

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 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, September 11, 1998.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Joe Murray Rivers introduced Mr. Van Johnson of Chatham County Human Resources Department, who 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 David L. Saussy, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five Ben Price, District Six (arrived approximately 9:08 a.m.) Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
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ABSENT:	Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Russ Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. SWEARING IN OF YOUTH COMMISSION.**

Chairman Hair said, the first thing on our agenda today is something that's very important to us. We're going to be swearing in our Youth Commission, and these young folks in the past have been very helpful to us to make sure that we consider all the things that are before us. I'm going to ask the Vice Chairman, Dr. Thomas, if she'll join me down front to assist me in this swearing-in ceremony.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd just like to say one thing, Mr. Chairman, and good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We're very proud of the Youth Commission. They have done an outstanding job this year. I believe they have been the most active group that we have ever had. We are looking forward to greater things from them and we certainly hope and trust that we will continue to give them the support that they need. Thank you.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Mr. Chair, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, with all the struggles and pain that we see around us, it is refreshing to see hope and to see the endless amount of energy and potential that exists in this room right now. As the Youth Commission was one of Mrs. Whitehead's and cherished endeavors, we have resolved to challenge, to mentor and to nurture this group of great minds even more. This year's Youth Commission is again diversity at its finest. We have 14 males, 27 females, eight private high schools, six public high schools, and seven community youth organizations, and it gives me great pleasure to present to you the best of Chatham County's best, the Chatham County Youth Commission for 1998-1998. I now introduce the Chairperson, Leontyne Jones.

Ms. Leontyne Jones said, it is my honor to serve as the Chair for the 1998-1999 session of the Chatham County Youth Commission. I would like to thank the Commissioners for their support last year, and we ask for your support this year as we try to return to Atlanta and travel to Washington, DC, to meet our leaders and see government in action. We want productive and enriching activities for youth in this County, and we are continually counting on you to make this happen for us. If there is anything you need from us, we will always be there. We will continue to vocalize our views for a prosperous future. Thank you.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Mr. Chair, we would like to ask if any of the parents are here—, the parents of these fine young people, please stand. We certainly want to recognize you. [NOTE: The parents in attendance stood to be recognized.]

Chairman Hair then administered the following oath to the 1998-1999 Youth Commissioners:

I, (Youth Commissioners stated their names), a citizens of the State of Georgia and of the United States, and a member of the Chatham County Youth Commission, do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia, that I will honestly and faithfully perform the duties assigned to me and that I will at all times abide by and conform to the laws, ordinances and rules and regulations approved by the Chatham County Commission. So help me God.

Youth Commissioners sworn in were: Carvell Allen, Alonzo Alston, Sara Bellino, Crystal Boggs, Carice Brantley, Brandon Brown, Pauline Bryan, Molly Canady, Stephen Crawford, Brianne Draffin, Marisa Drexel, Courtney Edwards, Matt Estes, Reuben Formey, Nikia Hall, Jennifer Hoag, Chanel Inge, Leontyne Jones, Chimelle Johnson, Tamika Kimble, Ashley Lamas, Barry Mason, Alison McDowell, Lisa Meier, Melissa Messenger, Henry O'Neal, Lazarus O'Sako, Angela Parker, Courtney Pennington, Posey Ragen, Dana Roberts, Abe Rondina, Lavon Samuels, Lee Ann Sikes, Bonita Taylor, Aminata Traore', Yen-Chieh Tseng, Tiffany White, Patrice Whitehead and Kandace Williams.

Chairman Hair said, congratulations. Thanks so much for coming and we appreciate your service. We're looking forward to working with you over the next year. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

None.

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**VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

None.

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Hair declared the meeting of the Board of Commissioners in recess and convened the meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

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Upon adjournment of the meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened.

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**VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS**

agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (\*).

- \* 1. **REQUEST FROM FREEMAN & VAUGHN, ENGINEER FOR EAGLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, TO RELEASE THE SUBDIVISION BOND FOR LAURELWOOD PLANTATION, ACCEPT THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT DEDICATIONS AND ACCEPT THE PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR COUNTY MAINTENANCE. (This has been the subject of calls to members of the Board regarding the condition of a neighborhood lagoon. The County Engineer recommends acceptance.) NOTE: See attached request from resident requesting that item be postponed. This item was tabled at the meeting of August 14, 1998. [DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to take Item #1—. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second to—? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right. All those in favor to take it off the table vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, now, the Chair will entertain a motion on the motion [sic] itself. Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve staff's recommendation regarding this development. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- 1. Commissioner Odell moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
- 2. Commissioner Price moved to approve the request of Eagle Development Corporation, through their engineer, Freeman & Vaughn, to release the subdivision bond and any remaining financial guarantee, accept the dedication of the rights-of-way and easements, and accept the paving and drainage improvements in Laurelwood Plantation for County maintenance. Commissioners Odell and Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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- 2. **APPROVAL TO AWARD AN ANNUAL WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER JANITORIAL CONTRACT TO MC CONSULTANTS, WITH RENEWAL OPTIONS FOR TWO ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERMS, AT A PRICE OF \$18,932.72. NOTE: ITEM K OF THE PURCHASING AGENDA WAS TABLED AT THE MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 1998.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner Saussy. We first need to get it off the table. Commissioner Price said, I move to untable. Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I'd just like to suggest that we reject the bid for the time being and continue as it was for further information. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right. Any discussion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, why are we doing that? Commissioner Saussy said, I think we need, you know, as I said in the last meeting, I think we need more information. I think we need to look at this thing at a different angle. Chairman Hair asked, any further questions, Commissioner DeLoach? Commissioner DeLoach said, I'd like to ask George [Lynch]—, I mean, based on—, could I—. Is there any other angle we can look at this? Mr. Lynch said, I—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I have no idea. I'm just quoting the words that I got from David [Saussy]? What angle are we—, what other angle—. Mr. Lynch said, I'm not usually at a loss for words, as you all know. However, in this case, I want to be sure I'm responding to your question, and could you give me a—? Commissioner DeLoach said, well, my point in all this is we've got a contract that you put it out for bid, we got a number back from a reputable firm that's been doing it in the past, and it's here to vote on. What other information could we get to add to that to either influence the outcome of this bid or otherwise? What other—, what could we add to, take away or do to make this bid any different than it is now, cleaning the Weight Center [sic]?

Mr. Lynch said, sir, we are—, let me answer your question starting with one item that you didn't ask me. Number one, the Board on any award item that we bring before you has got full discretion to either accept the staff recommendation, say table it, which you did at the last meeting, reject all bids, or approve the award. So the Board is at complete liberty to do any of those. Commissioner DeLoach said, sure. Mr. Lynch said, and I want to emphasize that point. Two, it is not unusual for y'all to say, hey, we want some more information, go get it. You can do that. As to what information you may want, I don't pretend to be able to second-guess it. So I'd ask y'all to let me know either here or subsequently what additional information you want.

Commissioner DeLoach said, well, let me just go back then. I understand that. That's a good way to cover yourself on that, and I understand that. That's fine, okay. So, we've got that out of the way and we've got that taken care of. Now, let's get down to the real nitty-gritty. We've got a contract that's before us. We've asked you to give us a bid. This contract's been done in the past just like it's been presented again. The price came in at \$18,932.73—. Mr. Lynch said, right. Commissioner DeLoach asked, the closest bid to it was what? Mr. Lynch said, was \$36,837. Commissioner DeLoach said, roughly twice as high. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, now, is there any logical reason, you being the Purchasing Agent and you're taking responsibility for this, and you're writing the contract, is there any reason under the sun that we do not go out for this contract just like it is again? Mr. Lynch said, sir, the staff recommendation was to award. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, based on the fact—. Mr. Lynch said, that was tabled at the last meeting. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Okay.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Commissioner DeLoach and members of the Board, I don't want to understate or underestimate the significance of George [Lynch] advising you, but you have maximum discretion on this. You cannot, in effect, negotiate with any of the bidders, but if for whatever reason, and if you choose to [inaudible] that's your choice, but if you—.

Commissioner DeLoach said, but my point—, I mean, I know that. I mean, you don't have to do that. We've already been here. We've been waiting two weeks on this, okay. If there had been any negotiations that was going to be done, it should have already been done. County Manager Abolt said, there can be no negotiations, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I mean we've delayed it two weeks, and does anybody know why we delayed it two weeks? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, I mean, you tabled it. Why did we table it? Commissioner Saussy said, we tabled it because we needed more information on the thing and I haven't gotten all of that information. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did we go out, did we solicit information or did we ask for some information? Mr. Lynch said, I did not, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, this is where I am. I mean, why—, what information did you—, I don't want politics to enter into a good contract. Whenever you've got \$18,000 as compared to \$36,000, you need to take the \$18,000 contract. I mean—. Commissioner Saussy asked, do you always take the low bid? Commissioner DeLoach said, you always take the low responsible bid and, obviously, in the past it's been a responsible bid because I've been over there and used the facility and it's clean. I've seen those folks in there doing their job so I have no problem with what they're doing. Now, if there's some other reason that I don't know about and you want to discuss at a later date, then I don't have a problem with it, but my point is we're delaying a contract that's a legitimate bid asking for more—, you know, not getting more information, just delaying a contract, and I would ask of my Commissioners to vote against this because there's no reason to delay the contract other than—, I mean, I—. I mean, I know you wouldn't want to spend 18,000 more dollars if you didn't have to. Commissioner Saussy said, no. Commissioner DeLoach said, I know that. So why don't we—, why don't we go ahead and spend the money and figure out the politics later, whatever it is. I don't care. I mean, this person has made a legitimate bid. I'm a contractor and I bid on stuff all the time. I don't think it's right for me to be jerked around or him to be jerked around whenever we've got a legitimate bid at a legitimate price and nobody else is even close. And I understand the politics in it, and if there's a problem with that, we need to take—. Commissioner Saussy said, there's not any politics in it. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I—, well, it is. It's—, you know, we might not like it, and I understand that and I don't have a problem with that, but if we don't, we need to do something about that, not a deal's—, not hold a contract up. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that's exactly what I'm trying to do, not hold it up. Commissioner DeLoach said, but nobody's done anything. We just held it up for two weeks and nobody said, let's do this, let's stop and do something else. Nobody's done anything. It just says, let's stop for two weeks. So we've done that and we're back here and we want to delay it again because you need more information. What information do we need? Anything, you tell me and we'll just—, so that we can move forward with the contract because I feel like this is not fair to the person who is doing the work.

Chairman Hair asked, anything else? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes—, no. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, Eddie [DeLoach], I certainly hear what you're saying and what you say makes sense, but I'm also trying to weigh on the other side what Commissioner Saussy is saying, and since I've been up here it's been my experience that David [Saussy] doesn't say a whole lot, but when he does say it I need to really listen to what he has to say, and if he has reservations, I want to make sure his reservations are resolved. Commissioner DeLoach said, nobody's up here questioning that. The fact of it is, what are they? If they are, let's get them out and let's hear them. Commissioner Jackel said, well, they're articulating at this time, and I think he has his reasons. So if he wants—, I want to make sure he's satisfied before I move forward.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further discussion? All right, we have a motion and a second to reject the bids. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I ask something on this? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is there any way we can move this forward? I mean, I don't care what we do with it. We can go ahead and, you know, spend any—, whatever you want to do, but we don't need to just—. What do we want to do now? We've got to have the place cleaned. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I mean, he's still got the contract. Commissioner DeLoach said, I know, but—. Chairman Hair said, this will continue the existing contract until we—. Commissioner DeLoach asked, but what are we going to do? Let's—, we've got a contract that's up. I've worked under contracts that up. You've got 30 days and you can lose the contract, so I would not want to work under a 30-day clause in a contract. So what do we—, how can we go about to get David [Saussy] satisfied? And I'm serious about this. Chairman Hair said, well, I believe that staff is working on some things that maybe we'll have—, will be able to bring some stuff back to us—. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, how come I didn't have them say that when they stood up there. George [Lynch], have you got something you're working on that you didn't tell me about? Mr. Lynch said, I am not personally, sir, working on anything on this. I would ask the Board's approval to allow us to approach MC Associates [sic], to continue until a final resolution is reached, to continue their existing contract. Commissioner Price said, that's the motion. Chairman Hair said, yes, that—. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's already—, we've got that motion. Chairman Hair said, that was passed. That was passed. Commissioner DeLoach said, what I'm asking for is what are we doing? I want—, I just—, I would like for the Commission to say, okay, this is not going to work—, and that's all right, I don't have a problem what that. Commissioner Saussy said, well, all right, we'll say—, I'll say that. This is not going to work and I think there are other ways of doing it and we need to look into it. It may end up like the same thing. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, but what do we want to do? We want to give them some direction. I don't want this thing to sit here. I don't think it's fair for the people that's involved, and that's my opinion and you've got one and everybody does. Commissioner Saussy said, the direction is to the staff to look further into other ways of doing this. Commissioner DeLoach asked, does that make sense to you, George [Lynch]? Mr. Lynch said, sir, anything that you all wish us to do, we will surely do. County Manager Abolt said, we will—. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what does look deeper into, George [Lynch], what does that mean to you? Commissioner Price said, you're beating a dead horse here. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not beating a dead horse, I just want the thing resolved. Commissioner Price it's resolved for the time being. Chairman Hair said, well, I think—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not worried about resolving it today. I just want a direction. When we walk out of here today I want the staff to have a direction so if in fact we decide to throw it, you know, to go back with those again, that's fine. If we don't, that's fine. I just want a direction.

Chairman Hair said, well, how about this—, how about this, Commissioner DeLoach, what if we say to the staff that you need to bring us some recommendation back within 60 days? Would that satisfy you if we say—, that will give the staff to give us some option in 60 days? Commissioner DeLoach said, sure. Is that all right with you, David [Saussy]? Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. Commissioner DeLoach said, 60 days. Commissioner Saussy said, 60 days. Chairman Hair asked, is that all right with everybody? Very good.

Commissioner Odell said, [inaudible] to confer with first and second—. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, as to any reservation [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. These bid—, this bid process is standard. Chairman Hair said, right. We rejected that. Commissioner DeLoach said, we start all over. Right? Commissioner Odell said, [inaudible] the person—, David [Saussy] made the motion and the second—. County Manager Abolt said, oh, first—, I'm sorry. I was thinking bidders. Commissioner Odell said, what I'm saying is staff will get with those Commissioners—. County Manager Abolt said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, get with those Commissioners and we—. County Manager Abolt said, as Commissioner DeLoach has acknowledged, you have officially ended this process of soliciting bids. It's over.

Chairman Hair said, and I think the reserve of that is true also, Commissioner Odell. I think if we have questions, we need to give them to staff too and get those answered so that we can get this finally resolved. So I think they have the responsibility to ask us, but we also have a responsibility to share our concerns with them and I think we need to do that.

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

1. Commissioner Price moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioners Odell and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
2. Commissioner Saussy moved to reject all bids for the award of an annual Weightlifting Center janitorial contract. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: TRADE CENTER RECONCILIATION AS FOLLOWS: ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) TRANSFER OF \$9,500,000 FROM U.S. 80 INTERCHANGE TO THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE, \$1,000,000 TRANSFER FROM CONTINGENCY TO HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE FOR TRADE CENTER ROADS AND \$3,300,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE FOR RIVERWALK PROJECT; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND**

**(1993-1998) TRANSFER OF \$1,557,200 FROM RESERVE FOR ROADS TO HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE FOR UTILITY RELOCATION. NOTE: Item was tabled at the meeting of August 28, 1998, to be acted on at meeting of September 25, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item will be considered by the Board at its meeting on September 25, 1998.

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**4. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 1998. PETITIONER: MATTHEW K. STARLING, D/B/A BONA BELLA MARINA, LOCATED AT 2740 LIVINGSTON AVENUE. NOTE: Applicant requested item be deferred until September 25, 1998. [DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item will be considered by the Board at its meeting on September 25, 1998.

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**5. DISPOSITION OF WATER AND SEWER SALE. NOTE: On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May the Board acknowledged further public input would come at a time when they would be discussing whether or not to accept bids on the disposition. NOTE: Item was tabled at the meeting of August 28, 1998, to be acted on at meeting of September 25, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item will be considered by the Board at its meeting on September 25, 1998.

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**6. CHANGE IN DATE OF HEARING ON WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS (COMMISSIONER MURRAY). NOTE: Item was tabled at the meeting of August 28, 1998, to be acted on at meeting of September 25, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item will be considered by the Board at its meeting on September 25, 1998.

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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: A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND M & O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL DRUG CONTROL AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT FORMULA GRANT AWARDS OF \$500,000 TO EXPAND THE REGIONAL K-9 RESOURCE TEAM AND \$80,000 TO ACQUIRE AND OUTFIT TWO VEHICLES FOR THE GEORGIA STATE PATROL K-9 OFFICERS IN COOPERATION WITH CHATHAM COUNTY'S K-9 TEAM AND CIP/M & O CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$10,000 FOR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION COPIERS AND \$37,400 FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY PRINTER AND COPIER REPLACEMENT; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$4,000 TO RALPH MARK GILBERT CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM PROJECT; CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND CNT CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$24,520 FOR AUDIO AND VISUAL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND \$14,000 SECURITY EQUIPMENT AND POLICE CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$3,830 FOR A PORTION OF COST OF A CAD SYSTEM; A GENERAL FUND M & O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE A \$300,000 GRANT FROM JONES COMMUNICATION FOR A POSITION AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEW PUBLIC EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT CHANNEL (PEG).**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

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

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following: A Capital Improvement Fund M & O budget amendment to recognize Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant awards of \$500,000 to expand the Regional K-9 Resource Team and \$80,000 to acquire and outfit two vehicles for the Georgia State Patrol K-9 officers in cooperation with Chatham County's K-9 Team and CIP/M & O Contingency transfers of \$10,000 for Cooperative Extension copiers and \$37,400 for District Attorney printer and copier replacement; a One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Contingency transfer of \$4,000 to Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum project; Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund CNT Contingency transfers of \$24,520 for audio and visual technical equipment and \$14,000 security equipment and Police Contingency transfer of \$3,830 for a portion of cost of a CAD System; a General Fund M & O budget amendment to recognize a \$300,000 grant from Jones Communication for a position and equipment for the new Public Education and Government Channel (PEG). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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2. **VERBAL BRIEFING AND SETTING THE DATE OF THE LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON (BOB McALISTER).**

Chairman Hair said, we will now have a verbal briefing and setting the date of the legislative luncheon. Mr. McAlister? Is he here? Chairman Hair recognized Mr. McAlister. County Manager Abolt said, as Mr. McAlister is coming forward, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, and members of the Board, the intent here is to confirm on the public record for the news media certainly the pending meeting you're going to have with the Legislative Delegation in expectation of presenting your legislative proposals to them prior to their trip to Atlanta.

Mr. Bob McAlister said, that's correct. I'll be being in touch with each of you individually to check up and ask about items to be added to the legislative agenda. I'll have you a sheet with working notes on it well in advance of the meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, I believe it is. Chairman Hair said, right, in this chamber. Mr. McAlister said, that is correct.

Chairman Hair asked, Bob [McAlister], are you going to be available for our 28<sup>th</sup> planning session? On Monday we're going to be meeting most of the day Monday, I think, from 9:00 until 3:00? I think—. Mr. McAlister said, I'll do—, this will be in September? Chairman Hair said, yes, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September from 9:00 until 3:00 in this room. We're going to do a planning session and a budgeting session, and I think it would be very helpful—. Mr. McAlister said, I will be here for that. Chairman Hair said, okay, very good. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I think you answered it, Bob [McAlister]. I was simply going to say if you could provide us a listing of the things that we had on last year's agenda and if we could have comments as to what things inhibited the passing of the legislation for the prior year and any recommendations as to a strategy, that would be helpful to me. Mr. McAlister said, okay. I'll be glad to include it. Commissioner Odell said, and could you also collective—, when I say collective, do a composite. Say, if you meet with Ben [Price] and those are ideas—, if we all could share that prior to—? Mr. McAlister said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, yes, okay.

Chairman Hair said, that's good idea. Commissioner DeLoach, were you going to make a statement?

Commissioner DeLoach said, I was just saying, let him know I was glad that he's round this year. Chairman Hair said, the meeting is set for October 13<sup>th</sup> and, Russ [Abolt], I realize we're making it public today, but we also need to obviously make sure that we follow the normal reporting processes. County Manager Abolt said, we'll make sure—, Lori [Griffin] will do that. Lori [Griffin], make sure we follow the correct reporting processes for October 13<sup>th</sup>. Make sure all notices are sent to the press as appropriate.

Mr. McAlister said, there is one special request on the meeting though from the Dean of our Delegation. She has requested that no chicken be served. [Laughter.] Commissioner Odell said, I don't think we can do that. Chairman Hair said, that sounds like discrimination to me, you know. Commissioner Odell said, yes, to the [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, we can't vote for that. Commissioner DeLoach said, it would be upsetting. Commissioner Odell said, we'll make certain that she don't eat chicken. Mr. McAlister said, okay, good. Chairman Hair said, we have to make sure we entertain everyone's taste, so it's possible—, tell the Dean of the Delegation it is likely that there might be chicken there but she doesn't—, we'll have something else for her. Mr. McAlister said, okay, good. Chairman Hair said, very good. Mr. McAlister said, thank you.

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

No action of the Board was required. The date for the Legislative Luncheon was set for Tuesday, October 13, 1998...

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### **3. REQUEST BOARD DIRECTION REGARDING CONSOLIDATION OF RECREATION DEPARTMENT WITH CITY OF SAVANNAH.**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, members of the Board. It's very important to ask today, and I apologize for having to ask for it today, but we've been leading up to this now where many, many months the issue has been is consolidation of Recreation and Leisure Services between Chatham County and the City of Savannah and also extending to other municipalities if they choose, some form of revenue sharing in expectation that they would continue programs of service that would benefit more than the residents within that municipality. The way in which negotiations have gone so far culminated in a meeting you had several weeks with all of the participating municipalities wherein you asked me to prepare a conceptual organization chart, which I have shared with you in the weeks gone by plus I have attached to this staff report. I have offered this to Michael Brown, the Savannah City Manager, as to the contents of my proposal. You have in your packet, as of yesterday, his response, but essentially we're in step on this. There may have to be some modifications in actual implementation, but the reason for me coming to you today is in asking for some direction is the budget that we must deal with immediately. You have, as indicated, a budget workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup>, but I have commenced budget deliberations now and working with each of the departments and to accommodate and to know what I must budget for out of my proposal or in additive proposals, I need your definitive decision as to how you wish to proceed, and this is a dollars and cents issue. In the proposal from Mr. Brown, and I first caution as you review the number to understand this has not been approved either by the City Manager or by the City Council of Savannah, but his department has requested what amounts to a net incre—, a net allocation next year of about \$9 million and change for running the Leisure Services Department within the City of Savannah. This does net out any consideration for the Civil Center, but as far as we know this is a fairly good planning figure for what we would have to accommodate where the Board to choose to pick this up through M&O financing. This does not include whatever might have to be negotiated with each municipality as far as any sharing of revenue. So you're looking at going into 1999, if you wish to go on the current path, the accommodations for an expenditure of \$9 million approximately that we do not have this year. I've given you several alternatives. In the past they have been set aside from the standpoint of embracing the argument of equity from the City of Savannah. Those alternatives do not include this type of outlay, but I'm proceeding on the course of action you gave me. My only request today is now do you wish for me to put together a budget that would have approximately \$9 million in it to cover this type of expenditure?

Commissioner Price asked, what are we currently spending for this—? County Manager Abolt said, about a million and a half. Commissioner Price asked, where is the \$7.5 million difference coming from? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, this is not difference. This is—. Commissioner Saussy said, this is added onto. County Manager Abolt said, added on. Commissioner Price asked, well, where is the approximate \$10.5 million figure—, I mean, where's the \$9 million coming from? County Manager Abolt said, it comes from a tax increase. Commissioner Price said, you're not understanding my question. County Manager Abolt said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Price asked, why is it \$9 million? Commissioner Jackel said, because we're taking the City over. County Manager Abolt said, because you take the City. Chairman Hair said, we're taking the portion—, that's the portion of the City budget we would be assuming. Commissioner Price said, okay, and what comes from the City—, what commitment comes from the City? Commissioner Odell asked, what money comes from—? Commissioner Price asked, what money comes from the City. Commissioner Odell said, there you go. Chairman Hair said, well, they do have—, let's be totally fair now, they did tentatively agree in the meeting to roll back the taxes to offset that. They—, for the City of Savannah residents. They did tentatively agree to that. That still would have to be officially approved, of course, by them, but that was part of the discussion. Commissioner Price said, so the City can roll back taxes for its residents—. Commissioner Odell said, and we can increase. Commissioner Price said, but our residents County-wide, and I'm assuming this would all be done out of M&O, including the City residents, I mean, is it not a wash for the City residents? I mean, are they really going to get any benefit from this and, if not, those in the unincorporated area in the County are they now not going to take more of the burden of the taxes to—? County Manager Abolt said, you're directing your question to me. I've argued opposite. I, in fact, feel consolidation should take place with [inaudible] course of action, but that's not been acceptable I understand. The issue now is in your negotiations and discussions with the City of Savannah, there seems to be a preponderance of discussion as to somehow wanting to go beyond just the issue of consolidation and deal with this issue of equity. And, yes, it can be fine tuned. You can look at some of the programs that the City provides to its residents and say, well, primarily they are benefitted by City residents, but there are many services, as is the case in governments

throughout the country, where folks from outside that jurisdiction are taking advantage of it and using it. The City feels that that is a deal breaker. Either that issue be addressed or consolidation will not take place.

Chairman Hair said, Russ [Abolt], I would slightly disagree with your assessment. County Manager Abolt said, okay. Chairman Hair said, I don't think it's an additional issue of equity. I think equity is a core part of the consolidation effort. I don't think it's an add-on issue. I think it has to be dealt with as part of the consolidation process, and I think that—, I mean, there's no easy answers to this, but I do think that consolidating these departments is a great idea and I just think we—. If you don't believe there's an inequity of funding between County and City, then obviously you would oppose this and say, you know—, but if you believe that truly that County residents use facilities paid for by total City of Savannah taxpayers and never pay for that service because they live in the unincorporated areas, that is they drive from the unincorporated areas into the City of Savannah, use their facilities and drive away, if you believe that, then you would believe there is an inequity and this is an attempt to solve that inequity. If you don't believe that that's occurring, then obviously you would believe there is no inequity, so therefore you'd say this \$9 million is—. Commissioner Price asked, how would we—, how could we afford the additional \$9 million? Chairman Hair said, well, I had proposed a long time ago that we phase this in over five years, if you remember. That we not phase it in in one year, don't take a \$9 million hit, but phase it in over a five or six-year period. Take a million and a half hit this year, million and a half hit next year, that sort of thing. I think that's a much more appropriate way of doing it. I totally agree with you, I don't think we can take \$9 million hit the first year, but I do think that we could put the ball in motion by saying we would do it and do it over a period of five or six years. I really think that's a fair way to do it. Because, see, then you could finance it out of growth in the Digest and not through a tax increase, you see. You could take the growth money and do it through growth and not actually raise taxes on anybody. You could just do it through the growth of the Digest. That's what I propose, and I think that's a much fairer way. If you do it through the growth in the Digest, then there is no tax increase if you do it over a period of five or six years, and I think that's the appropriate way to go. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I've had two concerns, and any way that I cut it, it appears that the people in the unincorporated area, their taxes, unless we do what the Chairman has indicated, are going to increase and the people who live in the City, their taxes will decrease. Commissioner Price said, stay the same actually. Commissioner Odell said, I think they would decrease because you would have a greater base. That's a hard sell for me to go to the unincorporated area and make that argument. Now, the services are located in the City of Savannah and the argument that has been put forth is that there has been unfair use by those who live in the unincorporated area coming into the City of Savannah and using the services. Well, we're a tourist town. People from Florida come here too and use the facilities. I think that argument doesn't hold up in analyzing. I'm concerned that we're getting an additional \$10 million dollars in cost—. Commissioner Saussy said, nine. Commissioner Thomas said, nine. Commissioner Odell said, \$9 million dollars. Commissioner Saussy said, additional nine. Commissioner Odell said, and I'm not certain of the benefits. The people in the unincorporated areas did not vote on the facilities, they were not represented by people who voted on the facilities, and we are saying to them just because you live in the unincorporated area, you can't use the facilities but someone from out of state can come in and freely use it. That gives me some forethought because they'll have services out there. I mean, if you look at where the facilities are located, the facilities are located where those people that voted on it. You know, this is something that we're going to have to give great study and consideration on it. There's no easy solution and I don't want to earmark all of the Digest growth because the net Digest growth for this year was another two percent, approximately. I don't want to use up all that for recreation.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, you wouldn't be earmarking it. If you take it over a six-year period, you'd be earmarking probably about, based on this year's growth in the Digest, you'd be earmarking about 25% or 30% of the growth Digest. That still would leave you 70% of the growth for other things. So, if you do it over a period of time, you would not be earmarking the entire growth for that. Just you'd be—, less than—, roughly a fourth of that, and I really think that we need to consider that. I don't think it needs—, I'd hate to see us today say, you know, because we're—, you know, we're not—, we don't like the \$9 million figure so we're going to kill the whole project because of that. I'd like to see us direct staff to look at a six-year implementation and give us dollars that it would take to do that from the growth and give us a projected growth and then we would have some actual numbers to look at, but I'd hate to see us today just say just because we—, there's no way we could fund \$9 million next year, and I totally agree with that. I'd vote against it if that was the case, but I do think that if we could get them to say that we could do it out of growth and say do it over a six-year period, bring us the numbers back and let's see what it looks like.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second to direct staff—. Go ahead. County Manager Abolt said, sir, we did that. We gave that to you several weeks ago. Commissioner Odell said, well, give it to us again. Chairman Hair said, well, but—, well, I guess what we're saying to you now, Russ [Abolt], is though take that to the City and say this is the offer. County Manager Abolt asked, why don't we do this, sir? In expectation of your workshop and goals session on the 28<sup>th</sup>, we'll accomplish that. We'll revisit the figures—. Chairman Hair said, right. County Manager Abolt said, it will become an issue on your agenda for the 28<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hair said, and also though I still would like to see you take it to the City staff and say this is basically what our line of thinking is right now in terms of phasing it in over six years, okay, and these would be the costs associated with that. That means the City would have to continue to pick up those costs, you know, of sixth, five-sixth, four-sixth, you know, that sort of thing, over the next six years. If they were to agree to do that, then I think we've got—, we're close to [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, we are on that and realize that that figure also will have to be increased to include revenue sharing for the other municipalities. Chairman Hair said, okay. So we don't necessarily need a motion and a second for that—, for that—. County Manager Abolt said, all I would ask is please by the 28<sup>th</sup> that I would—, even though that's a work session, I need some strong expression of consensus one way or the other because we're getting very close. Chairman Hair said, well, if you want to go ahead and making that motion, vote on that motion—. County Manager Abolt said, oh, I understand that. I'm saying on the 28<sup>th</sup>—. Chairman Hair said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, I mean—. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I think the original proposal that we—, that we brought up for the consolidation of the recreational program and not all these other add-on programs was the way that we need to go. It would have been an increase of roughly \$1.2 million that the County would have to absorb. There is no way that the County or the unincorporated area of Chatham County comes in and participates in all the golden senior citizens activities in downtown Savannah, all the

Leisure Service things. We—, the unincorporated area of Chatham County does not participate in that. Therefore, they should not be responsible for that, and as far as the City of Savannah is concerned, the municipalities on the west side and in Tybee have the same argument that the City of Savannah does, that we have people from the unincorporated area participating in the sports activities in the municipalities and not paying their fair share. So, if we consolidated the recreation departments, as we had proposed and Chairman Hair was also in support of that, at a cost of 1-point, I think it was \$1.2 million was the number that it cost to operate the recreation department, then we could go forward with that, develop that program with the City of Savannah and Chatham County participating together on that. We could develop that. If that turned out to be something that we wanted to develop on top of that some additional services, then we could do that, but this would be a place that we could start. We could develop a program that, in fact, there's nobody arguing that people don't come in from the unincorporated area and participate in the facilities that are in Savannah as well as all the other municipalities, so we have a legitimate argument that we can take back to our people and say we know and you know that we participate and we use their facilities in Pooler, Garden City and Bloomingdale, so to make this thing equal let's consolidate the recreation departments, let whoever run it run it based on the numbers that we've got in our budgets, allow them X-amount of dollars, and go forward with it. We can consolidate that, but there's no way in the world I would ever vote for taking \$9 million and having the people in the unincorporated area, who 90% of those services they don't use. The recreation they use, but they do not use all the senior citizens events, all these other areas, they don't use that. I feel like we need to just work toward recreation and then if any of those municipalities want to add any services like senior citizens or whatever, they can do that. But I know recreation is something we need to, you know, to equal out, so I think we could start there and work our way from there.

Chairman Hair said, I think we're in agreement. I think that's basically what we're saying. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Chairman Hair said, I don't think there's any disagreement there. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Chairman Hair said, I think that's what I'm hearing, and—. Commissioner DeLoach said, but, no, because that—, it's a million one or two or \$9 million. It's a big difference there. Chairman Hair said, well, that's what I'm saying. I mean, I don't think there's any—, I haven't heard anybody that could support \$9 million for next year. I don't think anybody is going to support that. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, I'm not talking about for next year. I'm talking about period. Let's just start some where. I just don't think the votes will be there for \$9 million over five years. I mean, I'm not going to pick up the City of Savannah's senior citizens things. I'm not going to do that. I mean, absolutely. I don't think you've got anybody that's in the—, anybody that represents the unincorporated area is not going to vote to fund the City of Savannah's senior citizens things. They're just not going to do it. Chairman Hair said, well—. Commissioner DeLoach said, but I will look at supporting the recreation because I do know that we do use that, and it's a legitimate argument that we can make, but we can't make that argument on the senior citizens things or the arts and services they have, arts in the park. Our people do not come in town and use that. They can't show us numbers that they use it, but they can on all the recreation things. That's the reason I say, we need to consolidate—. Chairman Hair said, we'll have time, I think, to do that on the 28<sup>th</sup>, I think to discuss that in great detail, and that's going to be the purpose of that meeting primarily to go into issues. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy before we move on.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I think, Eddie [DeLoach], in this whole concept of things that you're right about that, the recreation part, and I'm thinking mainly of the athletic things. I think you are too, and not the parks. But that would be the first phase of this five or six-year plan. Chairman Hair said, and, see, we could phase—, that way, you know, we could consider phasing it, you know—. Commissioner Saussy said, right and—, different things. Yes. Chairman Hair said, you could say we're—. Commissioner Saussy said, different things, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes, exactly. We could say one year and then the next year we could say that \$1.4 million, or whatever, will take on additional service or whatever. Commissioner Saussy said, right, and those things that Eddie [DeLoach] is saying and some of them may be or may not be true that the outside the—, the unincorporated area is not using them, we don't put those in there. Chairman Hair said, right, but at least go ahead and start the process and go ahead and say we're going to consolidate this part of it the first year, yes know—. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, and then we'll vote on the second part the second year.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't have a problem if we vote on specific items. If we walk in there and say we're going to give them the City of Savannah \$9 million and how are we going to come up with that and phase it in, and that's what I understood in the first conversation, there's no way I can vote for it. We have to separate these things and compartmentalize it because that's the only way that I'll be able to vote and say to the people in the unincorporated area I can participate. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree with you, Commissioner DeLoach. I think that's exactly what I'm saying. I think that's what I'm saying. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, that's good. Chairman Hair said, it's just that—, I don't think there's [inaudible] here. Commissioner Price and then let's move on.

Commissioner Price said, Russ [Abolt]—. County Manager Abolt said, sir. Commissioner Price asked, are we looking at taking some of what those over at the City do from the athletic program standpoint and incorporating that into the County? Is that what your understanding is? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. You're really talking about Alternative #2, and maybe the best setting is the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss this in greater detail. What I hear Commissioner DeLoach saying is—, and I use the term recreation, really I hear his term as athletics, and remember in our discussion with all of the elected officials in this room several weeks ago we did say, well, we could combine athletics in a drop of the hat. We could have done that back in the Spring of the year. There was a desire to address the issue of total consolidation, and in negotiating this the other party to the negotiation are saying, in effect, they want the issue of equity addressed or at least understood from the get-go. That's where we moved into a more global picture, but the alternatives I've given you, six in number, are all doable. It's a question of whether or not there's acquiescence. Commissioner Price said, the only thing I'll say is this and I'll finish my comments. We do have the resources that the City of Savannah has with the Recreation Department, with their Athletic Department specifically. We don't have the staff, the personnel, we don't have the dollars. We don't have what they've got, and I'll have some very severe reservations about taking on an athletic program and not having the resources that the City of Savannah currently has or the staff or the personnel to do that. County Manager Abolt said, I leave you with one thought. That was going to be addressed in an intergovernmental agreement. In effect, we would transfer our resources to the City of Savannah because, as you said, in comparison they're smaller, have the City of Savannah through intergovernmental agreement run the athletic program, period. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay, so we'll discuss that on the 28<sup>th</sup> in greater detail, and if you—. I would suggest to my fellow Commissioners if you have specific plans or specific questions about other plans, if you will give that staff now, in the next few days, so that they can have a chance to address those before the 28<sup>th</sup>, I think the 28<sup>th</sup> will be a much more productive meeting. We don't want to come in to the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and bring up questions that if we haven't given to the staff before they have to go out and research and those kinds of things. So, if we can give as much information and everybody give their own proposals to staff, and let's present it that way.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Staff was directed to look at a six-year implementation for consolidation of the Recreation Department with the City of Savannah, and bring back the dollar figures that it will take for us to do that from the projected growth, and then we would have some actual numbers to look at and also take those figures to the City staff to see if they would be agreeable to that.

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**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Hair said, before I move to the next item I'd like to recognize Dr. Lester Jackson, who is with us, a newly elected State Representative. I'd like to recognize Dr. Lester Jackson. We're glad to have you with us today. Dr. Jackson said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, it's very encouraging that—, and I'm very sincere about this—, very encouraging that you would take the time to come and visit with us to become familiar with local issues, and that's very encouraging. We look forward to working with you. Would you like to make any comments?

Dr. Lester Jackson said, only that I think, Mr. Chairman, that we all have to work together. We all have to get money and the [inaudible] so that the whole community can benefit. The only way that everybody can benefit is if we all work together for a common goal and common cause. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree and I think this whole Commission agrees. Thank you very much, Dr. Jackson.

Chairman Hair said, we also have Alderman Pete Liakakis with us. He's back in the back of the room. He's watching what goes on. He's a fairly frequent visitor to our meetings, and particularly when we're discussing any issues that may impact the City of Savannah.

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION (Continued)**

4. **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.**
- ? **VOTER REGISTRATION - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (1 POSITION)**
  - ? **SHERIFF - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (1 POSITION)**
  - ? **TAX ASSESSOR - ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN II (1 POSITION)**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Voter Registration - Clerical Assistant III (1 position); Sheriff - Clerical Assistant III (1 position); and Tax Assessor - Accounting Technician II (1 position). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray 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 Thomas said, Item O. Chairman Hair asked, which item? Commissioner Jackel said, 5. Chairman Hair said, 5 for Commissioner Jackel. Which one, Dr. Thomas? Commissioner Thomas said, O. Commissioner Price said, 10-O. Chairman Hair asked, anything else? Commissioner Jackel said, 7. Chairman Hair asked, anything else? Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to be recused from M. Chairman Hair said, wait just a second. Let's get this—, we'll have to take a vote on that Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to pull Q, Contract for design and construction of Tatemville Community Center. Chairman Hair said, okay. Now we also have a request before we take a vote on the balance of the Action Calendar, we have a request that Commissioner Saussy be recused from voting on Item M. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved that he be recused.. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? County Attorney Hart said, Your Honor, you're going to have to pull it or else he's going to—, when he votes the remaining of it, indirectly vote for it or he would not be able to vote on the other items. Chairman Hair said, okay, we'll put it. County Attorney Hart said, it's sort of awkward. Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to do 10-A. Chairman Hair said, okay. Anything else? Commissioner Jackel said, H, N, and P. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, yes, it would be really. It would be. Just tell us what you're for, Commissioner Jackel. That would be a whole lot easier. This meeting will last—, won't last as long. All right, anything else? That's about half the Action Calendar.

Commissioner Price said, I move we approve the balance of the Action—. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, 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 Murray was not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 5, 7, 10-A, 10-H, 10-M, 10-N, 10-O, 10-P and 10-Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray 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 AUGUST 28, 1998, AS MAILED.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 28, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 20, 1998, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2, 1998.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period August 20, 1998, through September 2, 1998, in the amount of \$6,016,936. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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**3. REQUEST FROM HERON CREST DEVELOPERS, THROUGH THEIR AGENT, EMC ENGINEERING, FOR APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS, TO BEGIN THE 12-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD, AND TO REDUCE THE BOND AMOUNT FOR HERON CREST SUBDIVISION, PHASE 3.  
[DISTRICT 6.]****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Heron Crest Developers, through their agent, EMC Engineering, for approval for the construction of the improvements, to begin the 12-month warranty period, and to reduce the bond amount for Heron Crest Subdivision, Phase 3. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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- 4. **REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, WILMINGTON ISLAND ASSOCIATES, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR OLDE TOWNE, PHASE 10, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING OLDE TOWNE STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Wilmington Island Associates, to record the subdivision plat for Olde Towne, Phase 10, accept the financial guarantee and recombine the subdivision into the existing Olde Towne streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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**FROM**

- 5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A COUNTER OFFER TO THE CITY OF POOLER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 TO ACQUIRE PART OF ITS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY TO CONSTRUCT POOLER PARKWAY PHASE II.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, all right, as I understand this, we're going to make a counter offer on this thing. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, we're still not—. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. You have—, a counter offer was made by the City of Pooler after an Executive Session. You gave us certain latitude. This is accepting the counter offer.

Commissioner Price said, well, it should say counter offer from the City of Savannah [sic], not to. Commissioner DeLoach said, how about City of Pooler. Commissioner Price said, yes, City of Pooler. Excuse me, City of Pooler.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so—. County Manager Abolt said, thank you. I apologize. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Now it makes sense. I can vote for it.

Chairman Hair said, all right. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. 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 Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a counter offer from the City of Pooler in the amount of \$500,000 to acquire part of its wastewater treatment facility to construct Pooler Parkway Phase II. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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- 6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REQUEST FROM GDOT TO GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL AND CONVEY ALL THE RIGHT, TITLE, AND INTEREST IN THE ENTRANCE ROAD CROSSING MR. TENCH C. COXE'S PROPERTY TO GDOT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from GDOT to grant, bargain, sell and convey all the right, title, and interest in the entrance road crossing Mr. Tench C. Coxe's property, located in Jasper County, South Carolina, to GDOT. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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**7. REQUEST CONCURRENCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SAVANNAH RUGBY TEAM TO DEVELOP AND USE PROPERTY AT THE LANDFILL OFF U.S. 17 FOR A RUGBY FIELD.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think this is an excellent idea and I'd like to give them all the help we can on this thing. From the report it seemed like we were somewhat reluctant, but this sounds like a project we need to move forward on. Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I wanted to make that comment.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Saussy 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 Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to authorize the Savannah Rugby Team to develop and use property at the landfill off U.S. 17 for a rugby field. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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**8. REQUEST FROM THE SHERIFF FOR THE BOARD TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 OF REIMBURSABLE MONIES TO ACQUIRE TWO ADDITIONAL CANINES FOR THE REGION 3 K-9 RESOURCE TEAM. THIS MONEY WILL COME FROM AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 AWARDED BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from the Sheriff for the expenditure of an additional \$20,000 of reimbursable monies to acquire two additional canines for the Region 3 K-9 Resource Team, which monies will come from an additional \$20,000 awarded by the State of Georgia. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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**9. REQUEST FOR SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF SAVANNAH GOLF TOURNAMENT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve a request for special event alcoholic beverage permit for Homebuilders Association of Savannah golf tournament to be held September 25, 1998, at the Sheraton Golf Club. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray 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.)

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DEPT.</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
A. Confirmation of emergency purchase of replacement vehicle	CNT	Critz Buick	\$15,855	General Fund/M&O - CNT
B. Environmental services to close underground storage tank	Building Maintenance and Operations	SM&E	\$20,000	CIP - Fuel Leak
C. Confirmation of Master Agreement for Emergency Mobile Recovery Center	ICS	COMDISCO, Smyrna, Ga.	\$5,600	General Fund/M&O - ICS

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
D. Final renewal option to contract for portable toilets	Various Departments.	Waste Management of Savannah	Varies	•General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation •General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner •Solid Waste Management - Public Works
E. Renew lease of building used for storage of surplus property	Central Services and Purchasing	Melaver, Inc.	\$6,000 per year	General Fund/M&O - Central Services and Purchasing
F. Professional services contract for design of Abercorn Intersection Improvements	SPLOST	EMC Engineering, Inc.	\$141,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) Abercorn Safety Project
G. Contract to provide software and other services for a CAD system and Records Management System	Police	CompuDawn, Cedarhurst, NY	\$232,680	•SPLOST-(1993-1998) Administrative Annex (\$114,513) •911 Reserve Fund (\$114,338) •Confiscated Funds (\$3,829)
H. Contract to provide insurance appraisals of County-owned buildings and contents	Finance-Risk Management	Valuation Resource Management, Inc.	\$4,224	Insurance and Surety Bond Premium Account
I. Confirmation of Change Order No. 4 to fill abandoned UST for the Waters Avenue TSM Project	SPLOST	APAC-Ga., Inc.	\$2,274	SPLOST (1985-1993), Waters Avenue Project
J. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for an 18" drain pipe	SPLOST	APAC-Ga., Inc.	\$744	SPLOST (1985-1993), Charlene Street, Tara Avenue and Perry Cove Road Project
K. <b>Terminate</b> annual contract for inmate supply items. Breach, non-delivery of orders for clothing. <b>Award to</b> next lowest vendor for the same items.	Detention Center	<b>Terminate</b> -Acme Textile Company, Pt. Washington, NY <b>Award to</b> I.C.S. Company, Waco, TX.	Total cost varies	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
L. Ten (10) Genesis I KDB radar units	Police	Decatur Electronics, Inc., Decatur, GA	\$10,290	SSD - Police
M. Amendment No. 2 to contract to provide lobbying services to provide preparation of the 1999 legislative program and representation during the legislative session	Commissioners	Robert McAlister, d/b/a McAlister & Associates	\$25,000	Commissioners - Other Contractual Services
N. Membership service contract for skip tracing as a pilot project	Magistrate Court	Merchants Credit Bureau	\$1.80 each defendant/ \$1,700 for remainder of FY98	General Fund/M & O - Magistrate Court
O. Annual contract to provide inmate health care	Sheriff-Detention Center	Prison Health Services, Inc.	\$139,544 per month	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
P. One year contract, with option to renew for two additional one year terms, to provide insurance agent/broker services	Finance	Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton Co. (HRH) of Savannah	\$6,000/year	Insurance and Surety Bond Premium Account
Q. Contract for design and construction of Tatenville Community Center and Pavilion	SPLOST	Haynes-Robinson, PC/Harry Moses Construction Co.	\$459,872	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Tatenville Community Center

**Items 10-B through 10-L except Item 10-H:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 10 and all subparagraphs thereof except Items 10-A, 10-H, 10-M, 10-N, 10-O, 10-P and 10-Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

**Item 10-A:**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I thought we were confiscating vehicles when they were involved with drugs, and I thought we had those vehicles available to use as undercover vehicles, and I was just wondering why we we're spending money on one when we're confiscating the vehicles. Commissioner DeLoach said, Mercedes just stand out man. I mean, what can I say? I'm just kidding you.

Mr. George Lynch said, sir, the stock of confiscated vehicles, and I'm trying not to get too specific in this particular case, doesn't quite keep up with demands. County Manager Abolt said, also if I may, Commissioner Jackel, the importance here is anonymity. Mr. Lynch said, that's right. County Manager Abolt said, we did not want to put our people in vehicles that are known by others who aren't on the same side of the law that they're using their vehicles to observe. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, I'll try to be as tactful as I can, but—.

Chairman Hair said, that's pretty tactful. That's about as—. Commissioner Odell asked, can we do an exchange them with Statesboro or Brunswick or—? Chairman Hair said, we don't want to get into police tactics here. I don't think that would be a real—. Commissioner Odell said, I don't know if it's a police tactic. The question that Martin [Jackel] has is why spend \$15,000—, let me finish—, why spend \$15,000 when we have vehicles that we've confiscated. The answer is and the reason we don't is that drug dealers will know their friends' vehicles and it tips them off. My comment was, why don't we contact other cities and simply exchange, one for one. That's the comment, and that's not a police tactic. That is a financial decision that we should be making. County Manager Abolt said, we'll be glad to look at that. Chairman Hair said, of course, we can also take Tax Commissioner's car and trade in, you know, borrow it for a month or so and use it. Commissioner Odell said, I think we should. Mr. Lynch said, please don't. Commissioner Odell asked, do you want a motion—. Chairman Hair said, we could do that, you know. They don't know his car, you know. We could just—. Okay, we also could take a—, we also could take a Tax Assessor's car, but it might be a great danger, so I sure wouldn't want to ride around in it.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach 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 Thomas failed to cast a vote either in the affirmative or the negative; Commissioner Murray was not present.]

**Item 10-H:**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, I didn't fully understand this because we're mostly self-insured. Mr. Lynch said, mostly we are, but not exclusively sir. We have stop loss, commercial insurance, things of that nature. Commissioner Jackel said, and we need these people to come in and to evaluate it, and that couples with a further item that we're spending money on for someone who's looking over our insurance. Mr. Lynch said, no. I think you're referring to the agent/broker. We cannot go into the insurance market as County employees to purchase the insurance that's needed. Some examples of the kind to carry are things like your EMS. We have stop loss on things like certain buildings. What this does, and I'm now coming back to Item H and am not talking further on insurance broker, what this does is to give us, if you would, a professional evaluation, backed up by video tape, etc., so that in the event that there are claims that come down the road, we're talking from a position of strength and can make darn sure that we would get the insurance payments we need.

County Manager Abolt said, it is not uncommon to have all this support of a very well run risk management program. Commissioner Jackel said, sounds good. Commissioner Price said, I move for approval. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All in favor of vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

**Item M:**

Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we recuse Commissioner Saussy from voting on this item. Chairman Hair said, all right we have a motion to recuse Commissioner Saussy. Do we have a second? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second. Commissioner Saussy said, all right. We have a motion to recuse Commissioner Saussy from voting. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [Commissioner Thomas did not vote either in the affirmative or the negative; Commissioner Saussy requested to be recused from voting; Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, we recuse Commissioner Saussy.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the item. 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. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy was recused from voting; Commissioner Murray was not present.]

**Item N:**

Chairman Hair said, all right, Item N, Membership service contract for skip tracing as a pilot project, Merchants Credit Bureau, \$1.80 for each defendant, \$1,700 for remainder of FY98. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, this is through the Magistrate's Court. We're there trying to go after people who have written bad checks and they need some additional help. They've come up with an innovative program. I've talked with the judge and it's an excellent idea, and I just thought they needed some credit for the innovative process that they're trying to recoup this money from, the people who are beating us out of money by writing bad checks.

Commissioner Price said, I move for approval. 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 passed unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

**Item O:**

Chairman Hair said, Annual contract to provide inmate health care, Prison Health Services, Inc., \$139,544 per month. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. I have some questions. I do understand that the—, that there were about four—. Mr. Lynch said, yes, 'mam, there were four. Commissioner Thomas said, all right. Four proposals received from four firms. Mr. Lynch said, yes, 'mam. Commissioner Thomas said, and you evaluated. One of my concerns is that of minority participation. You know that I'm very much concerned with that. Mr. Lynch said, yes, 'mam. Commissioner Thomas said, because we have undertaken a very stringent diversity project for this County, and we want to make sure that, you know, they have an opportunity. Now let me ask you a couple of other questions in terms of the offer. Were there different staffing levels proposed by each of the offerers? Mr. Lynch said, 'mam, with your permission may I have Gary Blake step forward. I did not happen to serve on this particular selection committee. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Mr. Lynch said, Gary [Blake] did, and when we get into those detailed items, I'd like to ask—. Commissioner Thomas said, I'd just like to—, I want to understand—. Mr. Lynch said, well, here's the high Sheriff.

Chairman Hair asked, Sheriff, would you want to comment before Mr. Blake? Commissioner Thomas said, I was trying to understand—. Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, no, let Mr. Blake comment before I—, because this—. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Blake, would you try to answer Commissioner Thomas's question. Mr. Blake asked, Commissioner Thomas, what was the question again, please?

Commissioner Thomas asked, did you have differing staffing levels? Mr. Blake said, in the RFP we put down a general concept of what we wanted to do. We wanted to provide certain levels of staffing, such as we wanted to provide 24-hour staffing at our in-take area, we wanted to provide a nurse in every unit for at least eight hours a day, we wanted to provide a medical person in the medical unit on a 24-hour a day basis. Those were the general guidelines that we gave as far as staffing was concerned, and we gave the companies the opportunity then to tell us how they were going to meet that need, and all the companies, as far as the Board was concerned, met the basic staffing requirement need. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, one other question I have. The determining factor in the selection of Prison Health Services, was it based on the price itself or did you encompass everything else that was done in the proposal? Mr. Blake said, the price was a percentage. I'm not—, there was a—, he can explain that part of it, but the price was only one part of the whole overall evaluation process, and I think it was something like 15% of the process, so that wasn't the—.

Commissioner Odell asked, what percent? Mr. Blake said, I think it was 15%. The rest was response to the RFP, the position of the firm to be able to perform the services that we were requesting, and there were some other factors involved in the interview itself, how the companies presented themselves, and that sort of thing were the other factors.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Thomas, do you have any other questions? Anybody else have any questions? Commissioner Odell said, I have a couple. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked, the FTE's, or the full time equivalents, were they listed by job titles? Mr. Blake said, yes, they were. As far as how many RN's, how many LPN's, that was—, they gave us a number on that. Commissioner Odell said, I guess my question is—, forgive me for not phrasing it correctly—, was whether or not in your request for bids, in the request for bids there was a listing of we expect you to have X-number of RN's, X-number of LPN's—? Mr. Blake said, no. Commissioner Odell said okay. What national data or what local or state data do we have to determine the appropriateness of staffing, and was that used in setting the required full time equipment? Mr. Blake said, I think we used experience more than anything else, Commissioner. We've been operating a medical department, a medical unit, even before we contracted for the services. We operated our own and over the year's we've learned what we need to meet the requirement. We also meet national standards as far as the operation of our medical department, and we're audited on an annual basis on meeting those standards and we have the—, we kind of know how many staff it's going to take or about how many staff it's going to take to perform the services that we need to perform, and that's how we came up with the general guidelines and directions that we gave all of the bidders in the process. Commissioner Odell said, Gary [Blake], I'm not trying to belabor it, and I think the Sheriff's Department and you in particular need to be given a lot of credit because I've held services at the jail. We are accredited I understand. Mr. Blake said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell asked, and what body accredits that service? Mr. Blake said, National Commission on Accreditation for Health Care is the national body. We're also accredited by the Georgia Medical Association in the State of Georgia. Commissioner Odell said, now the Youth Detention Center, which is around the road from you all, the company that you all are recommending, does that company also have that? Mr. Blake said, no, sir. Commissioner Odell asked, do we also have that? Does it come under our bailiwick or it's separate—. Mr. Blake said, no. Juvenile is under the State. Commissioner Odell asked, was one of the companies that bid on the contract the one that has the Juvenile Detention Facility? Mr. Blake said, yes, sir, I believe they were. Commissioner Odell ask, did you

interview or consult the people at the Juvenile Detention Center in your decision process regarding evaluating whether or not the providers could in fact provide the services? Mr. Blake said, yes, sir, they were listed as one of the references. We did talk to the folks over at the Juvenile. Commissioner Odell said, that's all I have.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, any other questions of Mr. Blake or the Sheriff? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I have a—, it has come to my attention that—, one thing that Commissioner Odell mentioned that in that RFP it wasn't clearly specific on staffing, and I think if you've got the experience in staffing, then I think that should be outlined as to how many RN's, how many LPN's, et cetera, et cetera, should be in that request rather than leaving it open. I have not had time to go over this total situation, and if my colleagues would allow me, I would like to review this RFP and go over those bids for my clarification because I have some questions on it, and if we can table this until the 28<sup>th</sup> [sic], which the contract ends on —. Chairman Hair said, the 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Rivers said, on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The contract ends on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September? Mr. Blake said, that's correct, the end of this month. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't think it will hinder us that much—. Chairman Hair said, well, let's ask the professionals. Commissioner Rivers said, being that we have [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, well, let's ask the professionals. Would it hinder? Mr. Blake said, let me address Commissioner Rivers' comment just briefly. At the pre-bid conference that question of staffing did come up and they—, all the companies that bid were provided with a current staffing level. In fact, the company that had the contract, or has the contract, provided a staffing level of what it takes at this particular point in time to fulfill the contract, so they all had the benefit of —. Commissioner Rivers asked, that was at pre-bid? Mr. Blake said, that was at pre-bid so they had that prior to putting in their bid. Commissioner Odell asked, had FTE's—? Mr. Blake said, they had the staffing analysis of what our current level of staffing for RN's, LPN's, doctors, dentists, et cetera. They had a copy of that. Commissioner Rivers asked, was that adequate or were you asking for enhancement? I noticed—, I haven't had this—, like I said, I haven't had time to go through this whole thing, but I see you've got here submit fees and refine schedule. Now what's that, refined schedule? What is that refined schedule? Mr. Lynch asked, sir, are you looking at the item that we have in the agenda? I'm trying to zero in on your question. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, you have here, subsequently finalist firms will be requested to submit fee proposals and a refined schedule. What is that refined schedule? Mr. Lynch said, I would say that—, I think you're reading from the RFP at the present time. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm reading from the RFP. That's correct. Mr. Lynch said, all right. The first thing that we do when we go out is publicly advertise requesting to come in with what is called a proposal. Okay? They come in with that. That is scored. From that, and in this case it was not necessary, a short list is selected. Subsequently we go out and request a fee proposal and in the case of projects like architecture construction, and stuff like that, a schedule. My guess is that where that word schedule is in there, is that it happened to migrate from the more traditional places we request bids, things like that, which is in construction. Mr. Lynch asked, okay? Commissioner Rivers said, well, that was one of the points that I had, and if adequate was given at the pre-bid—, adequate information was given at the pre-bid schedule as to staffing, I just wonder—, and like I said, I haven't been through this so I would like to go through it and peruse it for my purpose and look at it.

Chairman Hair asked, if you would like to make a motion to table, I will entertain the motion. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Rivers said, with that—, and I may withdraw it—, would that hinder being that the same company has the bid anyway? How long has that company had the bid? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, six years. Chairman Hair asked, will it hinder you, Sheriff, in terms of any—? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I don't think it would. You know, our recommendation is based a great deal on the base price, which is completely different—. Chairman Hair said, right. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, lower, and the per diem costs on the number of inmates over 1200, because once—, your base price is on 1200, you get over 1200 they have to bid on what they're charging a day per each additional inmate, and the cost runs from the \$1.70-something with his company to \$1.80-something the next low bidder, and over a period of time that's a lot of money.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed vote no.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, that's for the 25<sup>th</sup>, right? Chairman Hair said, table to the 25<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, I'll tell you one thing, you'd better bring your lunch and your supper on the 25<sup>th</sup> because it's going to be—. Commissioner Rivers said, this might not even last long. Chairman Hair said, no, but I'm talking about you've got the hearings and everything else. It's going—, and you've got also four other tabled items on the 25<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be a very long meeting, which is fine.

#### **Item P:**

Chairman Hair said, Item P, One year contract with option to renew for two additional one year terms to provide insurance agent/broker services, Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton, \$6,000 a year. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, General Lynch has already answered my question on that in the previous one. I move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach 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 Thomas did not cast a vote either in the affirmative or the negative; Commissioner Murray was not present.]

#### **Item Q:**

Chairman Hair said, now we're to Q, Contract for design and construction of Tatemville Community Center and Pavilion, Haynes-Robinson, PC/Harry Moses Construction Company, \$459,872. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, yes. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, we finally got it bid. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, two seconds, just tell us about it. Mr. Lynch asked, tell you what, sir? Commissioner Odell said, about the contract. We have let the contract to build the Tatemville Neighborhood Center. Mr. Lynch said, if you approve this, our recommendation, you've got it, sir. We then go into the pre-construction meeting with them and then after

that is worked, and we have, by the way, the distinguished project manager on my immediate right, Gregori Anderson. We then give notice to proceed and we're on our way, sir. Commissioner Odell said, yes. I wanted to take this opportunity to just briefly to thank our Mayor Floyd Adams for his input, Clifton Jones for his input, and especially our Chairman, who made all of this possible, and with that I made the motion to approve. Commissioners Price and Thomas said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, question. There's somebody out there raised their hand. Chairman Hair said, would you come forward please and state your name for the record, sir.

Mr. Barnard said, I'm Scott Barnard. Ms. Bethune said, I'm Misty Bethune [phonetic]. Mr. Barnard said, we, with all due respect, would like to take just a few of your minutes. We know the low contractor on this and we have no objections to him. He's a good company, but we would like to exception with the bid process. We were the second low bidder on this project, and for two reasons we're here today, just to take a few moments of your time. One, we really want the job. We like working with General Lynch and your staff. They are excellent, and we're currently working on the Whitmarsh Island Community Center so we really want this work, but we only want it in a fair way. The second reason is because of the bid process, and to illustrate that let me tell a quick story, or a scenario. You issue an RFP for a design/build project, as you've done on this job, and you hire an architect to define what you want in this design/build project, which you did, and you spent that money, and I commend you for doing that. George [Lynch] has got his act together. And you clearly define what you want, and you said give us this, and three people turned in bids that were exactly that except the low man filled out an exception, and he said I'm not giving you any utilities outside of the building from five feet. I'm not connecting water, sewer, electrical, data, telephone, I'm not giving you a range hood, and you specifically said you want stucco on the outside, but I'm not doing that. I'm giving you concrete blocks, but split-base block. Well, those issues add up to a lot of money, but he wrote them in and he didn't provide them. And then the opened—, you opened the bids publicly so he knows exactly how much lower his bid is, and you go back to him, rightfully so, and you say, I'm sorry, Mr. Moses, you've got to provide us with water and sewer, and he says, okay, but you've given him an unfair advantage because now he steps back and he says now how low am I? Well, I'll give you—, okay, I'll give you the water and sewer, but I need this many dollars more to do it, but he know he's still low and he's still got the contract, and we're just saying it's not a fair procedure, and if you allow this to happen this time, the next time you do a design/build procedure, somebody could do that maliciously and on purpose.

Chairman Hair said, let me ask a question of the attorney. Can we accept a bid that does not meet the minimum qualifications that were in the RFP? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, and I don't know if Jon [Hart] read this, but on page 21 of the purchasing report Mr. Lynch did describe this in somewhat—. Commissioner Price said, we don't have—. May I interrupt you? We don't have any items past Item I. Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Price said, on the—, in our book so we're not privy to what you're looking at, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, it's the purchasing report on—. Chairman Hair said, well, just go ahead and explain it to us. Commissioner Price said, go ahead and tell us about it. County Manager Abolt said, George [Lynch], if you would come forward. I don't—, I'm amazed. I apologize. Commissioner Price said, it's not here. Commissioner Odell said, you look amazed, Russ [Abolt]. Chairman Hair said, yes, you did have an amazed look on your face. County Manager Abolt said, and for me that's amazing. I apologize. Chairman Hair said, I still want to ask the question of the attorney before you respond. County Manager Abolt said, sure.

Chairman Hair asked, Jon [Hart], can we accept a bid from someone that does not meet the original base qualifications of the RFP? County Attorney Hart said, as stated—, as you just stated it, and I have not had a chance to look at any of the documents—. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, let's get—, let's listen to the Attorney. He—. Commissioner Odell said, go ahead and talk Jon [Hart]. Chairman Hair said, go ahead. County Attorney Hart said, I have not had a chance to look at any of the bid documents. To be quite honest, this caught me somewhat by surprise in regard to the statements just made. Without looking at those documents, I'm not prepared to say one way or the other whether we have a bid problem or not. Chairman Hair said, well, I'm very nervous about voting on this when the attorney says that we need—, we might need to look at this. Commissioner Rivers said, refer it back to staff. Chairman Hair said, I think it needs to be referred back to staff and I think we need to probably table this until we get to the next meeting. I really do. I'm very nervous about doing this. Commissioner Odell said, I am too. This is my district and [inaudible]. I'm simply concerned that if what he says is true, and that is that there are no services being provided outside of thee building, that our request had indicated stucco and they're doing split-block.

Mr. Lynch said, that is not the case, sir. It is stucco, as explained in our report, the grinder station for sewage is included. The exceptions to which Scott [Barnard] referred do not buy water from the proposed contractor or withdraw. In other words, they meet at the recommended award price of \$459,000, which is approximately \$20,000 than second low, which is Scott [Barnard] and DMK. They build that precisely in accordance with the specifications. Chairman Hair said, but were they allowed to add prices. Were they allowed to add money for that? Mr. Lynch said, indeed. As we did—. Commissioner Odell said, I think what George [Lynch] is saying is that even if they added it, their bid is still the low bid.

Chairman Hair said, but they had the numbers. They knew what number they had to beat. I mean, anybody can do that. That doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out. If I know what the bid I've still got to come under—. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. Chairman Hair said, I've got a real problem with that.

Commissioner Odell, I'm not sure that's what George [Lynch] is saying. George [Lynch], you're not saying that are you? Mr. Lynch said, what I am saying, sir, is that as we always do in analyzing bids, we go through to make sure—. My colleague, Gregori Anderson, may care to join me. We go through and say what is there that is omitted. In the event that there is an omission or there is something in exceptions that is not clear, we go to the firm, we get those resolved. They omitted a grinder pump for the force main. We said okay, how much to get that in. They said \$16,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, that won't work, that won't work. Commissioner Rivers asked, was this prior to the opening of the—. Mr. Lynch said, no, because until you open you don't—. Commissioner DeLoach said, you didn't open the bids though, right? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Odell said, I think the gut point, George [Lynch], is that you have four or five bids, you have the low bidder. The low bidder did not meet the bid specifications, and is allowed to add on knowing what the next highest bid was. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is that correct? Mr. Lynch said, that is correct. Commissioner Odell said, then what we need to do is we need to relook at this thing. Commissioner Thomas said, I second. Commissioner Odell said, I know the people in Tatemville want to do it, but—. Chairman Hair said, we're only talking two weeks. Commissioner Odell

said, I make a motion to table it for two weeks. Commissioner DeLoach asked, reject all bids? Commissioner Odell said, no, I don't want to reject all bids at this time.

Chairman Hair asked, can we just table it until the 25<sup>th</sup>? I think that's appropriate. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second to table. All those in favor to table vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Thank you for coming. I appreciate that.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, if I may, just—. Not on the point just discussed, but on just the collation of the agenda, from what I can tell you have the staff report, but for future reference please understand with the tabs, and as we've done in the past, you get an entire purchasing report, and that is the document that is Item X-10, and in that document we have all of the explanation of each item. From time to time it's been our practice for a number of years on some of these items we'll have attached additional information. Apparently, that was where the confusion was. You all had gone to the additional information, couldn't find the logical sequence of alphabetical assignment, so we'd ask you in the future to look—. Commissioner Price asked can we put another tab? I now we've got tabs out here, but—. County Manager Abolt said, I would ask not, sir, because that would delay the production of—.

Chairman Hair said, we've been sufficiently trained now. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, we've got it. Chairman Hair said, we've been sufficiently trained and we'll try not to make that mistake again. County Manager Abolt said, and I'll no longer look amazed. Chairman Hair said, we'll find something else to make you amazed.

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

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 10 and all subparagraphs thereof, except Items A, H, M, N, O, P and Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 10-A. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas failed to cast a vote either in the affirmative or the negative; Commissioner Murray was not present.]
3. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 10-H. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas failed to cast a vote either in the affirmative or the negative. Commissioner Murray was not present.]
4. Commissioner Price moved to recuse Commissioner Saussy from voting on Item 10-M. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas failed to cast a vote either in the affirmative or the negative; Commissioner Saussy requested to be recused from voting; Commissioner Murray was not present.]
5. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 10-M. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy was recused from voting; Commissioner Murray was not present.]
6. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 10-N. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
7. Commissioner Rivers moved to that Item 10-O be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
8. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 10-P. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas failed to cast a vote either in the affirmative or the negative; Commissioner Murray was not present.]
9. Commissioner Odell moved that Item 10-Q be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray 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.

- 1. **PETITIONER, LAWRENCE E. MADISON, AGENT (FOR EDWARD COHEN, LISA GOLDSTEIN AND DEBORAH COHEN, OWNERS), IS REQUESTING THAT AN ELEVEN ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF U.S. 17 SOUTH AND DEAN FOREST ROAD BE REZONED FROM R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A P-B (PLANNED BUSINESS) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO ALLOW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE MPC RECOMMENDED DENIAL OF A P-B BUT APPROVAL OF A P-B-C ZONING CLASSIFICATION.  
MPC FILE NO. 98-12282-C  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Read into the record as first reading.

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- 2. **AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS TO CREATE SECTION 808 TO ACKNOWLEDGE ADOPTION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ORDINANCE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.  
MPC FILE NO. 98-12297-C  
[NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT/UNINCORPORATED AREA.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Read into the record as first reading.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

None.

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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:**

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:**

Report received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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

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**APPOINTMENTS:**

**1. AGING SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to appoint Mrs. Hope St. Lawrence to serve on the Aging Services Advisory Council. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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**2. CHATHAM URBAN TRANSIT STUDY [CUTS], CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to confirm the appointment of the following individuals by the Chairman and Commissioners from Districts 1 through 8, respectively: Mr. Carl Kleeman, Mr. Ronald Kolman, Mr. Freddie Patrick, Mrs. Stephanie Jackel, Col. Ret. Frank L. Bourne, Ms. Tabitha A. Taylor, Mr. Tom Campbell, Mr. Harold L. Burgstiner, and Mr. Robert Brooks. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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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, COUNTY CLERK