

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON JULY 9,1999, 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 9:05 a.m., Friday, July 9,1999.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Jackel introduced Assistant City Attorney Lester Johnson, a practicing Muslim, to give the invocation.

Mr. Johnson said, it is an honor to be here to offer an Islamic invocation for today's County Commission meeting. Let me begin by greeting you in the traditional Muslim salutation of as-salaam-alaikum, which simply means: may God's peace be on you. Before I offer the invocation I thought this body might be interested in the genesis of legislative invocations. The practice of opening sessions of elected bodies with prayer began with the First Congress over 225 years ago and has continued without interruption ever since. In its ruling in a 1983 Nebraska case, the United States Supreme Court held in *Marsh v. Chambers*, that prayers conducted by official government paid chaplains in legislative sessions did not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Chief Justice Warren Berger in writing for the majority stated, "There can be no doubt that the practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer has become part of the fabric of our society. To invoke define guidance on a public body entrusted with making laws is not an establishment of religion. It is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country." Mr. Johnson then gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:                   Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
                              Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
                              Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four  
                              David L. Saussy, District One  
                              Martin S. Jackel, District Three  
                              Harris Odell, Jr., District Five  
                              Ben Price, District Six  
                              Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven (arrived approximately 9:20 a.m.)

ABSENT:                    Joe Murray Rivers, District Two

IN ATTENDANCE:         Russ Abolt, County Manager  
                              R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
                              Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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### **PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - COMMISSIONER MURRAY**

Chairman Hair said, I call on Commissioner Murray to introduce a guest this morning.

Commissioner Murray said, we have with us today Ashley Smith with the Boy Scouts, I think it's Troop 16. Is that correct? Come forward. I think your mother requested that you needed a budget for this year for the pinning. I hope you can read it and make sense out of it, because I certainly can't. Congratulations.

Commissioner Price asked, are you congratulating him because he's —. Commissioner Murray said, I'm congratulating him on what he's doing with the Scouts, not on the budget. Commissioner Price said, oh, okay. I was going to say because he has to read the budget. Commissioner Murray said, I'd say good luck on that. Commissioner Price said, good luck.

Chairman Hair said, thank you Commissioner Murray.

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## **V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. PROCLAMATION FOR SARAH STEVENS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE EXTENSION SERVICE (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Members of the Commission and audience said, good morning. Commissioner Thomas said, oh, Lord, that's about the weakest morning I ever heard. Commissioners and members of the audience said, good morning. Commissioner Thomas said, oh, that makes me feel so much better. It's wonderful that we're able to say good morning. It really is. You know, a lot of people did not wake up this morning. I am happy to have this opportunity to present a lady who has given so much in so many ways. She has truly dedicated herself, not only to her position, but to the activities of this County, this City and this State. She is a lifelong worker here in Chatham County and I believe she's had over 10 years in the Cooperative Extension Program, the 4-H Club, one of the clubs that really made me who I am today. It's really a wonderful program for youth. We recognized Ms. Stevens I believe on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, but I thought it would be very appropriate to do this this morning inasmuch as she has done so much for this County. So I'm going to present the proclamation and then I'm going to ask Ms. Jackie Odgen to come forward and she may want to say a few words also. Ms. Stevens has with her this morning her two sons, Andre and Everett. Those are her two sons. Welcome. I shall now read the proclamation.

Commissioner Thomas read the following proclamation into the record:

**WHEREAS**, Sarah C. Stevens has been an honorable and dedicated employee of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, having begun her employment on November 15, 1972, and started in Chatham County December 1, 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Stevens is a graduate of Savannah State College, now Savannah State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in clothing and textiles. She has been commended for her excellent services during her 28-year tenure where she has touched the lives of more than 20,000 youths; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Stevens is an active member of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Hinesville, Georgia, where she is involved in several ministries and fills various capacities. She is a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ms. Stevens has served as PTA President of several local schools and is a member of SAFE Kids of Savannah, Friends of the Coastal Gardens, and served on the Directory Recycling Operation Program, better known as DROP, Committee.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Priscilla D. Thomas, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim another day, July 9, 1999, as your second day in Chatham County, as "**Sarah Stevens Day**". We salute the outstanding services that you have provided over the past 28 years, and we extend congratulations and best wishes upon your retirement.

Commissioner Thomas said, we just want to say congratulations and I'm going to let the Chairman now present this to you.

Chairman Hair presented the proclamation to Ms. Stevens. Chairman Hair said, congratulations.

Ms. Jackie Odgen said, thank you very much. To all of you here assembled this morning, I will say that Sarah has been a dedicated employee with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service here in Chatham County. She has fulfilled the duties of working with over 20,000 youths, but her work does not stop on today, or several days ago on her official retirement. She is taking over 50 youths to Rock Eagle Camp in just a week. So she has committed herself to stay as a volunteer with the Chatham County Extension Service in her retirement years. So, Sarah [Stevens], thank you for a job well done.

Ms. Stevens said, thank you. I'd just like to say thank you, Dr. Thomas, also to the Chatham County Commissioners as well as Chatham County, and of course my staff. I thank each of you for the support that you have provided and I look forward to coming back and spend some time. I'm not leaving Chatham County. I am at Hinesville at my church, but anyway I will be back and, as Jackie [Odgen] said, I am going to doing some volunteer work, so I will see a number of you from time to time, and may God bless each of you.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

**1. REQUEST FROM PHYSICIAN ADVISOR FOR SALARY ADJUSTMENT.**

Chairman Hair said, the first item under my section, I would like to request the Commission this morning to ask staff to —, in the coming budget, not now, but in January, the new budget, to put in a salary adjustment for Dr. Irving Victor, who is our Medical Director. He currently makes \$14,000 —, excuse me, \$12,600 a year and hasn't had a raise since 1991, and I would like to request that that go to \$14,400 effective January 1<sup>st</sup> to be in the new budget year.

Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you very much.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve a salary adjustment for Dr. Irving Victor, Physician Advisor, from \$12,600 to \$14,400 to become effective in the FY2000 budget. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

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**BUDGET GOAL SESSION**

Chairman Hair said, I also would like to ask my fellow Commissioners if we could have a budget goal session. The staff has asked us to do this in preparation of the budget, and I would like to set it for next Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at Noontime for lunch. If we could ask you to do it as a luncheon meeting, and I think we can do it easily within an hour or an hour and 15 minutes. I thought by setting it at luncheon time it would be more convenient for everyone and we could do it while —. So, without objection, I would set the —, notify the media of this meeting, which will be July 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon here in this room for our budget goal session so we can give staff direction on the 90 —, excuse me, 2000 budget.

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**VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

**1. JOHNNY MERCER FLYOVER (COMMISSIONERS JACKEL AND MURRAY).**

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, I'll recognize you first.

Commissioner Murray said, there's been a lot of discussion about this over, I guess, the last 10 years when the referendum was originally passed. We at one point made a motion to put the project on hold until January of 1997 and then for the State to come back and do more studies. It appears to me that the studies that they've done so far still show it is not necessary at the present time although they are saying in their study that —, on October 15, 1998, GDOT provided Chatham County its findings from the capacity and intersection analysis. The analysis projected traffic for five, ten and twenty years time frames. The analysis concluded that during the A.M. peak for the five-year period the Level of Service (LOS) will be C (stable flow), but within ten years the LOS would be F (forced flow at low speeds with many stoppages). To me, if I'm not mistaken, that's the same analysis they came out with ten years ago when they first did the study on it, and now we're having the same analysis come back for another ten years. Originally, on the referendum I believe there was \$3.4 million approved for this project, and now the project has gone up to \$11.5 million. I personally have never supported the project, I don't support it today, and I don't think the project needs to be done, but in a meeting with discussions this morning with the County Attorney I'm being advised not to do what I wanted to do, but nevertheless I'll let Martin Jackel speak since he's on this with me and Martin [Jackel] represents the five area islands, Isle of Armstrong and Thunderbolt where the only traffic light at this point that would stop traffic if this is put in where the traffic would flow at the bottom of the Thunderbolt Bridge where we already have many accidents. And the other point that I'd like to make is we have three developments, large developments right there at that intersection, one an apartment complex and one a residential neighborhood and another a condominium neighborhood. This would greatly affect all three of those neighborhoods with the work that would have to be done in order to do it. I personally feel like it would lower the value of those homes in those areas, and those are the ones that are going to be directly affected. I drive that intersection every day and I go both ways. I go sometimes Johnny Mercer and sometimes I go Highway 80 home, and I drive it several times a day. I have never sat in that traffic signalization more than one turn at any time I've gone through it unless there's an accident, and we do have accidents from time to time, but not on a regular basis though. Not like we do at the foot of the Thunderbolt Bridge. At any rate, Martin [Jackel], if you want to go ahead and discuss your part and then we'll decide which way we go with it.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have talked to many of the residents in the area and I have not found anyone who was in favor of this project. It seems to me that this project will not accomplish the goal of moving traffic more efficiently. The only thing that this project will accomplish will be destroying some neighborhoods, destroying the beauty of the area, and creating a much higher noise level from an elevated flyover. The only thing it will do is we will change the backup point of the traffic. There's almost no backup now, but if this flyover comes into place, then things will just back up at the Thunderbolt Bridge. So we'll spend all this money, hurt our area visually, hurt the marsh, increase the noise pollution, and we will not have accomplished anything. So I'm against this thing and we want to do whatever we can to stop it. We have talked with our County Manager and our County Attorney about our various options, and there are forces in the State that are moving forward with this thing and they have their own agenda and their own reasons who sometimes feel that there's someone who's part of the Department of Georgia Transportation [sic] —, it's their project so they want it to move forward so they can have something to do, and that's not a sufficient reason to move forward with a project. So Frank [Murray] and I are seriously against this thing and we'll do whatever we can. We'd like to hear from some of the citizens that are here today so we can pass your comments on to the people with the Georgia Department of Transportation, and we will do all that we can to see what we can do to change the direction and stop this program.

Commissioner Murray said, the other part that concerns me greatly about this whole project is the fact that this is a project that I haven't talked to anyone recently that's in favor of it. Yet, we've got the four-laning of Highway 80 from Bryan Wood on to Tybee, which should have been done several years ago, that hasn't even started yet, we've got other road improvements that we want in this community that we haven't been able to get, yet the DOT is pushing forward with an \$11.5 million project when we only raised, if I'm not mistaken, \$3.4 million in the referendum. I'd like to know where the extra money came from to begin with.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll be happy to recognize anybody in the audience. I'm going to recognize the Commissioners —, I've got two Commissioners first and then I'll be happy —, everyone will have an opportunity to say whatever you need to say. Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Price said, I'm not sure I've gotten my arms around this project and exactly the whole issue as of yet, but I'm going to go ahead and tell you what I think we need to consider. Not how I'm going to vote on this, but how —, what we're going to need to consider about this. If you remember, I struggled with the Science Drive Relocation Project out at Windsor Forest, and there was a lot of opposition to it. There were a lot of people on the other side of it too and I still believe that it will probably help people that weren't in favor of the project even though it was going to impact certain people on the Windsor Road area. What concerns me is that whenever we have a project, and this was the argument we made with the folks in Windsor Forest that were in opposition to it, that it was voted on on referendum and that the entire County voted on that, and because it was voted on as part of the referendum and it would be unwise to consider not doing that project. Now there are a lot of other aspects about it that's why I believe we've gone —, are going forward with it and if you're out there in that area right now you'll see we're within about 45 days of completing that project, and I think everybody's excited that it's going to be there. It looks like it's going to be a good project. Now that's quite different than a flyover, quite different indeed, in an area that I have been back and forth through a lot this week because I've spent some vacation time at Tybee this week, and it's a beautiful area out there, and you're right, it is going to impact a lot of people in a lot of different ways. What concerns me more than anything else is what the message we're sending DOT, the Georgia Department of Transportation here, and the fact that this money is earmarked for Chatham County and I'm afraid that if we indicate that we want it spent somewhere else in Chatham County that the Georgia Department of Transportation's going

to look at other projects throughout the State and consider that money would be a higher priority to be placed in other counties throughout the State, so we can just kiss this money goodbye. I know that's almost a certainty. I would like to hear from the County Attorney relative to the legal aspects of whether or not —, what we should do with this in regard to the referendum and the vote that was taken. I mean, you've evidently counseled Commissioner Murray and possibly Commissioner Jackel. I'd like to share that with the rest of us as well.

Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Jonathan Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, essentially this came out of —, this project is listed as one of the One Percent Sales Tax SPLOST referendum projects and was listed in the referendum and was voted upon by the citizens of Chatham County. The One Percent Sales Tax Statute is very narrowly and strictly construed and, basically, it says if you're going to impose that kind of tax within your community, you've got to do it for certain defined projects and the citizens have got to vote for that, and that was done. There's never been any challenge about it, and this has been one of the projects that was listed within that. Without getting into discussing outcomes, essentially the Commission has limited ability to modify those specified funds because the citizens have spoken through their voting process. That doesn't mean they can't modify a particular project and use some discretion in that modification. There are a number of cases that allow that. But it's limited in its ability to totally abandon the project. Generally, if the project is deemed to be infeasible or if the project is not funded by raising sufficient funds within the referendum or the One Percent Sales Tax raised sufficient funds to fund the project, then you have a mechanism by where you do not have to go forward with the project. I do not believe that this project —, well, number one, this project is not infeasible and, number two, the funds are there. I say it's not infeasible because you have a Department of Transportation study and that's subject to interpretation of how you feel about that and how you look at that study and I don't disagree with Commissioner Murray's interpretation of that, but the Department of Transportation itself takes the position that this is a needed project and it is not infeasible. That is their stated position. So you've got —, you don't have that mechanism as an out. There have been two court cases in which counties and school systems have been challenged when the school system and the county elected not to go forward with a project. In that situation, they abandoned or totally abandoned a project. In a ruling after hearing all of the evidence, after hearing the fact the property was acquired, engineering studies were —, were incurred, there —, in one of the situations there was a change in the structure of the Commission by virtue of an election and the project was abandoned. The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled that that was a one percent referendum sales tax project that was voted upon by the citizens and the Commission abused its discretion in not going forward and abandoning that project totally, that it was not infeasible and it was funded, they didn't follow the wishes of the taxpayers through their voted referendum, and it was subject to being legally challenged and overturned. Those type of cases are very fact specific. I do not think there's any question that somebody could challenge this or the outcome of that. You'd know when the court told you what the outcome was.

Commissioner Price said, let me finish up with a few more questions. Frank's [Murray] question earlier was we're going to raise \$3.4 million, where's the rest of the money coming from? Can you answer that? County Manager Abolt said, interest earning. You have to realize, particularly in the start of this project and the SPLOST back in '85 before most of your staff was here, it was just a guess at best as to what projects would cost. We've been able to complete all the projects. We completed the one on U. S. 80 and Islands Expressway for about the same amount of money. We had to put more money based on interest. For the longest time there, from about '85 until the early 90's, there were projects not being built. The money was being collected and the interest was accruing, so we then, in effect, directed money to projects based on current engineering estimates. Commissioner Price said, I've got one other question and then a comment, and I'd like the County Engineer, if he would, to come forward. I'm going to put you on the spot, Al [Bungard]. You came from DOT —. County Manager Abolt said, no. Commissioner Murray said, no. Commissioner Price asked, didn't you? Mr. Bungard said, the Army. Commissioner Price said, Army. Okay, well, I apologize to you, but you do have a lot of experience with Georgia DOT. Anyway, I heard you had some experience with DOT. My question is, have you seen or what do you think this —, how this would impact Chatham County overall? Other road projects, if we were to say to the DOT we don't want your money and we don't want this being built, this project? Mr. Bungard said, in my opinion, Commissioner Shackelford would look at spending it on any other project in the State. It goes back in the general pool and we'd have to compete for it like everybody else. This particular project and in the intergovernmental agreement we had many years ago was that the County was picking up the construction cost. At a meeting a while back between the Chairman, myself and Commissioner Shackelford, he asked me if we could propose more projects they could pick the cost on to help out with the other projects, like Truman Parkway which is going to be underfunded. This was one of the ones that we asked them to pick up the costs. We amended the intergovernmental agreement, and he has done so. Commissioner Price asked, do you have any demographic numbers, projections on what the population growth on Wilmington Island, and the use of Johnny Mercer in particular, would be in the years going forward? Mr. Bungard said, I do not. Commissioner Price said, I mean, do we —, Frank [Murray], you may know some of this you could share with us. How much more population growth could we see in that Wilmington Island area that would continue to use Johnny Mercer and come out on U. S. 80?

Commissioner Murray said, I think there will be a good number —, a larger than what we have now; however, I don't think that really makes any difference because if the flyover goes in, then you're going to be ending up having to put a traffic signal at Isle of Armstrong to stop traffic so these people can get in and out. So what are you accomplishing? And, furthermore, I would like to have the minutes for the meeting where we did all that voting because I was told at that meeting that that money was just on a loan to another project and it was coming back to this project, and I'd like to find out just what was actually said at that meeting, so if you could pull the minutes on that at some point. Because I voted against it because

I questioned that, and I know good and well what was told to me at that time, and if it's different then that, then somebody in this room lied to me.

Chairman Hair said, okay, let me recognize Commissioner Thomas, then Commissioner DeLoach and Commissioner Jackel and then I'll recognize the public. After these three Commissioners I'll recognize anybody that would like to speak on this project. So, Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to be redundant in my questions and concerns, but I think the majority of them have been answered because my concern was the fact of, you know, the legality of how we proceed from here, and also whether there would a way that we can perhaps suggest or ask GDOT to look at some type of modification that might give us some easement to the project that will help, you know, the people in this area because I do feel their concerns, but I also am concerned about the fact that the both of these flyovers were on the 1989 SPLOST referendum and if we renig no that, I'm wondering about future monies that might come into Chatham County and what kind of signal it will send, and I do know that man of the citizens did have an opportunity to participate in the various discussions on this particular issue. So I'm hoping that we can get so me type of resolve with this that would be both pleasing not only to the citizens, but with GDOT as well so that we will not throw the baby into the frying pan for future, you know, funding.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just wanted to follow what the Attorney has said and what Ben [Price] and Priscilla [Thomas] brought out, the problem of the legality of it. I know we were —, the last Commission meeting we were pretty well tested concerning our obligation as far as the band shell was concerned. I got eat up pretty good not only here, but in the paper due to the fact that I did not agree that this was, you know —, I felt like we had done what we said, and the paper and other people had informed me that the people had voted and what the people asked for that's what we should do, and I think that's where we are today on this project and also on Windsor Forest whenever the argument was there at Windsor Forest. I don't know what we can do to modify the actual flyover or what we can do to improve the situation, but, I mean, basically we're obligated based on the comments that we had not only earlier, but, I mean, last week and now, and we've got to do something to make us look like we're trying to do what the citizens would like us to do. I don't know what that entails, but we need to come up with something that we can find a compromise because we're running into a problem as far as legality and the way it was originally voted on, and I wasn't on the Commission at that time so I don't know, but I do know that it was voted on by the citizens, approved by the citizens and we're going to have a problem in court if something ever happens to —, somebody can just tell us a way we can kind of work our way out of this.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner —, I'm going to allow for follow-ups. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, with all due respect, to my Commissioners on the left over here, I really think you're looking at it at the wrong way. I mean, GDOT, the Georgia Department of Transportation, they work for us. They're supposed to do what we want them to do, and I don't see where this thing passed one time that that means it's carved in stone. Now I hear what you're talking about Windsor Forest. When we had that thing about Windsor Forest, I remember this room was packed and half the people —, everybody on this side was do it this way, and half the people here were doing it this way, and it was a question of where it was going to go and which neighborhood it was going to affect. If anybody is for this thing here, raise your hand. [NOTE: None of the audience raised their hands.] Well, I mean, who are we pleasing when we approve this thing. I mean, when we did Windsor Forest, it was whether it's going down this road or whether it's going down this road, whether it's going to impact students or the school. It's a totally different argument than we're talking about here. I think we've got the right —, when we put things out as a package and the voters vote on it as a package, not everybody agrees with everything and the majority votes and it goes, but as times go by and conditions change, we should be flexible enough to look at these things. GDOT should listen to us because we're the ones that are paying their salaries, the taxpayers, and our people don't want this project. It's not going to benefit anyone, it's going to be destructive to the environment, it's going to be destructive to the scenic beauty of the area, it's going to add noise pollution, and what are they doing here? Why aren't they out there working on Bryan Road and other projects that we need instead of pushing a project that our people aren't —, don't want. If they had finished up everything we wanted and say well now we need something to do, then maybe they could justify going ahead with this, but they've got more on their plate than they can handle. We've got more projects that —, if they need something to do, they can get to work on the Truman Parkway.

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

Commissioner Odell said, I'd personally like to thank Martin Jackel for that really warm and arousing speech, and I in part agree, but I don't know if we know all of the options. It was voted upon by the voters. Now, Jon [Hart], our options are what? We can —, can we deem the project infeasible in that DOT has already deemed it feasible? Attorney Hart said, you can —, this Commission can vote how this Commission chooses, but then it gets to be a fundamental fact question as to whether that is an accurate reflection of this project or is it an attempt to create a fiction, and if it is a fictional finding, then I think you're going to have to —, the Commission is going to have to suffer the adverse consequences of that and being found to probably have abused their discretion. The cases are very clear that you have opportunities to modify projects to meet the flexibility of changing times, but to just totally abandon a project that's been voted upon by the general citizenry, that is a horse of a different color. Commissioner Odell said, so realistically our options are to go forward with the program

—, or the project. County Attorney Hart said, well, the other thing is a wild card in this particular fact pattern, and we don't have any law or case law anyway, is you need to remember that the status of this project has changed from the standpoint that this is now a DOT funded project on a DOT right-of-way and a DOT road, so to a large extent, the DOT is calling the shots on this project of whether to proceed. It's their dollar and their road and their roadway, and that's a point that you can't overlook insofar as the overall picture of this situation, and what has —, what the result is is by them accepting the funding for this project, it has in effect freed up the ten or eleven million dollars that you're talking about that would have been spent by Chatham County and Chatham County taxpayers on this project to be allowed to be used in other specific SPLOST-funded road projects within our community. So it's sort of a double whammy, and I don't mean to —, I don't have a position in that one way or the other. That's a policy decision, but it is —, from a practical standpoint it is a consideration everybody needs to understand. Commissioner Odell asked, so money that we had collected to use for the project and now it's being funded in part by DOT, and the impact of that is that that money that had been set aside for that project now can be used for other projects? County Attorney Hart said, other road projects. Commissioner Odell said, other road projects, correct. Is that limited to Chatham County? County Attorney Hart asked, our money? Commissioner Odell said, our money, obviously. County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay. So options-wise, just from a legal standpoint the program was approved and being approved and voted upon by the voters and being deemed feasible by DOT, we go forward. Is there any adjustment in which we can —, this project is 10 years old. Obviously communities change, needs change, the surroundings change. Are there any kind of mechanisms in which we can engage where the project was voted upon but because circumstances change and —, I agree with Frank [Murray] and Martin [Jackel], if it's unnecessary and it's not desired, and it's probably going to create more problems than it solves, I don't agree with the philosophy because we've got the money, let's spend the money. What are our options? County Attorney Hart said, well, I understand where this Commission is coming from, but the issue of whether it's unnecessary is not written into the law, okay, and that's done for the protection of the taxpayer. It requires in order to levy the one percent sales tax a referendum where the citizens have to vote on projects to allow the Commission to implement those taxes and to collect that tax, okay. And once that's done, those projects are to go forward and to be funded because that's what the tax revenue was collected for. There are mechanisms stated in the statute to get out of that. One is a project being infeasible, okay. That is —, and that has a pretty narrow definition there, okay. It doesn't talk about other parameters, and it doesn't allow Commissions to substitute their judgment on a vote that was taken communitywide to totally abandon projects that were voted for by the community, and that's your problem. That is the fundamental problem here is you've got a referendum that was voted countywide to do this project, and if you don't modify the project but kill the project, and the project has funding and it has been deemed to be feasible, then you're —. County Attorney Hart said, then we've violated our fiduciary obligations —. County Attorney Hart said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell said, because we represent the voters and we speak for the voters and if the voters have already spoken —. County Attorney Hart said, the cases go so far as to even say that the County Commission or the School Board, or whatever the body is, has wasted the public funds, and the term waste is used in the legal sense of the word, not as in a generic term, but that's the cause of action. Commissioner Odell said, but basically failing to do what you're obligated to do. County Attorney Hart said, that's right. Commissioner Odell asked, is that it? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir, and beyond that, you know, to look at other options that would probably require input from a lot more people than me on staff I would think.

Chairman Hair said, let me recognize Russ [Abolt] I get to Commissioners —.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas. Just what Jon [Hart] was saying, I very much want to say the obvious, not to the Board, but to those assembled. We have in my estimation, my 11-plus years, the best relationship ever with the Georgia Department of Transportation. They are a partner. They have worked with us on many projects and solved many very difficult community issues. I would suggest when you ask the question of options, allow us time, possibly the Chairman and myself and others, to talk to Commissioner Shackelford and present the issues. GDOT has not been a malevolent force. They're not out there doing something that certainly this Board does not want to do. Jon [Hart] has done an outstanding job of explaining the legal options, but let's talk with GDOT about programming of funds. The reason why they've waited until now to do what they're doing is a series of events that involve this County Commission and the previous County Commission. The first time the Board said there was some objection, let's get the first one done in time for the Olympics, so we got it done in time for the Olympics, and come back on track [inaudible]. Then again, as recounted for you by Al Bungard, because of a great relationship and almost a handshake, Commissioner Shackelford arranges for money —, to make money available for different projects. That was done because they realize that we're in this together. So rather than forcing an issue today, voting something up or down, allow us at least the opportunity of two weeks to communicate with Commissioner Shackelford and others to take advantage of that great partnership.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Saussy and myself and Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Murray said, okay, I'm going to try to clear up a few of the questions that were asked, and I'm probably going to complicate some more. First of all, this is not the County's money any more and it's not the State of Georgia's money, it's the Federal government's money because the State is getting 80% of that money from the Federal. Jack Kingston, who was representing us when this was passed, as a State Representative, wrote a letter to us, which I'm sure will be read later by one of the residents stating that was not a State project, it was 100% a County project, and we were —, they were not responsible in any way. We got the same thing from a couple of other State representatives at that time. So that —, I just want to clear up where the money's actually coming from. We said we can't deem projects nonfeasible when in fact we've already done that. We did that with the County Jail. Not the Jail, but the Police Department. The Police Department

was not on the referendum. Five million dollars was on the referendum to build a new Youth Detention Center and speed it up and move it on a fast track because the State didn't have it in their funding package at the time and they would reimburse us that money. Once the referendum was passed, the State they didn't need the five million dollars, so we deemed the project nonfeasible to get that money to build the Chatham County Police Station. Now how did we do that if it's against the law and not legal to do that? We deemed a project nonfeasible and it was built out there today with somebody else's money. That's one question. The other comes to the flyover itself. Johnny Mercer Boulevard, when it was four-laned, was designed as a 45 mile an hour speed limit road, and we went through this process a while back trying to raise the speed limit and we were told we could not raise it because we would be liable for a law suit or something about if it was 50 miles an hour and somebody was injured in an accident, then we would be liable because we raised the speed limit from 45, which it was designed for, to 50. Now if Johnny Mercer Boulevard is a 45 mile an hour road, regardless of what people drive on it right now that's what it's designed for, and you've got a traffic light right now that stops that traffic flow on Johnny Mercer and on Highway 80 to allow people to get out of The Marshes, to get out of the other places and for the traffic flow, and then you put a flyover in which eliminates that traffic signal for those people coming towards town on Johnny Mercer going into Thunderbolt, and that traffic does not have any break or anything to slow it down before it hits the bottom of the Thunderbolt Bridge on River Drive where there's a traffic signal and all the traffic starts backing up, what are we creating? We're creating a mess, a big mess. If it's not any longer our project and it's the State's project and the State's spending the money, then how do we control the money we have in the project? How do we take the money out and use it in another project? We haven't deemed that project nonfeasible. I'm not an attorney, and I've got two fellow Commissioners that and you are, but I'm not hearing that question answered. I haven't heard any of the questions I asked answered, and I agree with the Manager. If y'all want to postpone this thing to the first meeting in August and come back and have a meeting, I'll request that Martin Jackel and myself be included in that meeting so we can bring these issues up, and I also would request that the people in the audience who want to speak have a right to speak before us that came to this meeting. Chairman Hair said, I can assure you they will. Commissioner Murray said, and this draft resolution that we had that I'm not going to ask for approval on today because it's obvious we don't have the votes to pass it, but it says nothing about deeming the project nonfeasible. All it's doing is asking DOT to abandon the project, not to do it. They aren't tied to the same problem we are. They didn't have a resolution to do it. They took the project on themselves after saying it was not necessary. So I think those are the issues that have to be addressed and I think we'd like to have some answers on them, and again Frances —, not Frances. Sybil [Tillman], I don't need it right now because you can't leave the meeting to do it, but when you get a chance I would like a copy of the minutes where these funds were transferred to another project because I don't believe they were transferred on a permanent basis because I was told at that meeting those funds would come back to us, it was just a loan.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then myself and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. I'll have to agree with Frank [Murray]. I just cannot see a project when the people don't want it. They voted on it in 1989 or 1988, but did they vote on it as a package or did they vote on it as an individual item? [Inaudible] and as Frank [Murray] pointed, it really is not in our hands right now and the Attorney, it's in the Georgia Department of Transportation. But it seems to me that this resolution, this draft resolution we've got here is —, at least we can try to use that and try to get the State to stop it and let that money go to something else, like on Highway 80 or, you know, on Bryan Woods. I mean, that just makes sense. The whole thing was to relieve traffic on that Island and that certainly would relieve traffic on the Island, four-laning that area, and [inaudible] and abandoning this is not going to hurt traffic. So I would be definitely in favor of the resolution and I think we ought to go forward with it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Saussy. I have a couple of points I'd like to make. All my concerns about this are the legal questions, and I think we've had our Attorney tell us that we don't necessarily have the power to delay this project or to kill this project. I also have a concern about consistency. You know, at our last meeting we had a number of Commissioners that got up here and supported the band shell and their entire argument of supporting the band shell was that it was in the referendum and we ought to build it, and now two weeks later I'm hearing it's in the referendum but we don't need to build it, and I think we should send a consistent message to the public. I mean, if it's in the referendum and we tell the voters we're going to do something, then, you know, our obligation's to all the voters, and I think we should be consistent and if things are in the referendum, we ought to build them. My last point is that I don't think we should mislead people. You know, I don't believe based on what I've heard this morning from the Attorney, I don't think we have the power to stop this project anyway and I don't think we should try to convince people we could stop it. I just think that we ought to be up front with everybody. I really believe the best solution to this issue is to give us about four weeks, give the staff four weeks, and see if we could negotiate with DOT to see if we could modify the project to maybe make it more palatable to the citizens, but I do not believe that we can kill this project legally, and I think that would give us ample time to sit down with the citizens and with DOT and see if we could work out a solution, but I don't think we legally have the right to kill this project based on what the Attorney is saying. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm —, following Billy's [Hair] lead on that, I think that that's the issue right here is the legality of it and I think we just —, we should do what Russ [Abolt] has recommended, give it to the staff, let them see what they can do on the thing and see if they can modify it because it is part of —, it was part of the referendum that was voted on by the citizens and I would like to see us at least modify it so that there would be more —, it would be more —, it could be approved by the citizens of Wilmington Island. That would be my issue on it and I think we ought to at least try that before we come up with a resolution saying we just want to abandon the thing, we don't want it, because we're basically putting DOT on the defensive then. I'd rather go in with the idea that we are a partner in this thing. Things have changed and I

understand from the citizens you don't want it, you know, but the fact of it is you did want it at one time. I don't know —. [NOTE: Many members of the audience responded in the negative.] An unidentified female in the audience said, it was buried in a package. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, well all I can say is that originally it was —, okay, it was voted on —, originally it was voted on and approved by the citizens of Chatham County. I was not on the Commission at that time, but it was approved. So the point is it was approved and if we changed something else like we decided up here —, we walked up here and said, well, although we voted in favor of four-laning Johnny Mercer Boulevard, we decided that we want to leave it a two-lane, and we had enough votes up here to take the —, take that off the referendum, we'd have people having a fit out there. And that's the —. An unidentified man in the audience said, you have people having a fit right now. Commissioner DeLoach said, I know it. An unidentified female in the audience said, we're all having a fit now. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, but the point is let's try to see if we can go to the DOT and modify —. An unidentified female in the audience said, we don't want it modified, we don't need it. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I'm sorry about that, 'mam, but the fact of it is we need to go to DOT as a partner and see if we can work this thing out in an amicable situation and then go from there before we start trying to get on the defensive and start the legal process because we don't need to do that or we're going to ruin our relationship with DOT and we don't need to do that.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let's —, I'm going to recognize the public now. I'm going to ask you if you would come forward. We'll have ample time for everybody to speak. I am going to ask you to be somewhat brief if you can, but state your name for the record and we'll allow anyone to speak on this issue that wants to speak.

Ms. Judith Grissette said, I'm Judith Grissette, Chairman of the Concerned Islands Citizens that was formed in 1990 regarding this project. One of our major concerns is that the citizens really didn't know when they voted on the sales tax referendum for road improvements and drainage that it locked them into every project. This particular project was put on in 1989 before the light was even there at Johnny Mercer Boulevard because the intersection there that was proposed by the State to go into the year 2010 or 2015 had not been completed. So that referendum for the flyover was mentioned there before the current situation was taken care of. The situation that's there now works very well. The —, I think you do have an opportunity here with claiming this not feasible for many reasons that I'm going to bring up briefly here, but first of all in this October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1998, letter that was sent down saying that the State Department did a traffic study and found that it would be feasible, their last sentence in that letter says to the Chatham County, please provide this office with your decision on whether to proceed with this project. Currently the project is programmed for a tentative let date of 2000. From everything that I could find you have not had direct contact with them telling them to proceed. They were —, they're asking for the County for a decision for them to proceed. I think you have an in there. Also, I do want to describe the intersection. So many people don't understand. At this time too in 1989 they didn't know schools were going to be built, they didn't know what the complexes were going to be around it. I wanted to explain at that intersection there are four entrances to it, onto it. Everyone of these entrances have a three-way decision of how they're going to go. There are twelve directions of traffic at that intersection. Now the only part that is going to be relieved is one-twelfth and that is the people coming off of Johnny Mercer Boulevard to be flung over Highway 80 curving down and merging on only to go one mile into Thunderbolt and be stopped right there because they haven't been able to figure out what to do with them once they've sped them through. Keep in mind it is one-twelfth of the direction of traffic that is being relieved from the light. I have a letter here where the DOT assured us that the light at that intersection is going to remain to help all of these other directions of people, so the light will never leave that intersection. It will only relieve one-twelfth of the direction of the people choosing to turn northwest going into Tybee, again only to sit there. I have —, the State Department continued to find this not necessary. I have many letters and only recently are we hearing that it is, but the only study they did was one small part and that was traffic count. They must take into consideration —, am I being heard? Is my voice fine? Chairman Hair said, that's for the TV people. Ms. Grissette said, all right. They really do need to take into consideration the school —, two schools were built. What are they going to do about those school zones that are right there at that projected flyover? The aesthetic and safety impacts on the existing strictly residential developments will be devastating. Traffic hazards will be created for five of the six communities that will enter onto the base of that flyover. They won't even be able to get up enough speed to go to the grade and blend in with the high speed traffic on Highway 80 in Thunderbolt. This elevation is going to rise 20 feet above the walls of the surrounding Marshes Townhomes. The property values on all these communities drastically decrease causing loss of tax revenues for Chatham County. I'm sure you wouldn't want that to happen. Year after year after year you're going to lose. I honestly can say I think in two complexes alone, Long Point and The Marshes, are valued at one hundred million dollars and they are only 350 homes. The Isle of Armstrong residents are going to suffer even the most. They are the first island on out of Thunderbolt [sic] on Highway 80. The only way they can get out of their place now and turn left to go to the beach or to get the Islands Expressway to get downtown or to use any of the shopping centers on the Island, is to come out at a break in traffic. This constant flow of traffic will cut them completely off from the Island community and the shopping district. The —, again always remember that flyover is only eliminating the westbound traffic coming off of Mercer [sic]. If you will indulge Jimmy Petrea, the Mayor of Thunderbolt, sent a letter in here this morning that I would like to read to you how devastating it is even to Thunderbolt because again you don't know what you're going to do with these people when you take them, relieve them of that one light flying into Thunderbolt in a minutes time because it is only one mile after coming —, no, not even a mile after merging, less than a mile. He said, please allow me to express my adamant opposition to the construction of such a project up front. Our residents on the Isle of Armstrong already find it at certain times almost impossible to enter or exit the two access roads on the Island. Not only there —, will there be a slingshot effect with the traffic from east/west, but also serve as a giant roller coaster ride from the top of the flyover bottoming out in front of the Isle of Armstrong and then racing back to the top of the Wilmington Bridge at God knows what speeds. The speed limit in this area is 45 miles an hour. Daily we see the speed limit broken by those who are totally disregarding the posted position, the speeding —, the speed signs, I beg your pardon, anywhere from 60 to 85-plus miles. Our court

records will verify this. Also, I would be 99.9% sure that we will see an increase in the number of serious accidents, injuries and even more deaths. I would rather use the monies for the proposed flyover to better —, be better spent at another location, especially the next phase of the Truman Parkway. There will be —, off of his letter now. There will be a large encroachment on the wetlands. The aesthetic impact is not at all compatible to the Islands. Just because —, if we couldn't deem this not feasible, would we want to take a million dollars and completely destroy the gateway to our Islands, destroy those oak trees, destroy DOT's beautification plan that they have spent millions on already right there entering and at that intersection? Even the minutes of June 22<sup>nd</sup> of the CUTS Advisory Committee Meeting, it reflects a unanimous vote to eliminate the flyover from their approval of this 2025 Transportation Improvement Plan and that the committee is very concerned about this road project and wants it reviewed further. I'm sorry, I have my papers all mixed up here. I do also want to back up. Whenever the Department —, DOT wanted everybody to understand that the situation again was not put in, they felt that these flyovers were not cost effective in looking at the traffic projections and that sufficient time needed to be given to the numerous road improvements that had been obtained for the Islands for the good of them and to get into the operation to see just how good a job they are doing. Again, that became implemented. That intersection was completely improved two years after the flyover was put in. I don't think it would be any problem at all legally to present the various detrimental effects this would have to deem it not feasible. I think —, I see that personally very clearly because the only feasibility study that was done was the traffic flow, and I would like to quote something from a letter from the Chatham County Engineering Department. It says that interchange is cost-effective and justified when all turning movements are substantial and/or when the interchange is a part of a coordinated freeway system. What are we going to do when we dump those people into Thunderbolt less than a mile away? Have we figured out where we're going to put them after that? I don't think it's worth the twelve million dollars.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Would anyone else --?

Ms. Jean Valentine said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Ms. Valentine said, Jeanie Valentine, President of the Islands Citizens for Logical Growth. As you all probably know, we're not happy with this whole situation. I commend Judy [Grissette] for her good presentation. I have two points I'd like to make. You keep saying the voters in '89 voted for this. I guarantee you that a good percentage of the people who live on the Island never got a chance to vote because they didn't live there at the time. We have a tremendous increase in the citizens and the residents on the four islands. I'm on the Land Use Study Commission —, Committee for the next ten years. It's amazing how many new developments, how many new people are there. I understand where you're coming from, but I also feel we have a huge percentage of people who never had a chance to vote on it and I feel there's some way that we should be able to have another vote or some way of hearing of these people. That's one point. My second point was that I would like to request an environmental impact study done by other —, another company. Not somebody who's related to the County or to GDOT or the Federal government. I'd like somebody out there who will look at all sides and in all fairness. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Valentine.

Mr. Cecil DeLorme said, my name is Cecil DeLorme. I live at the Isle of Armstrong and I don't have any prepared comments, but I want to just comment on a few things that were brought out. First of all, I don't think anyone who —, I have a difficult time understanding anybody saying that we ought to go through with this project simply because we won't get something else from the Department of Transportation if we don't go ahead and spend twelve million whether it's good, bad or indifferent. I mean, I would like to think the Department of Transportation doesn't take punitive action. If it does take punitive action and punish somebody because ten years ago they had a referendum and one of the items in there, it was —, it was mixed with a whole bunch of things, and the referendum didn't state you can pick and choose and take one. We just —, everybody assumed these are all wonderful things and the County —, the Chatham County Commissioners would put them in place when they were needed. And just to say it was buried in there ten years ago and it's never been necessary, but it's there in perpetuity, they've got to do it regardless, it's in perpetuity whether the situation has changed, whether it's good, bad or indifferent doesn't make sense to me. And I have a difficult time really feeling that legally we just have to do this. I've got to think that y'all have some say-so in how the money we collect is spent, and I think y'all should. I mean, I think most of the voters certainly assumed that y'all had some input into what is done with the money, and we don't just do it and they've got a menu of a dozen things there and the Department of Transportation can pick and choose and say y'all have got to do it because legally we can't enforce it and we're the administrative agency and we can take punitive actions against y'all if y'all don't do exactly what we want. I just don't believe, and, in fact, I think it's going to hurt the Chatham County [sic], any future votes in the future everybody will say you've got to itemize which things have to be done or we're going —, if it's one thing in there, we've got to vote against it. The whole bill is good, but there's one thing in there that's detrimental, we've got to do it regardless. I don't think y'all want that and I believe —, I mean, I don't say technically. Legally, Jon [Hart] might be right, but I don't believe —, I see all of y'all up there and y'all are pretty doggone good distinguished, influential people, and I just believe y'all have got enough influence and enough clout to talk to the right people and say this is —, why do we have to put into effect something that was voted on and en masse, it wasn't singly voted on. There's nobody who lives in the area, who it's supposed to affect, clamoring or even asking for this thing to be built, but we've got to build a twelve million dollar project which might not really be any good. We don't think it's any good, but at best it just might be good, but we must spend twelve million dollars because the Department of Transportation is punitive and they're going to punish us and they won't give us some other —, I don't believe that. Do you? Do y'all really believe the Department of Transportation is punitive and is going to punish the rest of Chatham County because we don't want to spend twelve million dollars that nobody who it's supposed to affect —, now this is the Island we're talking about. It's got to affect —, I mean, it may effect people going to Tybee on Sunday or something a little bit, but it will essentially, it's to affect

the people that are living on the Islands. Right? And I haven't seen one person here —, Mr. Jackel asked a little while ago was there anybody here who wanted to get up and say that they wanted this. Nobody, nobody's asking for it. We wonder what it's all about. So let me just say that I trust y'all. I think y'all are pretty influential people. I believe you can talk to the Congressmen, you can talk to the Department of Transportation and whoever —, to me it's not clear. I heard so much, it's not clear who's really got our money now. Okay. I mean, did we take our money and give it to the Department of Transportation and we can't say, oh no, you can't use that. Is that —, I mean, I don't know. I mean, it's not clear to me who's got the money that we collected and put it in —, and let me just ask y'all in closing, don't —, I just don't think we should ever say we're going to go ahead and spend twelve million dollars whether it's good, bad or indifferent just because they might punish us. Okay, and I'd just like to think that we've got better people in the Department of Transportation than that and if we don't, we need some changes there don't you think? Let me ask y'all, I trust y'all and I think y'all can do this. I know you can. I know you've got enough influence to talk to the right people and get the thing put aside regardless of legal technicalities. Thank y'all very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Well, I think if we start that, Martin [Jackel], we're going to get —.

Commissioner Jackel said, I wanted to say something to Cecil [DeLorme]. Cecil [DeLorme], stand up just a minute will you please, sir. Cecil [DeLorme] contacted me at a Savannah Bar Association function and that was the first I really heard about this problem and then I, of course, contacted Commissioner Murray and we discussed it and we learned more about it, and then that's why we put it on the agenda today and we're just thrilled that all of y'all came out to support this so I thank you for bringing that up.

Ms. Helen McCracken said, my name is Helen McCracken. I represent Thunderbolt on the Chatham Urban Transportation Citizens Advisory Commission. I'd like just to ask a couple of things. Speaking of feasibility studies, feasibility studies have been done about intersections and problems around the County and nothing has been done about the —, what the results —, what has —, in other words, a need has been discovered and these projects are not on anybody's agenda. So I would like to say so much for feasibility studies, but I'd like also to ask how did the County lose control of this project, how did it become a State DOT project? Why are they paying for it when this was part of our one percent referendum? How did we lose control of this? Are we losing control of a lot of other things around this County? Commissioner Murray said, that's a question I want to have answered too. Ms. McCracken said, well, what happened to our one percent, all those hundreds of thousands of dollars that we were supposed to use for the County's problems, highways and things? How did we lose control of this project all of a sudden? Thank you.

Mr. Carey Stark said, good morning, my name is Carey Stark. I appreciate the opportunity to speak this morning. Just very briefly, I'd like to ask the Commission to use all the resources that it has with DOT, with the Federal government, to try to get this project eliminated, and I agree with the gentleman that spoke previously. I think y'all can do it. Thank you.

Mr. Joe Herb said, gentlemen, my name is Joe Herb. I'm the President of the Long Point Homeowners Association, and my point is to Mr. Abolt's point. If we go into this adversarial with the DOT then we probably may have a problem. If we address it with our representatives here, Mr. Jackel, Mr. Murray, in a way where conscience comes into it —, Ms. Thomas, we understand the points of the legalities, but at some point to throw twelve millions dollars for just steel and concrete because it's something that's supposed to happen, I thought referendums, I thought projects, I thought programs were supposed to be what's for the good of the community, and this is not for the good of the community. There's not one proactive portion of this flyover that will help anybody in this area, and I will tell you one other thing. In our community, I leave every morning real early and I see our children leaving on school buses, and I would hate to have the burden of having one of those school buses try to get up on this flyover with people flying down there and having our kids get hurt. That's something that hasn't even been considered, much less the growth of the Island with the Publix and the Kroger's [inaudible], the big trucks are going to be using it. I think we ought to consider that, but the conscience end of it, I think what we need to do is plead our case to the DOT and let them know that just the basic problems that we see with it. They're all legitimate, and I think all four of y'all, even though you have a situation with the legalities of it, your conscience tells you that this is not right. You deal with it with your constituents every day. Mr. DeLoach, you fought the battle and you got, you know, a bloody nose maybe, but your conscience knew what was right. This is the right thing to do to try to stem this, and if Mr. Abolt's —, what he indicates our relationship with DOT is, if it's as strong as it is, then let's approach it that way, have Mr. Jackel, Mr. Murray and the Chairman sit in, plead our case. You're here for us. Fight the battle for us and I think we'll be fine. It's just common sense.

Commissioner Thomas said, you're so right, and I agree with you wholeheartedly and I think if you heard me correctly, I do sympathize and I understand it very thoroughly, but I'm also concerned and I want to be able to be —, do the right thing from the legal standpoint as well because I'm going to have to be the one —, one of the ones to answer, you know, those legal situations, and in the meantime I think with what has been suggested, and you have alluded to it again just now about Mr. Abolt and other, the Attorney and staff members along with Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Murray, I think that's a wonderful start there and I think with the list here of your concerns when they take it to GDOT and try to work it out, hopefully we can have a good resolve. I don't disagree with you at all, but I am concerned —, someone mentioned, two people mentioned I think, let's see —, Helen [McCracken], no, it was Mr. DeLorme and Miss --, Mistress Valentine, Ms. Valentine, excuse me, about that there were, you know, not too many people or —, that's there now had the opportunity to vote. Are you saying to me now that there were no one who's in this audience today that were not living on that Island

in 1989 when this done, that we have all new residents there? Are you saying —, is this what you're saying? [Unintelligible response when several persons in the audience began to speak at one time.] Commissioner Thomas said, okay. I had —, you know, that's the way it came out to me.

Mr. Herb said, I can't for Ms. Valentine, but I think just the general growth has been so great that there's probably a lot of new faces. Commissioner Thomas said, just have a lot of new people. Mr. Herb said, I can't speak for her, but that's basically the way I took it. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Mr. Herb said, but take care to please just address it with a conscience. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Mr. Herb said, bricks and mortar and steel are not the answer a lot of times, and just because we have money to spend, why pour it down the drain for something that —. Commissioner Thomas said, I understand that. Mr. Herb said, that may not work. Commissioner Thomas said, I agree with you wholeheartedly.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. I think Commissioner Murray is ready to make a motion and I'll recognize him for the motion.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd just like to explain, first of all, everything that transpired, transpired this morning when we came in and that's when we had the discussion with the County Attorney, and based on what's been said right now, I will withhold the draft resolution that we had drawn up today with the understanding that we, within the next 30 days there is a meeting scheduled to meet with the DOT and discuss this situation and that the questions that have been asked are answered also and that we move forward and that Martin [Jackel] and I both are included in that meeting —. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Murray said, whether it be in Atlanta or whether it be in Savannah it doesn't matter to me.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Murray said, that's passed, but I just want everybody to know that if we don't get something resolved in that meeting, we're coming back.

Chairman Hair said, I want to thank all of you for coming today. I know many of you —, it was very inconvenient for you to be here, but it is important for us to hear from you. Thank you for coming.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to take a two-minute recess while the folks exit the room.

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

Commissioner Murray moved that within the next 30 days there be a meeting scheduled with the Department of Transportation to discuss this situation and that questions that have been asked are answered also, and that Commissioners Jackel and Murray be included in the meeting with GDOT. Commissioners Saussy, Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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## **2. MS. MIRIAM CENTER REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think anybody that's alive and kicking in Chatham County realizes that we have a tax problem at this time, that certain areas were hit extremely hard with the reevaluation. The historic district, Tybee Island and several others areas in town just had just an unbelievable reassessment of their property. It is forcing people to —, out of the district, it's forcing people to often put their homes up for sale, it's forcing them to relocate, and some of the citizens approached me about that and are very concerned about it and want to know what we could do and wanted to express their concerns to their Commission. Miriam Center was one of the first ones that approached me about it and we're glad to have her here to tell us about her concerns.

Chairman Hair said, Ms. Center, just prior to you starting I need to make an announcement to the public here. There's a number of folks in the audience that's here to speak on the rezoning on Ferguson Avenue south of Skidaway. We've just been informed the attorney has pulled that off the item —, off the agenda, and so therefore it will not be voted on today, will not be discussed today. So if you're here for that item, please feel free to leave. Thank you very much for coming though. Okay, Ms. Center.

Ms. Miriam Center said, I'm going to lose my audience. Last week while I was browsing through the *New York Times* my eyes were drawn to this headline: Who Represents You? We the people of Chatham County want to ask that question to

this Board of elected Commissioners, and I have almost a thousand signatures in this growing pile. Not one of you has come to out to support our frustration and shock at the new tax digest that will literally invade, rape our homes from us. We feel terribly violated and have no one to turn to. We, the people of Chatham County, voted you in these seats to represent us, which you are failing to do. With the taxes that's imposed by you, Savannah will have a flat economy, real estate sales will come to a standstill, our industry will fail to relocate here. One of the attractive things that has drawn newcomers to our community was a decent cost of living and a beautiful city. Besides the County taxes, the Board of Education is constantly asking for more funds while the quality of education declines, as recent studies show. And though the City made an attempt at offering an olive branch in their proposal last week of rolling the millage back, we find that is but a splinter and are not at all satisfied. We, the people of Chatham County, want the assessments rolled back to the 1998 figure until we have a chance to vote and be heard, and be heard we will. Anyone who is knowledgeable about real estate values will agree that the value of a property is established by a willing seller and a qualified buyer who has agreed to terms. One of the leading doctors in this community was told by two elderly patients that they could not fill their prescription for their high blood pressure. He asked why and they said we have to pay our taxes because we'll lose our house. And the leading artist of our City, Myrtle Jones, who's 86 years old, has threatened to lose the home while she indeed was one of the pioneers that developed historic Savannah. This is outrageous and perhaps we should have better stewards handling our tax dollars. We want to know how the money is being spent, just like the people just asked over and over again. Nobody knows where our money is being spent and none of you are willing to represent us and tell us it seems. We're not going away, we're growing in strength. One thing that's come of this bungling by the Tax Assessor's office, it has brought the people of this community closer together than they have ever been since World War II. Everyone is urged, and I'm urging and hope the news media will take these words out to the public to immediately appeal their property because it's of utmost importance. Time is of the essence, and thank you for your time and God bless you.

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

Received as information.

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### **3. DISCUSSION OF PAPER BAG TRASH SYSTEM (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. It seems that we have approved a new plan for our dry trash pickup and the way things are to be done and at the time I was not aware that we had the paper bags in the place of plastic bags, but since then I've been made aware of it. It seems at the present time —, this is supposed to go in effect —. County Manager Abolt said, the 19<sup>th</sup>, sir. Commissioner Murray said, the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month and to date, as far as I know, you cannot buy those bags in the stores yet, and so —, and I talked with the company that will be bringing the bags in. I understand the County has bought a tractor-trailer load of them, but I really question why did we buy a tractor-trailer load? County Manager Abolt said, introduction —. [NOTE: An inaudible comment was made from someone in the audience.] Commissioner Murray said, well, that's what I'm trying to find out. County Manager Abolt said, it's part of the promotional campaign. Ms. Lamb can —. Commissioner Murray asked, so we're going to be giving the bags out? County Manager Abolt said, initially. Commissioner Murray said, all right, but those bags aren't in yet either. Are they?

Mr. Robert Drewry said, we did purchase 64,000 bags initially just as promotional and the giveaway actually starts this afternoon at the drop-off centers. Commissioner Murray asked, are the bags here? Mr. Drewry said, our bags are here. The ones we —. Commissioner Murray said, y'all's bags are here. The ones for distribution in the stores are not, but y'all's [inaudible]. Mr. Drewry said, yes, the ones we bought are here and we're going to start distribution this weekend, free giveaways, and then next weekend will be giveaways in the stores where they'll be provided. The distributor has purchased 100,000 bags if I'm not mistaken, and cross my fingers, they will show up today and be on the shelves by the weekend.

Commissioner Murray said, well, they did not know that. When I was talking with them this week, they were hoping they would be in but they were not sure yet they were going to be in and they're trying to get them in the stores where they can sell them. My only point is that I would like to see us phase this in and give those people that have got a large supply of the plastic bags a chance to use those bags and get rid of them before they're required to use the paper bags and that we'd postpone it or phase it in —. Commissioner Price said, I agree. Commissioner Murray said, over a period of time, maybe through September, the first of September or something where they can still utilize those bags they have. A lot of people have bought a good many of them if they use quite a few. That's my point.

Chairman Hair said, I don't have a problem with delaying it unless —, didn't Ms. Lamb, didn't Ms. Lamb put out a lot of publicity? County Manager Abolt said, we have options. I don't want to just couch it in the terms of a brown paper bag. That's one option, and that is in lieu of plastic because plastic by DNR standards pollutes the reusable product, but the homeowners still can —, as they do now, the large branches will not be in any bag, they'll be out, you know, on the curb, plus they can use a garbage receptacle. We do not throw those in the truck, so just like in your home garbage [inaudible]

waste is picked up by a private hauler, you put that in a container, and you can do the same here. We are not —, we don't have a corner on the stock market of paper bags.

Commissioner Murray said, you're misunderstanding what I'm saying. We've got people that have quite a few of the plastic bags, you know. Whether they're in the stores this weekend for distribution or not, we don't know yet. My point was if people are taking I don't know how many boxes or bags they have bagged up leaves with, a lot of people, and leave out in the yard to be picked up with dry trash, all I'm saying is I'd like to see it phased in or may put back a little bit before we require they actually have to have that paper bag out there or otherwise we won't pick it up. Mr. Drewry said, the only thing I want to caution on that is that the longer we prolong it, the more disposal fees we're going to have pay because it's going to have to be hauled directly to the landfill if it's got any plastic bags. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not opposed to the paper bags. That's not what I'm saying, but I if we're requiring people to start doing it and they're just getting in the stores this weekend, if they come in like they were supposed to because they were supposed to have been in two weeks ago from what I was told and they still haven't come in yet, as far as which stores the people go buy them at, they can't just go in any grocery store or any store and buy them at this point until they get them out for distribution, so all's [sic] I'm asking is that we either phase it in with the plastic bag part of it, the paper bag, or we put it off until a certain date to start requiring that you're mandatory you have to have it at that point.

Chairman Hair said, I see you hand, I'll recognize you. Go ahead. Commissioner Price and then Mr. Earls.

Commissioner Price said, currently, Robert [Drewry], the new policy is in place and it started when? Mr. Drewry said, the new policy starts July the 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Price said, okay, so we're still —, I mean, I have some plastic bags that got picked up this week, so —. Mr. Drewry said, yes, they're still picking up plastic bags. Commissioner Price said, we're still doing that. What —, I agree with what Frank [Murray] has said. Is there any way to push that out? I mean, what do you —, do you currently have stuff published or printed? I mean, you're talking additional expense —. Mr. Drewry said, yes. Commissioner Price asked, if you're talking additional expense to do what Frank's [Murray] talking about? Mr. Drewry said, well, that's true, with billboards and there's TV announcements, radio announcements, and the brochures. Commissioner Price said, if the public, the general public doesn't have access to these paper bags that we're talking about, I mean, I don't know what to say. I agree with what Frank [Murray] is saying, but on the other hand I don't want to have to pour more money into the program itself.

Chairman Hair asked, well, does it have to be a particular type of bag? County Manager Abolt said, there again, you have many options. This is only in lieu of a plastic bag and we're saying —, we're not saying, the State and Federal people are saying don't put plastic in with this reusable material. You know, it taints it. So we're saying we're not going to accept it. Now what Robert [Drewry] is pointing home to you, we're trying to avoid these excruciatingly large tipping fees that we're being charged to dump this stuff. So once this truck goes down the street and throws a plastic bag into the load, he cannot recycle that load. It has to go to a suitable site. If it's your wish certainly and we delay it, we run the trucks, you know, for a couple more weeks and just pay the additional tipping fee. Our problem is we have public education. Mr. Drewry said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, but for the purpose of public education, I want to make sure everybody understands that the paper bag is not the only way you can contain this stuff. Mr. Drewry said, right.

Chairman Hair asked, what do you want to do? I mean, I —. Commissioner Murray said, rather than going out and saying yes, we're going to type up new literature and stuff, just do we have to enforce it? Say, wait until August 1<sup>st</sup> to start enforcing it. It gives people enough time to phase it in. Mr. Drewry said, yes, we can certainly entertain that except when you've got a truck riding down the road making a certain route, you know, we can't separate any of it, so all of it will have to go. We won't be able to break the plastic bags, but we can certainly entertain that for a period of time, but the trash bags that the people have purchased will all go to waste. They'll just end up throwing those away. Chairman Hair asked, well, what are your recommendations to us? Mr. Drewry said, I would recommend that we proceed as we've got the campaign going?

Commissioner Murray asked, what do you mean they would have to all be thrown away? Mr. Drewry said, well, if two neighbors decide to use the plastic bags and his neighbor uses the paper bags, buys —, purchases those paper bags, trash bags, then we will not be able to mulch those paper bags, trash bags, because you're going to have contamination in that load. Chairman Hair asked, so we'll take the bags, plastic bags and —. Commissioner Murray asked, didn't we just approve —. what's wrong with —, can't you go to the transfer site that was just approved or whatever we approved for the public? To haul it out? Commissioner DeLoach said, I mean, there's still a tipping fee. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, I know, but we only —, I'm only asking for two weeks to phase something in for people. Chairman Hair said, well, I think the problem we've got though, Commissioner Murray, is that we've already notified the public and we've given them a date and we've had billboards and we've got information out there —. Commissioner Murray said, but the bottom line is the bags were not in, and if they're in, they just came in today. I don't know that they're here today. I talked to the people that they're buying them through. That's where it came to me from. Chairman Hair said, but we still have 10 days. We don't do it until July 19<sup>th</sup>. Today's July 9<sup>th</sup>. We still have 10 days before we're going to start. Is that correct? So we've still got 10 days. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's fine. I just want to go on record I'm opposed to it, okay.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Earls.

Mr. Ken Earls said, my name is Ken Earls. I have two questions. First of all, what's the price of the bags, paper bags in comparison to plastic bags? Commissioner Murray said, more expensive. Mr. Earls asked, like how much more? I want Publix, that's why I'm asking.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Drewry. Mr. Drewry said, they're going to put the trash bags on the shelf and they're going to mark them anywhere from three to four dollars for a package of five of them. Commissioner Thomas said, five bags. Commissioner Price asked, how big are the bags? Mr. Drewry said, that's why we're giving you the alternative. They can use any kind of a container, Rubbermaid container or anything like that. Chairman Hair said, they don't have to use —. They don't have to use those bags, Mr. Earls.

Mr. Earls said, okay, well that brings up my second question —. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, go ahead. Second question. Mr. Earls said, about the containers, you know, we've got trash pickup every day in this community. Are these going to be specially marked as certain containers for, you know, leaves or whatever or are y'all going to come along and open up, oh, not that one, not that one? How is that going to be done? Chairman Hair said, I don't think so. Mr. Drewry can answer. Mr. Earls said, well, that's what I'd like. Chairman Hair said, well, he will. Mr. Drewry said, I would like to see the containers marked, yes. Yard waste or some sort of identification for Chatham County, that would be a preference and certainly part of the education process of letting people know that. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Drewry. Mr. Earls said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further discussion? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes. How large are these bags? Chairman Hair said, they're a pretty big size. Commissioner Saussy said, they're much larger than a plastic bag. Mr. Drewry said, yes, they're much larger than plastic bags. Commissioner Thomas asked, and you said three dollars and what? Mr. Drewry said, three to four dollars for a package of five, I believe is what they are going to —. Commissioner Thomas said, a package of five. Commissioner Murray said, most people [inaudible]. Commissioner Thomas said, you know, that's expensive. That's almost some people's income for the week, believe it or not.

Commissioner Murray said, that doesn't look as large as the plastic bags I've seen. Chairman Hair said, that's a pretty good size bag. Mr. Drewry said, this is the typical bag that's going to be on the shelf and these have been tested and we put them in mud puddles, we've shaken them around, and they've stood up to the test. Commissioner Saussy asked, do you want to open that all the way up? Mr. Drewry said, yes. Commissioner Price said, that's a little bit bigger than Russ Abolt's lunch bag. Commissioner Odell said, I thought it was Russ' [Abolt] lunch bag. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay, my last question is that so we've been educating the people. How have we been educating the people because a lot of people still don't know anything? Chairman Hair asked, Ms. Lamb, do you want to answer that question? Commissioner DeLoach said, radio and TV and billboards. Commissioner Thomas said, we've got to do more besides radio and TV. We need to have some other ways of educating. You have to have some workshops or something.

Ms. Virginia Lamb said, yes 'mam, and to that end we have, of course, we have our TV and radio ads. Radio ads start next week. We've had the billboards up. We've had a lot of calls off of those already. We've done brochures, we've done door handlers. We're also doing a special seminar for those in the lawn care and landscaping business through the University of Georgia Extension Service. They are also working with us, we're going to have a free bag giveaway this weekend at our drop-off centers for people who will be given both the bags and the brochures. We ordered 64,000 bags to give away to help the public get acclimated to the change. We're going to also be doing them next weekend at the grocery stores where these will be given away. I understand that Home Depot and Lowe's both carry bags now, so getting them is not that difficult with different —, a different distributor, but that is not the only recourse, as we said before. You can use other means of pulling that material, and we're only asking people to bag those things that would normally be bagged: your leaves, grass clippings and those kinds of things. They do not have to bag their brush or their prunings or any of that material be stacked at the curb.

Commissioner Thomas asked, but you do have brochures? You have brochures? Ms. Lamb said, yes 'mam, we have brochures. We have brochures and we have door hangers. Commissioner Thomas asked, okay, are they available where we can —. Ms. Lamb said, we checked on them this week and they're going out. They will be in this building. We also have some bands available in this building for people to come and pick up, and they will be available on Sallie Mood Drive as well. Chairman Hair said, I think what Dr. Thomas is asking is if you can give — give some to her. Ms. Lamb said, sure. Commissioner Thomas said, yes, we work, as we work with our constituents —. Commissioner Odell said, give some to all of us. Ms. Lamb said, we'd be very glad to help. Commissioner Thomas said, it will be helpful to me to help educate the —.

Commissioner Murray asked, but isn't this just the dry trash pickup in the unincorporated area? It has nothing to do with municipalities, does it? Ms. Lamb said, no sir, it has nothing to do with municipalities. Commissioner Murray said, I just think we need to make that clear. Ms. Lamb said, in —. Commissioner Murray said, it's not going to affect the municipalities. Ms. Lamb said, unless they're using our drop-off center. Commissioner Thomas said, well, some of my

people are in that —. Chairman Hair asked, Dr. Thomas, are you through? Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Ms. Lamb said, I'll be glad to bring some. I have some in my car.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price asked, if you go after the 19<sup>th</sup> and you find a plastic bag, dry trash, how are you going to handle that. I know you're not going to pick it up, but —. Ms. Lamb said, what we're going —. Commissioner Price asked, are you going to have some kind of notification? Ms. Lamb said, right. We have a door hanger that we will leave behind. In the event that they have miss all of our things that we've been doing and all the noise that we've been making, then we will leave a door hanger behind. Hopefully that will prompt them to call us and ask the question what is going if they haven't already —. Commissioner Murray asked, is that door hanger like the one that says for \$20 we'll send a truck to pick it up? Ms. Lamb said, absolutely not. Now, the other thing that it's a positive sale point for your constituents because we have eliminated pay piles. There are no more pay piles in Chatham County. That will be a real help as far as getting them away from feeling like they're being additionally burdened. Commissioner Odell asked, what is that? Ms. Lamb asked, a pay pile? Commissioner Murray said, yes, I can tell you what it is. You don't get phone calls on it. Commissioner Odell said, no, I don't. Ms. Lamb said, a pay pile is —, there was a certain restriction put on how much we could pick up at any one time, and if we had to come back because of the amount of material that was left behind for us to collect, then there was an additional surcharge placed on the property owner of a minimal amount usually, about 25, 20 to \$25, unless they had a tremendous amount and it was —, or it was some other special arrangement, and those that are to go back and collect a check for and then we would go pick them up. We've eliminated that because it had a lot of other problems in addition to the fact that it was an additional charge to a property owner.

Commissioner Murray asked, could I ask a question? Commissioner Saussy asked, could I ask —. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray has a question and then you —. Commissioner Murray said, I just have one question. I commend you on doing that. I've tried for seven years up here to get that eliminated, and you do it with just getting paper bags. That's great. I just wanted to thank you. Commissioner Thomas said, wonderful, wonderful.

Commissioner Saussy asked, does that include —, they don't up, you don't pick up white goods, do you? Commissioner Murray said, we have spent \$500 to collect \$20. Ms. Lamb said, yes sir, we will pick up —, we will pick up any kind of bulky item and appliances or white goods are considered bulky items, but that would be on a particular Friday by section, and it's going to run just like the City of Savannah has their current program, and that's in the brochure, and if everyone is confused, we're on the web, on the County web page. You can click on and see Let's Talk Trash, and you'll see the whole litany of things that we're doing, and we also have —, we also have it on the various different kinds of public announcements that are going on in the community. So this is not a hidden fact.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, an important point too, I appreciate the exposure this is giving the program. Realize this is recycling, reuse so in addition to obviously these changes up front, our citizens are going to be able to go to the transfer site and get bedding material. So if they might be spending, you know, several dollars each year, for pine straw and other type of commercial bedding products. We will now have a very good dependable and free bedding at our drop-off center.

Commissioner Murray said, I just want to say one more time, I'm not opposed to the paper bags at all. I'm not, but —. Chairman Hair said, okay. All right. Thank you, thank you very much.

Commissioner Price asked, Robert [Drewry], you have something to say to us? Mr. Drewry said, well —. Commissioner Price said, let him —. Mr. Drewry said, the only thing I just want to mention, it came to my attention the Friday, the bulky item pickup day, they will be allowed to use plastic for those kind of items, just not the yard clippings. So if they want to use them to finish up those, they could.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Robert [Drewry]

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

Received as information.

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#### **MR. JACK McCALL REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES.**

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize a gentleman who wants to speak on taxes and then we'll go into the CAT meeting.

Mr. Jack McCall said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm totally unprepared, but I thank Mr. Jackel for noticing me. Chairman Hair said, state your name for the record. Mr. McCall said, I was shocked —. My name is Jack McCall. I live inbetween Tybee and the historical district and the Bradley Point area. For the last three years, starting in '97, my taxes have gone up 525%. Now I am on a limited income. We've got several people out there on a limited income. You're taxing us out of house and home. I had everything paid for, now I've got a house payment the rest of my life and I guarantee you taxes don't go down, they'll go up. But I want you to —, I ask the County Commissioners to please recognize with this high a tax base you're hurting the City of Savannah and Chatham County. Industry, major industries when they look —, want to come into a place, what they look for is the tax base, the school system and developing labor market, and you've got this high a tax base, you're not going to get major industry in here, and with the school system which was published yesterday, 42% of the freshmen had failed, you're not going to get a good labor market here. Plus the fact, you realize that every major industry that you have here, Gulfstream, the Sugar Refinery, Union Camp, Great Dane are all in ownership of other people. They can consolidate and move out of this town, and when they do, your tax base is shot. But the main thing is, people, reconsider this tax. It's outrageous and I am in shock. I'm glad you recognized me, Mr. Jackel. I live in Mr. Murray's —. Commissioner Murray said, Bradley Point, yes sir. Mr. McCall said, but I was shocked to just allow three minutes the last —, for Ms. Center to speak.

Chairman Hair said, she had as much time as she wanted, sir. Mr. McCall said, yes, she did. Chairman Hair said, she was not limited. Mr. McCall said, I know she wasn't, but that's all she —, for just a item that's very important, it's serious to the people of this County. It's a beautiful City, it's a beautiful area, but I can't afford it.

Commissioner Murray said, let me ask you a question while you're there. Mr. McCall said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, since you do live in the Bradley Point area, how do you feel about the flyover? Mr. McCall asked, about the what? Commissioner Murray said, about the flyover. Mr. McCall said, I would not have it where you —. Commissioner Murray said, first of all, it was not listed as a flyover, it was listed as an interchange approval, so therefore we've already met the qualifications.

Chairman Hair said, we've already dealt with that issue, Commissioner Murray. Thank you. Mr. McCall said, I was not here —. Commissioner Murray said, I just thought I would throw it in. Mr. McCall said, I'm one of the people that were not here in '94 when they voted on it. Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir, for coming. We will, I can assure you —. Commissioner Jackel said, we're taking steps to correct that. Mr. McCall said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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## **CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Hair declared the meeting of the Board of Commissioners in recess at 10:55 a.m., and the Board reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Following adjournment of the meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:21 a.m.

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## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO JOHN SAXON [PICCOLO] PIERCE**

Commissioner Thomas said, Piccolo's birthday is tomorrow and he has told me a thousand times, my birthday's coming up on tomorrow. So now, Mr. Pierce, we're going to wish you happy birthday. Chairman Hair asked, did he tell you how old he is. Commissioner Thomas said, he didn't —, he's never, he has never told me. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Pierce, happy birthday. Commissioner Price asked, Piccolo [Pierce], how old are you? Mr. John Saxon [Piccolo] Pierce said, I was born July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1931. Commissioner Price said, '31. Chairman Hair said, 68. Commissioner Thomas said, all right, congratulations and happy birthday. Chairman Hair said, well, happy birthday, Mr. Pierce. If we could sing, we'd sing to you, but unfortunately we can't sing. Commissioner Odell said, you don't want to hear us. Chairman Hair said, you don't want to hear this chorus, I can tell you.

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**VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS**

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

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**1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR NON-UNIFORM LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. *Tabled at meeting of June 25, 1999.***

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel pulled this off the agenda. I'll entertain a motion to take it off. Commissioner Price said, I move to do so. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion —, alright a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Okay, Commissioner Jackel, do you have your —, still have concerns or are you ready to approve this?

Commissioner Jackel said, well, this is the item we talked about last time that this is a non-budget item, that it in effect is we have given our employees a five percent increase and this is \$50 a month increase to some of these employees above and beyond what we've already given them and, you know, in a tight budget time I think we've done what we could do.

Chairman Hair said, we have the District Attorney here. I'll recognize him at this time to come forward and address this issue and answer any questions anybody might have.

District Attorney Spencer Lawton said, thank you very much for your indulgence. I want to apologize for not having been with you at the last meeting and to acknowledge at the outset that this is not a matter as to which the fate of western civilization hangs in the balance, at least not by our terms. Commissioner Odell said, I like that expression. Mr. Lawton said, it is important to us on equity grounds, however. What I'm here for is to ask that the Board treat the nine investigators in my office similarly as it does the investigative staffs of the Chatham County Police and CNT. There are 51 personnel employed by CCPD and CNT who perform the investigative functions and who receive this allowance. It is a relatively trifling sum, it's \$50 a month, but it is a sum which this Board saw fit to double six months ago in December. For the preceding something more than a decade the clothing allowance paid to Chatham County personnel in investigative functions was \$25 a month. Six months ago this Board increased that by 100% to \$50 a month. We are only seeking here to be similarly treated with other personnel similarly situated. Mr. Jackel made reference to raises, and it is a very good point in which I want to commend you. I don't, however, think that it quite accurately presents the reality of the matter inasmuch as I think, unless I'm mistaken, Mr. Jackel, the raises that you are referring to are raises which were —, which were awarded to our employees in the DA's office merely to bring them up to parity with the County —, with the rate of pay of County investigators similarly situated. It was a raise, in other words, that evened the playing field, and I'm sure this Board wouldn't want now to punish these same personnel for having received a benefit earlier that this Board thought necessary and approved on its merits. So my request of you today is that you award this \$50 clothing allowance to be paid to the personnel in my office similarly with those in the County Police and CNT investigative functions, and I will point out to you that the total amount of money for this year would only be \$2,250, which is not new money. It is already in our budget and is there as a consequence of money that we have saved thus far during the year.

Chairman Hair asked, so you're not asking for any increase in budget? Mr. Lawton said, we're not asking for any increase. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, then Commissioner Saussy and Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Spencer [Lawton], their clothing allowance for nonuniform officers, these are people just like anyone else in the courthouse, is that true? Mr. Lawton said, that's true. Chairman Hair asked, they dress as well as you do? [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, it would take more than \$50 for that. Commissioner Odell asked, but they're similar to the investigation —, investigators we have in Chatham County Police Department? Mr. Lawton said, that's right. Commissioner Odell asked, and the Sheriff's Department who wear just street clothing? Mr. Lawton said, correct. Commissioner Odell asked, is that correct? Mr. Lawton said, right. Commissioner Odell said, well, I think that we should have some level of uniformity and I will vote to approve. My concern is that I think the reason we ultimately did this was that we felt that we were underpaying our investigators, and this was a way to give them a minimum salary increase, but it's illogical. I mean, if we're going to give a clothing allowance for people who wear just regular clothing, we should do it for you, we should do it for Jon Hart, we should do it for Russ Abolt —. Mr. Lawton asked, may I amend my request to include \$50 for myself? Commissioner Odell said, no, but my point is, I understand your argument is that if we have similar people in other departments, we need to be one Chatham County not several and, therefore, if you're an investigator in the DA's office, you should be treated like if you're an investigator in Chatham County. I agree to that. The underlying problem with the whole thing is that street clothing should not be compensated. We should pay the people an adequate livable competitive wage and not seek all these little separate little things to give a little shot to people that really need to receive more. I plan to vote for it, but I hope that our wage and salary program will address the inequities that the unfairness as far as internal equity, the unfairness as far as external equity so it's competitive as far as pay with other departments, and when we do that and when that is done, all of

these little unnecessary tidbits, which should have never gone into existence, should be eliminated. But until that point I think we need to do this. Mr. Lawton said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I agree with you 100%. Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. I'll have to agree exactly with what Harris [Odell] has been saying. I do a lot of investigating every day too for the County. I don't get paid a clothing allowance. Commissioner Murray asked, what are you investigating? Commissioner Saussy said, I mean, my constituents come up and they ask me to come out to their house and see what the drainage is like. That's investigating isn't it? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Commissioner Saussy said, okay. I think it's ridiculous. I don't think the Police Department, the Sheriff or the County Police Department, those that are in street clothes, are in street clothes just like we are. This is totally ridiculous. We've got to really look at this whole situation. Let me ask you this. Do your investigators make more money than the other people in the office or less? Mr. Lawton said, well, we've got a lot of other different pay categories in the office. They make less than the lawyers generally, and —. Commissioner Saussy asked, all right, do they make an adequate salary? Commissioner Price said, compared to the lawyers. Mr. Lawton said, the comparison that we have normally employed is with other police personnel similarly situated and particularly investigative personnel. The answer is as far as that, generally speaking, that they are now roughly at parity. Commissioner Saussy said, they're at parity now. Mr. Lawton said, with the —, except for such items as this. I'll give you another example. Other police agencies receive —, have investigative staffs who receive incentive pay. We don't receive and I'm not here asking for incentive pay. This is just one item as to which it has been traditional in the County to pay these personnel. I'm here, in other words, not to presume to question the wisdom of a County Commission that long ago adopted a policy of paying this clothing allowance. That's for the Commission to decide what's fair for the employees. I'm here asking only for parity. Commissioner Saussy said, I can agree that you probably should have parity, but parity sometimes become a little bit warped, but I would —, like Harris [Odell], I really think that the staff really does need to look at these whole things on the pay grades and I'm sure under this new —. Mr. Lawton said, well, there's a compensation study I think that's been proposed —. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, under the compensation that might come up, but I —. Mr. Lawton said, that would be a wonderful opportunity to do that. Commissioner Saussy said, I hope that they will —, that Russ [Abolt] will instruct them, those that are doing that, to look into this —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, because this is just not right. Mr. Lawton said, I agree emphatically that that's a grand opportunity, precisely to iron out this kind of thing. May I answer other questions?

Commissioner Price asked, who's next. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. Harris [Odell] and David [Saussy] both have asked the questions that I were originally going to ask, but I —, my feeling is that if it's, if we're doing this, as I think Harris [Odell] mentioned, to offset the pay, then we don't need to be doing it because it's the wrong way to do it. And if in fact we are giving a \$50 a month clothing allowance for people to wear civilian type clothes and not uniforms, then it needs to be for every County employee that wears street clothes or coat and tie, or whatever they wear other than a uniform. I don't see how we can rightly say we're going to do it for this person but we're not going to do it for that person, and so I too think we need to look at it, and I don't know why it was put into effect to begin with. If in fact it was done to compensate a salary, then we did it for the wrong reasons and I just don't feel like we should be compensating people for wearing their regular clothes on a job. Mr. Lawton said, I would —, may I —, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to inject, but I certainly agree with what you're —. Commissioner Murray said, but I'm not opposed to you coming up because somebody else is getting the same thing. I mean, you're taking care of your people. Mr. Lawton said, I see your point. There are two things I might say. One is, truly, if it's a substitute for salary that's intended to recognize merit, then it ought to be built into the salary. That would clearly be the better way to do it and I would emphatically support that. On the other hand, it might be said, and I don't mean this by way of argument at all, but —. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not in the mood to argue today. Mr. Lawton said, but it is —, it's probably fair to say that the investigative personnel at the Police Department and in my office who wear civilian clothes lead, how shall I say, more active lives than some of the other personnel employed by the County who likewise wear street clothes to work. Commissioner Murray said, that takes it out of context.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, you're talking about active wear? Mr. Lawton said, right.

Commissioner Jackel said, we have been paying the Counter Narcotics Team and some of our Police officers \$25 a month clothing allowance. The Chief came up here and said that was insufficient; that the Counter Narcotics Team because of the work they did, they were wrestling around with these people, their clothes got ripped and dirty and they had to be cleaned and that sort of thing, so we needed to boost this up from \$25 to \$50. As a matter of parity, I voted against that because I didn't think that that needed to be done with the raises we had given. Now your people have not been getting this money at all. They're not at the \$25 level, so they're going to go from nothing to \$50. If we were strictly talking about parity, you could then make the argument well we need to go back four or five years, or however this is long [sic], and give them that back money that they didn't get, which I think would be absurd. Mr. Lawton asked, may I make a second amendment to that? Commissioner Jackel said, I —, at this time, the way we have boosted everything, I understand that people are going to say they're getting it and we're not, and we certainly support what they do, but we have just raised everybody's pay with a new modular pay plan for those people and we've given them a five percent raise in addition. We have to —, I feel like we have to draw the line, and I'm going to be consistent. I voted against the others receiving that increase and I'm going to vote against this. Even though I like J. D. Smith.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the staff's recommendation, which is that we extend the monthly clothing allotment benefit of \$50 per month to the investigators in the DA's office. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Mr. Lawton said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thanks, Mr. Lawton.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Price moved to place this item before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve a clothing allowance for non-uniform law enforcement officers in the District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$50 a month. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**\* 2. PURCHASING ITEM N. Tabled at meeting of June 25, 1999.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
N. Annual contract, with renewal options for four additional one year terms, to provide Third Party Administrator (TPA) services	Human Resources	Jones, Hill and Mercer	\$7.77 per employee per month	Internal Services Group Health Insurance Fund

Chairman Hairsaid, we need to take it off the table. Commissioner Price said, I move to untable. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel, you also pulled this one off.

Commissioner Jackel said, I did and I want to say publicly that Jones, Hill and Mercer has —, was very cordial and very accommodating, and met with me and went over my concerns, and met my concerns and agreed that things can be done better in the future and they are looking at ways to improve their service to Chatham County and Chatham County's employees, and —. Chairman Hair asked, so you're going to entertain a motion? Commissioner Jackel said, I just —, my only question is, is we're committing nowfor renewal option for four additional one-year terms. Do we look at this every year or —. Mr. George Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Thomas said, every year. Commissioner Jackel said, we come back —, years. All right. They have made certain commitments that they're going to move forward, and I know they're honorable people and I know they will, but I just wanted to make sure that we'll have a chance to look at this again. I was very impressed with their cordiality and their willingness to hear my concerns for our County employees and to make the necessary changes. And we know it's also not going to be easy, it's not an easy job to do.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy asked, does this have anything to do with the medical program that we have now or this is just the TPA part of it? Mr. Lynch said, this is TPA, sir. Commissioner Saussy asked, it doesn't have anything to do with the medical part of it? Mr. Lynch said, no sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, those items which Jones and Hill [sic] had agreed to do, as requested by Mr. Jackel, (a) could all of the Commissioners have a copy of that, and (b) when it comes up for the annual renewal in a year, if staff could review those things that they have said that they would do and advise us prior to the meeting whether or not those things have in fact been done. Commissioner Thomas said, that will help.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will —. Commissioner Price said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. The Clerk asked, was there a second? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, I did —, whatever. Commissioner Odell said, you can just split it. Commissioner DeLoach said, either one. I did half and he did half.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- 1. Commissioner Price moved to place this item before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
- 2. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve an annual contract with Jones, Hill and Mercer, with renewal options for four additional one-year terms, to provide Third Party Administrator (TPA) services in the amount of \$7.77 per employee per month. Commissioners Odell and DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: GENERAL FUND M & O CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$21,380 TO BOARD OF EQUALIZATION FOR THREE STAFF MEMBERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR BOE HEARINGS FROM AUGUST 1999 THROUGH DECEMBER 1999 AND \$10,000 TO MARINE PATROL FOR EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF BOATS FOR USE DURING STORM; A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE LOAN PROCEEDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,175,000 FOR THE COUNTY'S Y2K REMEDIATION PROJECT; A CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND CNT/CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$4,400 FOR EXPANSION OF AREA OF EVIDENCE STORAGE; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) UNINCORPORATED ROADS TRANSFER OF \$120,000 FOR PAVING THE ROAD AND PARKING LOT ADJACENT TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, a lot of my people tell me that the Board of Equalization doesn't need any additional people. Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: General Fund M & O Contingency transfers of \$21,380 to Board of Equalization for three staff members to provide coverage for BOE hearings from August 1999 through December 1999 and \$10,000 to Marine Patrol for emergency purchase of boats for use during storm; a Capital Improvement Program budget amendment to recognize loan proceeds in the amount of \$1,175,000 for the County's Y2K Remediation Project; a Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund CNT/Contingency transfer of \$4,400 for expansion of area of evidence storage; a One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Unincorporated Roads transfer of \$120,000 for paving the road and parking lot adjacent to the Humane Society. Commissioners Odell and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 2. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT A PLAN OF ACTION ON AN ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR A BAND SHELL.**

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen. This is on point to your concerns of last meeting. Namely, you wanted to deal with issues brought forward as to whether or not we could come together with a way in which a fixed, a permanent band shell facility might be constructed and that there would be certain caps placed on the expenditure of dollars. Staff has done that. We have an allocation of \$787,500. If you approve the plan, it would be involved and the source of money would be an inter-fund loan from our Fund Balance, which is, you might remember, was created as a result of additional SPLOST earnings. It would be capped at the \$787,500 and the loan would be paid back, and the Board would decide as to whether or not you wish to assign interest to that and interest on the time it takes to pay it back from SPLOST earnings that would accrue in the months and years ahead. In addition, as you know, we proceeded with giving notice to proceed to the architect. The issue would come now as to site location. It was mentioned to me yesterday by Mr. Monahan, which is an embellishment to this, that as opposed to the County Commission in effect taking the initial lead on site location, you might want to give due consideration, if that is your choice, to the City of Savannah City Council. But either way, it's just a plan of action. It gets us on track, as you wanted us. It will allow the allocation of that amount of money, as I mentioned, for a permanent band shell, and the issue of site will be brought forward on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August unless you tell us differently.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, so moved. So moved for approval of Alternative #1. Chairman Hair said, Alternative 1. Commissioner Price said, which is that we set August 13<sup>th</sup> for a public hearing on site selection and authorize an inter-fund loan in the amount of \$787,500 from Fund Balance —. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, my only question is what's going to happen when this comes back from the design, are we going to spend \$70,000 for the design when they say it's going to cost \$1.5 or \$2.5 million to build? Because you —, I'm telling you right now, you can't build it for \$717,000.

Chairman Hair said, well, one thing I think could happen. Of course, you don't know really how much it's going to cost until you do design it. Commissioner Murray said, I really don't. Chairman Hair said, all right, or mainly until you pick a site. Both of those are going to be major cost considerations so I think you have to move forward at least to this level to get to that point where you're talking about. The second, while we've not had any technical discussions, again the Mayor and I've discussed this, and I think the City would be willing to come in as partners with us on this, you know, in the event that something like that could happen. So I think we certainly could not —, you know, we would not be asked —, I certainly couldn't support it. As the motion was at the last meeting, I voted for it only with a cap on it, the maximum cap dollar amount. So anything beyond that maximum I will totally not support it.

Commissioner Murray said, I mean, I'm going to support the motion. I just —, I just think we've got a long way to go. If we're sitting here thinking we can do it for that —. Chairman Hair said, well, I think you're right. Commissioner Murray said, we're kidding everybody. Chairman Hair said, there's no question about that, but I say this is just a plan to get us —. Commissioner Price said, it gets it going. Commissioner Murray said, and I agree with Eddie [DeLoach], I still think that Hutchinson Island is the place, but that's not here or there at this point.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have one quick comment on this thing. A constituent approached me with some ideas that might consider merit on site approval that have not been considered, and one is Grayson Stadium. He said, if there's room, we could build it in center field. County Manager Abolt said, that's the purpose of the public hearing. Commissioner Jackel said, right, but I just —, they said it hadn't been suggested. And the other was possibly Memorial Stadium, that you put it at the end zone and then you have restrooms already there, you'd have lighting already there, you'd have the end —, the football field for people to sit on, additional seats up in there. We could possibly really cut our costs by using either one of those locations. I bring that before the Board as well.

County Manager Abolt said, all these ideas that are going to come forward should be channeled into that public hearing to be deliberated.

Commissioner Price said, we'll look at all those. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, call the question.

Chairman Hair said, call the question. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, DeLoach and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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

Commissioner Price moved to approve Alternative #1 of the staff report that the Board select its meeting date of Friday, August 13, 1999, for its public hearing on site selection of a permanent band shell and authorize an inter-fund loan in the amount of \$787,500 from Fund Balance to the band shell project (\$70,000 for design contract, civil engineering and reproductions; \$717,500 for construction and contingency), the Board of Commissioners having the discretion whether

this inter-fund loan would include interest, said loan to be repaid from future interest earnings of the 1993-1998 Sales Tax Fund, or if the Sales Tax Fund fails to generate sufficient interest earnings to repay the inter-fund loan, any remaining balance would be from Fund Balance. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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### **3. PRESENT FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION RESULTS OF COUNTY'S COMPETITIVE PROCESS TO SELECT A CONTRACTOR FOR THE MANAGEMENT STUDY.**

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Hair, gentlemen, this is an issue, as you know, with a high priority in your goals session last year, namely to have a management study, affecting all departments within the County organization. We have brought forward at this point a solicitation for professional contractual services. There are some challenges here and there's some highlights that I want to bring to your attention now, and I do have a possible course of action you may wish to consider. Because this was a high priority, staff has treated it as so for these many, many months. We have proposals that are reflective of the wishes of the County Commission; however, we do have some concerns expressed primarily by the judiciary and by the District Attorney that any consulting firm hired might want to have a specialized expertise in dealing with the judiciary. The issue here is that at this time we've solicited the services and fees. It will not affect 230 positions because they find themselves either in the District Attorney's office and the courts. We have been working, as documentation shows, with the respective administrators of each of those courts plus the District Attorney. We do not have the complete total cost for this analysis and the management assessment. I would suggest that possibly the best course of action would be to allow staff to deal with the preferred firm, again it's underbid its proposal, who at this time is \$98,000 over what we had allocated for this, allow us in very intense negotiations to bring that down within budget of \$400,000, and at the same time of course we'll continue to work closely with the courts and with the District Attorney to get a better estimate and feeling for what the cost of that study might be. I defer to the Chairman because the Chairman is very familiar with this.

Chairman Hair said, yes. Just one point I would like to make. The courts did approach us concerning this management study, and I want to make it very clear that the courts and the District Attorney want to be involved in the management study. I think they raise some legitimate issues in terms of the courts being a very specialized operation, and there are a number of associations and firms that do exactly those kind of studies for courts, and all they were simply requesting was that we take into account that consideration, and we discussed it with staff, met with the judges, and they agreed that that was the way to proceed. So I —, but I want to make it clear that they're not in any way —, they want to be a part of the study, but they want it to be done by a firm that has some judicial experience, and I think that's a legitimate concern the have and the judges were pleased with that —, with that approach. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked, Russ [Abolt], we are eliminating 200 and how many positions? County Manager Abolt said, 230 positions affected. Commissioner Odell asked, does this presume that a secretary who works for a judge cannot be analyzed, studied because her job is so unique that it would not be comparable to a secretary in Engineering? Is that why we're to exclude them? County Manager Abolt said, well, I think we might —, it could possibly —, at least I may have misunderstood what you said, but let me respond to what I heard you say. This is not an issue of compensation. Commissioner Odell said, I understand that. County Manager Abolt said, so if we're looking at a clerical person, a clerical person that's already being handled. As the Chairman spoke on point to, we received a very specific response from the judiciary saying that they feel that a consulting firm that has general experience in this might have some difficulties and they would like to see, as referenced in this letter to Mr. Danny DeLoach, this National Center for State Courts to do the same study, but particularize it to the court system, and then you have from the District Attorney a sensing that this organization that I've just mentioned would not have the prosecutorial experience and there would be another agency to do that. But when all is said and done, the intent is to be able to give you, the Board, a complete picture of this organization as you requested in your goals session. Commissioner Odell said, so theoretically we would have one main study, we'd have the Uniform State Court whatever, that would do the court system. Would they only, in fact, do State Court and Superior Court and would not do the Probate Court and Magistrate Court? County Manager Abolt said, they do all those. Commissioner Odell said, all of those courts. County Manager Abolt said, everything except Recorder's Court. Commissioner Odell asked, and all of those judges are in concurrence that the State Court alliance or what have you could do Probate, could do Magistrate? County Manager Abolt said, my understanding this organization that uses the term State Court in their title has universality to it. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Odell said, and we would use one to do (1) the prosecutorial side of this? County Manager Abolt said, yes, the District Attorney —. Commissioner Odell asked, will those be parallel? County Manager Abolt said, we'll try to make them that way, sir, but I think what we're doing right now is we're going to be able to advance everything except the departments you just referenced. Commissioner Odell said, my concern is, and I understand what you're saying, Russ [Abolt], and it's —, you know, and I've lived through this study on two occasions where in the Laboratory at Memorial Medical Center they said a general consulting firm cannot do laboratory because all the pathologists are genius, you have to be a genius in order to be here and the process is so unique. I think that argument can be made with most of the departments, but my point is —, let me finish with it —, my point is that if they are not done parallel I think you really lose a lot, and what we lose is that we need to take a glimpse at this organization

and look at all of the inter-workings at one point, at one point, so it should be done parallel, and we should as a Commission receive ...

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? The Chair will entertain a motion. County Manager Abolt said, you're not approving the contract now, you're just —. Chairman Hair said, no, just —. County Manager Abolt said, you're allowing us to get back with the consultant —.

Commissioner Jackel said, let me make one comment. If everybody will look at the last page in your thing here, I want to just commend staff for this presentation. When I look at this, I see how you rate them on project understanding, qualifications, methodology, staff organization, schedule, interviews, fee proposal, and then we can see a breakdown of how you arrived at your score and what the cost was. Now if we compare and contrast that from the information which we had from CAT, which was zero, I mean, this is the way it should be and I commend the staff for their good work.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, Russ [Abolt], you're saying you're not asking for approval today. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. That's true. What we are doing is, it is our wish to bring this back within the budget amount, just \$400,000. Commissioner Price said, okay. Second question —. County Manager Abolt said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Price said, I understand. The second question I have, we had intended that our first priority would be the Library system. Am I incorrect about this? Commissioner Odell said, you are incorrect about this. Commissioner Price said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, the Library's being audited. Commissioner Price said, but there was also in the motion I made a request that a management study be done as well and that that was the priority of what we were doing here, and I see no mention of that in here whatsoever. County Manager Abolt said, we can certainly address that, sir, and I apologize for the oversight. Commissioner Price said, I mean, guys, was that —, was that not the discussion we had that day? Commissioner Odell said, according to Sybil [Tillman], it's in the minutes. Commissioner Price said, I mean, the Clerk remembers it and —. Commissioner Jackel said, she doesn't memorize them all though. Commissioner Murray said, you did remember [inaudible] what I was asking about from five years ago. The Clerk said, I don't remember all of them, just a few. Commissioner Price said, in all seriousness, what I want to know is if that's —, the numbers being quoted here in this RFP, did they include the Library system? County Manager Abolt said, there's flexibility, sir, and priorities will be as you —. Commissioner Odell asked, is that yes, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, yes, of course. Commissioner Price asked, what is yes? County Manager Abolt said, well, I think —, you must —. Commissioner Odell said, it means it was not, but it can be. County Manager Abolt said, it will be. Commissioner Price said, I mean, we indicated it was the priority, the number one thing to get started on first. County Manager Abolt said, I'm sorry, I'm just —, I'm just reminded by the person handling this directly, they have already committed to this. So my attempts to answer, as I shouldn't have —. Commissioner Price said, okay. Well, you mentioned other departments, and the Library system is certainly outside the County's purview, per se. Reese [White], go ahead. Commissioner Odell said, and for the general public, this is our Elliott Ness.

Mr. Reese White said, the consultant that we're talking with now, DMG/Maximus, they have committed to doing the Library first. Commissioner Price said, okay. So even though it's not mentioned in here —. Mr. White said, yes sir. That's my fault. I'm sorry. Commissioner Price said, okay. I move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor, please vote? The Clerk asked, did we have a second on this? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Price said, this is to take it to budget, \$400,000. County Manager Abolt said, you're bringing it for \$400,000.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

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

Commissioner Price moved to authorize staff to negotiate with DMG/Maximus to reduce their cost for the management study so it will fall within the budgeted amount of \$400,000. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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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.**
  - **CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - CHILD SUPPORT SPECIALIST I (ONE POSITION)**
  - **DISTRICT ATTORNEY - CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR I (ONE POSITION)**
  - **SHERIFF - CLERICAL ASSISTANT IV (ONE POSITION)**
  - **BOARD OF ASSESSORS - ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN I (ONE POSITION)**

Vice Chairman Thomas said, number one, Child Support Enforcement - Child Support Specialist I (one position). Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second that. I think they do an outstanding job and they're helping a lot of people collect money from deadbeat parents —, not only males, but also some females. Vice Chairman Thomas said, do I hear a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Price said, call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, call for the question. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, District Attorney - Criminal Investigator I (one position). Commissioner Odell asked, will we pay the uniform on this one? Commissioner Murray said, that's what I was going to ask. Do they get \$50? Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, plus uniforms. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do I hear a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are there any questions? Commissioner DeLoach said, mash that button. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you ready to vote? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, passed.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Sheriff - Clerical Assistant IV (one position).

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Odell asked, what is it? Commissioner DeLoach said, it's a person that collects money.

Jail Administrator Gary Blake said, actually this is a position in our records unit. That's a 24 hour position and it's very difficult to keep people in that job. And it's a small unit and we're trying to provide that —, try to service to a lot of our agencies. We need availability of our records division, so we try to do it 24 hours a day. One position out of that unit hurts us quite a bit.

Commissioner Odell said, I call for the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, a call for the question. Are you ready to vote? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried.

Mr. Blake said, oh, by the way, the Sheriff's Department didn't get a \$50 —. Commissioner Price asked, didn't get a what? Whoa, come back here. Commissioner Murray said, they'll be back next month, I guess. Commissioner Saussy said, oh, I'm sure they will. Commissioner Price asked, do y'all do any criminal investigation? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Yes, you do. Mr. Blake said, okay, yes, but we've never gotten a clothing allowance. We've never gotten the \$25 and we've never done the \$50.

County Manager Abolt said, wait, wait. Excuse me. When you all extended it, as you did in January, the Sheriff was present. We indicated there was not interest and Sheriff St. Lawrence came forward and confirmed the fact there was not interest. Commissioner Odell asked, he was not interested? Mr. Blake said, no, we didn't request it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, thank you very much. County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, the next one has been pulled at the request of Mr. Udinsky. Vice Chairman Thomas said, has been pulled? County Manager Abolt said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

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

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Child Support Enforcement - Child Support Specialist I (one position). Commissioners Odell and DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: District Attorney- Criminal Investigator I (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Sheriff - Clerical Assistant IV (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]
4. The request by the Board of Assessor for approval to waive the 90-day hiring freeze to advertize Accounting Technician I (one position) was withdrawn by Gary Udinsky, Chief Appraiser.

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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.)

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval, all the way. Commissioner Murray said, I want to pull #3. Commissioner Odell said, #3. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, okay. Any wishes to pull anything? Commissioner Jackel said, and I'd like to pull X-10, 13-A. Vice Chairman Thomas said, X-10, 13-A. Commissioner Jackel said, D. Vice Chairman Thomas said, D. Commissioner Jackel said, H and I. Vice Chairman Thomas said, H and I. Commissioner Jackel said, that's it. That's it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Any other removals? May I have a motion to adopt all of the others. Commissioner DeLoach said, you've got that motion. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, then the motion is carried. Okay, now we'll go to item #10. Commissioner Murray said, 3. Commissioner Odell said, 3. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, I missed 3. I'm sorry. Okay.

**[NOTE: Refer to Items 3, 10, and 13 for discussion thereon.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 3, 10, 13-A, 13-D, 13-H and 13-I. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were 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 JUNE 25, 1999, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 25, 1999, as mailed. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 18 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1999.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period June 18 1999, through June 30, 1999, in the amount of \$8,006,505. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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**3. INFORMATION ON THE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE 1999 TAX DIGEST AND 5-YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY FOR ADOPTION OF THE 1999 MILLAGE LEVY AS REQUIRED BY GEORGIA CODE SECTION 48-5-32 AND INFORMATION REGARDING DIGEST GROWTH.**

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any comments or whatever?

Commissioner Murray said, yes. The only reason I wanted it pulled is that I understand we're supposed to vote on that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray asked, is there any way legally that we can wait and vote on that the first meeting of August? I will not be here on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. I would like to vote. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is that on the 23<sup>rd</sup>?

County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer not just to Attorney Hart but also to the Tax Commissioner. He has a schedule he has to get the digest to Atlanta. Commissioner Price said, it's always been the same problem every year. Commissioner Murray said, we've always voted on it in August. County Attorney Hart said, I don't know the answer. County Attorney Hart said, Commissioner Murray is correct —. Commissioner Murray said, I would like to be present to vote on it. I know I cannot be here on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner Murray, we had come to you several weeks ago and gave you a calendar for this. We will have to reaffirm with the Tax Commissioner that that would be permissible based on what he has to [inaudible].

Commissioner Saussy asked, when's the first meeting in August? County Manager Abolt said, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murray said, we're only talking about two weeks.

Commissioner Price said, I don't have a problem with it if it's okay with Danny [Powers]. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, let's just check with the Tax Assessor, whatever. County Manager Abolt said, because of an advertisement, there's a whole legal process here, let's try to reach him by telephone right now before we change that. Commissioner Price said, please.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, would you try to do that and then we'll come back to that. Okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we'll come back to that. Commissioner Murray said, neither one of them [inaudible]. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right, we'll come back to that and go to the other one.

\* \* \*

**[Note: Immediately preceding recess for Executive Session, this item was again before the Commissioners for discussion.]**

County Manager Abolt said, first of all, we have the Tax Commissioner en route. Commissioner Murray said, Gary [Udinsky] is here, but you need to talk to the Tax Commissioner. Commissioner Murray asked, what are you here for then? If we have to wait on the Tax Commissioner, what is your purpose?

Mr. Gary Udinsky said, State law says that we have submit the digest by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Department of Revenue routinely will grant relatively short extensions in time, a few weeks for virtually any reason. The request has to be made in writing before the deadline. It doesn't cause a particular problem other than the five-year advertisement ran yesterday. That advertisement will have to be rerun, so there is a small expense. For years the digest was never submitted until the middle of August, and that's been fine. Recent —, some recent court cases, Boards of Assessors have been replaced in other counties because they didn't submit timely, so the current Board of Assessors has asked that we always try to submit timely, which the schedule that we presented does cause that to happen, but I'm confident that an extension of a couple or a few weeks wouldn't be out of the ordinary or unusual.

Commissioner Murray said, so [inaudible] first meeting in August. Vice Chairman Thomas said, so you said, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murray said, the 13<sup>th</sup> of August is what —, oh, that ought to be good, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner DeLoach said, that will be great. I make a motion that unless Danny's [Powers] got a problem with it, we move it —.

[Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Murray said, that's all I'm asking.

County Manager Abolt said, I'm not trying to diminish at all what Mr. Udinsky said, but knowing the sensitivity sometime of the Tax Commissioner, before you actually make a motion, I think you might be better served by waiting to hear from Mr. Powers. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I couldn't hear exactly what you were saying. Mr. Manager, would you repeat what you said? County Manager Abolt said, my analysis, it's not a recommendation, but in the past the Tax Commissioner has been very outspoken in his desires to keep a certain schedule. There's certainly nothing wrong with what you're contemplating. I think your final decision might be better served if Mr. Powers were present and —. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's fine. I don't mean —, I don't mind listening to him but I don't see where two weeks is going to make a difference one way or the other with the bills getting out or anything else, but I'll be glad to wait until he comes back.

Commissioner Odell said, let's go into Executive Session.

\* \* \*

**[Note: Immediately following adjournment of Executive Session and reconvening of the Board, this item was again placed before the Commissioners.]**

Tax Commissioner Danny Powers said, I received a telephone call that you —, your wishes to delay the adoption of the millage rate until the 13<sup>th</sup>. Is that —, is that what I understand? Commissioner Murray said, yes, the first meeting in August. Mr. Powers said, okay. I checked with ICS, okay. Keep in mind that we have a lot of challenges this year from a building standpoint and making sure that things are right because we have a credit refund that the Governor has initiated. I've checked with ICS. They feel like that date would be okay to give us enough time. If you delay it beyond the 13<sup>th</sup> —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, no. Commissioner Murray said, it wouldn't be. Mr. Powers said, we're in the ditch. So, the 13<sup>th</sup> I can —, you know, we can live with the 13<sup>th</sup>, but please don't go beyond that. If you do, we're going to have to change the ordinance that says we have to bill on September 15<sup>th</sup>, we're going to have to move that back because we'd never get them out.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, well, that would be so that would give Commissioner Murray an opportunity to be here. He wanted to be a part of —. Mr. Powers said, oh, good. I didn't know what —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the more Commissioners that are here, the better it will be. And we thank you. Mr. Powers said, okay. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the 13<sup>th</sup> of August.

County Manager Abolt said, we need a motion to change to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murray said, I move that we change the vote on the millage to August 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's been properly moved and seconded. Are there any questions? None. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion passes.

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved to change the date for vote on the millage from July 23, 1999, to August 13, 1999. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

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4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY FISCAL AND ACCOUNTING MANUAL FOR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION - CHAPTER XII FIXED ASSETS (B) DEFINITION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve an amendment to the Chatham County Fiscal and Accounting Manual for Financial Administration - Chapter XII Fixed Assets (B) Definition. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS:**
- ! **\$30,000 FOR THE FRANK CALLEN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**
  - ! **\$100,000 FOR THE ROUNDHOUSE COMPLEX**
  - ! **\$50,000 FOR THE LUCAS THEATRE**
  - ! **\$25,000 FOR ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY**
  - ! **\$25,000 FOR THE BAMBOO FARM AND COASTAL GARDENS**
  - ! **\$10,000 FOR AN OUTDOOR KIOSK, HIGHWAY 21/I-95**
  - ! **\$5,000 FOR THE COOPER CENTER**
  - ! **\$100,000 FOR THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM**
  - ! **\$50,000 FOR THE MIGHTY EIGHTH'S "WOMEN IN AVIATION EXHIBIT"**
  - ! **\$45,000 FOR THE OGLETHORPE ACADEMY**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following Georgia Department of Community Affairs Local Assistance Grants: \$30,000 for the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, \$100,000 for the Roundhouse Complex, \$50,000 for the Lucas Theatre; \$25,000 for Armstrong Atlantic State University; \$25,000 for the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens; \$10,000 for an outdoor kiosk, Highway 21/I-95; \$5,000 for the Cooper Center; \$100,000 for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum; \$50,000 for the Mighty Eighth's "Women in Aviation Exhibit"; and \$45,000 for the Oglethorpe Academy. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE SIGNING ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR OBTAINING A GDOT COUNTY CONTRACT FOR PAVING THE ROAD AND PARKING LOT ADJACENT TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY AND TO TRANSFER \$120,000 FROM SPLOST 1993-1998, UNINCORPORATED ROADS (TRANSFER IS CONTAINED IN ITEM IX-2).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the Chairman to sign all documents necessary for obtaining a GDOT County Contract for paving the road and parking lot adjacent to the Humane Society and to transfer \$120,000 from SPLOST 1993-1998, Unincorporated Roads (transfer is contained in Item IX-2). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN UPDATED AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH TO MAINTAIN AND REPAIR TRAFFIC DEVICES IN UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY.**  
**[ALL DISTRICTS.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign an updated agreement with the City of Savannah to maintain and repair traffic devices in unincorporated Chatham County. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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- 8. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR DEVELOPER, C. L. LEWIS, TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION AT BURNSIDE VIEW SUBDIVISION, PHASE D, INITIATE THE TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD AND REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF THE REQUIRED SUBDIVISION BOND.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from engineer for developer, C. L. Lewis, to approve the construction at Burnside View Subdivision, Phase D, initiate the twelve-month warranty period and reduce the amount of the required subdivision bond. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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- 9. REQUEST FROM THE DEVELOPER OF SOUTH HARBOR SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1-E-1 TO RELEASE THE SUBDIVISION BOND AT THE END OF THE WARRANTY PERIOD.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from the developer of South Harbor Subdivision, Phase 1-E-1 to release the subdivision bond at the end of the warranty period. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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- 10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EARLY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT 1 QUAIL FOREST DRIVE OWNED BY EUGENE HIERS FOR THE MIDDLEGROUND ROAD WIDENING PROJECT.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Are we actually widening Middleground Road on this project? Commissioner Price said, yes. You didn't see the article in the newspaper? Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, call for the question. Commissioner Jackel said, we know the route that it's going to take? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir.

County Engineer Al Bungard said, in this case the project goes all the way from Abercorn, Montgomery Crossroad, all the way down to the other end at Abercorn, and in this case he's on the corner and there's no question we're going to take his property. Commissioner Jackel said, that's what I needed to know.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, very good. Okay, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the early acquisition of property located at 1 Quail Forest Drive and owned by Eugene Hiers for the Middleground Road Widening Project. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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- 11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EARLY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY DAVID V. FRANCO, 1422 FORSYTHE ROAD, TRUMAN PARKWAY PHASE III.  
[DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve early acquisition of property owned by David V. Franco, 1422 Forsythe Road, Truman Parkway Phase III. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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**12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE QUITCLAIM DEED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following quitclaim deed in exchange for satisfaction of delinquent taxes, which have now been paid: Freeman Snider, PIN 20054-08005, \$18.61. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Deductive Change Order No. 1 to the contract to provide Third Party Administrator (TPA) services reducing the monthly fee	Human Resources	Jones, Hill and Mercer	\$7.50 per employee per month	Internal Services Group Health Insurance Fund
B. Rental agreements for the use of Memorial Stadium during the 1999 football season	Parks and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Board of Education</li> <li>•Benedictine Military School</li> <li>•Savannah Panthers Football</li> <li>•WTOC</li> </ul>	9 nights @ \$650/ea. = \$5,850  5 nights @ \$650/ea. = \$3,250  4 nights @ \$650/ea. = \$2,600  1 night @ \$650/ea. = \$ 650  Total \$12,550	Revenue producing contract
C. Confirmation of emergency approval to amend the insurance agent/broker contract with Hilb Rogal and Hamilton to include Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) administration and broker services and to terminate the contract with The Karoly Agency	SPLOST	Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton	\$15,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
D. Reject all bids for the purchase and installation of various kitchen equipment	SPLOST	N/A	N/A	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
E. Contract to construct an upgrade to the Village Green storm drainage outfall where it crosses beneath Cambridge Drive	SPLOST	Alpha Construction Company	\$29,420	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Village Green Drainage

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
F. Change Order No. 12 to the contract to perform a hydraulic analysis of the Pipemaker's Canal drainage basin to modify the interim design and permitting	SPLOST	EMC Engineering	\$63,748	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Pipemakers Canal
G. 160 computers	I.C.S.	Gateway Computers	\$204,320	CIP - Y2K Remediation
H. Confirmation emergency purchase of 40 computers	I.C.S.	Gateway Computers	\$51,080	CIP - Y2K Remediation
I. Confirmation emergency purchase of 650 license software and maintenance	I.C.S.	Entré Computer Center (MBE)	\$45,987.50	CIP - Y2K Remediation
J. Declare 32ft Wellcraft boat as unserviceable surplus and approve its transfer to the United States Navy in exchange for one (1) 19ft and one (1) 21ft Boston Whaler boats	Police	N/A	N/A	N/A
K. Confirmation emergency purchase of 1,500lb larvicide	Mosquito Control	Adapco, Inc. (sole source)	\$12,750	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
L. Two (2) 1999 tractors	Public Works	Hendrix Machinery	\$34,626	General Fund/M & O - Public Works
M. One (1) roll-off truck	Solid Waste	Roberts Truck Center	\$82,606	Solid Waste Enterprise Fund
N. Two (2) tandem dump trucks	Public Works	Roberts Truck Center	\$141,756	CIP - Vehicle Replacement
O. One (1) dump truck with knuckle boom	Solid Waste	Roberts Truck Center	\$69,493	Solid Waste Enterprise Fund
P. Reject all bids for the purchase of flat bed dump truck	Recreation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Q. Annual contract, with the option to renew for two additional one year terms, for uniform rental services	Various	Aramark Uniform Service of Savannah	\$36,927.80	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various •Water and Sewer •Solid Waste
R. Contract to provide Fleet Management Information system software	Fleet	CCG Systems, Inc.	\$52,000	CIP - Y2K Remediation
S. Change Order No. 7 to the various County roads survey contract to provide surveys and design of the project to pave Glade Street	SPLOST	Freeman & Vaughn Engineering	\$12,500	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Glade Street Project

**Item 13-A:**

DEDUCTIVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR (TPA) SERVICES REDUCING THE MONTHLY FEE; DEPARTMENT: HUMAN RESOURCES; SOURCE: JONES, HILL AND MERCER; AMOUNT: \$7.50 PER EMPLOYEE PER MONTH; FUNDING: INTERNAL SERVICES GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE FUND.

Commissioner Jackel said, I had pulled this one because I had read it prior to the meeting I had with Jones, Hill and Mercer, so the questions have been answered. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried.

**Items 13-B through 13-S, except 13-D, 13-H and 13-I:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 13-B through 13-S, except Items 13-D, 13-H and 13-I. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

**Item 13-D:**

REJECT ALL BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS KITCHEN EQUIPMENT; DEPARTMENT: SPLOST; SOURCE: N/A; AMOUNT: N/A; FUNDING: SPLOST (1993-1998) - TRADE CENTER.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, where's that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, that's #D. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay.

Commissioner Jackel said, we've had some discussion about —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second.

Commissioner Jackel said, we've had some discussion about what's going on here that the items came in way too high. Mr. George Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's why we're voting it down, rejecting all bids. Commissioner Jackel asked, and we have some idea if we do it another way we're going to be able to reduce this money? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. We don't —, I don't want to give you false optimism. I suspect that the estimate was way too low, but by taking the strategy of not what was recommended by the architects where they wanted to have a specific manufacturer's product, and instead saying equal to or better than obviously got to meet the dimension, we think probably we can close at least 50% of the gap between the estimate and bid is worth it. Commissioner Jackel said, that's good.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, please —. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, motion's carried. Thank you.

**Items 13-H and 13-I:**

- H. CONFIRMATION EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF 40 COMPUTERS; DEPARTMENT: I.C.S.; SOURCE: GATEWAY COMPUTERS; AMOUNT: \$51,080; FUNDING: CIP - Y2K REMEDIATION.
- I. CONFIRMATION EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF 650 LICENSE SOFTWARE AND MAINTENANCE; DEPARTMENT: I.C.S.; SOURCE; ENTRÉ COMPUTER CENTER (MBE); AMOUNT: \$45,987.50; FUNDING: CIP - Y2K REMEDIATION.

Commissioner Jackel asked, can we take H and I together? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second.

Commissioner Jackel said, this is not that great amount of money. We're talking about \$51,000 for one and about \$46,000 for the other. It just starts adding up into real money, of course, but I —, I'm a little perplexed at this late date why there needs to be an emergency purchase. Didn't we see this coming down the road and couldn't this have been a budget item?

Mr. George Lynch said, two —. County Manager Abolt said, to be —, well, George [Lynch], let me very candid. I talked to Mr. Leonard and we flat are showing a little bit of signs of being overworked. We missed it. It was essential to give emergency authorization, otherwise we would lose the benefit. And the other thing is under the general explanation of Y2K and, George [Lynch], you can speak to hardware. Mr. Lynch said, thank you, sir. In this particular we got a total procurement, as you're aware in excess of 200 computers. When those come in, they have to get integrated, installed, et cetera. To keep the ICS people on the green schedule line, you've got to get increments of them. Simply stated, a screw-up. I don't know any better way to say it. Commissioner DeLoach said, I can understand that. Commissioner Jackel said, I can understand that. Mr. Lynch said, we should have caught it earlier and we didn't. Sorry about that. I apologize and try not to do it again.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm just glad —, I mean, I'm not here trying to embarrass anybody. I was just reading the material and it struck me as strange. I'm glad I asked the question and now I understand it.

County Manager Abolt said, I would like to reemphasize the stress that the MIS [sic] Department is under —, ICS. Commissioner Jackel said, sure.

Commissioner Odell said, call for the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, call for the question. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried on both items, H and I.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 13-A. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 13-B through 13-S, except Items 13-D, 13-H and 13-I. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 13-D. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]
4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 13-H and 13-I. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were 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. **AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE. *Note: Effective date to be determined based on budget allocation for additional staff.***

County Attorney Hart said, Dr. Thomas. We have —. This is on the Animal Control Ordinance. We drafted and made some draft changes as per the body that forwarded the suggestions about what they'd like to make. Subsequent to the draft that was submitted here on first reading, the County Attorney's office received some additional materials, which are not —, is not incorporated with this material.

Commissioner Saussy asked, where did you receive it from? County Attorney Hart said, one interested citizen. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that was not the case of what we asked for. County Attorney Hart said, I'm just pointing that out. If there's some question about that, that information was submitted back out to the parties to let them know we did receive that information.

Commissioner Price asked, your point is what? County Attorney Hart said, the point is simply that we drafted it in accordance with what was submitted to our office —. Commissioner Saussy said, by the Advisory Council. County Attorney Hart said, by the Advisory Council, and we did receive some subsequent information after it was done. We did not consider that information in the draft and we notified the parties of it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, thank you. Commissioner Murray asked, does this actually count as a first reading then? County Attorney Hart said, yes, it is.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Read into the record as first reading.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

1. **PETITIONER PHILLIP MCCORKLE, AGENT FOR SANDRA WILLIAMS OWNER. PETITIONER IS REQUESTING THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE ACRE OF LAND LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF FERGUSON AVENUE SOUTH OF SKIDAWAY ROAD BE REZONED FROM R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO A P-I-P (PLANNED INSTITUTIONAL-PROFESSIONAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO CONSTRUCT AN OFFICE BUILDING. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST**

**BE DENIED BASED ON ITS INCONSISTENCY WITH THE LAND USE PLAN AND INCOMPATIBILITY WITH THE SURROUNDING ZONING AND LAND USE PATTERNS.  
MPC FILE NO. 99-12590-C  
[DISTRICT 1.]**

Chairman Hair took this item out of order on the agenda and said, there's a number of folks in the audience that's here to speak on the rezoning on Ferguson Avenue south of Skidaway. We've just been informed the attorney has pulled that off the item —, off the agenda, and so therefore it will not be voted on today, will not be discussed today. So if you're here for that item, please feel free to leave. Thank you very much for coming though.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This second reading was withdrawn by the petitioner.

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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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**3. YEAR 2000 PROGRESS REPORT.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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**4. BRIEF PRESENTATION BY MPC AND PARKS STAFF ON GREENWAY AND OPEN SPACE PLAN.**

County Manager Abolt said, Item 4 on Information, you have discussed wanting to be updated immediately as to the open space and park acquisition plan by the County as approved and also as part of the SPLOST program. We do have, again at your request, Mr. Newton here and also Mr. Golden to give a brief presentation. That's #4, Dr. Thomas, on page 14.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, page 14. County Manager Abolt said, yes, that's correct. Commissioner Murray said, there's no write-up on there though. County Manager Abolt said, no, there's no write-up. This was meant to be just an oral briefing. Commissioner Odell said, and the operative word is brief. County Manager Abolt said, yes, that's correct. This has, as you recall, the context of potential land acquisition, some discussion you've had as recently two weeks ago.

Mr. Milton Newton said, Madam Chairman, members of the Commission, the City Manager —, County Manager —, work for two bosses —, has asked that we give you a very short briefing on the Open Space Plan that you adopted a couple of years ago. You are currently, I believe, undergoing some discussions that relate to the plan. The plan was adopted as a policy document to help guide you in making these decisions, so we wish to reacquaint you with some of the important elements of that plan. The briefing will be in two parts. The first part will be by Debbie Minis, our Senior Planner for Comprehensive Planning, which will basically talk about —, will be a summary of the contents of the plan, and the second, Jim Golden will bring things into the County's perspective. I think it's a thing that you may now be considering.

Ms. Debbie Minis said, thank you. I hope you can all hear me. It sounds like you will be able to. Very briefly, we just want to review the background of the Open Space Plan document. The Open Space planning effort was initiated in 1994 in part as a step in implementing the natural resources element of the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 1993. The Open Space Plan was prepared by MPC staff working with a Citizens Advisory Committee, and the primary purpose was to inventory and assess recreation and open space resources for the years 1995 and 2005. Very briefly, the study areas for the plan included all of Chatham County. It is a countywide plan. The City of Savannah was inventoried and assessed separately and it was also subdivided into 12 service areas. Each other municipality in Chatham County was also assessed individually and then unincorporated portions of Chatham County, which were then larger, were divided into four quadrants and we do have a graphic that we can show you. Someone may have that. The four —, the study areas.

Commissioner Murray said, we're going to have some lights on to see that.

Ms. Minis said, just to help you follow the map, you all are familiar with these areas I'm sure. The northeast portion is the area we've long considered to be the Islands community or the Islands area. The southeast Chatham area includes Isle of Hope, Skidaway, Montgomery and Rio Vista. Southwest Chatham was divided —, divided the western part of the County at I-16 and that part south is southwest and that part north is northwest. Open Space includes a number of categories, and there were six categories defined in the Open Space Plan; however, acreage assessments were done on two main types of open space resources: recreational area —. Is that —, oh, okay. I'm sorry. But the two areas that were —, for which acreage assessments were done were close-to-home recreation areas, which included mini-parks, community parks and neighborhood parks, and regional parks was a part of a regional space category. The City did identify several deficiencies. In the close-to-home category, based on a minimum standard of 6.25 acres per 1,000 population, there were four areas found deficient on an individual geographic area basis, and they included Savannah, Bloomingdale, Northwest Chatham, Northeast Islands, the Islands area, and Southeast Chatham, and these are the figures that represent the low standard. These are deficiencies taking into account existing inventory and the projected need by 2005.

Ms. Minis said, the other major area that was assessed by acreage was for regional parks and that was based on a minimum standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The countywide inventory includes four regional parks, and if you —, you're probably familiar with them too, but we do have a graphic that will show those locations. They are L. Scott Stell, Lake Mayer, Kings Ferry and Tom Triplett. Based on the 1995 population estimate used, the standard would be 1,155 acres overall for the County, which means that the County overall has a deficiency of 561 acres. It was also concluded that the primary deficiency for regional park space is in the Islands area. All of the other areas in the County have a regional park, and it's also worth noting that the close-to-home park area includes regional parks for those regional [inaudible], for those areas that the regional park is located in. Thank you, I'm done with that. Commissioner Murray said, you've got too much voltage in that battery. Ms. Minis said, I'm sorry, I kept getting too close.

Commissioner Odell said, we need a copy of your exhibit. Ms. Minis said, sure. Commissioner Odell said, because there was no written material included. Ms. Minis said, I'd be glad to. Commissioner Odell said, and that would be good information. Ms. Minis said, in fact, Clyde [Wester] has a copy I can give you. Commissioner Murray said, well, they can just get it in our packets this afternoon. That will be fine. Commissioner Odell said, yes, that will be great. Ms. Minis said, just those few sheets. We have others and there are more details available. Commissioner Odell said, that kind of summarized it for me and it's a good thing to know. Vice Chairman Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Saussy said, let me ask you this. If you've got —, if you have, is there any way of breaking these apart wherever they are, City or unincorporated areas down by districts? Ms. Minis said, there certainly is a way to do that. I don't think we've done that, but —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we've already done before. Ms. Minis said, we would overlay the district boundaries over the map. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, right. I'd just like to see that.

Mr. Jim Golden said, Mr. Chairman —, Dr. Chairman, Board members, it is, and briefly, it's important to know the availability of your open and green space plus the availability of the acreage. This is to —, we can use to plan. Our top priority is strategy to provide our means to provide an enhancement type approach, a preservation of our open and green space. This is a key to all of it. I don't think we need to sit down and think that our green space is the lost paradise. I think Commissioner Murray has heard that many times, but the approach the County is involved with is using this as a guide, but you've already gone on record in support of the recreation staff and their plans for future development of large regional district type parks which will provide a service on widespread there that will serve more than one type service. For instance, you can come in with the park setting, a large park, [inaudible] you could use the enhancement approach in your greenspace preservation, and this can be a combination of passive, active and particular family type setting. We can look into a large piece of property and look at other developments, whether it's a commercial type development or whether you have the residential type combination with recreation, which are trails, linkage, and still preserve and protect the open space and our wildlife. This is the approach the County will continue to make [inaudible] in and look forward to a future is to the [inaudible] and providing funds to obtain suitable property and also develop large recreation areas on a regional and district type basis.

County Manager Abolt said, that's it. We're now waiting for Tax Commissioner Powers.

Commissioner Murray said, I've got questions, but I can't ask them out here. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, so —.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can we ask them questions? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I ask a question of Jim [Golden]? Mr. Golden said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, as far as long term development with the recreation, realizing we have the fields that we have in Bacon Park as far as the soccer program and knowing that those programs are expanded in all areas. Are we —, is there long term —, is there going to a long term attempt to develop more additional parks similar to those in other areas of Chatham County? Mr. Golden said, this is an approach, this is a goal, but you've got the open space and green space available [inaudible]. This can be done with this approach. You still —, you get the support of the citizens but the enhancement mechanism is that you've got to preserve these buildings or wetlands or whatever it is. You have an ideal situation with the Tom Triplett Park that we were [inaudible], and on this to go in because of this type of information. Now you've got a comprehensive approach at preserving your green space there, and this will be the approach and our recommendation to you in the future to continue that. On the

Islands, we can talk about that, Commissioner Murray, and particular you're talking about a self-contained community. Other things are needed too like commercial developments and also residential developments yet still you come in with the recreation setting too. So a multi-use approach is self-contained to do this and preserve our open space. We thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you so very much. Are there other comments on this? Commissioner Murray said, none other than it's just time to quit talking and let's take some action now. Vice Chairman Thomas said, right. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. Can we get that location of the parks by district —? Commissioner Saussy said, that's what I just asked. Commissioner Odell said, I don't know if you also, David [Saussy], I don't know if we —, everyone had knowledge but no one said they'd do it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, that would be very helpful. Very helpful to us. Okay.

Commissioner Odell said, I want everyone to note Mr. Abolt's efficiency. He said, to-day.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, very good. Thank you. That was for information only, and we thank you for it. It sort of updated us on the status of the open space project.

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

Received as information.

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Vice Chairman Thomas said, Dr. Hair, wanted us to know that Commissioner Rivers is in Boston. He forgot to tell you he is representing the County at the —. Commissioner Odell said, Fenway Park. Vice Chairman Thomas said, how dare you.

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#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

County Manager Abolt said, Tax Commissioner Powers is en route. You can recess if you choose into Executive Session and come back out. Commissioner Murray said, let's do that and get that over with. Vice Chairman Thomas said, well, let's do it. Commissioner Murray said, we have to wait on Danny [Powers] anyway. Commissioner Saussy said, Danny [Powers] is out eating. That's what the problem is.

Commissioner Jackel asked, how long is your presentation going to be? Commissioner DeLoach said, he's not on presentation. We're trying to decide the tax —. Commissioner Murray said, whether we can wait until the first meeting in August to vote on the millage or not.

Commissioner Murray moved the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened.

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#### **ADVISORY BOARD FOR COUNTY COMMISSION/LIBRARY BOARD.**

Commissioner Murray said, all of us received a letter a while back recommending that we have an advisory committee, which would be a liaison between the Commission and the Library Board, and I think —, I keep getting phone calls about have we done anything on it. I think we need to either decide we're going to do it or not do it so we can let the people know what direction we're taking on it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, what is your pleasure? Any discussion?

Commissioner Murray said, I can go either way with it, but to me —, we sat down with the Library Board in a meeting this week and quite frankly I don't think we accomplished anything because I think what was discussed were things that that Library Board should have discussed among themselves and they need to get theirselves [sic] working more than —. Commissioner Saussy said, but what happened is they realize that. Commissioner Saussy said, well, some of them do.

County Attorney Hart said, Commissioner Murray, it would be my suggestion that that item be set —, placed on the agenda for the next meeting, and the reason I say that is that way we can publish an agenda. Commissioner Murray said, good, that's fine. Vice Chairman Thomas said, very good. Commissioner Murray said, I just think we need to deal with it one way or the other. County Attorney Hart said, we can get to the decision making process anyway. Commissioner Murray said, not that I support it or don't support, I just think we need to deal with it. It's been requested and I think we need to get it out of the way one way or the other. Commissioner Murray said, I think if we're going to have it on as an agenda item for the next meeting, maybe these people that submitted it can be at the meeting and can tell us why they think we need to have it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, very good. Commissioner Murray said, and if they justify it, yes, and if they're not, no.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Mr. Manager, so we can take care of that.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD**

Received as information. Item to be placed on next agenda.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDING OFFICER TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW.**

County Attorney Hart said, we need a motion being made in order to instruct the Vice Chairman to execute the affidavit saying that we're in compliance with the Open Records Law.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Murray said, second. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize Vice Chairman Thomas to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

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**APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. **CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to appoint Mr. Steven Day to the Chatham County Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of Ms. Susan Myers, which term will expire August 1, 2000. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairman Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 1999

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

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