anderson said, yes

they have. They've worked with my staff over the, I guess, two or three months going through this process, identifying things such as capacity of the boat, how the boat's going to be brought in, how the operation is going to be run. Those kinds of things. So it has been a [phonetic] process. Chairman Hair said, okay, my final question to you is, do they meet the Chatham County ordinance for a liquor license? Mr. Anderson said, yes, they do. Chairman Hair asked, in both cases? Mr. Anderson said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, Jon [Hart], if a petitioner meets the legal requirements for a liquor license, can we as a Commission, without putting the County in jeopardy legally, deny the liquor license? County Attorney Hart said, no sir, you cannot. Chairman Hair said, we cannot. I think it's very important that we remember those two answers as we debate this. And thank you, Mr. Anderson. We will now hear from the other side, those people opposing this. And again I would as the —, those in opposition if you would address the liquor license issue. I think it's important to remember that. And if you would also —, Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, before you start. Jon [Hart], just a follow-up question. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, our actions cannot be capricious and arbitrary. County Attorney Hart said, that's correct. We have to apply the same standard to everything. Commissioner Odell said, simply because they've touched most of the bases, that in and of itself doesn't mandate our acting a particular way. County Attorney Hart said, you have the discretion to vote one way or the other, but if they meet and comply with the ordinance, they certainly could challenge that decision. Commissioner Odell said, oh, absolutely. Everything can be challenged, but I don't want to leave the missive question that we have no alternative. If that is the case, then our vote's not necessary, then we're wasting time. County Attorney Hart said, you have to review the liquor license ordinance and see that they comply with that and if they do, then you should make your decision in accordance with the ordinance. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely, and our conscience.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then we'll get to you in just a second.

Commissioner Murray said, with all due respect, I don't think anybody here has expressed their feelings on gambling. That hasn't been brought up to begin with, so I don't think that's part of the discussion. The other thing is that questions were asked, there were things told to us about the vessel, there were things told to us about the facilities and everything else, which had nothing to do with the liquor license, and I think that we're getting a little off track possibly, but if it was allowed from one group, then I think the other group should have the opportunity to discuss their concerns too. Chairman Hair said, we'll allow anybody to express any opposition they would like to express.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, does parking have anything to do with liquor licenses? Chairman Hair said, it could, it could. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I mean, a ship could have something to do with a liquor license, I know that. My point is, we did —, I mean, the first thing they came up with was parking and I don't know what that had to do with liquor license. Chairman Hair said, I think they were responding —. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, to complaints, Commissioner DeLoach. That was the complaint the citizens had in this response. Okay, sir, would you state your name for the record.

Mr. Joe Gannam [phonetic] said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my name is Joe Gannam. I'm here on behalf of the Wilmington Island Park and Homeowner's Association. I'm joined at the podium by Mr. Chuck Jones, President of the Association. I'd like to place the following statement in the record for your consideration. The homeowner's association is an association of membership consisting of owners of 809 homes located in various phases of Wilmington Park Subdivision. It lies adjacent to the Sheraton Golf Course and in close proximity to Sail Harbor and Wilmington Island Road. These 1,600 some-odd voters are directly affected by the question you're considering today. The Board of Directors, representing the homeowners, has voted unanimously to oppose the granting of liquor licenses to either The Lightship Tavern or the gambling vote. Several representatives of the Wilmington Park Homeowner's Association were present at the town meeting held Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at Marsh Point School by Commissioner Murray. Residents of Wilmington Island are deeply concerned about having this gambling and drinking ship docked at Sail Harbor for the following reasons? The numbers given at the meeting Monday evening by the gambling boat people did not add up. The Coast Guard license capacity of this boat is 500 passengers. The applicants have asked to use a figure closer to 375 if you include the staff members that would be required to operate this boat. They estimate this to be average number of patrons expected. It does not change the fact their authorization is for 500 passengers. Are they willing to represent to you today that they will voluntarily limit the number of people that will be using this boat? The County is being asked to issue two separate alcohol beverage licenses, one for a 500-person capacity boat and one for The Lightship Tavern. Now we have an issue here, the Fire Marshal says the building at The Lightship Tavern can hold 60 people, but as I understand it, there's some adjoining decks that you could hold up to 150 people, served at this location. So we're not talking about just the building, we're talking about the surrounding decks and facilities available for service of alcoholic beverages to individuals. This Lightship Tavern will be open to the public and undoubtedly will attract former patrons and members of the public who have no connections to the gambling boat at all. The County was asked to use the 375 figure, again including the staff members on the boat and disregard the patrons at the lounge and the restaurant because "they would be the same people." Instead, of a potential of 650 people who may be served at one time by the two alcohol beverage licenses, County staff has apparently only used 250 people as the number of people needing to park at any one time. You add in 75 staff persons needed to service these people at any one time, parking could be required for up to 735 people, which does not include the Sail Harbor Marina patrons. There are at least 100 boats docked at the marina for owners and their guests to utilize at all hours of the day. One issue that I'd like to also bring to the attention of the Commission, the Lightship, of course, as you know, was formerly operated as a facility that served alcohol. We're uncertain at this point if that alcohol license is still in place or whether it's been revoked or suspended. We would —, or allowed to lapse. We would question at this point if you're authorized to grant two alcohol licenses to the same location, that being the Lightship Lounge. The County has allowed a total of 138 parking spaces, 38 of which would allow —, which are already being used by marina patrons. By having 100 spaces designated for valet parking where the cars are jammed end to end and side to side, all this in an area with a notoriously dangerous curve on a two-lane road in a predominantly residential area. The fact is there is no parking capacity for the amount of business you are considering licensing on this site. It calls into question the legality of issuance of business licenses, but we're not here to argue that today. Because of the increased alcohol license capacity, the issue of alcohol related traffic accidents was raised at the town meeting. The attorney for the gambling and drinking boat made it clear the business carries ample liability insurance and

that their staff is even trained to recognize someone who's had too much to drink. By this statement they acknowledge that they expect alcohol related problems to occur. So why should these local residents be considered prudes or narrow-minded for also expecting such incidents and wanting to protect their families, friends and neighbors from preventable tragedies. Do not forget, the hotel next door is apparently going to be renovated for some use, which will also generate large amounts of traffic in exactly the same small area. Where are the excess automobiles going to park when the extremely small Sail Harbor lot is full? I'll tell you where. They're going to park on the side of the roadway on that dangerous curve that you're all familiar with right there at the Sheraton. They'll probably be on the highway as well. This will create such a mess. You have a moral obligation to protect the residents of Chatham County. You have a legal obligation to deny these licenses. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Anybody have any questions for Mr. Gannam? Would you like to make a statement, sir? Okay. Anybody else? Mr. Pierce, I'll recognize you. Come on forward please.

Mr. John Saxon [Piccolo] Pierce said, County Commissioners, the federal government say [inaudible]. They don't have no license. If you approve the liquor license, it's an approval for the gambling boat because in Atlanta, Chicago, all have the same thing. A gambling boat, I got a letter right here from Washington, DC, [inaudible]. The people that put y'all in, you have to abide by the government rule. That's not my rule. The government says [inaudible]. You go to Washington [inaudible], you go to Chicago, you go anywhere. I've been to Atlanta, Washington, DC, they have Chicago and anything like —, but just like I say, if you abide by the —, if you count the liquor license, if you vote for the liquor license, it's a vote for government. So, that ain't got nothing to do with counting your vote. That's the law now. That's the law you're going to cause in Washington, DC, which is the same thing. Thank you, Chairman, and I hope you approve it by let your own conscience. Don't let anybody fool you, let your own conscience [inaudible], you've got to abide, that's why we put you in here, to abide by the government rule. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pierce. Who would like to be next? Col. Bourne and then —, Col. Bourne had raised his hand earlier. Chairman Hair said, please state your —, we know who you are, Colonel, but please state your name for your record.

Col. Bourne said, my name is Frank L. Bourne, Jr., I live on Whitemarsh Island. I'm the former president and now a member of the Executive Board of the Islands Citizens for Logical Growth. To correct some statements that were made by Mr. Rahn, I was contacted in January by a member of the Chamber of Commerce concerning a group or organization that wanted to locate a facility on Wilmington Island. They wanted to meet with the ICLG and present their proposal. They wanted to meet in secret. It was requested that I not reveal this to anybody. I certainly revealed it to members of my —. Chairman Hair asked, Col. Bourne, did they ask you to meet in secret. Was that the wording they used? Col. Bourne said, they asked that I keep this information secret until we met. Chairman Hair asked, they asked you to keep it secret? Col. Bourne said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you. Col. Bourne said, I called my Executive Board. We determined that we could meet at a certain date. We notified the person concerned. They subsequently canceled that. They called again. I told them that we had a new president and to contact Ms. Jean Valentine, who is the president, and she would set it up. She set up the meeting. Again, it was canceled. They called again and set up another meeting. Again, it was canceled. The reason we had not had a meeting with them was because they couldn't meet at the times that the meeting was scheduled. The situation of a liquor license, I think, it would be probably better addressed by Marianne Heimes. I'd like for Ms. Heimes [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, well, I'd already recognized Mr. Demere and then come forward. Would you —? Col. Bourne said, Mr. Demere says we can continue. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Okay, Ms. Heimes. Col. Bourne said, since you want us to strictly talk about the liquor license, I had some other items I'd like to discuss, but I request at this time to at least being put on the agenda please for the next meeting. You were given a map of the Wilmington Island road at the last week at the last —, two weeks ago, and this is what I want to talk about. The safety issues along Wilmington Island Road at a special session or at the meeting at the next —, if you will put it on the agenda. Chairman Hair said, we'd be happy, if you'd let us know, Frank [Murray] or myself know. Commissioner Murray said, the County Engineer has all that information. Col. Bourne said, but I would like to be [inaudible] —. Chairman Hair said, at some point when you're ready, you just let us know. Ms. Heimes.

Ms. Heimes said, my name is Marianne Heimes. I'm also on the Executive Board of the Islands Citizens for Logical Growth. I'm also on the Board of Directors for Wilmington Park Homes Association. Yesterday residents of Wilmington Island and many of you Commissioners met at the Sheraton. I think you got a sense of a feeling of how the residents felt about this wonderful place possibly opening again and how enthusiastic the crowd was. As a matter of fact, how huge the crowd was, and that's very unusual out there. I wanted you to know that, and we appreciate the Fosters. They've been very kind to talk to the community, come to us and ask for our input. As far as the parking, I think there a lot of questions as to the numbers and I suppose we could debate this forever. Day before yesterday, and I will go to your parking lot at Ambucs Field, which since the aquatic facility and the soccer field have been put in place without sufficient parking, it has become a nightmare. I personally have a granddaughter who played softball at Ambucs Field. I've had sons play there. The parking has always been a problem there and it does relate to the parking. Chairman Hair said, okay. Ms. Heimes said, because a child was hit by a car there night before last, and Mr. Golden is aware of this. I'm not saying it was not the child's fault, but it was the fault because there was not sufficient parking for the mother to get into the parking lot. This is what we're talking about. We do not feel that this parking is sufficient out there and if people were to park on the road I think it will be a problem. The other thing, the gambling boat people have said they're talking with tour companies. Now at the meeting that Mr. Murray called, they also said they were talking with companies. We citizens feel that if they're to be granted a liquor license, we need to know a few things. Do they have a tour company and what is the tour company that is going to come out with buses to preclude drunk driving on our streets? Secondly, they have talked about supplemental parking on the Island. We want to know where that is going to be. We think that as citizens, taxpaying citizens as a matter of fact, who have lived out there, many of us, a long time and quietly paid our taxes and quietly enjoyed our way of life, we feel its intrusion is something that the Commissioners need to truly think about because you were charged with protecting the safety and the welfare, as Mr. Bourne said. In my understanding, that's what we elected you all to do, and it's also my understanding that the Sheraton did turn them down as far as putting the boat there. There is another facility on the Island that would be willing to talk with them about this. I think there's more study that needs to be done and more honesty and I think the dredging problem and the tide

level is another problem there, but that does not concern this group today. I would respectfully ask that either you deny, or if you feel you cannot deny, that you delay until we have answers to the questions that, as citizens, we feel we have the right to know. Thank you, and in closing I'd just like to say thank you to all those who came out for Mr. Murray's tour last week.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Heimes. Anybody have any questions from Col. Bourne? Thank you. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Demere.

Mr. Robert Demere said, ladies and gentlemen, [inaudible]. I don't know where to start or to finish, but I would like to say that I've lived down on Whitemarsh Island for over half my life and speak now for Whitemarsh and Wilmington Island, I think the majority of people, if not all of them, who move down there, one good reason was to move there away from the city life, the hubbub of the city and all and get out so you have a little more land maybe and certainly more freedom and more quiet and peace and without any distractions. And now we're talking about a gambling boat, and if that doesn't cause a distraction, I don't know what else could be much worse than that. We've always prided ourselves down on the Island, you know, having good clean living, so to speak, and everybody pitch in together to do things, and I just think if we really got to give this thing a serious look, personally I know it must be my fault, I guess, but I never heard about this boat coming in here until Frank [Murray] called me, I think it was, just before the last meeting, two weeks ago and said that they had an open meeting down on the Island, I forget exactly, 200 or 300 people were there, and practically all, if not all, were definitely opposed to this. Well, to me, that's where this ought to come. All of us down there, we're all taxpayers to the County, and I think that we ought to have our ideas open up and explain ourselves because we don't want this things, and I'm going to bet anything in the world that definitely a majority of the people who live down on the Island don't want a gambling boat there, and particularly don't want it —, we don't want in Turner's Creek. We live right across the Creek from there, and I can tell you they're going to have a hard time getting in and out there unless they're going to dredge their own channel. I've seen shrimp boats, which I think are only about five feet, try to get through there at low water and they get stuck, only five feet, and I've asked people saying they're going across the Creek and about half way between the dock of Sail Harbor and the [inaudible] dock, and there's just no water from marsh to marsh any more than about four feet in dead low water, and I've been —, when it's low water and when there are spring tides and maybe a little westerly wind, and [inaudible] two things that are across from us when it looks like good deep water, and there's a big sandbar that sits up about a foot high out of the water. [Inaudible], but I just think we've just got to —, as far as liquor license, I can't say whether we should or shouldn't. I just think it's awful to encourage these people to come down there without a hearing, a formal hearing, in front of the people who live down there, and I just wish y'all could reconsider and do something to hold off until we could have a meeting of everybody down there. I think they would all appreciate it because anybody I've talked to are definitely opposed to this thing. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Demere. Anybody have any questions for Mr. Demere? Commissioner Thomas said, I've got —. Chairman Hair said, go ahead and make your comments and then I'll recognize you mam, just as soon as—.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just wanted to ask a question because it concerns me greatly. I would like for someone in opposition to answer this question for me, and if I'm wrong, please correct me. Maybe I'm hearing something differently. The liquor and wine license that's been applied for, do you not have any other businesses in that area that has these licenses already? Chairman Hair asked, would anybody like to —? Commissioner Thomas asked, are you opposed to those people now have them in that vicinity or you do not have any businesses in that particular area that now has a license? Chairman Hair said, we'll have the president address that, Commissioner Thomas. Mr. Jones said, I'm Chuck Jones, President of Wilmington Park Homeowner's Association. Yes, since 1982 there's been a license at The Lightship Tavern. Please understand that we are not anti-business, we're not against Dick Long, the owner of Sail Harbor, being able to do, conduct business on his property. The actual people involved have been nice on a personal basis and have answered questions and done their very best to address these concerns. We are looking at a capacity of 60 people by the Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal allows 60-person capacity in The Lightship Tavern. There's been an alcohol beverage license for that one space. Now Sail Harbor —, I mean, Lightship Tavern also put an outside bar with decks and seating to increase their ability to deliver alcoholic beverages to the public to 150 people seating capacity when you consider the inside and the outside. An alcoholic beverage license does not a capacity attached to it. The only capacity is through the Fire Marshal for the building. Now they have set up an outside bar. It's in existence, Commissioner Hair —, Commissioner Murray, Chairman Hair, y'all were —, Commissioner Thomas, you were there. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Mr. Jones said, you saw that outside bar that was sitting there. It's a Tiki bar type of thing. That's set up, so when you talk about a 60-person capacity license, we're talking about the capacity to deliver alcohol to 150 people through that alcoholic beverage license. Now you're adding in a boat that has a 500-person Coast Guard license capacity. We understand that it is the boat's contention the boat has been refitted and only hold 305 people for gaming and lounges, and I don't want to get into a word game and play games with anybody. Our concern is 500-person capacity boat, 150-person ability to serve through the second liquor license, 650 people where up until now there has only been one alcoholic beverage license and the parking was only for that one alcoholic beverage license and your capacity was not —, we've got a terribly increased capacity for alcoholic beverage service here. That falls right into the safety and traffic concerns that we're addressing, and parking is just a way that we're trying to address —, it is also very much involved in the safety issue. We're not anti-business and we're not trying to play word games. Yes, there's been an alcoholic beverage license there since 1982. Clifford Meads ran the Sheraton down there, alcoholic beverage licenses. How many on that property, Clifford? [Inaudible.] No, how many licenses? You've got four alcoholic beverage licenses on an adjacent property. We're not trying to play games about this. We've just got a sincere concern for the safety and traffic issues. You've got a lot of increased capacity on a very small piece of property. You don't have room on the property to increase the capacity. The way you're doing it is by bringing a boat in. That's a lot of increased capacity. Does that answer your question? Commissioner Thomas said, it does. I am familiar with that type of operation because I'm an independent meetings planner, so I'm very familiar with those types of situations around the country. I would like to ask the gentleman with Winning Streak, are you familiar with the operation in Joliet, Illinois, the one in St. Louis, Missouri, they have the facility such like —, boat like what you're talking about? Mr. Rahn said, I'm familiar with a similar type vessel [inaudible]. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, because the one in Joliet is similar to the one here in Savannah and that's why I'm asking the question. They almost have the same makeup. As a matter of fact, the boat comes in —, say, for instance, like Rousakis Plaza, and they have the bussing of the people into this facility and also they only allow so many spaces, like what you're

talking about. I was just trying to get a connection whether you're familiar with that operation or not. Mr. Rahn said, no, but thank you for bringing my attention to that. I will study that one. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, so my visit the other day on Wilmington Island sort of like opened my eyes a little bit more as to what the difference of opinion that's being expressed between the pros and the cons, so it gives me a different perspective on what we're talking about today, but the main issue right now is the licenses, and that's what we should be addressing is the license. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Thomas. Would anybody else like to speak in opposition? Would you come forward please.

Ms. Jean Valentine said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Ms. Valentine said, I'm Jean Valentine, Wilmington Island. I'm President of the Islands Citizens for Logical Growth. I was contacted by the Chamber of Commerce on March 18<sup>th</sup> and said we would like to meet with you. I said, great. I set up three different meetings, all of which they were out of town and unable to attend, so that's my schedule. The other point that I would like to make does tend toward the liquor problem, or we hope no problem, is that we have Summer Breeze, an extended care, going up, two churches, a fire station, the library, and May Howard School. May Howard School parking both in the morning and between 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon is horrendous. I go around so I don't have to go through this because it is very dangerous with the children running across to their parents and, you know, everybody knows this and we all try to be careful. So that's one of my questions is, when you're going out in the morning, when will you be coming back because we really have to be concerned about traffic along there. I know you don't want an accident and we sure don't, and that's one of my major concerns. Again, that has not been addressed. The other point is, they're going to have valet parking. My question is, if they have to —, they're parking off site because there's an overload, how does the valet get from site to where the automobiles are? I have visions of somebody at one o'clock in the morning jogging down the street to wherever to get the cars to come back. So, I mean, there's quite a few things, and I really wish you would think about all of this. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Valentine. Anybody else would like to speak in opposition? Yes, come forward please. We'll also give the petitioner any —, if they want to come back up at any point in time, you're certainly welcome to do that.

Ms. Carol Benefield said, my name is Carol Benefield. I live out on Wilmington Island and I simply want to say the bottom line of all this is the people of Wilmington Island do not want a gambling ship in our community, and that I hope that each and every one of you as County Commissioners will listen to the wishes of the people of that community and vote against this.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Again, I would remind you, however, this is the liquor license that is for vote today, not a gambling ship vote. Anybody else would like to come forward? Yes, sir. Mr. Richard Long said, do I have to speak in opposition? Chairman Hair said, you can speak any way you want to, you don't have to speak in opposition. You can speak for it if you would like.

Mr. Long said, my name is Richard Long and I own Sail Harbor Marina, and I'd just like to say two things at the very outset. No one could be happier than I am that the Wilmington Inn is going to reopen and the Wilmington Inn and Country Club is going to reopen. It's been —, it's just wonderful. And no one has more respect for Mr. Demere than I do, but I —, I can't believe what I keep hearing here in all these meetings. First of all, we don't have 300 or 400 people opposed to it. We've had maybe 30 or 40 at the most at any of these meetings, and they're at every meeting that's ever been on any business judgment on Wilmington Island. I sat yesterday with a crowd of about 400 people welcoming the reopening of the Sheraton. Nobody questioned the fact, and I'm glad they didn't, that they're going to have a 400 capacity new banquet hall at the golf course. Okay? That's going to enter onto Wilmington Island Road. Nobody questioned the fact they're going to build probably two or so hundred additional condominiums that are going to open onto Wilmington Island Road. This gambling boat, if we want to call it a gambling boat, it's an excursion boat, okay, is going to load people at the marina and they're going to go out into the ocean and they're going to come back. Most serious gamblers don't drink a lot. Probably not nearly as much as some of my Georgia patrons that used to attend the Lightship, a few of which I recognize today right here, who drove back down Wilmington Island Road. Commissioner Price said, we know who you're talking about. Mr. Long said, well, Ben [Price], I don't want to say you have to [inaudible]. We have resolved the parking issue and we resolved it with valet parking. That is how we were asked to resolve it. We're not going to have people parking on Wilmington Island Road. Even in the days of the Lightship and Cliff's [Mead] Sunset thing when there were 3,500 people at the Sheraton at night and probably 300 or 400 over at Sail Harbor and we were concerned about it, we didn't park out on Wilmington Island Road. They found places to park and they resolved it, and I'm sorry, but I really keep hearing all these false statements are going on and I just think they need to be corrected. We do not want —, we're not going to have the mafia out there, okay. This is a very legitimate business that has applied for some legitimate licenses. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Long.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Earls. Mr. Earls said, my name is Ken Earls. I have one question to ask you. If I understand it correctly, this is a license request for the ship. It is only for operation within the three-mile limit of the shore, correct? Commissioner Murray said, no. Chairman Hair asked, you're talking about the vessel? There's two licenses here. Mr. Earls said, I'm talking for the ship, for the vessel. Commissioner Murray said, that liquor license is so they can serve the alcoholic beverages while tied up at dock and before they get to the three-mile limit. Mr. Earls said, that's what I thought it alluded to. Chairman Hair said, they don't need it after the three-mile limit. Mr. Earls said, so if they were to say, okay, we won't serve alcohol within the three-mile limit, you all wouldn't have anything to say about this ship, correct, since all permits have been passed? Commissioner Price said, correct. Mr. Earls said, okay, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Earls. Anybody else? Okay, it's —. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to make a comment. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, unfortunately I missed some of this. Chairman Hair asked, does that mean we're going to answer these questions again? Commissioner Jackel said, well, one or two —, one or two anyhow. Chairman Hair said, I was afraid of that. Commissioner Jackel said, of course, this is —, what we're dealing here is with the granting of a liquor licenses, and to me if they meet the requirements, and after taking an oath that I would uphold the laws of the State of Georgia, I think if

they meet the requirements, I should vote for it, and I think that's the question: do they meet the requirements. Before I get into the requirements, I'd just like to say I'm very disappointed in our Metropolitan Planning Commission. A thing like this comes up, I don't see where they've had any impact, any planning, any foresight, anything was done to warn us that this was coming or to have proper regulations in place so that we could adequately deal with this or any future growth, and they need to do something so future growth is more orderly, handled. One of the things that worries me when I look this is it says, one space for four people for parking. I don't know the last time I saw four people in a car or I've been with four people in a car. If that's part of our current regulations, and I'm told it is, I think that needs to be seriously looked at in the future. There's nothing that we can do at this time, but that's just an unreal statistic. I will say, on the other hand, as Mr. Meads pointed out to me, they're not being given any credit for if they shuttle people over, and I think our regulations ought to deal with the possibility of when people are shuttled to a location that the parking requirements may need to take that into consideration. So as I sit here I see that our regulations are not what they ought to be and I place the blame on the Metropolitan Planning Commission. In addition, when you look at the parking spaces for employees, it's a half space per employee. We're at a location where no one walks to work or drives a bike to work or whatever, I mean, again, that's not a real figure. That's a ridiculous figure. Why do we have that figure? Well, I didn't ever vote for that and I had no one to come up with a plan to say that we need to change that, but I think it's time that we do that and get a realistic figure. All right now, for Sail Harbor Marina the information I've been given is that they have two employees and it's a half space per employee, so that equals one parking space. However, when we talk about the Southern Elegance, we say 60 employees, but we say one space for four people. I need an explanation on why those two figures are different. If it's a half space per employee in one place, it seems like it should be a half space in the other and not a fourth of a space. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel asked, can any of the staff answer that question or has that already been answered? Chairman Hair said, we'll be glad —, no, we'll be glad —, well, the answer to that, do they meet the legal requirements, that has been answered and the answer to that was yes, by Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Jackel said, if they put in the wrong statistics, then it may not have met the requirements. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'll be glad —, Mr. Anderson, if you would like to —, but, again, I would ask, Commissioner Jackel, please keep your comment of this thing about Metropolitan Planning Commission and the space things, let's keep it on this particular vote, which is the liquor license for this. If you disagree with how Metropolitan Planning Commission or how the ordinance is written, we can address that later, but please try to keep your comments directly to the liquor license.

Commissioner Murray said, it does have something to do with the license. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Jackel asked, okay, why do we have, when we figure the spaces for Sail Harbor Marina, a half space per employee, and yet when we talk about the Southern Elegance, we talk about a quarter of a space per employee. What's the difference. Mr. Anderson said, the current regulations do identify the Sail Harbor Marina as a restaurant and as a bar, and in the current ordinance it does not have a specific reference to excursion vessels, so in our evaluation of actually what the business intent was and what they were trying to accomplish there, we used the one to four as the closest criteria that's currently in the ordinance that relates to what the excursion boat was actually planning to do at that location. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Mr. Anderson said, if that answers your question. Commissioner Jackel said, no, because the one for four is used for the patrons. I'm saying isn't there another figure that's used for employees because that was what was used at the marina, a half space per employee. Mr. Anderson said, but the marina, again, the classification of the marina —. Commissioner Jackel said, is different than a restaurant. Mr. Anderson said, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, all right so for a restaurant it's one for four, whether it's employees or the patrons. Mr. Anderson said, that's correct, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. So then, if my figures are right, we're talking about now a possible 60 people for the Lighthouse [sic] restaurant. Mr. Anderson said, for the Lightship, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so that would be 15 spaces. Mr. Anderson said, correct. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, 41 for the marina including its employees. All right, if we use the figure of 315 patrons and 60 employees, it's 375. That would be 94. All right, if we total all those up, we'd have 150 spaces and the total spaces provided are 151. So we're saying they're one under the limit, is that what we're saying? Commissioner Price said, just take that up to him and let him look at it. He missed that presentation.

Chairman Hair said, we've already been over all this, Commissioner Jackel. We've already gone over this one time. Commissioner Odell said, he's leading up to a question. Commissioner Murray said, I think he has the right to ask the questions. Commissioner Price said, I'm not trying to keep him from asking questions. Commissioner Jackel said, total spaces required is 150 and you're supplying 151? Ms. Ziblut said, we're one over. Commissioner Jackel said, you're one over. Ms. Ziblut said, actually, sir, if you'd like to look at the off-street parking requirement, I'd be glad to bring them up to you [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, that sounds great. Okay, all right. So they're one over now? Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? Do you have any other questions? Commissioner Jackel said, no, I don't have anything further. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach has one. Mr. Anderson, Commissioner DeLoach has a question for you. Commissioner DeLoach said, you say the number up there was the —, running through it, took care of the patrons and the employees on the [inaudible], the number on the employees on the floats. The number on the —, the number for the capacity of the restaurant was 60. Mr. Anderson said, correct. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what's the number of employees that's got to serve those people at the restaurant? Mr. Anderson said, well, the total occupancy load of 60 —. Commissioner DeLoach said, includes everybody. Mr. Anderson said, includes everybody in the total. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is the occupancy as far as the restaurant is concerned? Mr. Anderson said, the —, you're talking about the Sail Harbor Restaurant? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Mr. Anderson said, the total building capacity, when we determine capacity based on the Building Code, we determine capacity of the structure itself. So that's 60 people represents the total capacity of the structure itself. That includes patrons, it includes service staff, it includes employees, based on the Building Code. Commissioner DeLoach said, so it's a total of 60. Mr. Anderson said, correct. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's fine.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Price has a —, Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Price said, don't go yet. Mr. Anderson said, okay, good. Commissioner Price said, the question I have is they had to have applied for a business license at this point. Mr. Anderson said, correct. Commissioner Price asked, when did they do that? When did we have a chance to look at that? Mr. Anderson said, well, actually you didn't have a chance to look at it. Current regulations do not require just a regular business activity occupational certificate to come before this body. Only liquor licenses. Commissioner Price said, okay. Mr. Anderson said, I believe they applied for —, I'm going strictly by memory

now, I don't know the exact date, maybe two or three months ago. This whole process included not only the alcoholic beverage license, but also the actual business license, the actual tax certificate that they had to operate the business themselves. They came to us and dealt with my staff with these things in totality. Now the current regulations require us to go through and evaluate things such as parking, such as zoning, police department approval, those types of things when we evaluate the business occupational tax certificate. The current regulations require once those things are met, then the certificate is issued. That has already been issued. The current regulations do require, as part of the process, for them to come before this body as part of the process for them to come before this body to receive approval for the alcoholic beverage license prior to staff issuing that license. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Chairman Hair asked, is that —, any other questions of Mr. Anderson? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, how can y'all approve the business license when, in fact, the MPC to my knowledge is still split on whether the property would have to be paved or unpaved. A lot of things have not been taken into considerations, yet. Mr. Anderson said, well, certainly the —. Commissioner Murray said, as a matter of fact, from what Commissioner Jackel just showed me, they're not —, it's going to make a big difference, business instead of a half space per employee from the Marina, to one space per employee and that [inaudible] that he's holding. How did you come up with a half a space per employee? Mr. Anderson said, well, I didn't say a half a space. I think that was mentioned by one of the Board members, but the process does not require MPC approval for this particular type of usage. However, we did talk with MPC staff in terms of determining the classification type of the gambling vessel just to get a consistency determining that we used the same classification, the one to four parking ratio that we've used on other similar type of vessels throughout Chatham County. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'm not arguing the point on the four people per automobile. If it was figured for other people, then certainly we have to figure it for this one. We can't change it right in midstream. Mr. Anderson said, sure. Commissioner Murray said, and that was not my point. Mr. Anderson said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, the —, I guess where I'm having a hard time with the parking is the fact that the firm is saying they will never have more than 375 people on the vessel. The vessel is certified for 500 people. Are we taking the figures that they have given us and that's what we're using on this or are you taking the certification of that boat and what they say they can put on it, and who's to say that once this is all approved and everything's in business and they have more people coming out than they expect, that they can't increase it or accommodate more people on the boat and they approve to put more people on, yet they don't have the parking spaces? There's some questions there that I don't think have been answered and I think if you've got the square footage in a building when you're doing it, use the total square footage regardless of what they do in that building when you think of parking spaces. Is that right? Mr. Anderson said, that's correct as far as —. Commissioner Murray asked, well, why aren't we using the total capacity that the Coast Guard said the boat will have? Why did we use a smaller capacity on that and yet you use square footage in a building, use the total square footage. I might have a building that I'm only using a third of the space, but the parking facility has to be for the total square footage in that facility. Mr. Anderson said, certainly from the building —, from the vessel's standpoint, when they came and talked to our staff one of the questions, and a question we normally ask during the process, is what is the capacity of the boat. We —, our current codes that we have in Chatham County do not regulate the occupancy load of boats. There is no square footage that we can go to a code and say use this in determining the occupancy load of a boat. Certainly, we asked them and we go by what they give us. Certainly, in any other occupancy if we calculate an occupancy load and the particular owner exceeds that occupancy load, then of course they're in violation for whatever licenses or permits they've been issued from our department based on the load that they submitted to us, and certainly I'm not going to stand here and try to tell you that by us accepting that load we're guaranteeing that they'll never go over 375. That's not what staff is here to do, nor do we have the ability to determine that at a future date, but if either through time going by that we see that the parking is becoming a problem, they have exceeded the amount of parking that's indicated by the process, yes, we do have avenues to pursue that. Certainly, at a later date if that becomes a reality, but when you go through the process we certainly requested the applicant to submit pertinent information to us. They are bound to submit current data, true data, to us, and we based our evaluation on that data just submitted to us. Commissioner Murray said, okay. One question that came up from one of the groups that was speaking was in regard to the liquor license and can you have two active liquor licenses at the same location. Do we still have an active liquor license at that location? Mr. Anderson said, not for the old [inaudible], no. No, the old liquor license for the previous operation of that has not been renewed for this year, so what we're talking about is a liquor license for —. Commissioner Murray said, this —. I could be wrong. Mr. Long, didn't you say that that —, that it had only been closed for about a month? Well, how were they operating without a liquor license if they closed for a month? The year started on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Anderson said, well, again, we sent out the renewals back in November and —. Commissioner Murray said, so they were allowed to operate almost a half a year without a license? Mr. Long said, they closed down on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murray said, so they can operate the first quarter of a year without a license. Mr. Long said, they closed down —, they operated, I think, about six weeks without a proper license. Mr. Anderson said, with the current process in place, we have —, you're required to get your renewal, certainly as you indicated, the first of the year. You become delinquent a month after that, and certainly a month after that is when we —, when you become delinquent we get to pursue whether you're out of business, because some people don't tell us, whether you're out of business, whether you're going out of business, or you're just operating illegally. Certainly, we've got correspondence that the Lightship was going out of business and they would not be renewing their license for '98.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Murray, are you through? Commissioner Murray said, I'm through asking questions with him, but if he's got some questions for [inaudible], then let him go ahead with that. Chairman Hair said, all right, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Jackel said, I've just been looking over the regulations and it says one space for each employee and they've been allocating a half space, so I think that would jump it up to 151, and it clearly say one-half space for each in-water or dry slip, one space for each employee, so I think the tabulation there is wrong. The next question would be is there's no requirement nor do I see any —, I mean, there's been no planning, nor do I see any on the chart, maybe I just haven't seen it or it wasn't pointed out, it also says that there's one of [inaudible] spaces, one space or two percent of the total spaces provided, whichever is greater, should be for handicapped. Now where's the handicap thing? Ms. Ziblut said, right here and, of course, in this area it's —, since they're not designated, it's very simple to provide for the handicap access. We'll have to drop off

anyway for that, but these are the designated handicap spaces. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so you have two percent of your total designated for handicapped. Okay, now —, I'm sorry. Now in addition the regulations say, now you've been talking about there isn't the proper thing, it says each public or private building or land use not covered by the requirements of the previous section 6.6-3 shall provide such parking space for residents, visitors and patrons as the Zoning Administrator shall deem necessary. Now I'm not sure who the Zoning Administrator is. Mr. Anderson said, the Zoning Administrator is one of my staff members and who has the —, the proponents have been dealing with right from the beginning of this process. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, and so he's made the decision then that we use the standard of the restaurant, the one to four? Mr. Anderson said, after —, after consulting with the MPC staff, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. All right, now, so we're at —, because we had to change the employee parking from a half space to one, they're at 151 and they say they're supplying 151 spaces. So they just make it, is that what we're saying now? Mr. Anderson said, I believe that's what we are saying. Commissioner Jackel said, and you think the handicap spaces are where they ought to be and will be adequate? Mr. Anderson said, yes, we do, and certainly the handicap spaces are associated with the building and those, again, the building and the existing parking has been there and has been under a current license. In the past staff's approach to this was that the excursion activity to this site was the only new activity that was being introduced to this site. Everything else, what is there currently was there previously and has been licensed previously. So, again, we based our process on the additional 375 capacity of the boat and that boat activity, and basically determining what the parking requirements were for this new activity being introduced to this site. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, now the way I see it broken down, there is presently inadequate parking so they had to use some of the spaces that will in the future be used for the valet parking. Mr. Anderson said, well, going through evaluation and, again, based on the seating capacity of the boat, the code, it's only ordinance requirements is 94 spaces. Based on the size of the spaces required by the ordinance and by other parking regulations, they have plenty of room in the 15,000 square foot area designated on the plan that was submitted to my office to accommodate those 94 spaces in a typical parking layout. Now, certainly if they choose to provide valet parking at a higher density, certainly there's nothing in the Zoning Ordinance in the off-street parking regulations that prohibits them from doing that.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, all right now, they only had to supply 94 and in their valet parking area they have 117. Mr. Anderson said, I believe that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, but now, they are using the handicap parking spaces that are not in that area, but in conjunction with that, spaces from the other area would have to be used in their area because they're not enough. Is that an equal tradeoff and is that allowed? Mr. Anderson said, I'm not following your question. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, that's —, Sail Harbor Marina is required to have 42 spaces, it was 41, but now we're saying 42. In the designated area they only have 34, so some of their —, those extra eight spaces have to go into the valet parking area, otherwise Sail Harbor Marina is not in compliance. Mr. Anderson said, okay, I understand that, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, now at the same time, from the valet parking area there are no handicap spaces there, so they're using other spaces of Sail Harbor Marina which were put down further in so called debt, being short of compliance. So really not the full total of spaces would be available in the valet parking area as I see it. Mr. Anderson said, well, certainly, if they have —, if they're indicating 117, again, the requirement is 94, within that requirement of 94 there is a certain amount that is —, that has to be reserved, if you will, for handicap parking. That amount, again, from staff's evaluation, is currently there. I mean you have the one or two percent, whichever is greater within that designated 15,000 square foot area.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? Commissioner Jackel said, that's all I have. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Saussy said, I guess this would —, this question would be to Mr. Rahn. Chairman Hair said, okay, Mr. Rahn. Commissioner Saussy said, your target market is what? Mr. Rahn said, our target market is made up of the visiting tourist market to the Savannah area and the local demographics of Chatham County. Commissioner Saussy said, by what percentage? Mr. Rahn said, I would say it's going to be in the vicinity of about 40/60, 40 from local Chatham County residents, 60% from the tourist and convention market. Commissioner Saussy said, all right. From the tourist and the convention market, 60% would be arriving at your location how? Mr. Rahn said, mostly by bus. To answer the question that was raised earlier, we are in discussions right now with Gray Line to provide us those services. Commissioner Saussy said, the buses —, bus or buses would be coming in and where would they be parking? Mr. Rahn said, basically they would be entering the property, discharging their passengers and leaving the property, and then arriving a half hour before the vessel comes back and departing the property after we've disembarked our passengers. So the buses will not be staying on the property. Commissioner Saussy said, so 60% of your total capacity will be about 180 people? Mr. Rahn said, that's correct. Commissioner Saussy said, and would not be arriving by automobile. Mr. Rahn said, that's a good assumption. Commissioner Saussy said, therefore, you have more than an adequate amount of parking spaces for those who would —. Mr. Rahn said, we truly feel that way. Commissioner Saussy said, and I assume —, Greg [Anderson], you could answer this, I would assume that in your criteria of one to four, while that's the normal criteria for this bar or whatever, that is not taking into consideration busing people. Mr. Anderson said, no. No, it is not. The regulations do not give us any leeway to assume that there's going to be people bused in, assuming that people, most people are driving in.

Chairman Hair asked, so does that say that they meet the requirements without anybody being bused in? Mr. Anderson said, that's correct, and that's what —. Chairman Hair said, and if you bus in, you're going to reduce it. Mr. Anderson said, that's correct. Okay, Commissioner Odell. Oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Saussy, were you through? Commissioner Saussy said, I think that's my —. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner Odell said, I'll defer to Eddie [DeLoach]. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't know what to do on the thing. I think we've got to go ahead and do something. Chairman Hair said, well, I'll entertain a motion any time anybody wants to make one. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'm not through asking questions. I was through with Gregori [Anderson], but I wasn't through with the rest of it. Commissioner DeLoach said, you want to ask some questions. Okay, I'll —. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach, you —. Commissioner Murray said, you can [inaudible] if you want to, but I have a right to ask the questions. Chairman Hair said, I'll be glad to. I've recognized you every time you've raised your hand, sir. Commissioner Murray said, you're frustrated

because we can't get through on time. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] for a lot of us. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. I'm in about the same boat Frank [Murray] is about this thing. I —, each individual thing that you have here you can vote yes on because they meet the criteria. If you take each individual thing and the way they've applied for it and everything is fine, and I understand that and I understand the law, and I've got to uphold the law and all that stuff that goes with that, but if you take all of that, it's sort of like, I was trying to come up with some kind of analogy that —, how to figure out how I was going to say this. It's sort of like, there's nothing wrong with a can of gas, nothing wrong with a match, but if you take a can of gas and you take a match and you put them together, you've got a problem, and to me that's what this issue is. I don't want Chatham County or Savannah, and I apologize. I know I represent everybody in my district and Chatham County. I don't want Chatham County to become known as a place to go to gamble. That's not what we spent all these years, and that's not what Clifford [Meads] spent all these years here to do. He's spent a bunch of years here to develop this into a historic district and develop an ambiance that all of us know we have here now, and the only thing this does, as far as Chatham County is concerned, is create an atmosphere that says let's go gamble. Now they've got planes that leave out of here all the time going to Mississippi and everywhere else, load up, they get on the plane, they go over there, they gamble and they fly them back. And that's fine if they want to go to Mississippi and gamble. What I've got a problem is, is when they come to my house and want to do that, and that to me is what the issue is, and I know they've got all the legal ramifications covered and all that, but is it really what Chatham County wants to be recognized for? Is this what we are? I don't think we are. That's why it concerned me when he —, when the issue came up and I felt like —, if they'd came [sic] and asked each individual person on the Commission or they're gone around the neighborhood or they'd gone around the community and asked, do you want this here, they wouldn't be here today. They would not be here today because no one wants a gambling facility in their area. Everybody might like to go to it, and everybody goes to Las Vegas and all that other stuff, and Philadelphia, there is absolutely no improvement to the community when those facilities are introduced into the community. Granted, there are a lot of people go to them and I'm not questioning what they do or how they do, but my problem is it is now being introduced into my community and although folks don't have a problem with drinking, folks don't have a problem with gambling, folks don't have a problem with this and don't have a problem with that, when you add them all together and you put them all together, there's a problem and it's a problem with who we are and what we are, and I don't want to be noted as the gambling mecca and, you know, everybody says, ah, it's just one boat. Hey, it probably was just one casino in Las Vegas one time, but you've got to start somewhere and you've got to end somewhere, and that's the problem I've got with this, and I think that most of the community feels the same way, and had this come up, that would be one of the issues you'd have to deal with if it had been the one we started with first. The perception of this community and what we stand for and what Clifford Meads has built here with the use —, with the help of the Visitors Bureau and all, we're not noted for that. We did not want to be noted for that. We don't want to be noted for that, and yet we're in the process of putting this facility here. We don't want that. I don't know how I can legally not have you here, and I don't have disrespect for you any way under the sun and who you represent as far as y'all are concerned, but it's just not what we are, and that's the biggest issue I've got. You know, the traffic concerns me and that was one legal way we might be able to keep you from coming in and all this, but when it gets right down to it, it's who Chatham County is. I'm not a gambling mecca. I'm not a gambling location, it doesn't have to be a mecca. Go across South Carolina and do the video games, I don't care, you know, but I just don't want our community to be noted, no matter how good it is, because there's no place any finer, they say, than MGM Grand in Las Vegas, but I don't want to be noted for that. I just want to be noted for a historic community where people are proud to be neighbors and everybody knows everybody, and that's the problem I've got with this whole issue, and I wish there was some way under the sun we could legally keep you out. I'm sorry, but that's what I wish we could do, and if Jon [Hart] can find me one, I'll hang my hat on it.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Murray said, I've got a few questions. The first one, and I know it has nothing to do with the liquor license, but the meetings I've been to and all the discussions with y'all I've had, we've had people tell us about the depth of the water at mean low water and the figures y'all have been giving all of us are not what's on the chart that y'all had done yourself [sic] through Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, at mean low water, and this was not in our files that were given out to everyone when the questions were being asked about it, and I just asked why didn't we get one of these and why were you giving us false figures when we've asked the questions in the meetings? I know it doesn't have anything to do with your liquor license —. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Rahn, would either one of you like to address that? Commissioner Murray said, but I just asked the question. Chairman Hair said, we'll go off base here a little bit. Commissioner Murray said, well, if it was based on this, that boat will not go in and out at mean low water unless you go in with twin screws and wash all the —, all of it out so you can get in and out, which I understand is against the law to do anyway. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Rahn.

Mr. Rahn said, I'm unsure what your question is. Commissioner Murray said, well, my question is, the question came up about the depth in some of the meetings. We were told it was much deeper than this at mean low water. Even the captain of your boat told us it was. If I'm not mistaken, he was involved in this sounding. Mr. Rahn said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, but we've got places where the boat will be and where the boat will have to come out there aren't but four or four and a half feet, five feet of water. This is something y'all evidently paid somebody to do because it's on Hussey, Gay & Bell —, Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung's paper. This was never put in any of the packets we got for the boat or anything else, and if you go in with twin screws or anything and wash all the —, from one side to the other, I understand it's against the law to be doing that. In other words, you'd be dredging a channel in there with the boat itself. Mr. Rahn said, it's not our intention to dredge any channels. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's what you'll —. Mr. Rahn said, dredging is against the law, sir. Commissioner Murray said, that's what you will have to do to get in and out. Mr. Rahn said, I believe we've dredged it. We had professionals look at the area and have —. Commissioner Murray asked, didn't y'all pay for this survey to be done? Didn't y'all pay for the sounding to be done on this? Someone did. Mr. Rahn said, I don't know which piece of paper you have in front of you. Commissioner Murray said, the case with the Corps of Engineers. Chairman Hair asked, could you share that and let him look at it? Commissioner Murray said, this is a form that y'all evidently put in the Corps of Engineers when you went for your application. Mr. Rahn said, right, and our route into and out of our channel we have adequate water to do that. Commissioner Murray said, it sure doesn't show at mean low water. I mean, you can have one, I've got several copies if you want it. If you want it, come get it. I mean, I'm sure y'all have already seen it. You paid to have it done. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Long.

Mr. Long said, that permit was issued, those soundings are correct. The Corps of Engineers reviewed it all and, no, we don't have to dredge. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not questioning whether they reviewed it or not, Dick [Long]. What I'm questioning is —. Mr. Long said, there is ample water —. Commissioner Murray asked, it draws seven feet of water doesn't it? Mr. Long said, it draws seven feet of water and there is seven feet of water where it will back out and go around and come back out. Commissioner Murray asked, what is that? Look at that sounding chart right there? I don't know how you get a seven-foot draft in four and a half feet of water, but if you can figure that out and let me know some time, maybe we can make a lot of money.

Chairman Hair asked, does that map show where the vessel is entering and leaving? Mr. Rahn said, no, this is where the existing docks are. Mr. Long said, where the existing docks are, and we have measured it several times and the boat will fit, and people were asking questions about will we have to do additional dredging, and we've said no, we're not doing any additional dredging —. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible]. Mr. Long said, Frank [Murray] is now raising —, Commissioner Murray is now raising another issue that he hopes will stop something. Commissioner Murray said, I'll raise anything I can to stop it. I told y'all that —. Mr. Long said, okay, I understand you will, I understand you will, but everything —, but there's ample water depth in that area and that's why we selected to put it there. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] boat goes in, but it's —, the Demeres' problem across the river, it's anybody's problem that goes up and down that river when you start washing [inaudible]. Mr. Long said, there's certainly ample depth across that channel from Mr. Demere.

Mr. Demere said, since my name just come up here, I talked to Dick Long just a little while ago. We're big buddies, right? Mr. Long said, yes. Mr. Demere said, and I said now, Dick [Long], how are those people going to get in and out of there at mean, I mean, dead low water? He said they'd have to wait a couple of hours. Mr. Long said, and they might have to if there's not enough water.

Commissioner Murray said, see, that's the stuff —, you didn't say that just then. You said they could get out at mean low water and there won't ever be any problem, you've already checked on that. Mr. Long said, Frank [Murray], I said that, okay, at your meeting at the schoolhouse people asked that same question and I said we think there is ample water there, all of our tests say there are [sic] ample water there, but if there isn't, the boat will have to sit and wait until the water comes up to go out, just like our sailboats do, just like Mr. Demere's boat does now and then on a very negative low tide. I mean, so we're said all those things, we've been as honest as we can about it, okay, and then you take any statement that we make out of context and say, see, that's not what you said. That is exactly what I said at your public meeting.

Chairman Hair said, let's keep the proper decorum please.

Commissioner Murray said, I'll debate you somewhere else, but I'm not going to debate you up here in one of these meetings. I just disagree with you. Chairman Hair asked, any other questions, Commissioner Murray? Commissioner Murray said, yes, let me clarify —. If somebody else has got one, let them go ahead. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Odell said, I think we can do this forever. The only question is whether or not they met the legal requirements. If they have, then I think we've heard what we need to. [Inaudible.] Chairman Hair said, well, I've asked that question and they said they did, so —, our staff said they did, so. Chairman Hair said, anybody want to —, Commissioner Murray. Let me get Commissioner Saussy first and then back to you. Is that okay? Can you make sure I —, Commissioner Saussy and then back to Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. Eddie [DeLoach], I think you might have a point in what you say, but unfortunately we have one thing to do and that's to vote on the liquor license or not. As far as gambling goes, the State of Georgia allows gambling in the lottery. Never have since the lottery came out, but we have one thing to do today and that's whether they can get a liquor license or not, and I think we have to proceed on that.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, do you want to wrap it up with any final questions? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I think we've pretty much debated.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. I don't have a problem with the liquor licenses going to the tavern or the lounge area. They've had one in the past. It's a capacity of 60 people inside. Go outside, you can have more, and I don't have a problem with that on. Where I have a problem is adding the liquor license to the vessel. If they want to have drinks, let them have them on the dock, but I'm opposed to the vessel having them because of the increased amount of people in that one location, and, Clifford [Meads], I know you're talking about the Sheraton and I know you managed that for quite a while, and yes they did have big crowds, but the Sheraton has now been bought and it's going to be open again. So it's not that that was there at one time and this wasn't. They will both be there at the same time, and we've also got much more traffic coming on the road, and I don't mind making the motion to approve the liquor license for the tavern itself, but I will also make a motion to deny the other one based on health, safety and welfare of the citizens of that Island.

Commissioner Price asked, can we get one out of the way then? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Commissioner Price asked, can we get that out of the way and —. Chairman Hair said, we have one more person in the audience that would like to speak. If you'd come forward please and then we'll —, the Chair will entertain a motion after this, okay.

Mr. Zeke Williamson said, good morning. My name is Zeke Williamson. I had the pleasure to accompany you gentlemen and lady on your trip. This particular situation is about the liquor license. Dollars and cents, okay. It's turned into a word game, wasting time. Okay, wasting time. Chairman Hair said, I'll agree with that. Mr. Williamson said, we have too many other things to be concerned about than words games, okay. And, finally, whatever decision that you make, make sure that you make the right decision because you have been charged, all of you have been charged, okay. That's it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. All right, the Chair will entertain a motion. Let's take the vessel —, well, the way it's in order, let's take the vessel first.

Commissioner Murray said, on the vessel I move that we disapprove the one on the vessel for the reason of health, safety and welfare of the members of the Island. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion to deny the vessel liquor application. Do we have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right, all those in favor of denial will vote yes, all those opposed to denial will vote no. The Chair will —. Commissioner Thomas said, say what now? Chairman Hair said, if you —, this is for denial. If you are in favor of denial for the vessel liquor license, you will vote yes. If you are opposed to denial, you will vote no. Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price and Thomas voted in opposition. Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion to deny failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

Chairman Hair said, okay, now the Chair will entertain any other motions. Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Price said, I move that we approve for The Lightship Tavern location, we approve the liquor license being requested. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to approve The Lightship Tavern liquor license. Do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed will vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Murray and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Now the Chair will entertain a motion on the vessel liquor license. Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the vessel liquor license as well. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second to that motion? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, and a second. All those in favor of the liquor license for the vessel will vote yes, opposed will vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Okay, that completes those items.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request by applicant Eric M. Rahn, Winning Streak, Inc., d/b/a Southern Elegance, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, formerly The Lightship Tavern, for a new beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1998 for sales at this location in conjunction with the new excursion vessel "Southern Elegance." Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Murray and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- \* **6. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1998 IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW EXCURSION VESSEL "SOUTHERN ELEGANCE." APPLICANT: ERIC M. RAHN, WINNING STREAK, INC., D/B/A SOUTHERN ELEGANCE, LOCATED AT 618 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD, AT SAIL HARBOR (FOR SALES ABOARD THE VESSEL WHILE AT SEA). TABLED AT MEETING OF APRIL 24, 1998. [DISTRICT 4.]**

NOTE: For discussion on this item refer to Item VIII-5.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Murray moved to **deny** the request by applicant Eric M. Rahn, Winning Streak, Inc., d/b/a Southern Elegance, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, at Sail Harbor, for a new beer, wine and liquor pouring license for sales aboard the new excursion vessel "Southern Elegance" while at sea. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to deny failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve the request by applicant Eric M. Rahn, Winning Streak, Inc., d/b/a Southern Elegance, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, at Sail Harbor, for a new beer, wine and liquor pouring license for sales aboard the new excursion vessel "Southern Elegance" while at sea. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- \* **7. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, WILMINGTON ISLAND ASSOCIATES, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR OLDE TOWNE, PHASE 8, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL**

**GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING OLDE TOWNE STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Chairman Hair said, this was the one, if you remember, where the County Engineer had a problem. They made a correction. County Attorney Hart said, I know, but I'm just reading it in the record first, but before I take it off the table I want to —. The staff now is saying they have met their requirements, they have done that, so —. Commissioner Murray said, we didn't take the other ones off the table, did we. Chairman Hair said, yes, we did. Commissioner Murray said, we did? Chairman Hair said, yes, we did. I'll take now —, the Chair will entertain a motion to take Item #7 off the table. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, moved and second. All those in favor of taking it off the table vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Now, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we —, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Thomas moved to take this item off the table and place before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Wilmington Island Associates, to record the subdivision plat for Olde Towne Phase 8, accept the financial guarantee, and recombine the subdivision into the existing Old Towne streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**\* 8. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM DARRYL F. PETERMANN, D/B/A DFP MANUFACTURING CORPORATION, LOCATED AT 101 COLEMAN BOULEVARD, FOR WAIVER AND REFUND OF LATE PENALTIES PAID FOR TARDY BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE. TABLED AT MEETING OF MAY 8, 1998.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair said, he has agreed to pay these now. We just need to take it off the table and dispense with the item. We don't need to take a vote. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, said we have a motion and a second to take it off the table. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, okay, that takes it off the table.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to take this item off the table as a moot issue. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**\* 9. REJECTION OF BIDS TO PURCHASE HENDERSON GOLF COURSE.**

Chairman Hair said we had discussions with the high bidder. They have had —, they're very close to an agreement with Mr. Gray, our bond attorney, and they will be ready to —. Commissioner Price asked, on Henderson Golf Course? Chairman Hair said, yes, on Henderson. We'll be ready to bring something to the Board for approval or denial on the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. They're very, very close. They've met all Mr. Gray's requirements at this point and they have asked that we —, they will be ready on June 12<sup>th</sup>, so we'll just leave that on the table.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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**\*10. DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY ADJOINING KINGS FERRY BOAT RAMP.**

Chairman Hair said, the staff has informed me and the Vice Chairman as of yesterday in agenda review that the County Engineer has now looked at the mitigation of the wetlands and we no longer need that, and their recommendation is that we

go ahead and declare it surplus. If anybody would like to ask any questions, we'll let the Engineer to come up or Mr. Golden or anybody, but they have said that they no longer —, we don't need the property. Does anybody want to ask any questions?

Commissioner Price said, I move that we untable the item. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to untable. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of untabling vote yes, opposed vote not. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Jackel were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion [sic] is untabled.

Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we declare the adjoining property in question next to King's Ferry Boat Ramp as surplus property. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion to declare it surplus. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, and a second. Any discussion?

Commissioner Odell said, yes, I would like to ask Mr. Golden up. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Golden.

Mr. Jim Golden said, yes sir, Mr. Chairman. I think it needs a correction there. You mean King's Ferry Community Park. That's about 10 acres including the boat ramp, the pier, the picnic —. Chairman Hair said, I'm just reading from the agenda. It says King's Ferry Boat Ramp is what it says here. Mr. Golden said, it's the Community Park. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, the property adjacent to the Community Park. Chairman Hair said, it's just —. County Manager Abolt said, the staff report is correct. The title is in error. Chairman Hair said, the title's in error, okay. So, thank you, Mr. Golden for correcting that. Okay, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner Price said, motion and second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and second. We're just discussing it now.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, on the —. Mr. Al [Bungard], we don't need the property, can't use it? Chairman Hair said, Al. That's what we were told yesterday. Commissioner DeLoach asked, we can't use that property? County Engineer Al Bungard said, I walked it yesterday. It's virtually undisturbed and the plans we give with Corps, we get very little credit, if any, for wetlands of that type preservation. So, in fact, the policy is that they don't look on [inaudible] very favorably. Commissioner Price asked, well, there's no way we can use it in our —, any mitigation or land bank or anything like that. Mr. Bungard said, minimal value. Now, I am trying to work on a study with the Corps for the entire Ogeechee River Basin and we can certainly, you know, continue to look at the context of that whole project, but it's virtually —, it's almost a water level, I mean I sunk up, you know, to my shins about everywhere I walked, and there's surprisingly little activity. People don't even walk back in that property.

Commissioner Saussy asked, why would we want this to be surplus? Why would we want to sell it? Why can't we keep it as a wilderness area? Commissioner Murray said, if you can't do anything with it, nobody will buy it. Chairman Hair said, well, it could be —. Commissioner Saussy said, who's going to buy it if you can't do anything with it? Chairman Hair said, we don't know that until we put it up, but you're right. I mean, it could have value to other people.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, and I appreciate the question to Mr. Bungard. He's not had that part of the problem. The problem was to identify all land that might be surplus to County needs. Without making this type of a value criteria, we identified —. Chairman Hair said, he's just saying it's surplus. County Manager Abolt said, as far as a surplus. Chairman Hair said, he's saying we don't have a need for it. County Manager Abolt said, we don't make an evaluation. Chairman Hair said, that's all he's saying. That's all this motion does is just declare it surplus.

Commissioner DeLoach said, can I ask —? Chairman Hair said, certainly, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is the length of the —, that runs along the river there? Mr. Bungard said, I'm not sure. I mean, I couldn't get down that far. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is it a pretty good strip along the river? Mr. Bungard said, yes, a couple a hundred yards at least. It's kind of a square plot. We couldn't even get to it. When King's Ferry you could tell, probably 40 years ago there was a drainage ditch that goes along the east side that goes in the tidegate, and I think that's what keeps people from going back in there, using it for any kind of vehicles. I couldn't even get my foot traffic back in the area.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? All right, we have a motion and a second to declare it surplus. Commissioner Price said, call. Chairman Hair said, I have a call for the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Murray, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Price moved to untable this item for consideration by the Commissioners. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve declaring the property adjacent to the Kings Ferry Community Park as surplus. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Jackel were not present.]

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#### **\*11. HEALTH DEPARTMENT SEPTIC TANK GRANT PROGRAM.**

Chairman Hair said, that problem also has been worked out so we will entertain a motion to take that off the table. Commissioner Price said, I move to untable. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, and a second. All those in favor of untabling vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Mr. Manager, would you like to make a statement about that?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, quickly for your review, the staff report presents the proposal crafted by the Health Department to do something innovative in addressing septic tank failure systems. Mr. Sylvester Brown from the Health Department is here to give you specifics, but essentially I know that Commissioner Murray, the Chairman and other members of the Board have been contacted on and off now for many months by individuals concerned about the existing regulations and whether or not new technology might allow them to solve their septic problems on their own residences. Prior to Dr. King's retirement, he worked on this and now again Mr. Brown can comment, but essentially if you approve of this, what would happen, there would be a shift of \$3,500 out of General Fund Contingency, which should be directed to the Health Department to administer a program which would amount to the installation of two experimental systems. It would be up to the discretion of the Health Department as to where these would be located. They would be on private property and the intent would be to test the new technology. It is purely a reach.

Chairman Hair said, go a head. Do you want to make a statement or do you just want to take questions? Mr. Sylvester Brown said, answer questions.

Commissioner Murray said, in other words, this is going to be a different type system. Is that what it is? Mr. Brown said, right, this is different from the conventional system. This is called a chamber system. A [inaudible] system is what we plan to put in. It requires about 50% of the space. It's new technology. Commissioner Murray asked, well, what —, I mean, what areas would it be utilized in, where you've got low ground or where there's marsh or something like this? Mr. Brown said, well, we have seasonal high water table. The water table is very high and it causes these septic tanks to malfunction, and also it's very bad soil.

Chairman Hair said, I might could clarify this, Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, I don't have any problem with —. Chairman Hair said, the staff and I met with Dr. King some time ago with the Attorney, and this is —, I think that some of the types you're looking at is out on Oatland Island they've got some real problems out there on Oatland Island, and this will really address some of the citizen's problems out there with their septic tanks, and I think it's a great program.

Commissioner Murray said, well, the reason I was asking some questions, I may be interested in it myself. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure it might not be a conflict of interest. Commissioner Murray said, well, at some point. I've been using the same one for 20 years now and —. Mr. Brown said, I think is a very innovative —. Chairman Hair said, it is a good program though.

Chairman Hair said, the chair will entertain any other questions. Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of approving vote yes, opposed vote no. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve providing \$3,500 from General Fund Contingency to install two experimental alternative systems as a practical solution to subsurface drainage in on-site sewage systems in Chatham County. Commissioners Saussy and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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#### **\*12. NEW TAG OFFICE AND PLAN TO DECLARE HODGSON MEMORIAL PROPERTY SURPLUS WITH CONDITIONS.**

Chairman Hair said, staff, are you ready to leave it on the table? County Manager Abolt said, take it off. Chairman Hair said, okay, we're ready to take that off. The Chair will entertain a motion to take that off. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is consistent with you discussion last time when you were exploring options on creating a new tag facility somewhere on the south side. This does preserve all of your option. By approving the recommendation what would happen is we would advertise the current Hodgson property as surplus to County needs. There would be two conditions on that, when bids would be received and, of course, an award could be made to the high bidder. The first condition is you reserve the right to reject regardless of the bid and, secondly, whomever the potential new owner would be, they would have to agree not to take possession of the property for a minimum of 12 months. What that flexibility is I know it's very obvious to y'all, but for the benefit of the media, we have just under a half a million dollars budgeted to create a facility for Mr. Powers and his staff on the south side. The initial estimates from the architect, Pat Shay, pegged it at much higher than that, so we're preserving the option of selling this property, using the return on the sale of the property and allowing a new tag facility to be created somewhere on the south side.

Commissioner Saussy said, if we declare this as surplus property it doesn't mean we have to sell it. County Manager Abolt said, absolutely not. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Commissioner Saussy said, well, the reason I say that is everybody knows we need to do something about a library on the south side, and I don't know whether there is enough land here or not, but if it is —, if there is enough land there to do something to put a new library there, that's an excellent location for it, I think. Then it would allow us to sell the other piece of property, which is probably more valuable where the library is now to pay for the —. Chairman Hair said, we don't own that property. I don't think we own that property. Commissioner Saussy said, we don't own that. We just own the building? Chairman Hair said, I think that's leased, I don't think we own that property. Where you —, you're talking about at Oglethorpe Mall? Commissioner Saussy said, Oglethorpe Mall. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we own that property. Do we? Do we own that property? Commissioner Murray asked, where the library is? Mr. George Lynch said, I don't know. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we do. County Manager Abolt said, I can't answer that question. Chairman Hair said, I'm pretty sure —, Ben [Price] said we don't own it. I'm pretty sure don't own it. Commissioner Price said, it's a lease, it's a lease thing. Chairman Hair said, it's a leased deal, a land lease. Commissioner Price said, I remember that. Commissioner Saussy said, but we do own the lease for a long period of time, right? Commissioner Price said, yes, it is a lease for —. Commissioner Saussy said, so we could use —. Commissioner Price said, sublease. Chairman Hair said, it's possible, that's possible.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? I think we —, you know, we discussed this item a long time. This is just —, we asked the staff to come back to give us options in terms of restricting it, for example, 12 months wouldn't give us time to sell it before we need the money for the new tag office, so I think they've done a good job of giving us options, and I think this —, the way the staff has presented this, it leaves —, as Commissioner Saussy said, it leaves us open to do whatever we want to do. This does not mean we're going to sell it, it just means we're going to declare it surplus. Commissioner Saussy said, I just couldn't go —, I couldn't vote for it if we —. Chairman Hair said, we're not —, we don't have an automatic. We have a —. Commissioner Saussy said, I would like to look at it as a possibility for a new library. Chairman Hair said, all right, the Chair will entertain a motion.

Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll make a motion, but I have a question. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second. Commissioner DeLoach has a question. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, on the property there, Hodgson Memorial property will not —, cannot function as a tag office. I mean not the —, I'm not talking about the present building, I'm talking about the property itself. County Manager Abolt said, sir, I —, again, I'll give you the history of the project. I believe Mr. Powers is in the room and he can be even more specific. When the decision was made by the previous Board to build an admin annex, the question came up what might happen to a tag facility. Tax Commissioner Powers, I believe, testified saying that even though there would be this fine facility built on the west side, which is now a reality, that there was a need to have a presence on the south side. To move the overall admin annex project along, the Board then-seated agreed to go ahead and do that, but at the same time set aside approximately \$500,000, which was eligible SPLOST money, to renovate the Hodgson Memorial property. That kept all the options open. As it's progressed and as time has gone by, then the question has come up does the Board want to —, this Board want to invest a half a million dollars on the Hodgson site or look for some other site, and that's where you are right now. Commissioner DeLoach said, let me go a little further with that. Can I —, Danny [Powers], I can talk to you, ask you. My concern on this is —, I don't have a problem with the fact that we were going to do a building and we need to do a building. The original design, when we originally moved over to the administration building and put the tag office there and built a nice facility in there, our original intent was the possibility of going to one of the car dealerships as well as other places, and seeing if they had a small area that we could actually lease —, not lease, but, you know, get some property from Dan Vaden or J.C. Lewis or some of those gentlemen there, and we were going to open a tag office because we felt like we need to be local and close to the car dealerships. That was what the original intent on that thing was. Mr. Powers said, I think part of it. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, 90% of it because you were concerned about the car dealers. Mr. Powers said, I don't know about 90, no. I wouldn't say 90. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. Mr. Powers said, 80. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, whatever, but the point I'm getting at is now is this —, the last presentation we had on this, the tag office, it seems like this evolved into something much larger than what we had originally intended for that office to be. And the reason I say that is, one, we built the facility out on Chatham Parkway. Mr. Powers said, the facility on Chatham Parkway though is a satellite branch. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, it's a very large satellite branch. Mr. Powers said, not a very large, no. Commissioner DeLoach said, whatever. Mr. Powers said, absolutely not. Have you been out there? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Mr. Powers said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, but anyway, what I'm getting at is if we declare it surplus, the only way we can actually do this is to sell the property that might work to put a facility on there with the \$500,000. Now, if it were a building that were —, was not a, you know, large state-of-the art like the one that we talked about going over at Southchase, in other words, we're looking at, we're looking at a monument for a long time. I mean, real nice facility, lot of expense and all that. Mr. Powers said, which is needed. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's what I was —. Mr. Powers said, yes, that's where we're at. It's definitely needed. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, we need a facility, but can we use the property that we already own or are we putting this into the point of —, if we declare this surplus —. Mr. Powers said, Eddie [DeLoach], what I'm worried about, my concern is that if we go right back to Hodgson Memorial with the half a million dollars just to renovate, that building is literally crumbling —. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, don't —, forget the renovate, forget the half a million dollars, just talk about the location of Hodgson Memorial. What I'm concerned about is we're going to end up locking up that property over there at Southchase, which is very valuable property, to put a —, possibly put a tax office in. Now when we do that, we're going to reduce the value of that property around it tremendously, and when we do that, we're actually —. Mr. Powers said, I don't agree with that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, well, it's just an opinion I have and you've got a different one, but when we do that, we're actually lengthening the amount of money that we will actually get in return, but if we were to take the Hodgson Memorial property and if it's an adequate size, which I don't know and you do, not the building, forget the building. We're talking about new state-of-the art location like you want, located on that spot, which is a property we already own. Mr. Powers said, logistically though I don't know how we'd pull that one off. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I mean —. Mr. Powers said, honestly. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I've got a library doing now, so I can —, we can do anything. How could I —, is it possible —, I mean, my point is, is the land that's there adequate for the facility that you want because I know there's no —, I mean, I'm not questioning the traffic. I'm not worried about the traffic flow because there's none any worse on Abercorn, so we're not —, it's not that. Mr. Powers said, that's where I disagree with you. You're talking about Hodgson Memorial traffic and you're talking about Abercorn and a piece of property that would be

set back where you would have a —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, but —. Mr. Powers said, an access road leading to it. Commissioner DeLoach said, we definitely —. Mr. Powers said, we had people run over out at Hodgson Memorial, so don't —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, and we have on Abercorn too, but my point —. Mr. Powers said, often. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, and, I mean, and Abercorn too, but I'm just saying is it possible to use that piece of property and keep us —, keep it open —? Mr. Powers said, anything is possible. Commissioner DeLoach said, if we could just keep it open to where we could sell this property at a later date at a higher value.

Chairman Hair asked, is it your opinion though that —? Mr. Powers said, my opinion is that tag office needs to be moved from that Hodgson facility. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's the question. That's the answer. Okay, any further questions? Commissioner Murray and after him Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Murray said, your feeling is it should be moved from its present location. Are there any other locations that might be available other than the Southchase, and the reason I'm asking that is —. Mr. Powers said, Frank [Murray], the reason we moved it to Southchase is because the County already —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Mr. Powers said, owned that land there. We're looking at the cost of this project. I'm trying to keep it as low as possible. If we go somewhere else and acquire land out in that, you know, vicinity of town, then the cost of that project is just practically doubled maybe. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but the intent of purchasing all that property when we purchased it, there was a big debate over that —. Mr. Powers said, and now it's there so why don't we use it. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not sure that I agree with using that property, and the reason I say that is the whole intent was to, as soon as we found out the alignment of that road, then we would know what parcel we would be able to get rid of and sell and put back on the tax rolls. I think we can find another location and I —. Mr. Powers asked, do we know that it's even going to end there at this point? Commissioner Murray said, we don't know that and that's the whole point. Well, that's why we haven't done anything and that's why I will be opposed to doing anything with it right now because we don't know. Mr. Powers said, but if it's set back, Commissioner Murray, in a spot maybe closer to the Lowe's or someway where it would not be restrictive of the remainder of that property, I don't think we have a problem. Commissioner Murray asked, why don't you move down to the Islands?

Chairman Hair said, let me say a comment about —, I haven't just because I was involved in some of the discussions, I think Commissioner Powers needs to be commended. It's not like he just —, this was his first choice. He actually sought out —, Commissioner DeLoach, you mentioned about the car dealerships. He sought out and I happened to have been involved in some of those discussions. He really has worked very hard to try to find locations that's best for the citizens, and this is what —, after he's done all of those and he found out how much it was going to cost to buy that property, then he came back with this as an option, and I think it's a very viable option, but he has done a lot of homework on this. Commissioner DeLoach said, nobody's, nobody's questioning that. Chairman Hair said, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying that he has —.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm not [inaudible]. I'm asking questions to try to get some information that's all. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're ready to build. We're just trying to figure out the best long term dollar value —. Chairman Hair said, well, you just heard the Tax Commissioner, who's responsible for that function to say that that is the best location. So —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I think —, it's just a difference of opinion. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then we have a motion and a second on the table. Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Saussy said, I think my question has been answered.

Commissioner Price said, I have a question. Chairman Hair said, all right. Commissioner Price. Commissioner Price said, I think that there is a workable solution to this, but I think we have to follow what the legal grounds have been laid in place previously, and I'm talking about the right of refusal given back to the people who originally owned that property. You know, I think that there are some legal issue here, Danny [Powers], that we can get past, but if it's handled in the proper way. Mr. Powers said, well, that's fine. That's what the County Attorney's here for. Commissioner Price said, well, and I understand that. I think that it's probably something, and it needs to go into Executive Session with it because it is a discussion of possible, you know, pending litigation, or a discussion of real estate. I think it's something that we might need to invite you into in Executive Session and discuss it with you. Mr. Powers said, fine. Commissioner DeLoach said, that would be good.

Chairman Hair said, all right. We have a motion and a second on the floor to approve. Commissioner Price said, to declare the Hodgson Memorial or the Hodgson complex —. Mr. Powers said, remember what we're doing here today. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're just dealing with Hodgson. Mr. Powers said, declare it surplus and let's look at what's —. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly what the motion does. Mr. Powers said, okay. Mr. George Lynch said, at market price. Chairman Hair said, it does not require any actual sale. This is just to put it out there to see what's out there. Mr. Powers said, we owe it to the citizens of Chatham County to do something with this tag facility. It's been overlooked year after year after year. Commissioner Odell said, Danny [Powers], you've got my vote. Chairman Hair said, I think it's a good idea, I really do. Commissioner Saussy said, if we declare, we can undeclare it. Chairman Hair said, well, you just don't have to sell it. Mr. Lynch said, just reject bids. Chairman Hair said, just reject them. Mr. Powers said, and if, you know, any citizen out in that part of Chatham County wants to donate some land, we'll absolutely take that too. Commissioner DeLoach said, absolutely. Chairman Hair said, all right. Mr. Powers said, let's look at some options. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, ten/four. Commissioner Murray asked, is this just to do a portion of that or the total tract of land, surplus? Chairman Hair said, this is the total tract of land. Is that correct, right? Commissioner Murray said, all of it. Mr. Lynch said, this will be totally the —. Mr. Powers said, the Hodgson facility. County Manager Abolt said, 2.3 —. Mr. Lynch said, everything we've got on Hodgson. The [inaudible] station, the tag office —. Commissioner Saussy said, two and a half acres, right. Chairman Hair said, two and a half acres. Mr. Powers said, two and a half acres. Commissioner Murray said, but it's not surplus though. Mr. Lynch said, sir? Commissioner Murray said, the whole tract of land is not surplus though. Chairman Hair said, it is surplus if you're going to relocate the tag office. That's the whole idea. Commissioner Murray said, well, it's not surplus if that road comes through there and they need that land. Commissioner Price said, we're talking about Hodgson. Chairman Hair said, Hodgson. This is not Southchase, this is Hodgson Memorial. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to declare as surplus and authorize staff to seek bids for the sale of the County's "police/tag" complex on Hodgson Memorial Drive subject to certain conditions. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

(Unless the Board directs otherwise, adoption of an Action Item will mean approval of the respective County staff report and its recommended action.)

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: GENERAL FUND M & O COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$21,260 FROM CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO SALARIES & BENEFITS TO FILL A POSITION PREVIOUSLY PAID UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH WITH A COUNTY EMPLOYEE, A CONTINGENCY TRANSFER (PENDING APPROVAL OF CARRYOVERS AND REPLENISHMENT OF CONTINGENCY) OF \$3,000 AND AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$1,330 FROM ICS TO RECREATION TO PURCHASE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE, A \$11,300 CONTINGENCY TRANSFER FOR PICKUP OF CASH FROM COUNTY ACTIVITIES BY USE OF RETIRED PEACE OFFICERS AND A \$22,100 CONTINGENCY TRANSFER FOR MANDATED PAY INCREASE FOR SENIOR STATE COURT JUDGES; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) RESERVE FOR VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS TRANSFER OF \$8,550 FOR THE DOLLAND DRIVE PROJECT; A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$17,000 TO PUBLIC WORKS FOR MISCELLANEOUS RESURFACING AT SOUTHBRIDGE.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Is there any discussion. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I have a question. When do these mandatory pay raises come in effect. County Manager Abolt said, sir, we were just notified about it. Mr. Blair, who I believe is in the audience, sent correspondence the last week or so as to State action. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Blair, would you like to come forward and answer Commissioner Murray's question?

Mr. Carlton Blair said, the Legislature passed it at this past session and it was effective with the Governor's signature, I think, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murray said, all right, so in other words, these have got to be funded this year? It's not the first of next year where they funded for it? Chairman Hair said, this year. Commissioner Murray said, another thank you from our Legislators, is that what we say? I mean, I'm not saying whether the judges deserve it or don't deserve it, but it shouldn't start in the middle of one of the years. We've had discussion with that on many occasions.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Odell said, can we ask you to identify yourself for the record so we'll know whose where on that panel. Chairman Hair said, everybody —, everybody hasn't voted. Everybody vote in favor or against. Thank you. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: General Fund M & O Counter Narcotics Team intra-departmental transfer of \$21,260 from Contractual Services to Salaries & Benefits to fill a position previously paid under contract with the City of Savannah with a County employee, a contingency transfer (pending approval of carryovers and replenishment of Contingency) of \$3,000 and an interdepartmental transfer of \$1,330 from ICS to Recreation to purchase computer equipment and software, a \$11,300 Contingency transfer for pickup of cash from County activities by use of retired peace officers and a \$22,100 Contingency transfer for mandated pay increase for Senior State Court Judges; a One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) Reserve for Various County Roads transfer of \$8,550 for the Dolland Drive Project; a Special Service District Contingency transfer of \$17,000 to Public Works for miscellaneous resurfacing at Southbridge. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

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- 2. **THIS ITEM MOVED TO INFORMATION ITEMS, #16.**

Chairman Hair said, the original Item #2 has been moved to Information. We'll discuss that when we get to that —. The County Manager will discuss that when we get to that point.

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### 3. BOARD CONSIDERATION ON CONSOLIDATION OF THE COUNTY'S RECREATION DEPARTMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt. County Manager Abolt said, yes, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is a follow-up to the work session held by the Savannah City Council a few days back. At that time those present expressed an interest in the possibility of consolidating with the City with the understanding that we would go into it gradually and that, in effect, digest growth might be used as the source of funding. To that end, staff has put together options which are very important for your consideration as we progress towards consolidation, if that be the final outcome, and they deal with pure estimates, and the spreadsheets in your agenda packet have been added to. Yesterday in a meeting with Dr. Thomas and Chairman Hair I was asked to extend out the projections for a six-year period. Let me explain what the projections are based on. They're based on the current budgets for the City of Savannah, Leisure Services, and for the Parks and Recreation Department of Chatham County. We used a 3% inflationary factor over the period and then we asked Mr. Udinsky what the digest growth might be and what we might be able then to advise you, given those limitations on growth and expenditure, what our necessary digest growth would have to be to do two different things, and there are two different things. In one situation, and what we've been going on so far, the smaller amount, would be just to consolidate what is referred to as the athletic or the sports program. The other would be, which essentially I think the discussion when we met with City Council gravitated to was the entire Leisure Services Bureau. So, the spreadsheet in front of you, if you look at the bottom column of numbers which are in boxes, if you looked at just consolidating athletic programs, and it is based —, and I must also mention this because Mr. Udinsky was the first to point it out, it does —, it is based on assuming the full digest growth that I presented in the budget to you of five and a fraction percent. As you recall, some of that was estimated to be revaluation growth, but in the event you want to revisit that and decide not to levy all of the estimate on revaluation, then these numbers have been skewed, but essentially what we have here is a column that shows you on the bottom that if it were to be the sports program, that would have to be the annual increase in the digest to cover that consolidation and have the County pick up the cost of a six-year period. The second piece of paper deals with what is more traditionally known as Mr. Shearouse's department and Mr. Golden's department, the entire operation, and to assume the City of Savannah current expenses with a 3% cost of living, this is the type of digest growth on the bottom column which would have to occur each year for six years.

Chairman Hair said, I think it's important to point out too that if you —, that's assuming that this could be done with no tax increase. That's, in other words, funded out of growth and that's what that —, that's the way that's projected is that if we were to vote for this that we would not —, that we could do it without raising any millage rates, we would do it out of growth in the digest, and that's the —. Commissioner Saussy asked, what has been our growth over the years, the past four or five years, per year approximately. County Manager Abolt said, I don't —, I don't know if Mr. Udinsky's present. I'll give you the most vivid in my mind. You'll recall that this year, for 1998, the estimate was a three and a fraction percent growth due to new valuation, new investment, and then there was two and a fraction, which totaled five point, I think, one three or something like that, which was total [inaudible], which is purely an estimate, and that was in a reasonably good year. Commissioner Saussy said, so three, three plus would basically cover it. County Manager Abolt said, well, that —, yes, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, out of new growth. County Manager Abolt said, new growth, right. Commissioner Saussy said, I'm not considering a —. County Manager Abolt said, obviously the financial policy you have is other services. I mean, you have needs which you're well aware of in the organization for which you might say, well, we want to cover that in digest growth. Commissioner Saussy said, right. County Manager Abolt said, I think it's safe to say, looking at the numbers, particularly, you know, when they're hovering around the 3% level, that is probably a fairly good representation of what's happened in past good years. Chairman Hair said, and that only represents the growth parts. Commissioner Saussy said, so we would be well within it as far as the —, just the athletics go. County Manager Abolt said, yes. Yes, sir. You see the numbers like I do, you've been through the budget like I have. Certainly the athletic program is minimal. I know what they're not —, I won't say commitments, but there has been concern by the Board of doing things just consolidating recreation and using normal growth in the digest to cover it, and when we do hover around the three percent level that maybe pushing it fairly heavy on other programs that would not be able to be funded, but that's your choice.

Chairman Hair said, well, that's assuming that didn't use any of the other. An unidentified gentleman said, exactly. Chairman Hair said, you're talking a total over five percent. So you've still got a lot of room there. Any questions? Commissioner Saussy said, under the other entire program. That includes parts and all that kind of thing. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry.

County Manager Abolt said, I'm sorry, what Commissioner Saussy said, and let me interpret what he said. He can correct me. We have a Parks Department. The City of Savannah has a Leisure Services Department. This is not Park & Tree but there is maintenance done by Leisure Services on these facilities, but it's not maintaining service. Commissioner DeLoach said, just facilities. Chairman Hair asked, Frank [Murray], is that all your questions? Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. What happens to —, if —, we're saying we're going to fund this out of M&O. That's my understanding from the conversations that I heard at the last meeting, we're going to fund it out of M&O. What happens to the other —, everybody else besides the City of Savannah? Do they —, do their M&O taxes go up even though they're already paying taxes? Commissioner Murray said, if it's M&O it would. It'd be everybody. Chairman Hair said, not if you fund it in the way this is proposed, there would be no tax increase. It's because it's funded out of growth in the digest. Commissioner DeLoach said, but it doesn't —, I mean, that's just —, but the point of it is, those folks that are in Garden City, Port Wentworth, Pooler, well, everywhere else besides the City of Savannah, is going to have to increase the amount of money that's spent. Commissioner Jackel said, that's true. Commissioner Saussy said, but by the same token they also use the facilities. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, they don't. That's very —, that is not right. That's a good point we need to make and that's one I wanted to bring up. There is no one in Garden City that needs any facilities from the City of Savannah. Absolutely none. Commissioner Saussy said, then why we go to the Civic Center or places like that? Commissioner DeLoach said, take the Civic Center, throw it in there. Everybody pays to go to the Civic Center, but let's say they go to the Civic Center. How about —, we're talking sports programs I think. Okay, no one is going to play baseball, leave Garden City to

play baseball in the City of Savannah. Pooler, Port Wentworth, Garden City, in all the other sports activities, there's none, there is none any better than those locations. I mean, granted Savannah's is good. I'm not questioning that, but there is not a reason for them to leave to come over here to play, okay. So they're going to actually increase the amount of taxes they're paying to fund the City of Savannah's recreation and yet they're not getting any benefits from it. That's a problem. If we're trying to remove this inequity that the City of Savannah feels like it's doing, and I'm not questioning that it's not happening. I think we need to —, my thought is we need to take the entire budget from all the communities and put them, put the entire budget together, let the County run the Recreation Department, we'd levy the taxes for that, to do that, but then we also ask each individual municipality, including the City of Savannah, that if we raise these taxes, which we would have to do if we took over the entire facilities, the entire operation, if we raise these taxes, you will —, the only way we will do this is if you will reduce your taxes correspondingly, the same number, so that all —, that everybody pays in like has been recommended into the M&O, all the recreation facilities are operated by the Chatham County and our department, we have an intergovernmental agreement with each municipality that wants to run it's per se, because I don't believe —, I know Garden City and Pooler, Port Wentworth and probably Bloomingdale would not be interested in us running their facilities because they have excellent facilities and they're not interested in anybody bothering them. But I think they would feel better about it if they were going to pay into the M&O tax to support it, then they should —, everybody should pay into it and it should be equal across the board and let the County run it, but each municipality should at that same time because it shouldn't be a free ride for anybody nor should it be —, if we're going to increase taxes, which we will have to do, the corresponding community should reduce their budget based on that at the same millage rate. Now if we can get that, I'm all for it and I think we ought to consolidate the entire thing. Just like, just like the Chairman said, I think all of it ought to be done, not just, just a piece of it.

Chairman Hair said, I totally agree Commissioner DeLoach, and I think that intent, and I've discussed this with the Mayor and I know that's his intent, and I think that they —, I'm sure there may be some individual consent on the council, but I think that is the intent exactly. That's been the foundation for all our discussions up to this point. Commissioner DeLoach said, the whole time. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Chairman Hair said, and I totally agree with you.

Commissioner DeLoach said, right. So, I think we ought to expand this thing to include all the municipalities 'cause I now, like we've all heard from Walter Parker concerning the life guards and the fact that they help represent, you know, they life guard for everybody in Chatham County, not just Tybee, that we offer this based on it, that we pass this saying, yes, we will do this, we will consolidate the entire recreation facilities of Chatham County and we will fund it out of M&O tax.

Commissioner Saussy said, I don't have a problem with that Eddie [DeLoach]. I think you're right. As long as the municipalities will go along with us running their —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, but the key to it to me, we will have to raise taxes on the County's side to do all this. They key to it to me for us to come out and look okay and not look like —, and not have somebody say, okay, you do that and I'm going to keep my taxes the same and use the monies somewhere else —. Commissioner Saussy said, no, I agree with you. Chairman Hair said, no, I don't think that's the intent. Commissioner DeLoach said, we reduce the taxes and we raise the M&O at that point. Chairman Hair said, that's been the foundation all along, that's been the exact plan. Commissioner DeLoach said, and just work it from there, but the M&O pays it and the County runs it. Chairman Hair said, that's correct, and everybody pays, everybody pays their equal share.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm ready to make a motion to that effect. Chairman Hair said, all right. Commissioner Murray first and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I like Eddie's [DeLoach] proposal and I think if that proposal goes through we also have to understand that we, as the County Commission, would have to reduce the SSD budget by that same rate, not just the municipalities, because we are now paying for the recreation in that area. I think it can work. I don't agree so much with this proposal or these breakdowns that were put in front of us because I, first of all, don't believe we can do it as we need to out of the growth, and if we do that, then we limit ourselves on what we can do in other areas that we always anticipate X-amount of growth coming in to do —, we just wouldn't have the funds to do the other things with, and every so —, not as much as we probably need to, but we do give raises from time to time on County employees and, there again, that would limit us on what we would do without raising our own millage rate to offset it, so I would agree with Commissioner DeLoach on the way he's made his presentation.

Commissioner Jackel said, it seems to me I've been hearing a lot of different rhetoric. People out at Tybee say we want you to come out and use our beaches and we pour all this money into renourishing their beaches and —, the federal government does and everything, and now we hear, well, someone's got to pay for the life guards. Then we hear let's build a Civic Center years ago in Savannah, it will bring all this money in. Now we hear, the people that don't live in the County are using it and not paying their fair part of the taxes. When we got into this thing, what I heard from everybody, the rhetoric was is that if we consolidate, we will save money, we will have economy to scale, we will have better programming. Now all I hear is us talking about spending more money. The rhetoric's changed. It's gone from spending less, better programs, to spending more. And now we talk about the City running it since they have the biggest thing until all of a sudden now the County's going to run everything. The small program's going to take over the big program, and it may not sound like there's a tax increase, but it is a tax increase if we spend the growth in the digest on recreation. It is a big extra spending load and it prevents us from using that money, and I think if we had to sit here and vote on just the money we're going to have and the increase in digest, what is our first priority to do with that money, I don't think it would be to change the recreation in this County. I think the people in this County are happy with the recreation in this County. I think if it's not broke, we shouldn't try and fix it. And, as Eddie [DeLoach] said, the people in Garden City, the people in Port Wentworth, Pooler, Thunderbolt, Tybee, I think those people are happy with what they have. I think they're happy with the control they have over their system, and they don't want to have to call us if there's a problem with the recreation in their municipality. They want to call their elected representatives in their municipality to deal with it. And when we discussed the City running this thing, I said what do I do when I get a call from one of my constituents in the unincorporated part of the County, who do I call on City Council to take care of it? Right now it's very easy. I call the County Manager and it takes care of it right away whatever problem there is. We've got a chain

of command and it's taken care of. But who do I have to call? Do I have to call the Mayor, do I have to call the City Manager, who went to that plan? That's going to put those cities in that same position.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I answer that for you? Commissioner Jackel said, sure. Commissioner DeLoach said, the point —, what we want to do, the reason I say the County's going to operate it, control it, we're going to take the funds in. We have to be —, if we're going to levy the tax, we've got to be responsible for the money. Now, we do not have to run each facility and we do not have to run each community. We will enter into an intergovernmental agreement with that community and they can function just like they have been. The only difference is, it's not collected at a local level. The money is collected in the M&O tax and funded out of that. So if Garden City has a recreation number right now, say, \$500,000 —, a million dollars, okay. They've got a million dollars on the books and they're spending a million dollars. We enter into a contract with Garden City, we allocate them one million dollars based on this program that you presented. They function, they run their own facility, but we control the dollars that are dispensed. We tax everybody so that Savannah, which has got a large amount of dollars here, ten million dollars in it, their millage should roll back and as far as a tax increase and all that, their millage should roll back. Ours will have to increase because we can't cover ten million dollars, but it will —, you know, they will offset, but it will be under one umbrella then. One authority, one commission will run it, and we will work with each community that wants to do that. Now they might be a community out there, one or two communities that says, hey, you run my recreation department, I don't want to do that. Now we actually —, I mean, I'm not saying that Tybee wants to not run their recreation, but they might want to get out of the life guard business because he's felt like that's been a burden. Now maybe the other municipalities it's a strain on their budget. We don't know what their budget is. They can go and say I'm going to give this to the City —, I going to give it to you and let it come out of M&O. That gets the pressure off of me where I don't have to levy an additional tax to cover that cost, so it'll just take —, it just brings it under one umbrella and each individual can operate it from that.

Commissioner Jackel we are doing this without knowing what each municipality's level of funding is or what their plans are for the future. If you use that million dollar figure, what if they all of a sudden decide they want to spend a million point five on recreation, then they —, is that in addition to what we're doing. What if they want to say we've got to cut back, we're only willing to spend three-quarters of a million on recreation. Our M&O's set, we're collecting the money, we're shipping it to them, they would have to spend it on recreation. We don't know what their spending levels are. I think we're getting into a quagmire here. I want to go back —. Chairman Hair said, I can answer that question. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to go back to the original rhetoric that we had that this is going to save money and improve things. Why are we spending more instead of saving it? Because see, that's what I want totally. Commissioner DeLoach said, we are not spending more. Chairman Hair said, you're just, you're just —, you're not spending more totally. Commissioner DeLoach said, you're shifting the tax —. Chairman Hair said, and also to answer your earlier —, your first question is all of that as far as cutbacks and, you know, disasters and whatever, all of that would be covered in the intergovernmental agreement that, you know, again, if it's our money, you know, we would control that in the contractual agreement we would have with that municipality. They would have to agree that —, to certain things, not just on —, always on the increased cost, but on decreased side as well. Any other questions? Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Eddie [DeLoach], your plan is not based upon increase in the digest, designating that increase to fund this. Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Mine does not cover the digest. All I'm saying, and what I'm saying here today is we're going to do this, whatever it takes to do this, we're going to do —, I think that's what the Chairman's saying the same thing. If we could cover it with the digest, that would be wonderful and everybody would live happily ever after. But in reality I'm not going to sit here and say that would happen based on the size of the budget that the City of Savannah has. We couldn't do it as far as we're concerned, but they're going to actually —, should reduce their budget so that the people that live in the City of Savannah it will offset anyway.

Chairman Hair said, well, let me make a point of clarification. I totally —, Commissioner DeLoach and I totally agree on what needs to be done. We disagree on how. He's saying do it, a millage increase in the M&O. I'm not saying that at all. I'm saying this plan the staff presented us, do it out of the digest, because I'm not saying —. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. Chairman Hair said, that's one difference between the two of us. I'm not saying raise the millage. I'm saying do it through digest growth, and that's the —. Other than that, everything else is —, he and I are in total agreement. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, and —.

Commissioner Odell said, you've answered my question. Chairman Hair said, yes, okay. Commissioner Odell said, my question to you, Billy [Hair], is if we designate this from the increase in the digest, then that limits our use of that increase to do other things that we've done like —. Chairman Hair said, with the growth portion that's true, not the reappraisal part. I mean, this is roughly half of what it —, if you go back and look, it's about —, this is about 55% of what the digest has been going up. Commissioner Odell said, that's my first question. My second question is, the motion that's on the floor, is it keyed to —, is it tying it to the digest increase or was Eddie's [DeLoach] —? Chairman Hair said, there is no motion on the floor. There's no motion on the floor, so this —, we're just discussing the options, and one option would be to do it through raising the millage, which I would personally be opposed to vehemently, and the other is to do it through the growth in the digest. And if you're concerned about the —, allocating the total, when we were presented —, Dr. Thomas will confirm, when we were presented this yesterday in agenda review, what we first were given was only three years, and those numbers instead of being 3% were 6% —. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Chairman Hair said, and I said there's no way that we're going to do that. Dr. Thomas agreed. So we asked the staff to go back and take it from three years and give us five or six years. Even if we went out seven or eight years and cut that to 2½%, at least we would be —, we would start that process rolling. If you want to go out instead of six years, go eight years then. That's fine. At least we'd start that ball rolling to do it. Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner Odell said, I'm trying. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell is not through. Commissioner Odell said, Eddie [DeLoach], under your plan, and I'm trying to understand, the County would collect the money, the money would be disbursed to the individual municipalities, so concurrently the individual municipalities would lower their property tax, so it would be an offset. They would enter into an intergovernmental agreement and would —, they would contract with the County and they would run their own program. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Odell said, right. Commissioner Saussy said, could. Commissioner Odell asked, what have we done? If we do that, then the only

thing that's changed is who collects the money. Commissioner DeLoach said, let me tell you the difference. What it does is, it puts it into the M&O budget where everybody pays the same amount. As it stands now, the City of Savannah feels like they're being abused by the unincorporated area, by other places, because these people come in and play at their facilities and yet the people in the City of Savannah collect their monies and they have to pay additional taxes to do that. What this does, it spreads it over everybody's tax table. Everybody pays the same thing so that it will raise the County portion of it and lower the City's, but everybody's will be the same. Commissioner Odell said, in the Special Service District. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, Special Service District, they should not have to, per se, pay a Special Service District tax. They should have to pay in the M&O just like everybody else. Commissioner Odell said, okay, so the selling advantage is not one of unification and organization, it is one of equality as far as [inaudible]. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. The point —, the original intent and the long —, the initial intent is to make it equal and —, for everybody. The long term effect having it under one umbrella will eventually and long term scale it down to where you won't need that much intergovernmental agreements. You know, people realize that this thing's working pretty good and they've been spending a lot of money, they're going to say, huh, this is not a bad deal, I can eliminate these two or three people in this department here, let the County maintain it, it's paid by M&O anyway, I've taken the pressure off of my budget, and each community can do that. Commissioner Odell said, just a last thing, I think the appropriate location for a consolidated program would be the County. If I was in Garden City I don't know if I would necessarily want the City of Savannah to be running my recreation program in Garden City or Tybee. I think the logical place for the centralization is the County.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner, are you still [inaudible]? Commissioner Price asked, can I make a statement? Mr. Danny Powers said, were you talking about these taxes, and Garden City and Port Wentworth presently aren't paying any city tax. Commissioner DeLoach said, you're right, property taxes. Chairman Hair said, that's a good point. Thank you, Danny [Powers]. Commissioner Murray —, are you through Commissioner DeLoach? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, the only comment I'd like to make as far as the growth in the digest, that's fine, but I think we have to consider also that last year during our —, when we had the separate millage, we all —, or the majority agreed that we would always give back the difference in the reassessment or reevaluation of our properties and so we could not use that figure, and I hope we aren't thinking that that figure would be part of this growth. Chairman Hair said, no, that's not in here. Commissioner Murray asked, is it in this? Chairman Hair said, not the reappraisals. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. We did point out though in 1998 there's a figure down there of 5.16%. That's total growth, so the numbers would be skewed if in August you were to decide not to take what the balance —, the budget was balanced on, which was total growth. Chairman Hair said, I mean, to answer that —, I totally agree with Commissioner Murray, just sort of 99. Commissioner Murray said, well the total growth is what I'm talking about. I'm not talking about —, well, the growth in the digest is what I'm talking about, not the reassessment or revaluation of properties. The majority of us agreed last year that we would —, no matter how large or how small that was, that's what we would drop the millage to offset that. County Manager Abolt said, the point I want to make in understanding that is that these numbers are skewed —. [Inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, yes, we did, we rolled it back. Commissioner Murray said, we did not do it on CAT. Chairman Hair said, we rolled it back 2-point —. Commissioner Odell said, probably a major mistake, but we did it. Commissioner Price said, [inaudible], if he were here he'd tell us. County Manager Abolt said, I want to make sure I've answered Commissioner Murray's question directly. These figures are predicated on no millage rollback in 1998. The budget was balanced on an assumption of total digest growth of 5.16% for 1998. That's the base year. If in August you decide to do a millage adjustment downward, then these numbers will all be affected because the base has been affected. Chairman Hair said, but again, Russ [Abolt], all you've got to is start '99 [inaudible]. We're halfway through the year anyway. You start January 1<sup>st</sup> instead it in July. County Manager Abolt said, I want to make sure you fully understand. Chairman Hair said, yes. I mean, I don't see that as a major problem.

Chairman Hair asked, any other question or discussion. Mr. Ken Earls said, I do. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Earls.

Mr. Ken Earls said, I'm confused. Commissioner Price said, join the club. Chairman Hair said, join the crowd. Mr. Earls said, I'm just totally confused. I'm Ken Earls. Okay, these two departments are consolidated. Who will do the budget process, who will be responsible for the budget process? I asked this question before and nobody knew at that time. Chairman Hair said, the County would —, under both proposals, Commissioner DeLoach's and mine, both proposals would be the County would —, it would be an M&O tax, it'd be a County tax so we would levy the tax. Mr. Earls said, this is what you're saying. Has the City agreed to that? Chairman Hair said, this is part of negotiation process. Mr. Earls said, that's what I'm asking. You aren't doing anything now. Chairman Hair said, no, we're just, we're just laying down the ground work that we give the County Manager to go meet —, this has been an ongoing process, Mr. Earls, for about six or seven months. Mr. Earls said, I know. I've been here. Chairman Hair said, well, then you should know then. You shouldn't had to ask that question. Mr. Earls said, no, I know as much as you all do. Chairman Hair said, you shouldn't have to ask that question then. This is an ongoing process. We're setting the parameters today for the County Manager to go back and continue the negotiation process. You're right, the City has not agreed to this. Mr. Earls said, okay. Chairman Hair said, okay. No problem. Commissioner Saussy said, nor have they disagreed. Chairman Hair said, nor have they disagreed. That's a good point, Commissioner Saussy. That's a very good point. They've not disagreed either. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], if this proposal was to go through, does that mean the County would be over all the recreations, it would be over all the employees that handle the recreation. Is that what we're saying? County Manager Abolt said, sir, if I may, up until the time that Commissioner DeLoach, you know, made his proposal we were looking at a consolidated department, but again as Commissioner DeLoach said, you're talking about consolidation on the issue of equity. So the way I would envision it is, annually the County Commission would set a level of spending for recreation. You would tell each of the cities, I guess Savannah included. If they don't want the County to, you know, run the program, they're given the option of intergovernmental agreement. They would come forward and they would say we want you to do, you know, all these things, but you'd have the final say. When you adopt the budget you'd be able to say, okay, the total budget is this and there are ten intergovernmental agreements and they'll not exceed this amount of money for that year. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, you control the purse strings. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Commissioner

Murray said, that's fine, but —, so what we're doing is just taking everybody and putting them together. We aren't eliminating any positions, we aren't eliminating any equipment or anything else. Even the stuff that we're duplicating right now, we still would not be eliminating it. County Manager Abolt said, your making a major departure from the issue of consolidation. What happened at the last meeting with the City Council, when I presented different options and I talked about just what you were saying that it's possible to consolidate without getting off on this issue of equity. It was the preponderance of opinion there that the issue of equity had to be address. Therefore, we've moved from what you're talking about, just putting everybody together, to putting the funding together and then managing the other operations through intergovernmental agreements. Commissioner Murray said, well, there's another side to all this, too, that could be done and I don't know whether it would be feasible to do it or not, and that's privatize it. Commissioner Murray said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, County wide. Chairman Hair said, Russ [Abolt], but that's not —, I don't want to leave any misconceptions out there. That city can still opt to have the County manage the program, so if you should say that they continue to manage it themselves is not necessarily a true statement. That's not —. County Manager Abolt said, I agree with you. You're right. Chairman Hair said, so it's not a departure in that sense. The County still —, the City still has the option to say we want you to fund it and manage it, okay. So it's not just automatically that they'd do business as usual, okay.

Commissioner Price said, I had some of the same concerns Frank [Murray] had. I don't mean to butt in —. Chairman Hair said, that's okay. Go head. Commissioner Price said, but we know for a fact that the City of Savannah Recreation Department is well resourced. It's got ample resources, much greater than what we have and what we've been able to do, and my reservations are along the lines of if we're going to try and do this, we should be able to use the resources of the City of Savannah, at least in combination with the County's unincorporated area. I can't say that, you know, I can't make that decision for the municipalities, the other municipalities, but I think we're missing the boat. We're missing the target here of trying to use the greatest resources to the greatest abilities that they have. I'm not sure, I'm not sure we're really accomplishing anything here is what I'm saying. Commissioner Murray said, well, I don't see the benefit.

Chairman Hair said, well, first of all, I think it's —, you're not going to accomplish anything today. As I said to Mr. Earls a while ago, this is just a continuation of the negotiation process. It lays another option on the table that we can negotiate with the City of Savannah and the other municipalities. This is —, no decision is being made today. This is not a vote to consolidate or not to consolidate. Commissioner Price said, right. Chairman Hair said, this just gives us a different set of parameters in order to do that. Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm still at —, I want to hear some specifics on how we're better off if we do this than we were before, and if we're bringing our level of spending and the County up to what the City is, then it's my understanding we would have to substantially increase the spending that we were doing, and are we prepared to increase that level of spending? Those are the two questions that need to be answered. Commissioner DeLoach said, there's more to it than that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. Commissioner Price said, somebody try a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got a motion, but I want everybody to understand the motion when we do it. Let me say the motion first and then we'll go through the different points of it. The motion is, I make a motion that we consolidate all the recreational departments in the Chatham —, in each municipal and Special Service District under the authority of the Chatham County Recreational Department. That —, one part of that, provided —, or not, that's it. Then you say, as we consolidate these departments and move this tax into the M&O tax, that each corresponding municipality will reduce their budget respectively as far as the amount of monies that we're collecting in the M&O and that long term we consolidate the entire Recreation Department under one roof, which is Chatham County Commission. Chairman Hair asked, but your motion is to increase the millage rate in the M&O? Commissioner DeLoach said, what I am —, what —, I'm going to leave —, I'm not going to put any —. In other words, I'm not going to state anything about whether we need to increase or whether we need to decrease. All I'm saying is let's get that part of it done. Would that work? Chairman Hair said, I think you're going to have to decide how you're —, I don't think —, I think we're putting the County Manager in an awkward position if he goes back to negotiate and we don't tell him how he's going to fund it. Chairman Hair said, all right, well —. Chairman Hair said, I think —. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I'll have to go on with it then. I'll have to fund it based on whatever tax increase we need to do to do that. Chairman Hair said, okay, let's see if we get a second first and then —. Do we have a second to Eddie's [DeLoach] motion? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. Okay now let's --.

Commissioner DeLoach said, now, let me discuss it. The issues —, the questions and the issues are why are we doing that, what's the problem with it, and, one, if we consolidate the City of Savannah and the Chatham County's facilities, and the problem that I have with it is that if we do that, everybody regardless of whether they participate or not will have an increase —. [NOTE: A telephone rings.] Chairman Hair said, Frank's [Murray] got an appointment. Commissioner DeLoach said, will have an increase in their taxes. I do not feel that is fair for Garden City or anyone who lives in Bloomingdale or any of the other municipalities, to have a tax increase with no benefits. That's what we're here about anyway today because the City of Savannah's a little upset and everybody questions about the equity there. So, that's the main issue for me as far as this thing goes is tax equity as far as all of Chatham County is concerned. Now once we establish the tax equity, we do that by using the M&O tax. Everybody pays the same amount and everything goes on. Now why do we do the intergovernmental agreements? We do the intergovernmental agreements because we have a number of recreation departments that have no desire to function under the leadership Chatham County, namely —, I can name you a couple of them, and I won't name everyone, but I do know and I've spoken to Garden City and Pooler. They have no desire to do that. They want to run theirs. They've got hired people to do that, and that should be fine. We would have to have somebody there to do that if Chatham County was running it. So that doesn't bother me. It gives them an independence, but yet it spreads the taxes around to everybody equally, but as long as those municipalities who have a tax on it decrease their taxes when we have to either absorb it into our budget or we have a tax millage increase, whatever it takes to offset this cost, that's the reason we're there. Long term, just like Clarke County did, there'll be a shake-out and there'll be a reduction in the number of people that are employed here, but it will take —, it's taken them and they're still doing it, my brother-in-law works for them, they're in about their fourth or fifth year, and they're still consolidating and moving and shifting and reducing people, and it will continue on, and they only had three communities. Now they still have the same functions up there. The Winterville Police Department

is the Winterville Police Department, but the point is we can work these intergovernmental agreements and spread the tax out even and then we can begin to consolidate all the recreation facilities, but we won't be able to do it unless we go this way.

Commissioner Jackel asked, what do we gain? Commissioner DeLoach said, what do we gain? Long term we gain a consolidated recreation department. Commissioner Jackel asked, is it any better? Commissioner DeLoach said, is it any better? I don't know. Commissioner Jackel asked, well, how do you answer a person that lives out at Wilmington Island that says I moved out to Wilmington Island because I didn't want to pay the city taxes, and the person who chose to live in Garden City for that same reason? How do you answer that person? Commissioner DeLoach said, that's fine, the point is —, but the point is it's an inequity there that we have to get squared away. So —. Commissioner Jackel asked, it's an inequity that someone chose to live in Wilmington Island that wanted to [inaudible]. Commissioner DeLoach said, there's an inequity in what one group is paying and the people that participate in this community, and we know that it's taking place. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't know that. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I live in the unincorporated area and I know it does. Back and forth, I'm not saying one place —, I know I've got folks that live in the unincorporated area playing in the City of Bloomingdale. I mean, they play there because there's not a recreation center near them, so they play there. Now they do not pay any taxes or whatever, if they had to pay taxes or whatever, but the point is if there's an equity, let's make —. Commissioner Jackel said, they might buy gas there and buy some soda after the game and spend their money there. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's fine, and, you know, Martin [Jackel], I mean, there's a lot of logic you can throw in there, but the point is this equal out —, this equals the tax upon everybody, and then we can start to develop the recreation that way.

Chairman Hair said, okay, any —. Commissioner Price said, call the question. Chairman Hair said, we have a call for the question. All right. All those in favor —. Mr. Earls said, please restate the motion. Chairman Hair said, the basic —, I'll summarize. I don't want him to restate it. Can I this a little succinctly? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair said, basically, the motion is that we consolidate the recreation departments and we enter into intergovernmental agreements with the cities and we do it through an increase in taxes. Is that basically it, Eddie [DeLoach]? Did I misstate anything? In M&O tax. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's based on an increase in the M&O tax, but corresponding reduction from —, in the city taxes. Chairman Hair said, that would be offset. Commissioner Murray asked, can I make a comment to clarify part of that motion? Chairman Hair said, just try to —. Commissioner Murray said, I think it's misunderstood because it was misunderstood by me. The County Manager brought it to my attention. The Special Service District does not pay a Special Service District tax for recreation. It comes out of the M&O now. Commissioner DeLoach said, I didn't know that. Commissioner Murray said, I didn't either. Chairman Hair said, all right, we've had a call for the question.

Commissioner Jackel said, point of order. I think that's an improper motion in that it's telling people that we don't have any authority over that they need to reduce their taxes. Chairman Hair said, it's not —, only if they enter into the intergovernmental agreement. They have an option. It's just to allow the cities to —, to offer them the intergovernmental agreements and if they don't want to do it, they don't have to do it. Commissioner Murray said, my point to that is, if this passes and that's the type we go to now, then that means the people in the SSD will have a tax increase. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Saussy said, I think we need to consider that as a separate city. Chairman Hair said, there's —, before I vote, I'm going to vote against this motion, but I want the record to reflect why. I'm totally in favor of consolidation. I have pushed this for years and years and years. I do not think though that this is the way to do it. I think it should be done through digest growth over a period of time and not try to do it through an increase in the millage rate, so I want the record to reflect why I'm voting no on this motion. I'm totally in favor of consolidation, but not —. Commissioner Price said, call the question. Chairman Hair said, we have a call for the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner DeLoach said, ah, nobody wants to vote for it now. Commissioners Saussy, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Murray, Price and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed to carry by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Okay, anybody want to offer any other motions?

Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Price said, I move that we approve what staff has put together here that —, develop plans to consolidate the entire function of the Recreation Department according to the time constraints and funding methodology mentioned above. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor —, discussion? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I just want to make a comment. I'm going to vote against this one also, and the reason I'm voting against it is no one has been able to tell me what benefits we will see from this at this point. The whole process that we've been through over the many years we've been involved in trying to consolidate Recreation, Inspections and other departments, was the fact that we would see some benefit by doing that, and so far I haven't seen anything to point out any benefit from this from either part of it, and I just can't support it for that reason.

Chairman Hair said, all right. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Prices and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion failed to carry by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Okay, I guess this suggests to the County Manager that maybe at the next meeting of June 12<sup>th</sup> if you need to discuss with Mr. Brown, maybe again give us some additional options. County Manager Abolt said, I meet with that City group on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hair said, that's before the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, so bring us back some other options. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, sir, and then you did at least tentatively agree and it may be appropriate that in the month of July --. Chairman Hair said, that's correct, we'll hold a meeting. County Manager Abolt said, that there would be a policy level, and you may even want to choose to invite more than just the City Council of the City of Savannah. Chairman Hair said, yes, we'll at least offer invitations to the other cities. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], if there's any possible way to do it, could they bring something back to show the benefits. If we consolidate, regardless of which way we do it, what are our benefits? What are we going to gain from it? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, absolutely. When this came up, as recently as your workshop, I've instructed our staff and I've asked Mr. Brown and he's asked Mr. Shearouse to do the same thing. Chairman Hair said, we discussed this, and I don't know if you were at the meeting, Frank [Murray], the meeting at the Civic Center, were you there when we had —? Commissioner Murray said, I was not able to be there. Chairman Hair said, well, we discussed those. There were some that were discussed there and I think —. Commissioner Jackel said, I was there, but [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray said, the positives and the negatives. I think we need to know both sides. County Manager Abolt said, if I may. Commissioner Jackel said, it beats a poke in the eye with a sharp stick. County Manager Abolt said, the important thing to remember is that the objective is changing. The initial objective was just, as you said, to consolidate to get the economy to scale. That was it, pure and simple. Then in our discussion with the City of Savannah the issue of equity came up, so we were dealing with equity, which had nothing to do with what we'd come to up to that point. Chairman Hair said, well, see, Russ [Abolt], I don't think those are mutually exclusive. I disagree with —, I don't think it has shifted. I think it's just a matter of how you do it. I think that has shifted, but I don't think that —, I think the idea still is to totally consolidate the recreation departments. I don't think that shifted. We have had to deal with the inequity funding issue as part of that, but I don't think the mission has changed at all. I really don't. I would respectfully disagree with that statement.

Commissioner Saussy said, well, the mission then is to consolidate with equity. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. That's the only change. The equity is how you do it, you know. The mission of consolidation has not changed.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to consolidate the recreation departments of all municipalities under the authority of Chatham County and that we enter into intergovernmental agreements with the municipalities, that each municipality reduce their budget respectively as far as the amount of monies that we're collecting in the M&O, and that long term we consolidate the entire Recreation Department under the Chatham County Commission and fund it based on whatever tax increase we need to do in M&O to do that. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Murray, Price and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to direct staff to develop plans to consolidate the entire function of the County's Recreation Department with the City of Savannah whereby the County General Fund M&O would fully absorb funding responsibility for the consolidated recreation activities over a three-year period without requiring a millage increase as follows: the County would absorb one-third of the City's cost in 1999, two-thirds in 2000, and the entire amount in the years 2001 and beyond. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to declare a five-minute recess and we will come back at ten after twelve. Five-minute recess.

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4. **YEAR-END WRAP-UP BASED ON AUDIT, BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND ADOPTIONS FOR ENCUMBRANCES, INCOMPLETE PROJECTS/EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND FUND BALANCE RESERVE AT YEAR-END 1997 FOR ALL FUNDS:**
  - A GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE OF \$1,655,340 FOR MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE 1998 DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS OF \$930,840, TRANSFER TO CIP FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT OF \$150,000, REPLENISH THE CONTINGENCY OF \$269,030, REPLACE WEIGHT LIFTING CENTER OPERATIONS REVENUE OF \$125,000, WEIGHT LIFTING CENTER BUDGET OF \$33,990 AND SUPERIOR COURT FINES PARTIAL PAYMENTS LIABILITY OF \$146,480.
  - AN SSD BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE OF \$1,172,540 FOR TRANSFER TO CIP FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT OF \$1,100,000 AND INCREASE CONTINGENCY OF \$72,540 AND TO APPROPRIATE \$11,810 DRUG SURCHARGE RESERVE AND TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND M&O.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. I want to make a comment about this. I've expressed this concern to the County Manager. I have a real problem with two of these items, and I know they're results of votes that the Commission has taken in the past. We are —, I want to point out that we are designating the \$158,000 of a million six, which is roughly 10% of our fund balance is going to one program. It's going to the Weightlifting Center. Now nobody is a bigger supporter of the Weight-

lifting Center than I am. I served as Vice Chairman of that Board, I wrote the [inaudible] application, but I think it's wrong to take —, to allocate 10% of the fund balance for one single program, and that's what we're doing folks. We're taking \$158,000 of a million six and putting it in one single recreation program, and I just —, I have a real problem with that. I'll take any other discussion at this time. We have a motion and a second. Do we have any —? Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'd like to hit on that point there that we support a lot of the other activities at that amount or more, but they're in the budget —, they're covered in the budget. Therefore, they're not showing up on this allocation. Had we allocated the right amount to that particular item originally, it would not show up on a line item here. So there's an inequity on all of them, I'm not questioning that. Anybody who doesn't play softball, there's no doubt in their mind that we're spending too much on softball and vice versa I think we're —, there can be an argument for we're spending too much on weightlifting, and I'm not questioning that, but I think each individual program, if you'll go and look at it and look at the returns and what the people are looking for, you'll find that this is not that big a budget item as compared to anything else. Chairman Hair said, well, in clarification —, if I could respond Commissioner Thomas before —, that's —, I guess you could say that's true, but also \$150,000 is —, excuse me, \$125,000 of this \$158,000 is a result of us deciding to charge a fee and then not deciding to charge a fee, and other recreational facilities do charge fees, like the swimming pool and other things, so we backtracked on our charging a fee, which we originally had planned on doing, it was recommended by the staff to do, and because we did not do that, now we've got to come back and replace \$125,000. If we charged the fee to the users, then we would not have to use \$125,000 of the \$158,000. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's exactly what I wanted to explain, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry, I didn't realize that was what you were going to say. I would not —, I would have recognized sooner.

Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible] on that though. I need to get some points in there if I may. Chairman Hair said, well, this is not a matter of getting points, I don't think. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, it is because you're emphasizing that that's a free ride job there, and in fact softball is, basketball is, football is. All these activities are free rides. They do not pay a fee to do that. So, I'm not —, you know, if we need to I understand and I don't have a problem with it, but I don't want one being pulled out of the context and saying that this for some reason is way out of line, when in fact it's in line with everything else, and if we need to adjust all of those, then we need to adjust all of them. I can understand that and I won't argue with that, but I want everybody to say —, understand that this is not that far out of line as far as dollars and spent [sic]. Chairman Hair said, well, that's an opinion and I respect that opinion, but I totally disagree with that opinion.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second on the floor. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Frank [Murray], do you have a question? Commissioner Murray said, yes. I just want to respond to the weightlifting a little bit. I think for you —, you were not at the meeting, you were out of town on some other County business, if I'm not mistaken —. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Murray but at the meeting this came up, we listened to all the discussion. We felt like that there was more taken out of that one budget than there was other budgets. Right now that facility is the only that we've had to expand so far and really needs another expansion, it's that good. It is used —, the diversity among the people that use that is probably much greater than any other facility that's being used right now that the County has, and we just felt like at the time, I think I can speak for the rest of the Commission that voted in favor of it, that we felt like they were being penalized by the way the budget cut was done to cut their budget to begin with and they weren't notified of those cuts in time to make the arrangements they needed to, and as far as whether we charge admission or not, I think that's something that we can still discuss, but as far as whether we approve this or not, I think the Weightlifting Center is doing what it's out there to do and it's a good service to this community for those people are involved in it.

Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve year-end wrap-up based on Audit, Budget Amendments and Adoptions for encumbrances, Incomplete Projects/Equipment purchases and Fund Balance Reserve at year-end 1997 for all funds: A General Fund M&O budget amendment to appropriate Undesignated Fund balance of \$1,655,340 for Mighty Eighth Air Force 1998 Debt Service Payments of \$930,840, transfer to CIP for vehicle replacement of \$150,000, replenish the contingency of \$269,030, replace Weight Lifting Center Operations Revenue of \$125,000, Weight Lifting Center budget of \$33,990 and Superior Court Fines Partial Payments Liability of \$146,480; an SSD budget amendment to appropriate Undesignated Fund Balance of \$1,172,540 for Transfer to CIP for vehicle replacement of \$1,100,000 and increase Contingency of \$72,540 and to appropriate \$11,810 Drug Surcharge Reserve and transfer to General Fund M&O. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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#### **5. TO PRESENT TO THE BOARD THE COUNTY'S AUDITED COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND THE CHANGES IN FINANCIAL CONDITION. THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION.**

Chairman Hair said, the next two items are basically reports. You have a copy in your folder of the audit reports. These are basically information, and the way we'll handle —, they don't require votes, #5 and #6. Is that correct, Mr. Manager? I think that's what you told me yesterday. County Manager Abolt said, you received them —. Chairman Hair said, we receive them

as information, we don't require votes, but if you have any questions on the audit, we'd be glad to entertain that. Otherwise, we'll just —. Okay, that takes us to Item #7.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Received as information.

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**6. TO PRESENT BOARD WITH THE AUDITORS RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE INTERNAL CONTROLS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997, TOGETHER WITH STAFF RESPONSES TO THE AUDITORS COMMENTS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Received as information.

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**7. APPROVAL OF ANNEXATION DISPUTE PROCESS AS REQUESTED BY HOUSE BILL 489.**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, there is a requirement under House Bill 489, which you know is overall an analysis of intergovernmental services between the County and each municipality, but there's a particular deadline within the continuum of House Bill 489 that says by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July there should be in place an annexation resolution dispute process. It's the considered opinion not only of your staff, but also each of the City Managers from the other municipalities and MPC staff that this requirement has little application to Chatham County. It deals with land use matters. With a consolidated planning arm, namely the MPC, and the full cooperation of the municipalities of smaller size, we do not see this other than a requirement to meet a deadline in State law.

Chairman Hair said, this is just a formality that we have to do in order to meet House Bill 489. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve annexation dispute process as requested by House Bill 489. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE POSITIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS MORE COST EFFICIENT TO FILL.**

- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS - BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (ONE POSITION); BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY WORKER (ONE POSITION)**
- **ICS - COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/ANALYST (ONE POSITION); CLERICAL ASSISTANT II(ONE POSITION)**
- **MAGISTRATE COURT - DEPUTY COURT CLERK II (ONE POSITION); DEPUTY COURT CLERK I (ONE POSITION); CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK (ONE POSITION)**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Building Maintenance and Operations - Building Maintenance Mechanic (one position), Building Maintenance and Security Worker (one position); ICS - Computer Programmer/Analyst (one position), Clerical Assistant II(one position); Magistrate Court - Deputy Court Clerk II (one position), Deputy Court Clerk I (one position), Chief Deputy Clerk (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

(The Board can entertain one motion to adopt the below-listed calendar. Such motion would mean adoption of staff's recommendation. Any Board Member may choose to pull an item from the calendar and it would be considered separately.)

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Saussy said, #8. Chairman Hair said, #8, okay. Anything else off? Commissioner Jackel said, #6 and I also had #8. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, #9. Chairman Hair said, and #9. Okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, so move. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

[NOTE: Refer to Items 6, 8 and 9, respectively, for discussion thereon.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety, Items 1 through 11, with the exception of Items 6, 8 and 9. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

[NOTE: ACTION OF THE BOARD IS SHOWN ON EACH ITEM AS THOUGH AN INDIVIDUAL MOTION WAS MADE THEREON.]

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 8, 1998, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 8, 1998, as mailed. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 30, 1998, THROUGH MAY 12, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 30, 1998, through May 12, 1998, in the amount of \$3,366,832. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**3. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, BUOY BROTHER'S BUILDERS, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR THE COTTAGES, PHASE 3A, AND ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.  
[DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Buoy Brother's Builders, to record the subdivision plat for The Cottages, Phase 3A, and accept the financial guarantee. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 4. **REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, BANKERS FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP., TO RECORD LONG POINT SUBDIVISION, PHASE 9, APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENTS, INITIATE THE TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO AN EXISTING STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to Request from engineer for the developer, Bankers First Community Development Corp., to record Long Point Subdivision, Phase 9, approve the constructed improvements, initiate the twelve-month warranty period, accept the financial guarantee and recombine the subdivision into an existing Streetlighting Assessment District. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 5. **REQUEST FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS, MS. IDA MAE JOHNSON, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR PROPERTY OF EDNA DOUBERLY. [DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Ms. Ida Mae Johnson, the representative of the property owners, to record the subdivision plat for property of Edna Douberly, which is located off Osteen Road and consists of seven lots on 55.6 acres. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN UPDATED FEE STRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RENTAL OF THE PORTABLE BAND SHELL STAGES.**

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Saussy said, no, I said #8. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, are we sure that this is sufficient increase to cover the cost, the \$50 increase? Jim [Golden], is this sufficient or do we need to raise it more? Chairman Hair said, Jim [Golden]. Mr. Golden said, yes sir. The propose fee just covers a minimum, the cost involved, which is manpower, and also transportation. Commissioner Jackel said, well, when we do it to profit-making groups. Mr. Golden said, profit-making groups or private enterprises —. Commissioner Jackel said, \$500 and up. Mr. Golden said, [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the updated fee structure for rental of the portable band shell stages, per unit, as follows: daily without platform \$300; daily with platform \$400; profit-making groups, concerts, etc., with platform \$500. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE CHATHAM COUNTY'S INTEREST HELD BY A PROPERTY TAX DEED AT 308 PARK AVENUE LANE IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve and declare as surplus and offer for sale Chatham County's interest held by a property tax deed at 308 Park Avenue Lane (PIN 20053-02016) in the City of Savannah, with a legal description as the South

46 Feet of Lot 47, White Ward. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ALLOW HOSTS OF PRIVATE PARTIES, WHO HAVE RENTED THE CHATHAM COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER AFTER THE POOL IS CLOSED, TO SERVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO THEIR GUESTS.**

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I just have a question about this. I know we do it out at Tybee, but this is a little different situation. Commissioner Murray said, it sure is. Commissioner Saussy said, at Tybee where you've got it open —, an opening down there. My concern here is private parties —, why —, when are they going to have private parties, ten o'clock, eleven o'clock at night?

Mr. Lynch said, no sir. The --, most typically, the private parties occur either on a Saturday or a Sunday evening. The pool closes at six on those evenings, thus it's available at that time. That is when they occur. The others, the pool closes at nine. We haven't had any requests for parties. I'm sure some time we will. Commissioner Price asked, these are swimming parties? Mr. Lynch said, usually, or they could be a cocktail party. Commissioner Murray said, I'm opposed to it. Commissioner Price said, I'm opposed to this. I don't know how we can allow alcoholic consumption in a dangerous —, what could become even more dangerous situation like that. Mr. Lynch said, we have life guards on duty whenever there is anyone in that pool area. Typically, they will be a swimming party; however, it also makes a good venue for a cocktail party. Now we're being entrepreneurial in proposing this, and I'm going to be the first to admit it. You could pick up \$500 on one rental. You can have your life guards there to give you your protection of the people in the event that someone accidentally goes into the pool. We have found that there —, and we certainly don't have any intention of advertising it, but we have had some people who have expressed initial interest in a party. They've said can we have drinks, we've said we don't know until we take this to the Board. Commissioner Price said, sure. Mr. Lynch said, quite candidly, making money for that pool is very important. At the moment we're doing all right. The information I have for the first three months suggests we're within \$11,000 over a three-month period, which was supposed to be a greater difference. We're doing all right, but the day we quit being entrepreneurial, picking up everything we can, I think we're going to find ourselves —.

Chairman Hair said, I also think from —. Commissioner Saussy said, [Inaudible] concern too about liability, and the Attorney can tell us about that. Chairman Hair said, I understand liability, but I think we can —, I mean, you —, we probably can, yes —, Jon [Hart], address my point in your answer if you will. I mean, I think we've got liability at Tybee Pier as well. If they walk off Tybee Pier and drown, we're going to —, all they've got to say is I've had three drinks at the Tybee Pier, and we're still going to be liable. Commissioner Odell said, no, we're not. That's an assumption of a risk. I mean, they can put their hands on a knife. If we provide the knife, we don't force them to do it. Most of the hotels have —, I know this one, the Radisson, the bar is within [inaudible] of the hotel. We can't legislate morality. We've got to make this more attractive so that we can be competitive —. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, and whether we drink or not, there are people who will have functions and they would like to serve cocktails. I think we need to realize that that happens. Chairman Hair said, I agree. Commissioner Odell said, and we're adults here. Chairman Hair asked, Jon [Hart], would you address Commissioner Saussy's question directly about the liability issues?

County Attorney Hart said, any time you introduce alcohol into your situations, especially involving any type activity, you've always got the risk of somebody bringing a claim for that. As long as the County exercises its function in a reasonable manner, as long as it's properly posted to notify people that they're assuming the risk, you've certainly raised defenses. That's not a guarantee, Commissioner Saussy, that somebody won't attempt to sue the County for some incident like that, but we can certainly try to raise as many notices and legal barriers as possible to that.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Lynch, briefly. Mr. Lynch said, let me make it abundantly clear. We, the County, nor the managers of the pool are selling liquor or offering liquor. That is a function of the host of the party. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Jackel said, we require life guards and we put —, do we require any police security? Mr. Lynch said, if it is a large party. If you have 20 people who wanted to have a birthday party, you wouldn't require security. But let's say someone's talking about a hundred people. The requirement then resides with the host, the sponsor of the party, not with the County not with the pool, to provide security. Chairman Hair said, and to pay for it, which is great. Mr. Lynch said, and they pay the —, they pay the security direct. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then we'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't care whether we have the life guards there or not when they have the party. I just don't think we need to open up that particular facility for that, and I just don't think we need to allow it at the Aquatic Center. If that means a few people don't come and pay to have a party there, then so be it, but I don't think we need to do it just strictly to bring us funds.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Murray said, I move we deny it. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion to deny. Do I have a second? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of denial will vote yes, opposed to denial will vote no. Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to deny carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Price said, thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to **deny** the request to allow hosts of private parties, who have rented the Chatham County Aquatic Center after the pool is closed, to serve alcoholic beverages to their guests. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to deny the request carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**9. REQUEST BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FROM GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) WAIVE FEES AT COUNTY LANDFILLS.**

Commissioner Murray asked, what fees are we delaying? County Manager Abolt said, \$3,300, sir, and it had to do with something that goes back to 1997, a year ago. The Commission was approached by the Department of Transportation, as we've done for other organizations, governmental organizations, to waive the dumping fees, not the surcharge. Commissioner Murray said, all right, that's what I was getting at. The surcharge is still there? Chairman Hair said, it's still there. Commissioner Murray said, the surcharge is still there.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved that the Board approve the request from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to waive approximately \$3,300 in dumping fees at County landfills for disposal of the waste/debris generated from their cleaning of roads/rights-of-way. Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS:** (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Award a contract to provide hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and subsequent design for Little Hurst Canal	Engineering	EMC Engineering Services	\$24,600	CIP - 1998 Drainage Improvements
B. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the construction of Phase I of Placentia Canal for compensation for unexpected delay of commencement of work	Engineering	T.B. Powell, Inc.	\$24,160.20	CIP - 1998 Drainage Improvements
C. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for the design of the Wheaton Street Widening Project for revision of plans to incorporate grade changes	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung	\$960	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Wheaton Street Widening
D. First renewal option to the contract to provide uniform shirts and trousers on an "as needed" basis	Police	Frank's Uniforms	Same terms, conditions and no price increase	•SSD - Police •General Fund/M & O - E.M.S.
E. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract for janitorial services for the "Southside" locations to include the Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	Quality Cleaning Contractors	\$13,500	General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
F. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for design work on the Dolland Drive Paving Project for additional design work	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$8,500	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Reserve for Various County Roads
G. Confirmation of award of contract to provide design and engineering of an addition to the Sheriff's Department K-9 Facility	Sheriff's Department	L. Scott Barnard and Associates, AIA	\$6,000	CIP - Sheriff's K-9 Unit Grant

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-G. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**11. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE BY QUITCLAIM DEED REMNANT OF PARCEL 14 KNOWN AS PARCEL 14-R, VETERANS PARKWAY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize conveyance by quitclaim deed of remnant of Parcel 14 known as Parcel 14-R, Veterans Parkway. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**XI. FIRST READINGS**

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

- PETITIONER, LOUIS C. YOUNG, OWNER (FOR EAGLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP OF SAVANNAH, INC.) IS REQUESTING THAT A 6.1 ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF WHITFIELD AVENUE BETWEEN HENDRY AVENUE AND HALCYON DRIVE BE REZONED FROM R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO A P-R-3-16 (PLANNED MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN ASSISTED LIVING/CONGREGATE CARE FACILITY. THE MPC RECOMMENDED DENIAL OF A P-R-3-16 CLASSIFICATION BUT FURTHER RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A P-R-2-A (PLANNED TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LIMITED) CLASSIFICATION BASED ON ITS GREATER COMPATIBILITY WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT AND THE LEVEL OF FUTURE PROTECTION IT WOULD AFFORD WHILE STILL PERMITTING THE PETITIONER'S REQUESTED USE.  
MPC FILE NO. 98-12109-C  
[DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Read into the record as first reading.

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## **XII. SECOND READINGS**

### **1. AMENDMENTS TO RETIREMENT PLAN.**

Chairman Hair asked, are there any questions before we take a motion on that? Commissioner Jackel said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the proposed amendments to the Retirement Plan. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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### **2. OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ORDINANCE.**

Chairman Hair asked, do we have any questions on that? Commissioner Price said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price asked, have we have enough input from Home Builders on this one issue? County Manager Abolt said, sir, your —. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible] input from them. County Manager Abolt said, if I may before Al [Bungard] gets up. At your request, when this came on first reading, we were about notifying. Letters have been sent out to anybody we think might be interested in this announcing this hearing. So if they have the interest, we have to assume that they would be here.

Mr. Al Bungard said, I have sent letters to the Home Builders Association, the Development Council, all the engineering firms, and a personal one to Mr. Louis Young because he's the first candidate for this. I've had endorsements so far from the Chairman of the Savannah Tree Commission, from the Savannah Tree Foundation and the Home Builders Association yesterday. There was, as I understand, not a single objection to it. Commissioner DeLoach said, right.

Chairman Hair said, this has been well publicized. It really has been —, the community has really done a good job. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those —. County Manager Abolt said, I would --. I'd like to speak to your motion. I would ask that, please, because I don't —, Attorney Hart and then Mr. Bungard have raised certain concerns. They're not deal breakers. We are taking a risk, and the issue is liability and I want to make sure if they wanted to say anything, at least they were given the opportunity to say it. Commissioner Price said, I would like to hear that. Bear with us.

Mr. Bungard said, well, my concerns, everybody understands that this is a kind of precedent setting, but we don't want to set a precedent for other maintenance issues out there in the County. For instance, retention ponds and all that. I mean, we are treating this as a unique case. It is not retroactive and we did intentionally, of course, put in a reversibility clause in case the homeowners decide not to, but the part that's undecided at this point is how, in fact, you know, are the fees established. We get a plan from a developer and a lot of that is left, of course, to staff's discretion, but at that point I make a recommendation to y'all and Public Works about what should it cost.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, another thing I was going to add is we've got to be very careful in going in this direction and not to pay attention to what we accept, especially design standards because now we're going to end up maintaining them, but we've got to make sure whatever is designed is maintainable. The only real concern we have in regard to being able to do that is we're trying to project cost and what —, how that's going to do in the budget, as y'all know. The one other issue that we're looking at are the retention pond areas. That causes us concern. That's very unique areas, The Landings, SouthBridge, places like that that have all of your retention, spend an awful lot of money in maintenance.

Commissioner Murray asked, does this fall under Recreation? Commissioner Odell said, it should be Public Works. Commissioner Price said, Public Works is what it will be. Chairman Hair asked, Jon [Hart], would you agree or disagree with the fact that if we did have a problem, as we went forward we could always go back and amend the ordinance? County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, so that should address any issues.

Chairman Hair said, all right, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the Open Space Maintenance Assessment Ordinance. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

- 1. PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report received as information.

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- 2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report received as information.

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- 3. MONTHLY ROAD AND DRAINAGE BRIEFING.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report received as information.

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- 4. PROVIDE BOARD STATUS OF THE COUNTY OWNED AND OPERATED LANDFILLS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report received as information.

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- 5. FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report received as information.

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- 6. REQUEST BOARD PROVIDE ICS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE EXISTING BUDGET SALARY SAVINGS TO FACILITATE A DEPARTMENTAL RESTRUCTURING IN ORDER TO RETAIN CRITICAL STAFF.**

Chairman Hair said, we have one very brief information item I want Russ [Abolt] to address. This is the one we moved off the Individual Action and put it in the Information Items at yesterday's agenda review. Dr. Thomas and I and the County Manager agreed to —, that it would be more appropriate for this to be an Information Item and not an Action Item, and he's going to make a very brief statement about ICS salaries before we move into Executive Session.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is just a follow-up on discussions initially prompted under the leadership of Commissioner Saussy. It's been referred to in subsequent information reports to you. We are trying as best we can to deal with an apparent salary —, not apparent, a real salary inequity. It's our understanding that the Board fully intends to address the salary issue in the 1999 budget. We'll be keeping you posted on this. Certain options were proposed here. They're for your information at this time.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Hair said, we now need to go into Executive Session. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. County Manager Abolt said, I understand the —. Chairman Hair said, the purpose of it is —. County Manager Abolt said, personnel, litigation and land acquisition. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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Following adjournment of Executive Session, the meeting of the Chatham County Commissioners reconvened.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. **APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF MARK SWAIN LEE VS. CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, ET AL, CIVIL ACTION NO. X93-0793-F.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to place this item on the agenda and approve settlement of the case styled Mark Swain Lee vs. Chatham County, Georgia, et al, Civil Action No. X93-0793-F, in the amount of \$400,000. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 1998

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DR. BILLY B. HAIR, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK