

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2000, 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, August 11, 2000.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Eddie DeLoach gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four David L. Saussy, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
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ABSENT:	Ben Price, District Six
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARDS.**

Chairman Hair said, the first thing on our agenda this morning under Proclamations and Special Presentations is the Mystery Customer Awards.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen. It is again that we pause to celebrate the very best Chatham County has to offer: our employees. Two years ago you adopted a recognition program to reward employees that rendered quality customer service. In Mystery Customer Program our random mystery customer at an unknown frequency visits County departments inquiring about services. This mystery customer may be irate, he or she may be calm and accommodating. Our aim is to ensure that consistent quality service is rendered by all County employees in all County departments. I am pleased to report that Chatham County was again three for three. That is, three County employees were visited and three employees received high marks. In recognition of their commitment to quality customer service, they will receive a \$50 certificate –, \$50 and a certificate. Two of our winners were unable to be present today and will be presented at a future meeting, but we have one with us this morning, and she is Sherolyn Crawford. She is relatively a new addition to the Chatham County family. She works in the Clerk of Superior Court's office and she is employed by –, as a Clerical Assistant III, and she is joined this morning by the Office Manager of the Clerk of Superior Court's Office, Mark Hill.

Mr. Mark Hill said, as Van [Johnson] said, Sherolyn [Crawford] is a very new employee with us. There's a saying that says when it's –, if it's right, you know it, and going through the application process and talking to her, we felt that she was a very affable young woman and hoped that she would feel about others as we felt about her. She's taking –, she's actually the receptionist, and if you know anything about the third floor, you know she's the only person you see when you get off the elevator. She acts as kind of a traffic controller for all the other offices within that –, on that floor and she has taken to it. She can –, she knows a little bit about the other courts, enough to help people on their merry way and also direct folks within our office to make sure that they get what they need, and we're just glad that she's with us. Thank you.

Ms. Crawford said, thank you. I accept this award as a representative of the Clerk of Superior Court and staff, who go the extra mile to make themselves accessible to the citizens of Chatham County, providing excellent customer service through teamwork and dedication. Thank you.

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## 2. PROCLAMATION FOR SHERIFF AL ST. LAWRENCE ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGIA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION.

Chairman Hair said, the next item on the agenda is we have a proclamation for Sheriff Al St. Lawrence on his election as President of the Georgia Sheriff's Association. If the High Sheriff will join me now. Commissioner Rivers asked, you aren't going to make any arrests today, are you? Chairman Hair said, this certainly is an honor for us in Chatham County to have our Sheriff elected as President of the Georgia Sheriff's Association. He's been active in that organization for many, many years and they displayed their wisdom, I think, by selecting our Sheriff. I'd like to read the proclamation prior to presenting. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

**WHEREAS**, Al St. Lawrence, Sheriff of Chatham County, has been elected to serve as **President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association**; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff St. Lawrence will lead the Association comprised of 159 county sheriffs and more than 45,000 active and honorary members during the 2000-2001 term as it promotes and improves law enforcement in the State of Georgia and sponsors the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff St. Lawrence remains well-suited to this leadership role, given his distinguished 41-year career in law enforcement in Chatham County, which included his selection in 1966 as Chatham County "Police Officer of the Year," in 1990 as Georgia's "Outstanding Police Chief" and in 1995 as Georgia "Sheriff of the Year"--any one of them a singular career honor but made even more impressive by their collection in one individual; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff St. Lawrence has demonstrated dedication beyond the call of duty to his profession through service, including as chairman of the State Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, and as a Past President of the Georgia Chapter of the FBI Academy.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Billy B. Hair, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, with the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby applaud Sheriff Al St. Lawrence on his election as **President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association** and in doing so also recognize his contributions to the betterment of public safety on behalf of the citizens of Chatham County and the State of Georgia.

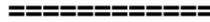
Presented this 11<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2000, in Open Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County.

/s/ Billy B. Hair  
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:** /s/ Sybil E. Tillman  
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I want to thank the Chairman and the members of the Commission. I pursued this office for selfish reasons in a way, but also for Chatham County and Southeast Georgia. We have very little representation on some boards. This will automatically place me on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which has to do with dispensing of Federal funds. It will also place me on the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council again, which has a lot to do with the training and standards in law enforcement, but I don't think any of this would be possible without the staff that does the job in the Sheriff's Department that allows me the time to do these things. But I thank y'all again for this award and I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Sheriff.



**3. PROCLAMATION FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY ALL STARS 16 AND UNDER GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM.**

Chairman Hair said, the next item is we have a proclamation for the Chatham County Allstars 16 and Under Girls Softball Team, and I'm going to ask the coach and the young ladies if they will join me at the podium. I'm going to read the proclamation prior to presenting it, and then we have some pictures that we're going to give to each one of the young ladies that reflects the team picture. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County is privileged to have talented, committed youth that set their goals and aim high to accomplish them, and in that spirit, we salute with pride Chatham County's Girls 16 and Under Allstars; and

**WHEREAS**, this accomplished team, under the coaching skills of Jimmy Jaudon, Ken Manglesdorff and Tommy Tomlin, won second place in the State Softball Championship held in Albany with a record three wins and one loss; and

**WHEREAS**, we join the team in applauding the skills of Mandi Meador, who has a 769 batting average, Brandy Jaudon, a 750 batting average and Meghan Jones, a 652 batting average.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby commend **GIRLS 16 AND UNDER CHATHAM COUNTY ALLSTARS** for their outstanding record and encourage them to continue fulfilling their dreams.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 11th day of August, 2000.

/s/ Billy B. Hair  
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:** /s/ Sybil E. Tillman  
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Jimmy Jaudon said, I just want to say thank y'all for having us down here today and how proud I am of all these girls. I've coached a lot of them for eight, nine years, and I saw them-, watched them grow up, and this was a great team this year, a State championship team, I feel like, and they accomplished a lot, and I'm just proud of everyone of them. Thank you for all of us.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Jimmy [Jaudon].



**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

**1. SAVANNAH ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.**

Chairman Hair said, there's two items under my section I'd to discuss this morning. The first is the Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame. I'm going to call, I guess --, Mr. Lanier, are you going to be the spokesman or --? If you'd come forward, and while he's coming, most of you are aware that our current Hall of Fame, Athletic Hall of Fame in Savannah is located in the Civic Center, and there are several things that precipitated this discussion this morning. One, of course, is just the growth of the Hall of Fame, and the second is to sort of take this to a new level, and they have a proposal this morning that they'd like to present to us, and after they conclude I would like to make a recommendation.

Mr. Lanier said, thank you, Chairman. My name is L. A. Lanier. I'm the President this year of the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame and we want to thank you for having us up here today. We're what you call in trouble. As you know, the Athletic Hall of Fame is up at the Civic Center. We've run out of room. In fact, this year we couldn't put the plaques and pictures of this year's inductees, which was four. So we just --, we have no more space up there. We've used all the wall space. So we've got SCAD to come up there and they drew us up a plan with everything [inaudible]. So we're up here today asking you for some help. It's going to cost us between \$60,000 to do this so we hope that with the County, and I met with the City and we're going to be their agenda the end of the month, so we're asking y'all's help. And I'd like to introduce Jack Berry. He'd like to say a few words for you before he goes to court, he's got to go to court.

Mr. Jack Berry said, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Commissioners, I've been around Savannah for a long time, almost as long as Commissioner Odell. But I've been active with the Boys' Club and Callen and all this and taken an interest in it, and this is one of the few times that I've seen something that comes in, I think, that puts a stamp of approval. Take a look at it, and I think each of you have the brochure that SCAD presented. Take a look at it. I'll be quite frank with you, I was a little scare of it. I thought sure we were going to get something up that looked junky. Look at that. I mean, you can go up and take anybody and say look at this what we've done here, and it puts a stamp and says this is Chatham County, this is the City of Savannah. I see so many things that we do in this community that two years later we wonder what in the world have we done. Look at that. SCAD went back, and I tip my hat to them, but I like the way it looks and it provides some deals and where you can punch buttons and call up each one and see what they are. I'm picking on different people, I know, but look at that. It's a --, I'll be honest. I liked to have fainted. If you can see your way, we would like you to support it. I think when you go in you'd be proud to say, yes, I'm a Commissioner for Chatham County. I think anybody in this community that goes up there and takes a look at it will say, yes, this is Chatham County and, you know, we've been known all our lives here as the County of Chatham, and I'm still proud of that, I want you to know I like that, I like to be known as that, but at the same time we have so many visitors that come in the Civic Center, that go through there, take a look at it. Right now it's just prohibitive to show what it is. We've moved around, we've moved it back and forth, so if I can shine your shoes, cut your grass or something, I'll even do that for you, Harris [Odell], if you'll let me, or David [Saussy], I'll do the same thing. Dr. Thomas, maybe --, I don't know what I could do for ladies, but I'll do that, but I'd like to urge you to support it. I think it's one of the nicest things that's been presented that I've been involved in. I've with the Boys' Club since, oh, the 60's when Vic Jenkins [phonetic], some of you remember Vic. If you don't, you missed a treat. Yesterday, by the way, was Vic Jenkins' birthday. He would have been 95. We had a little ceremony out at the cemetery plot. He's not there, but we --, but look at it. Support it for me if you can, and I just --, I'll do anything. I'll answer any questions I can, but I just utterly, totally behind it, not a hundred percent, but two thousand percent, I'd like to urge you to behind it. Can I answer any questions?

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Berry. What I would like to propose to the Commission is that when these gentlemen met with me, I do think it's a very worthy project, and what I'd like to propose is that we support it to the tune of \$30,000, which would be half if the City would come up with the other \$30,000 and support the other half of this project, and that's the proposal before you this morning. We have some other people who want to --. Floyd [Morris], would anybody else want to say anything?

Mr. Floyd Morris said, thank you so much. One of the reasons I'm late is the fact that I've been involved with athletics for about 50 years, and some times when you want to turn left, you have to turn right, you know. Good morning to all of you and I do appreciate the opportunity to appear before you. I have the blessed privilege of knowing each one of you on a very personal note, and if I don't know you, I know your parents very, very well, Commissioner DeLoach, and I just --, I look at it from this particular point of view. The best publicity that Savannah has received in recent times has been from the youngsters who are weightlifting. We're receiving publicity not only on a local level, but for --, on a nationwide level, and internationally as well. Why? The youngsters in this community who create the fewest problems are those youngsters who are involved in after-school activities. I know it from experience, I know it from having studied it, and it's not only a written, research thing that I've done, but I know it from an empirical point of view. If you read your papers, once in a while there will be a youngster who was an athlete, and I can point to the fact that he was an athlete who was troubled while he was an athlete. I told my grandnephew last night, I've given up on one person, and it bothers me today and it's been over 50 years since it --, about 40 years since it happened. The youngster was --, we were going to discipline him again in the way that you do --, did back in those days. If you couldn't reach them by way of the North, you went down South. Well, I told him, I said, son, you know, I've been North, South, East and West with you, and it bothered me to think about. I said, but if you don't change your ways, within a year, if you graduate, within a year of your graduation, you're going to be either in jail or dead. Regretfully, the young man was in jail within a year of his graduation. What is even more regretful, he was dead six months after he got out of jail. But that's one out of a thousand or more with whom I have personally dealt, and I just want you to know that I thank you for the support you've given us in the past, and I appreciate the backing that the Chairman has given it and all of you that I know and have known for so long and probably some of whom I had an opportunity to talk. We thank you for the support you've given us on a yearly basis, and we do ask that you will support this. This is going to enable

us —, Jack [Berry] has already said, this will enable us to eliminate the limitations of the numbers that we can put there and it'll save a lot of space when that Olympics team, which is going to come back, and we're probably going to install each one of them when they get back. God bless you and thank you for your time.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Floyd [Morris]. Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, we have —, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Jackel and Dr. Thomas and anybody else.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. I really appreciate and can take in those words you've just said. This Commission and the former Commission before this Commission has gone far with numerous sports facilities. It's definitely helped in the situation of crime. I know we have some crime today, but without this I think it would have been greater, and we had a gentleman up here last Commission meeting that works with youth with the Just Do It group, and I have to really appreciate what you've said. I think we definitely should go forward with this \$30,000 if we can possibly make it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Jackel and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to ask Jack [Berry] just a few questions. Jack [Berry], is, where's, the location going to still be at the Civic Center? Mr. Berry said, it will still be at the Civic Center right where it is now. The place will be set up. Dr. Bostwick [phonetic] designed it, as you see there, with help. It will be in the same identical place. Commissioner Jackel said, and you're getting 30 from the City and 30 from us —. Mr. Berry said, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, but I understand that's just part of it, y'all are going to raise a lot of money on your own. Mr. Berry said, we have raised a lot of money on our own, and I shouldn't say this, but I spent \$750 of my own money last year doing different things. Not on this now, but with the Hall of Fame. I had —, just would like to —. It's just something that has touched me enough and I couldn't have [inaudible] and I might have been able to, you know —. Floyd [Morris] might have let me take and sit on the end of the bench maybe some time, but that's about all. But let me tell you, you've got a chance now to put a mark up there and when somebody comes in it's first class. It has got umph [phonetic] with it, but as you say —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I support it. I just wanted to bring out the fact that y'all are raising additional money. Mr. Berry said, yes, we have, we're doing that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of questions have already been answered that I wanted to ask in reference to whether it was going to remain in the area where it is now, but on an upscale —. Mr. Berry said, yes mam, it will. Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to say that I think it is a very worthwhile project, [inaudible] the significance of what the Hall of Fame is all about, and I think that we should, if we can, contribute to this particular activity. Mr. Berry said, I don't know whether some of you know, back in 1963 this was organized by a group of men, some of whom are Trustees now, and it's been handled since that period of time with very little —, well, we aren't going to pay for anybody, but I'd like to just tell you, take a look at it. Even right now go on and look at it. If you don't think you look back, I'm not going to call any names, but some of them —, Russ Wellington, I'll just use him, I think Russ [Wellington] is one of the greatest coaches ever been out of Savannah, and I see some of these boys playing and they're just —. How many of you remember Ike Williams that played back at Beach High School, and won the first State championship? Do any of you remember? David [Saussy], you should. Commissioner Rivers said, Johnson High School. Johnson. Mr. Berry said, Johnson. I said Beach. Floyd [Morris] has to correct me. Agatha [Morris] keeps him straight. That's his wife, if y'all don't know. Agatha [Morris] tells Floyd what to do and Floyd's correcting me, but let me —, this is just a great, a great chance for it and I deeply, deeply appreciate anything you can do. Dr. Thomas, anything else I can answer for you, mam? Commissioner Thomas said, no, that's fine. Mr. Berry said, thank you very much.

Mr. Lanier said, I want to say one thing. This —, we can relocate this. If something was to happen to the Civic Center, they build a new one and run us out, we can relocate. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that was one thing I was going to ask. Maybe one of these day we'll have a large sports complex and it can be put there.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Murray, I'd like to make a quick comment myself. I had the privilege of every year going to the banquet and many of you probably have attended that banquet from time to time, but, I mean, this group of men and women go far beyond just the Hall of Fame that you see at the Civic Center. They do a tremendous amount of work in our community with young people year round, and the banquet, which is a culminating point of that, so they really do a great job. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Odell said, just one little comment. Good programs have a way of attracting good people, and when I was a boy one of my biggest heros was Floyd [Morris]. He convinced me to serve on the board at the Frank Callen's Boys Club, and I serve [inaudible]. As a young lawyer, Jack Berry, who —, Jack [Berry] has not aged in 20 years and I'm looking older than Jack [Berry]. Jack [Berry] was always generous in the knowledge which he could give to young attorneys, and I'm very grateful. This is an excellent program and I urge everyone to support it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I've just got a couple of questions. First of all, let me state that I do support what y'all are doing and what you're asking for; however, I do have a couple of concerns and those concerns are, first of all, how long

have y'all been working on this particular project for this addition? Mr. Berry said, I would say shortly after Lincoln was assassinated, but since we'd better not bring –, I'm saying this, that we recognize the limitations that were there. SCAD was able to come up –, we had a –, and I don't want to call any names. I don't mind, if you ask me, I'll tell you personally. We were able to meet with some people who had connections with SCAD, and they met with us, designed this program here within the last eight, ten, twelve months, and we've been working on where it is there. We just reglased a lot of them, had a lot of them reframed, and we just saw that the space is not there. Something had to be done. So a member was able to reach somebody else, who knew somebody in SCAD, and they donated their time, almost a hundred percent, but not complete. Commissioner Murray said, SCAD does a terrific job and they support the community. The question really was though I was concerned about how long y'all have been working on this particular project trying to do something and moving forward, and the reason I asked that evidently it's been more than just a couple of months. Mr. Berry said, oh, yes. Commissioner Murray said, and the reason I asked that is why did y'all not try to go through our grants-in-aid process to receive some of these funds on top of this? Mr. Berry said, I have the best hindsight in the world, Commissioner Murray. That's the only thing I can answer to you. We – you start doing and just don't realize it, and we're here saying –. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's fine, but the reason I asked that is over the years, and I certainly support y'all's move, but over the years y'all have come up for funding for certain things –. Mr. Berry said, correct. Commissioner Murray said, which has been approved, and through that process, I'll ask the same question, why don't you go through grants-in-aid process and be put on their agenda and go through to receive these funds, whatever they allocate through that, and then come back to us and maybe we could make the difference up or something. I know it's a worthy cause and I'm probably the only one up here that's going to say this, but my concern is that we've got grants-in-aid committees coming up and they would like to have additional funds too. I don't know where the money's going to come from for this. Russ [Abolt], if we approve this, where would the money come from? County Manager Abolt said, Special Service District Contingency. Commissioner Murray said, Special Service District Contingency. How much is in the Special Service District Contingency. How much is in the Special Service District Contingency? County Manager Abolt said, approximately \$96,000. Commissioner Murray asked, \$96,000 total? So we would take –. County Manager Abolt said, for the balance of the year, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Commissioner Murray said, so that will come out –, \$30,000 will come out of that \$96,000. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. You need approximately \$65,000 to get us through the rest of the year, and the rest of the year looks [inaudible].

Mr. Berry said, one of the things I should call to your attention is [inaudible]. This came up and we sort of have a deadline with SCAD. They start back to their school and they need to get an answer whether we want to do it with [inaudible]. While that's not a hundred percent [inaudible], that's one of the reasons we're here now. We need to get an answer. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'm concerned with only \$96,000 in our Contingency for a full 12-month year in Special Service District, which I represent Special Service District. Mr. Berry said, I understand. Commissioner Murray said, I have a problem taking \$30,000 out right now and putting it in something when we don't know what's going to come up throughout the year. I don't know where the money's going to come from for it, and even though I support what y'all are doing and certainly would like to say yes, let's give it to them, I really with good conscience could not vote for that knowing we've got other groups that we turn down when they come up here that have just as worthy causes and have not gone through that same process we go through. Floyd [Morris] called me and I talked with him and that's the first I heard about it coming up, but –. Mr. Berry said, we've been working on this for a long time. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but because you vote against something doesn't mean you don't support that, and there's some of y'all's members that probably have hard feelings for me already over the years because of my decisions on these and it's based on what we do for our total community, not just for one particular organization, regardless of whether it reaches the total community like y'all's does or not. And we've had group, and I think Commissioner Saussy brought up a while back that I think was a real worthy cause. We've got another one, MedBank, that came up. That's another worthy cause. Where are we going to find the funds to do these things with I don't know, and the reason I bring this all up is because it does come out of Special Service District and we can't take it out of M&O because, if we do, then they can –, they could accuse of double-dipping because the citizens of City of Savannah pay that too. So –. Mr. Berry said, I understand the problem. Commissioner Murray said, that's where my problem is, is how much we have or how little we have in our Contingency fund for the whole year for Special Service District and also taking this off right at the first of the year. I mean, I wouldn't have a problem looking at it midyear or something, but right now I just cannot vote to take \$30,000 out of Special Service District budget. Mr. Berry said, we've asked you to –, we think –, we recognize your right, sir, but we still think this is something that doesn't come up every time and perhaps [inaudible] we should have, but at the same time this was something we did not know about, this procedure was done through SCAD until right recently, and that's why we're here, sir.

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner DeLoach and then we'll be ready for a motion, I believe. We'll take Commissioner Rivers after that, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I was just wondering if there's a possibility we could split the funding from M&O with half and half from the Special Service District. County Manager Abolt said, the question –, no sir. Well, as Commissioner Murray has said, traditionally like, for example, the rental of the Trade Center and splitting with the City of Savannah, you've tried to be very clean in saying that the City of Savannah taxpayers are paying X-amount. The balance would come from those not in the City of Savannah. Another option you might consider, and it just came as Commissioner Murray was discussing, later on in your agenda you will have recommendations from one half of your grants-in-aid citizens committee. It is the one that deals just with the Human Services. The Cultural Services have yet to respond. The options that present themselves on yet to be received recommendations is you could ask that committee to evaluate it in the context of priorities yet

forthcoming. The only downside of that would be again, as you testified to, is it comes in at the eleventh hour. Those agencies that have followed the rules might feel a little bit put upon, but that's --

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions from the Commissioners. Okay, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, Russ [Abolt], is there any possibility that we could look over in SPLOST Contingency? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, if you want to do it, I will do my best to come up with an alternative. I just am hearing about it for the first time. I certainly will explore all options short of the SSD, but you'll be making a decision today if all those options turn up dry, you would be funding this \$30,000, and the only source I would have is SSD. I will put staff to work trying to come up with alternate sources. Commissioner Rivers said, I would like for you to look at that SPLOST and see could we get it out of there. If we can get it out of there, it would make it more palatable and easier to do it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I would --, I know they're in a hurry, but I don't think two weeks is going to make a difference and I'd like to see us table this for two weeks while the staff can come up with a funding source for it rather than rather than the Special Service District Contingency Fund. Chairman Hair asked, did you make a motion to table? Commissioner Murray said, I will move to table for two weeks. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor --. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to --. Chairman Hair said, it's not debatable. A motion to table is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion to table vote yes, opposed to tabling vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Murray, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to table failed as a result of a tie vote of four to four. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present]. Commissioner Murray said, the motion is defeated because it's a tie. Chairman Hair said, defeated.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to just find out is two weeks critical to you. Is two weeks critical or can we wait two weeks? Mr. Berry said, beggars can't be choosers, sir, and I wouldn't --. We need an answer with it because SCAD wants to commit --, they start back their school and it is pretty critical in the sense that we can't know whether we're going to be able to have them go ahead with their plans. To that extent, yes sir, it's critical.

Chairman Hair said, I also --, if could answer part of that, Commissioner Jackel, I also think they're already on the agenda for the City of Savannah, and I think --. Commissioner DeLoach asked, when is that? Chairman Hair said, the next --, two weeks from yesterday, I believe, prior to our meeting. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what's the difference in waiting two weeks for us? They haven't gotten the money from them yet. Chairman Hair said, well, I agree, but I just think that --, I'd like to see us take action today personally, but I, you know, I'll obviously go along with the wishes of the Commission, but I'd --, I think today is --.

Commissioner Odell said, I think that there's an alternate. We can approve it in concept and, Russ [Abolt], this being the first impression for you, Joe's [Rivers] recommendation that we also look at potentially some funding from SPLOST, why can't we approve it in concept? Frank's [Murray] concern is that it should not come out of --. Commissioner DeLoach said, Contingency. Commissioner Odell said, Contingency for the Special Services District.

Commissioner Rivers said, just go ahead and state the motion that we fund it from an alternative source, go ahead and do it. Chairman Hair said, I'll be glad to entertain a motion. Commissioner Rivers, do you want to go ahead and make a motion? Commissioner Rivers said, I move that we look for an alternative source, and if that source is found, we go ahead and approve it on that basis or we come back in two weeks and approve it. Commissioner Odell said, I second.

Chairman Hair said, all right, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen.

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

Commissioner Rivers moved that staff look for an alternative source, other than Special Service District Contingency and, if that source is found, that we go ahead and approve \$30,000 for the Greater Athletic Hall of Fame on that basis; or, if no alternative source is found, then we come back in two weeks to approve it. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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## **2. INDIGENT DEFENSE LAWYERS.**

Chairman Hair said, the next item on the agenda is the Indigent Defense Lawyers. I was made aware of a problem a couple of weeks ago by some to the judges and also discussed this with Mr. DeLoach in Superior Court, and apparently we're having a problem that is escalating where we're having primarily appointed indigent defense lawyers that are not showing up for court at their assigned times, and this causes a lot of problems. The day I happened to be over there, I was there probably an hour and a half and we had to dismiss probably 30 to 40 witnesses that had been subpoenaed because the lawyer didn't show up and the judge couldn't try the case. What I'd like to --, and I've discussed my proposal with Judge Dillon primarily and also with Mr. DeLoach, as I said, and they are in agreement with what I'm about to recommend, and that is that when you have a lawyer not show up for an assigned case, the judge of course would determine if they had a valid reason for not showing up, and if they had contacted the judge and they had been given permission not to show up, then that would be fine, but if they did not contact the judge and did not show up, that we would take them off the list. The first offense, 60 days; the second offense, six months; and the third offense, permanently off the indigent defense list. My understanding is that there's a --, it's a small group of lawyers that are doing this. Most of the lawyers do show up, but it is causing --, and what's happening is these lawyers are actually billing the County. Even though they don't show up, they still send us a bill, and I don't think that's right and I don't think --, I think the defendant is entitled to a defense under the Constitution, and they're not getting a defense either, and I just think it's a fair proposal, and the judge would make the determination. We wouldn't make the determination, the judge would decide whether or not the lawyer had a valid reason for not appearing in court. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm not certain if --, has this been reviewed, Dr. Hair, with the Indigent Care Defense Council? We've got three members on that council. If this their recommendation also? Chairman Hair said, no, it's not, but I think that group would probably be the one that would make recommendation to us. Let the judges make it to them, and they would make it to us, to this Board. That they would be the people it would go through as far as the recommendation. Commissioner Odell said, I don't do indigent defense, but I do do a lot of in court, just as Martin Jackel. I see that there is a problem. I'm not saying it's the magnitude. I would like to see this come through the Indigent Care Defense Council, to which we appoint three members, have them to review it. I think any judge who has an attorney who does not show up, that judge can cite that attorney for contempt, and any attorney who does not show up and sends the County a bill, to me, that is theft and we should look at that person not only being removed for 60 days, but being prosecuted for a theft. I think your recommendation is good, but I'd like to see all of us include the people that we appoint to look at this and say, yes, this is consistent because we have had them to look at this.

Chairman Hair said, I have no problem with that. I think that would be --, as I said, that would be the appropriate body that would make the recommendation back to us for action necessary. So I would --, I think that's appropriate.

Commissioner Odell asked, can we send it as a recommendation to them --. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, and give them a time limit of --, we need to have a response within two weeks?

Chairman Hair said, I think that would be appropriate. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's what I was going to say. Chairman Hair said, we'll ask them, and we would get --, we will put this back on the agenda for final adjudication on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We don't need a motion for that I don't believe. It's just a --, we'll direct staff to do that.

Commissioner Odell said, we need to also send to them too that someone who has not provided services and that person has submitted to us a bill and they did not render those services, whatever we need to do to have that investigated. We are obligated by the U. S. Supreme Court to provide indigent counsel to those who cannot afford counsel. We're not obligated to pay people not to do work. Those people who are submitting fraudulent bills, we need to investigate that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Mr. Lanier said, thank you, Chairman, and I'd like to invite all of you to our banquet tonight. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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

It was agreed that with regard to the problem of indigent defense attorneys failing to show up for court, the Board would make a recommendation to the Tripartite Committee that for a first offense, the lawyer would be removed from the list for 60 days, on a second offense the lawyer would be removed for six months, and on a third offense the lawyer would be removed permanently from the list; and this matter is to be placed on the next agenda for a response from the by the Tripartite Committee.

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. BETTY HENDLEY - TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hendley wrote me a note on August 5<sup>th</sup> about a homestead exemption problem that she had. You have it in your packets there. Anyway, Ms. Hendley –, is Ms. Hendley here? Would you come up, Ms. Hendley? What –, I'm going to let her explain this, but one of the main things that happened was when her husband died, she was on the property at the time, both of them. Her name –, his name was taken off and her name was put on, so that made the change so she lost her homestead exemption, really by error of the Tax Assessor's office, and we can only go back three years, but this went back to 1993. And so she's asking if we can go from years '94 through '97. Ms. Hendley, would you explain about this?

Ms. Betty Hendley said, yes. My husband and I, we bought a house in 1986. We filed for tax exemption, and he passed away in 1993, and for some reason they took it off as a name change. They just took his name off and my name remained on it, and they said they could go back for three years, but not the entire seven years. They said it was their error, but they could only go back three years.

Commissioner Saussy said, this is a similar thing that we had once before. Chairman Hair said, right, and, Mr. Hart, this is the similar kind of thing that we had before.

County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. I recognize that. I'm very sympathetic to this lady in regard to that because I don't think there's any fault of hers at all. I would request the Commission to give me an opportunity to look at –, the three year back tax, going back and justifying the tax is pretty ironclad about setting up the tax refund, okay. There is another section of the Code that deals with clerical error, and to be honest with you, that's something I'd like to look at and I think it may give us an opportunity to possibly give back seven years, but I don't want to just –, without me taking some time to look at it.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Saussy, could we maybe put this, maybe table it to the next meeting and give our County Attorney a chance to look at it? We might be able to help you more if we do that rather than making a ruling today we might have to reverse in the future. So if that's okay with everyone –. Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, we will have the attorney look at it and then we'll go –, put it back on the agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, David [Saussy], what I would also like to see, if that's our area, for all of those tax bills that's our error, is there any way that we can look at our system to [inaudible]. My personal opinion is that this was a mistake. I don't know if Jon [Hart] can clarify it as a clerical error, but it should not have changed. She should have received the benefit, and whatever the law is and those circumstances, I think we have an obligation to do that which is equitable, and that which is equitable is that she shouldn't have to pay for what she's not obligated to pay, and if it's our mistake, we need to correct it.

Chairman Hair said, and I this that's what we're trying to do, but we've just got to make sure we're –. County Attorney Hart said, the only reason I used the term clerical error is that the Code is very precise in what constitutes an amendable defect and error. Chairman Hair said, okay, so we will –. Ms. Hendley, we will have the attorney review between now and the next meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and we'll take it up –, it will be back on our agenda on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hendley asked, okay, I need to be back here on the 25<sup>th</sup>? Chairman Hair said, I don't think that will be necessary unless you certainly want to. Commissioner Saussy said, she had to take off work to be here. Chairman Hair said, I don't think it will be necessary, Ms. Hendley. Do you –, do any of the Commissioners think it's necessary?

Commissioner DeLoach said, no, I think she just needs to know that we're going to do the maximum we can do, whatever that is. Ms. Hendley said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, I don't believe it will be necessary for you to be here, Ms. Hendley. Ms. Hendley said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Hendley.

Commissioner Odell said, one last question. If we are unable to do it as a matter of Code, if there's some complications in that, we're going to have a legislative breakfast and we're going to present our agenda to our State representatives, is there any way you could propose to us an amendment to the current legislation, and the reason is that if there is a wrong, there should be a right, and the law does not provide for a right, can you fashion an amendment that we can suggest to our legislators so that this will [inaudible]? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir, I can. The only issue that comes up there is in the past the State Legislature has been rather protective of trying to calculate the exposure as to back taxes, and they want to pay back but they want to have an end at the light of the tunnel [sic]. Commissioner Odell said, yes. County Attorney Hart said, so, you know, is the question three years back taxes, seven years back taxes or ten? How far do you move the line, and that gets to be a political issue in Atlanta, but we could draft one, yes sir.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Rivers said, one other thing. If we're not successful on that end of it, maybe we can have as a policy in the Tax Assessor's office or wherever to make them cognizant of those changes and have them to review as those changes

come by, those particular things, and you have those people in your debt, then you look at it and see if that's [inaudible]. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The County Attorney was instructed to review the statute to determine if the County could refund to Ms. Betty Hendley more than three years taxes that were paid as a result of an error in the Tax Assessor's office and bring this item back at the next meeting.

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**2. MOBILE HOME ON NORWOOD AVENUE (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, this may have already been taken care of, but I'd just like Greg [Anderson] to come up and explain to me what's really happened so far because I've had some complaints about this, and we brought this up a month ago, I guess. This was the one on Norwood where we had to move the palm tree, and I don't know whether the palm tree has been moved yet. I know the mobile home has not been moved, and it's come up the fact that Mr. Hansen is moving somebody else in there that he calls -, they have a medical problem. This has been going on for well over six years. The last one was moved out and now he wants to move another one in, and I think has jut gone a little bit too far.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Anderson, would you like to -?

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, good morning. Let me give you a little bit of background of where we are with this. The -, Commissioner Saussy is correct. This is an issue that goes back a number of years where a family member was granted what's called a hardship approval to move a mobile home onto a residential site. Under the zoning ordinance you can do that for the limitation of the medical hardship. Apparently, the individual that was in the mobile home at that time is not longer there. The owner went before the MPC to try to have the zone -, the zoning changed to leave the mobile home there permanently. It was denied. He came to this body back in -, the second meeting of May of this year. Same request, and was denied by this body. We have been in contact with the owner of the property. He did have a desire to move someone else into this mobile home and continue the medical hardship. Under the zoning ordinance, he is required to do a number of things. One is to apply for that hardship, to provide a cash bond, and a few other things. To date he has not done that. We've been in contact with the owner as early as two weeks ago and he has not taken any action. My office concurrently has given the property owner a week from Monday to have the mobile home moved from the site. If that does not happen, then we will take the next step, which is legal action or whatever the law allows us to do, but he's been placed on notice to have that mobile home moved from the site based on the fact that the zoning request was denied by this body.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, if I'm not mistaken, that came up, and the palm tree that was in the way was supposedly in the County right-of-way. Is that right? Mr. Anderson said, well, I know the palm tree was a separate issue that -. Commissioner Murray said, no, that was to move -, the tree had to be moved in order to get the trailer out. Mr. Anderson said, get the mobile home out, that's correct. Commissioner Murray said, all right. Has the County moved the tree yet? Mr. Anderson said, that I don't know. I'll check with Public Works.

County Manager Abolt said, the authorization has been given. I don't believe it's been moved because obviously there was no action on the private property, but we're standing by ready to move the -.

Commissioner Murray asked, well, why should there be action on the private property if it's the County right-of-way, and we voted to do this back in May. I don't understand why it's taking this long. I know there's a process you have to go through. Mr. Anderson said, sure. Commissioner Murray said, but somebody's dragging their feet and I think it's the County, and if the individual can take advantage of that, I don't blame him. And that's what's happening right now. I think the tree needs to be pulled out and the trailer needs to be gone.

Mr. Anderson said, [inaudible] the Public Works Department about the palm tree, and make sure that's -. Commissioner Murray said, well, it shouldn't take from May until almost the middle of August to remove a palm tree.

Commissioner Rivers asked, what happens if we move the tree and he decides that-? Commissioner Murray said, well, there's no excuse. Right now he's got an excuse. The County's dragging their feet.

Chairman Hair said, okay, that completes the Commissioners' items.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Staff was instructed to have the palm tree located on the County 's right-of-way removed immediately so the owner can move the mobile home.

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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 (\*).

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to take items number one and two off the table. I need a motion. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

#### **1. JOHN RIGGS (BUSINESS LICENSE). Tabled at meeting of July 28, 2000.**

Chairman Hair asked, is Mr. Riggs here today? Okay. Failure to appear, we will dispense with that item.

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

This item was not heard because Mr. John Riggs failed to appear.

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#### **2. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

Chairman Hair said, if you will remember, at our last meeting Commissioner Saussy raised the issue of community safety and what –, some of the things that could be done, and we had a very lengthy discussion about it. At that meeting we decided what we would do is we would think about it for two weeks and we would come back and today take some further action. What I would recommend to the Commission is that we could do two things today. First, I would like to appoint Commissioner Saussy to lead the task force that would deal with this issue and, secondly, when the task force is formed and begins to meet, that we use a professional facilitator and not a politician to led the effort. I think certainly Commissioner Saussy should lead the task force, but I think we need to make sure that we take politics out of any discussion about what needs to be done, and there are a number of professional facilitators we probably could get for free. One that comes to my mind is somebody like Bill McGaffin [phonetic] at Armstrong, very well known, very well respected in the community, and I haven't talked about it with McGaffin, but I suspect he would be willing to do that or someone of his caliber. I do think it's time to move on this. I do think it needs to be a community-wide effort, it needs to involve all elements of the criminal justice system and educational community, the business community, and that sort of thing. So that would be the way I think we should proceed and we'll be glad to discuss it. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, before we start duplicating other committees in this, and I know we had a lengthy discussion on it at our last meeting, but from what I understand, and I was out of town, but from what I understand, there was a meeting either last week or week before last and Commander Smith with the CNT was there, I think Chief Sprague from the Chatham County Police Department was there, community leaders and a number of people. No one from this Commission was there, and I think that if, in fact, there's already a committee doing this, then maybe we need to get involved in that committee. We have some of our staff that are involved. If that is not the case and if I'm wrong with that, then I think maybe we probably need to go ahead and form one, but I would like to look into that and see if, in fact, there is a group out there already doing this and discussing it countywide, and if that's the case, then we join that group and support the efforts there rather than trying to duplicate something else, but I would like for us to find out. I just found out about this yesterday. So I would like to see about that first before we start moving forward in another direction with another group of people trying to get something done.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's a very appropriate comment. I do not believe, however, there is any group that has the full contingent of community-based organizations, and I think it's very, very important that we put a group together with the proper charge. One of my concerns, and I expressed this at the last meeting and I'll emphasize it again today, every time I go to meetings and read about what's going on in Savannah and Chatham County about crime, all I see is people pointing fingers at everybody else. I see everybody defending their little organization and saying we're not doing anything wrong,

it's the other people that's doing everything wrong, and if we could get everybody else to do what they're supposed to do, we could solve the problem. And I think it's important to put together a group that doesn't have any defensive posture and say we're trying to defend whatever organization, the police department or the judges or the DA's office. I don't think —, my intention would be that the group wouldn't defend anybody. It would be to say we call come to the table, and I even suggested that we probably need to have the first meeting in a room full of mirrors so we can look at each other —, look at ourselves and say, let's start with us, and I think if everyone —, and I think it's very important who is put on this task force because if we're not careful, that's exactly what will happen. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. Chairman Hair said, we will have a bunch of people sit up there and defend their department and nothing will get done, and it'll just turn into a, well, it's not my problem, it's Frank's problem, you know, and I don't think that's what we need to do, and I don't think —, in fact, I'm pretty sure there is no group, Frank [Murray], that anywhere comes close to having the broad base that we had just mentioned.

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with what you're saying, I just felt like we needed to look at that first —. Chairman Hair said, right, right. Commissioner Murray said, and go ahead and form it, and —, if it's not, then we go ahead and form it, and if it is, then we join that group and work with them.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Odell said, I agree totally with the charge. Just like the Tax Assessor, I think that we should have had a plaque put over the Tax Assessor's office that said, "We tax fairly." That's their charge. That's what they're obligated to do. My concern is that —, I know that there's no one committee that would have as broad a charge as this, but what I would like to see us do is for us to identify what objective we hope to achieve before we set out. You know, if you have no destination, and I know David [Saussy] will do an excellent job, then how do you know if you've arrived once it's ended? We have some definite problems in the area of crime, not only in this community, but nationwide. I think if this community some of the outcomes that we're going to get, are going to say that some of these people are right, it's not their fault, that it might be a heavier on parents. I'd like to have us to have objectives, what things we want to achieve, and for us as a Commission to agree on those things prior to sending someone out to start working on something. I guess my point is that we have a definable [inaudible] in the County and in the City and we can quantify whether or not certain activities are having a positive impact on crime. The only solution to fight crime cannot be spending more money. Spending more money cannot —, and I'm not saying not to say that, but what I'm saying is that I think in this process we need to evaluate and have as one of our objectives to evaluate some of the things that we've done. Some of the things that we have done is good, some of the things we just have a warm and fuzzy feeling about, but we have no concept as to whether or not it works or does not work, so I'd like to be able to submit my thoughts as to what I think the charge and objective of this committee should be prior to the committee starting meeting.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's a very good point; however, I think it's important that rather than us determine as nine people what the mission should be, that —, it's a lot easier for a group to work on their own objectives than objectives they've been handed to by somebody else, and I think that we could be a part of that process, but I think the task force itself, one of the first things they should do is set the objectives. I agree with you totally, Commissioner Odell, but I don't know that we as a body should determine and then hand it off to somebody and say accomplish our objectives. I think it's better to say let's, you know, get together with them and determine the objective, and then it will be their objective or our objective, not your objective, and I think that —. Commissioner Odell said, I agree with that. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Murray said, we could solve right quick my comments because I think Commander Smith and Chief Sprague are both here, and maybe they can tell us what that committee was and what the meeting was they went to. Chairman Hair said, well, let me get Dr. Thomas first and then we will go into that. Chairman Hair recognized Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, very quickly. I just want to say that both of you are right on because my comment was going to be that we should be looking at the root causes of all the activities that are taking place in our community as well as looking at various goals, and there will have to be like short-range goals and long-range goals with everybody working together in a partnership.

Chairman Hair said, what I would like to see is —, before I recognize Commander Smith and Chief Sprague, is that maybe between now and the 25<sup>th</sup> that we would each come back with three names of individuals that we would recommend for the task force and at the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting we will establish the task force, make sure we don't have duplication and that sort of thing, and that we have a broad based group of people, citizens, and then at that point we would establish the first meeting, David [Saussy], and then establish the objectives. If that would be okay with the Commission, I think that would be the way we should proceed. Chief or Commander Smith, do you want answer Commissioner Murray's question. Commissioner Odell said, I think the one with the jacket goes first.

Chief Sprague said, age before beauty. I believe you're referring to the Chamber of Commerce meeting. Commissioner Murray said, I don't know what it was, I was just told about it and I understood both of y'all were there. Chief Sprague said, yes, that was sponsored by the Crimestoppers Program and it was a discussion about crime primarily, if not totally, in Savannah, and I was there. I wasn't asked any questions. The District Attorney was there, FBI, et cetera, but it has no semblance to what Commissioner Saussy and what this Commission is trying to do.

Chairman Hair recognized Commander Smith.

Commander Smith said, and I would concur with what Chief Sprague said. It was a presentation to the business community sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. It was a breakfast meeting. People from the community were invited to attend it. Basically, different law enforcement agencies spoke and talked about what their role in the community was and it is not in any way the same type of program that you are proposing.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Commander Smith said, I would also say that the proposal that you're making, kind of a process management type of, you know, everybody knows what their individual incremental duties are, but I think what you're proposing is kind of a process manager, somebody looks at the whole picture overall and sees where they should dovetail nicely. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly what I'm proposing, that's exactly it. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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

Chairman Hair appointed Commissioner Saussy to head a task force on the community safety issue and requested that each Commissioner consider and bring with them to the next meeting the names of three individuals they would like to recommend to serve on the task force.

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### **IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A TRANSFER OF \$50,000 FROM THE 1985-1993 SPLOST, JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY TO JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY/I-95 INTERCHANGE, A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE MULTIPLE GRANTS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO REFLECT ACCEPTANCE OF A \$140,000 GRANT FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL TO JUVENILE COURT, A GENERAL FUND M & O CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$3,000 FOR THE LOCAL CASH MATCH FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL GRANT, AND AN INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$7,450 TO SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE ELECTIONS BOARD.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, this \$7,450 for Salaries and Wages for the Election Board, is that for the upcoming election or was that for the last year –? County Manager Abolt said, neither, sir. First of all, the Election Board is separate and apart from other County employees. When we went through the budget process, they had a need to establish and do some reclassifications. That is something that we directly –, y'all don't have direct control over from the standpoint of saying, well, all employees should be treated this way. They are separate and apart from the balance of County employees. They agree to find within their budget from the current authorization the money to accomplish this, which you would do by taking the budget [inaudible]. My understanding is that your controls are exclusively the one with the purse strings. Commissioner Murray said, I don't have a problem with it, I just –. I think they do a great job over there. Commissioner Murray said, so moved.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers asked, Jon [Hart], is there a reason –, you know, I have a problem with all of our employees, we look, we've got them segregated out. We don't have no jurisdiction over this, we don't have no jurisdiction over that. Is there some way that we can advocate bringing all those employees under a [inaudible] or by law they are separated out independently? County Attorney Hart said, well, insofar as some of the departments, you know, it would probably be –, it would require some

legislative changes. The Board of Elections though is a unique organization in that it's pretty well statutorily set out that the County's responsible for providing them certain things, but they are totally independent from the County and that's basically set up that way to make sure that the Board of Elections are independent of any of the politics that might arise out of the County or municipalities, so the employees of that are insulated by statute and so is the person that runs that department. I believe Brooks Stillwell is the current chairman, and we have some very clearly defined limitations about what the County can do there. It would require legislative changes and some of those changes would be limited by some constitutional provisions. So I think it would be very difficult to do some of those things. Recently we rendered an opinion in order to provide them some benefits about just being able to be under the employee benefits --, for some of the employee benefits programs that would, you know, it had nothing to do with the Board of Elections, but it could help the employees, and we have some limitations of what we can do there. So unfortunately it's set up to be, and rightfully so, a very independent organization.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think we've already dealt with that issue. You right, it could be --, I think that actually this department should be commended for taking it out of their existing budget. They're not asking for any extra money, and I think it's a very good program.

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: a transfer of \$50,000 from the 1985-1993 SPLOST, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/I-95 Interchange, a budget amendment to the Multiple Grants Special Revenue Fund to reflect acceptance of a \$140,000 grant from the Children and Youth Coordinating Council to Juvenile Court, a General Fund M & O contingency transfer of \$3,000 for the local cash match for the Children and Youth Coordinating Council grant, and an intra-departmental transfer of \$7,450 to salaries and wages for the Elections Board. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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## **2. DISCUSSION REGARDING REMOVAL OF LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS.**

Chairman Hair said, we have one today --, we have had a request from one of the members who is out of town today that we hear her testimony on the 25<sup>th</sup>. That's Ms. Divine and without objection we will delay hers. We've had --, one of the Board members has resigned, Mr. Albert, and then we have only one member here today to testify, and that's Mrs. McCorkle. Prior to bringing her to the podium, I would like to suggest to my fellow Commissioners a couple of things. I think process is very important here, and I would suggest that the way we proceed with this is that we hear the testimony of Mrs. McCorkle, and we ask any questions of her we would like to ask, at the conclusion of testimony we will go into Executive Session to discuss the testimony, and then we will come back in public session, and if any action is necessary, we will take the action. If any action is required, we will take it in public session. Does anybody object to that process, three-step process? Okay, the second thing, Mrs. McCorkle, if you would like to come forward. While she's coming forward, I'd like to suggest that --, I think it's important to point out, Mrs. McCorkle, that we're here to hear your testimony. I think it's very important to point out though that this testimony is limited to, strictly to your reason for leaving the meeting. We're not here to discuss any issues other than your action of leaving the meeting, and so I would appreciate very kindly if you would limit your testimony only to the reason that you left that specific meeting on that specific date and not anything else.

Mrs. Jeane McCorkle said, that's a cumulative thing. It didn't happen just that first day. Chairman Hair said, well, I just wanted to let you know that we're not going to get into a discussion of personnel or personal issues. We're only here to discuss why you left the meeting, and I just want to make sure you understand that.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think she ought to be able to be free to give the reasons that --, what led up to that, caused her to do that. Mrs. McCorkle said, thank you, Mr. Jackel. Chairman Hair said, I think she should do that. Mrs. McCorkle said, thank you, Mr. Jackel. Chairman Hair said, not anything else out of that. Chairman Hair recognized Mrs. McCorkle.

Mrs. McCorkle said, Dr. Thomas, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Odell, Mr. Murray, Mr. Jackel, Mr. Rivers, and Mr. Saussy, and you, Chairman Billy Hair, you guys must have paid a lot of attention to me. I must have made quite an impression because I've only been to one meeting, July 1<sup>st</sup>, since I was appointed --, the July meeting. That's the only meeting I've been to other than on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June we were called by three members for the express purpose --, the meeting was called of all the members of the Board --, now I'm going back to, as Mr. Jackel says, this is what brought me to the decision I made. I believe it was the 20<sup>th</sup>. It's taped, it's on tape. We were called by three members, which is legal, they can call a meeting, so most of us went, and this meeting was what I call Riley's Route because that's all it was. It was an occasion for Richard Riley to do everything in his power to cast dispersion on Lon Dickerson our Director's reputation and to make those of us there feel that he's a dishonest man, and so forth. He was asked to leave the room. He could not defend himself. But what we learned was this. Neal Vickers, who works in the finance department of the Library, and Lon Dickerson, Mr. Vickers --, it was really his idea, but Lon Dickerson took the fall, that they take some of the monies and put in what was called a 170 Fund, I believe that's what it was called, and hold them back and not give them to you Commissioners. The way I --, now

remember, I served six years, but I was off the Board, I rotated off for three years, so I wasn't cognizant of the way this was done. But Mr. Vickers and Mr. Dickerson decided among themselves that these monies would be put in what would be called a 170 Fund and that they would be interest bearing. Bear in mind that this is not just the Chatham Library Board, it's Chatham, Effingham and Liberty Counties. Okay, and those people, the other two counties, pay into our fund and this is disbursed as the Library Board and then the Commissioners feel that it should be, but Richard Riley was trying his very best to make us all think that Long Dickerson was a thief. That was what it boiled down to. He even went so far as to lean across his desk after Neal Vickers came in and explained that more or less it was his idea that these funds, it wasn't Lon Dickerson's idea to withhold these funds, he leaned across the desk, pointed his finger at the Director and told him he was dishonest –, this is on tape, he did not want to hear another word he had to say; if he had anything –, bear in mind Richard Riley was Chairman of the Library's 1999 Finance Committee. He said, "I do not want to hear anything you ever have to say again about Library funding and about our funds and where they come from. When I want to have an answer to this question, I will ask Neal Vickers." So that's basically what there was to that meeting. This is before, this was prior to me ever going to the July regular Commission [sic] meeting. Okay? First let me back up and say, I know enough about politics, and you know that I do. Each of you know that, but I know all of this is politics. Okay? And when I asked to come back on this Commission [sic], I asked and spoke with several of you Commissioners about it, and I heard from you at that time, from several of you, not all of you, but from several of you, that there was some concern about him, about the Director, that he had several faults. Well, we all do. All of you in government have faults. That he had several faults and he was not disbursing the funds was one of them and he needed to be reined in or brought under control, and I accepted the idea of going back on the Board with the idea what I wanted to do was to bring some good library, a good building, some good library facilities to the south end of Savannah. There are many, many people who will not come down to Bull Street. It is a beautiful state of the art facility, but there are still people who have never been there. I had a lady yesterday, Joyce Kleinsteuber, I remember her daughter, her name, and her daughter, Kaitlen [phonetic] approached me in a store and told me that they had never been down here, they were a little bit afraid, especially since all the crime had been down this way, and they heard it was a nice facility, but they just hadn't used it yet, and she said, "Jeane [McCorkle], please you guys try to bring us something out to the south side, the west side, and so forth." So that's what we hear a lot of, but, nevertheless, I'll go back a little bit further because all this builds. I've done a lot of research and I found that we had a member that you guys did not choose to put back on –, the Library Board serves for three terms –, for three years, and if the Commissioners see fit, they appoint them –, they reappoint them for three more, then you rotate off of the Board. Well, I served six years. During that six years we did two things that were very important to me. One was our Library Director that we had was a very mild-mannered lady. She never asked much, she never got much for the Library. Okay? And I figure if you close a book, you have closed a mind, and he knows computers are great, but you pull the plug and everybody's out of business. You have got to have books to read. You can't take a computer to bed, you take a book to bed. So when this came up –. I lost my train of thought. I think that comes with my age, I'll blame it on that. Oh, okay, back to Mr. Colley. Well, first, Lon Dickerson, the Director in question here, as far back as February, Mary Ellen Sprague, who is our Chairperson, who was elected I know not why because she had never been to a Library meeting in her life in Chatham County, but yet when she came on the Board in 1999, she was elected Chair. That was the politics from somewhere, but, nevertheless, she's been Chair. She's been really involved in trying to get rid of Lon Dickerson. In February she began telling him that she would have his job, that he would not be there by the time she ended her term. Lon [Dickerson] says that she told him that at least once a month during the whole year, and how can anyone do their best if you have something like that hanging over you? I think the man is remarkable. Two of the things that happened in my six-year tenure, one of them was the renovation of the Bull Street Library. We, as the Board, had opted not to do that, but to try to go further south. You, as the Board of Commissioners, refuted that, so, therefore, we went with what we had in making that a state of the art facility, which indeed is what it is. Secondly, Ms. Harlan resigned. She was sort of –, if you gave her –, if the County gave her \$6,000 or \$2,000 or gave her nothing, I guess she would have said nothing. I used to think about that a lot because I thought, you know, we could get more for that Library, but she's never asked. So we had here when we brought Lon Dickerson, he wasn't just somebody that we picked with a headhunter, and so forth. We advertised in newspapers. We had people come from all over the country. I was part of the Search Committee. That is not why I'm so behind him. It's just that I've seen him so maligned that I'm sick of it. Again, I did not expect to come back on this Board and find what was going on. I have been really, really shattered by it. I can't believe that anyone would talk to such a learned man as they have talked to him. He came with a lot of credentials. We got it down from, I believe, 40 and then we brought it to 20 and then, I believe, maybe Alice Bennett [phonetic] was with us on that at that time. Maybe she could help us remember, but I think we really brought 10 people to the City and interviewed them. Well, Lon [Dickerson] stood out like a red light. I mean, he was just so capable and had so many credentials, and where he had come from he had so many great things, and, incidently, the reason he decided to leave Omaha was because the city ran the library there and he had some discussions with the Mayor. So, are we back to square one, like he had discussions with the Mayor? Now the County runs the library, is there something here that I don't know why, I don't know why this has to be because we're proceeding, if you've been to see that building, if you have been in it, he took we had, what funding we had, it was awfully slow getting it opened, but he has done that and he worked as hard as he can. Now another thing, let's go back. This is helping me –, this is why I made my decision. I served six years before and I have never had an orientation meeting. Okay? Mr. Dickerson, I believe, is in Minnesota on vacation now, but the day before he left he had two members of his staff, there were only two coming on the Board, Ms. Divine and myself that had just come on the Board. Ted Albert, who I understand this morning resigned, he had been on there five years, but he just had enough of this. He said his wife was after him. But, nevertheless, he had a full-fledged orientation meeting for two people that lasted over an hour. Now he didn't have to do that. He knew his job was on the line, he knew that the powers that be were after him, but that was what he should do, so therefore he did it. I have never found him derelict in anything in keeping up, and I don't always believe what's in the newspaper, but it's been pretty fair to him. I don't want to leave out anything here.

Mrs. McCorkle said, because of my beliefs about him and about righteousness and fairness, I find myself in sort of a tenuous position here today trying to defend myself. Now, I'm not so stupid that I didn't ask for some legal counsel too. So I talked with Tommy Hunter, and let me tell you what Tommy Hunter told me. First, he recommended that I not come to this meeting. He said that I write a brief letter and that this is what I should put in the letter, but you know me, I've never backed away from a fight. I had some good training, right? Commissioner Jackel said, amen. Mrs. McCorkle said, all right. In this brief letter I should state that I'm appearing —, not appearing he said, but I did, before the Commissioners in this matter because (a) you are under no legal compulsion to do so because that was a registered letter and it was not a subpoena. Okay? You do not further believe that the Chatham County Commissioners have the legal authority to remove a Library Board member once the member has been appointed, that right being reserved exclusively to the Board itself, pursuant to the Board's constitution and bylaws, and (c) that the term "for cause" must mean for something other than violations of the mandatory attendance policy. Well, I couldn't have screwed that one up because they've only had one meeting. Otherwise, the language would be duplicitous, that you have not missed those three consecutive meetings, and even if you had, the Board has precedence for waiving that provision. In other words, the Board is the only person that has the authority to remove Library Board members. That Board members often leave meetings —. Does this ring a bell with any of you? Board members often leave meetings early with impunity and without repercussions. Therefore, you leaving the specific meeting in question early could not fall within the term for cause, and, lastly, I'm not a public figure as that term is defined by law and that any public disparagement, humiliation or defamation inflicted upon me by any Commissioner or other Board member or the County Attorney could then result in legal action against these person or persons. As I said, my feelings about the Library run deep. I have four children, three boys and one girl, and they're brilliant. They're absolutely brilliant. They spent their early years with the library. The first time I ever appeared in a library was when I was eight years old and lived on West Broad and 38<sup>th</sup> Street. My mother would teach me to walk to this library. I have been coming here all my life. And, as I said, a computer is fine, and that brings me to Lon Dickerson and his accomplishments. He's a man with a plan, he's a visionary. He is clearly a visionary. He has already contacted the Bill Gates Foundation. You know, they are matching computers with what you guys would give. He's willing to match them. I think he does a little more than match them, but you have to show that you're willing to put computers in your facility, in the facility. I find it incomprehensible, going back to —, I have to mention the name Sprague because I feel like she is one of the people that has just me run up a flag for Lon Dickerson because I've seen her do nothing but blaspheme him since I have been concerned with this Library ward. I saw here 19-point letter that she wrote and sent to the Morning News. She continues this, but I think this is what sent me out the room. Okay? At this meeting, this one meeting that I attended, we had an agenda, just like you guys have an agenda, and you have followed your agenda. Right? You didn't fast forward and go down to number eight or number ten or finish early, but this is what she did when the meeting was called to order at this time —. I'm still not very organized, but I'll get it done. Nevertheless, she fast forwarded down to number eight. She did not do anything and Jenel Few from the Morning News is here, and she will, she will say they were all sent out of the room because she had notified —. Now we get an agenda a week or 10 days before our meetings, just as you do, but you have the option of, the Library Board does, if someone wants to change the agenda or add something to it, as in this Other that it states on number eight, they had 24 hours to make it known, and it can be done, but she did not have written personnel down there on that number eight, and what she did was let Lon —, she called the meeting to order, she let Lon Dickerson pass out —, I remember getting something about the Liberty County libraries that he had come up with. It was telling them about what was coming up for them. He's very aware of what's going on, and while all of that was being done, Ms. Sprague, as I said, had sent everybody out the room. She stood up with a paragraph, a piece of paper about this size [indicating]. The first thing she did, she hadn't taken that straw vote then, she read this. She said I have this recommendation for Lon Dickerson that he clear out his desk in four weeks and be given seven months severance pay. My mouth fell open as did Joel [Osteen]. Is Joel in here? Joe [Osteen], from Hinesville. He's an attorney, a young attorney from Hinesville. Joel [Osteen], Alice [Bennett], Ms. Christy —, Ms. Divine, Christy Divine, and Albert. The five of us stood to our feet. I don't remember who said it first, but this is not right, and to begin with a straw vote is not worth anything either. You can take as many straw votes as you want. As a group here, they're not worth anything until you do it in public. You have to do your votes in public, and that's the way this should have been done. She took a straw vote. We were seeing the man lynched, so the five of us, the reason you people approached the three of us, we're in Chatham County. Alice Bennett is from Effingham County, Joel Osteen is from Liberty County, three-county library board. So that's the three of us were asked to appear here today. So what I've said today, I really hope that you understand where I'm coming from and that I saw the injustice that was being done, and I just wasn't going to be a part of it. I really wasn't. I feel that it wasn't done correctly, there is too much a part of me that is —, I don't want to —, impartial's not the word because I am partial. I'm partial to justice, and I just didn't like the way it was being handled so, therefore, I find myself in somewhat of a tenuous position, as I said, having to explain why I did this. Now it's up to you guys how much politics is involved with this. I'm sorry.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, Jeane [McCorkle], I'm always glad to see you. I've been a friend of yours and your family for years and respect you and respect your husband and the work you've done for the community, and as far as I'm concerned, you do not have to defend yourself to me. I want to make that clear. You never have to defend your actions to me. I accept what you do and appreciate your dedication and service to the community. Now prior to us appointing new board members, and when you were appointed I got several calls from people requesting that I make it a litmus test of anyone that I appointed would vote to remove Lon Dickerson, and I said I would not do that. The only thing I requested of the people I was going to put forward to be appointed would that they would attend the meetings, that they would come prepared, review their material, and use their best judgment to do what they thought was right. Now that's all I requested of people. I didn't —, and I turned down the people that told me I should use this as a litmus test. I felt that wasn't fair. So the people

that I put forward on the –, you know, I did not ask that. I just asked that they work hard and do what they felt was right because the situation always changes and they're required to use their best judgment. Mrs. McCorkle said, I appreciate that. Commissioner Jackel said, and it appears that you have used yours, and I want to thank you for your dedication to the community and the Library.

Chairman Hair asked, do we have any questions of Mrs. McCorkle? Okay, hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss this. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] The meeting was recessed to go into Executive Session at 10:25 a.m.

Following Executive Session, the meeting of the Chatham County Commissioners was reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to ask for a motion and we're going to ask the attorney to clarify the motion. Mr. Hart, will you clarify the motion? County Attorney Hart said, we need a motion. Chairman Hair said, we'll make a motion.

Commissioner Murray said, I would move that we, since we have listened to the presentation by Mrs. McCorkle, that we continue this until the time that we've had the other parties give their presentation or comments and then we go back and make a decision at that time. Chairman Hair said, separately and independently. Commissioner Murray said, yes.

County Attorney Hart said, you would have to be –, you could make that motion and that would be an appropriate procedure. Mrs. McCorkle would be invited back to attend so that she can hear the public determination. She has presented her evidence –. Chairman Hair said, but not [inaudible] her testimony. County Attorney Hart said, her evidence today. The other lady that could not attend today, which y'all granted the opportunity to come back at another date, present what evidence she would like to present, will be invited to present that evidence to you, and then upon consideration of that, you, if you choose, could go into Executive Session to deliberate separate and apart each individual's situation, and then you would have to come out in public and make a vote on both of the individuals in question.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, does everybody understand the motion? Do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

Mr. Albert asked, Mr. Chairman, may I ask you something, sir? Chairman Hair said certainly. Mr. Albert asked, under what authority does the County Commissioners have to remove a Board member from a Board? Under what authority? Chairman Hair said, we haven't removed anybody, Mr. Albert. Mr. Albert said, but there's discussion about doing it, and I'm just asking for clarification, sir. Chairman Hair said, it's provided in Code section. County Attorney Hart said, O.C.G. –. Mr. Albert asked, would Mr. Hart be glad [sic] enough to –? Chairman Hair said, yes, he's giving it to you right now if you'll wait for it. County Attorney Hart said, O.C.G.A. 20-5-43. Mr. Albert said, wait, I can't hear. County Attorney Hart said, I'll be glad to make you a copy of the Code section. Chairman Hair said, just get a copy of the Code section. That will be easier. That way there won't be any –, we'll get you a copy of it. Mr. Albert said, thank you, sir. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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

1. Commissioner Saussy moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved that, since we have listened to the presentation by Mrs. Jeane McCorkle, that we continue this until the time that we've had the other party, Ms. Christy Divine, give her presentation or comments and then we go back and make separate and independent decisions at that time as what action, if any, should be taken with regard to the two Library Board members. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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#### **3. GRANT-IN-AID RECOMMENDATIONS. NOTE: REPORT FROM CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY GROUP IS STILL IN PROCESS.**

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this, as promised, is the recommendation coming forward for one-half of the citizens appointed. This deals particularly with Human Services. The other committee will be coming forward with its recommendation in the near term on Cultural Affairs. As you might remember, during your public hearing on the budget in general, you did receive specific testimony on MedBank. Assuming that that would be the only one that you might want to adjust, the balance of the recommendations are within the allocation in the overall budget that you adopted. In the case of MedBank, the recommendation from the committee is to fund it at a \$20,000 level. The

testimony that I heard along with you was the agency is requesting a total of \$40,000. In a cover memorandum on the staff report that transmits the grants-in-aid recommendation from the Human Services Task Force, I give you two alternatives if you wish to proceed beyond their recommendation. The first would be to refer the matter back to the Human Services Task Force asking they identify \$20,000 elsewhere by adjusting downwards other contracts they're recommending, and the second would be to draw down an amount from M&O and SSD Contingencies for the combined \$20,000 incremental addition to MedBank.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions or discussion of the Manager's --? Commissioner Rivers asked, Russ [Abolt] --? Chairman Hair said, certainly, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, Russ [Abolt], we said we've got, we allocated nine hundred and some odd thousand dollars to the two entities? \$925,100 for distribution? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, I can't be --, I'm sorry, sir. Thank you, I've got it. Okay. Commissioner Rivers said, and what we're having here is a recommendation that \$743,680 be allotted to Human Resources, so that should leave you \$184,420 on the cultural side. Is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. My understanding is the cultural side is still deliberating how they can make that cap. Commissioner Rivers asked, okay, why do we need the \$89,580? County Manager Abolt asked, I'm sorry, sir? I see what you're --, you're looking --. I'm sorry, sir, I didn't explain that. We don't --, I believe Commissioner Rivers is looking at the way in which we --. I think what we --. I'm confusing you and I apologize for it is after the recommendations are made, we never predetermine obviously what those recommendation are, staff then looks at each recommendation from the committee and then apportions the costs among M&O and SSD. So the figures you just quotes are, in effect, adjustments to both M&O and/or SSD not based on reducing or increasing the total amount for grants-in-aid, but to recognize that, in fact, the recommendations from the committee based on the contracts they're proposing, would have a different funding strategy recognizing what folks inside the City of Savannah would be paying that should not be covered in M&O and that cost is shifted to SSD, or vice versa.

Chairman Hair ask does that your question? Does anybody else have any other questions? I personally think that we need to fund MedBank at the \$40,000 level. I would support the alternative on that to increase that to 40. I don't know how the rest of the Commission feels, but I [inaudible].

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to hear --, see if David [Richards] [inaudible]. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Richards.

Mr. David Richards said, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Vice Chairman, Commissioners, you have before you the recommendations of the Human Services Task Force. These recommendations were made after the task force met for five meetings beginning June 14<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. The task force reviewed the requests from and met with 37 organizations; 30 were funded last year and 7 were new organizations. Our recommendations are that they are within the budget guidelines we were given, the same sum as last years' \$743,680. We based our review of the proposals on the written information provided and the oral presentations made by the organizations. We based our determinations on the accomplishments of the organizations during the past year, our perception of need for the service in the community, and the fiscal accountability of the organizations. For the new applicants, the task force looked at similar documents, though it could not look to representations made by agencies not funded during the previous year.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I have a question. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Rivers said, you have usurped all of your funds, your funds that have completely been allocated and you --. Mr. Richards said, yes, we have. Now in the --, in closing there we would like to make you aware, as you all are, of the fact that we are getting more and more requests for funds available each year and we haven't had an increase in those funds since 1995. The needs of these important organizations are not getting to be less but to be more, and you should consider making more funds available in the future. The task force believes strongly in the quality of the work being done by these organizations in the community and encourages you t continue to support them and approve the suggestions we have made. We want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on this board and, as you can see on the handout that we gave you the representations that we had are the members, and they have done a fine job and I commend them for their work and support.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Richards, I think appreciation needs to go to you and the members of the board. You folks just do a yeoman's task. It's a very, very tough job that y'all do, and I know --, I know Mr. Loupee's here as well. Are any other task force members here other than Mr. Loupee? If y'all would stand please. I think we --. Commissioner Jackel said, thank you, thank you. [Applause.] Chairman Hair said, I just want to tell you, these folks do a great job and it's not a --, it's a thankless task because you never give them everything they ask for, but you folks put a lot of time and effort into it and I want you to know that we appreciate it very, very much. Thank you. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, Mr. Manager, \$20,000 --, if we were to add \$20,000 to this recommendation of 20, where would that 20 --, where would we get that 20 from?

County Manager Abolt said, it would have to --, you realize again we're making adjustments already about M&O Contingency to make the disproportionate proportionate. it would have to come out of M&O Contingency. By your actions today, because we in effect have that separate accounting for the different recommendations and the people served, the M&O Contingency would be reduced to an amount of about \$40,000. It's \$150,000 now. You're going to deplete by

\$89,000, almost \$90,000 to create the balance, but you're going to replenish SSD Contingency by the \$90,000. It'd be my challenge and Mr. Persaud's between now and the balance of the year to deal with that contingency. As we call know, throughout the year they can be adjusted and it's included in the offer, but we obviously already have a small contingency of \$150,000. What you're doing today is not uncommon with what you've done in past years. It has always been a bit of a task to keep us within our -. Commissioner Rivers said, but I'm saying -, you're saying, we're going to bump that down to \$45,000 with the action here? County Manager Abolt said, approximately \$40,000. Commissioner Rivers said, so if we dipped it another \$20,000 -. County Manager Abolt said, well, I'm taking the 20 out. Commissioner Rivers said, you're taking 20 out. County Manager Abolt said, yes. Assuming your motion is to take the recommendation, which I have to [inaudible] the balance from M&O and SSD -. Chairman Hair said, and add the 20. County Manager Abolt said, and add 20, we've got 40 between now and the first of July. Chairman Hair said, plus we replenish [inaudible]. Commissioner Rivers said, now, in addition to that, Mr. Manager, I'm going to tell you that this 40,000 more than likely is going to be a permanent stream going to this based on the feelings and the emotion that everybody has here, so it behooves you to find that stream of money to put in the oncoming budget for next year. County Manager Abolt said, and again we can -, yes sir. We know we have about 10,000,000 in nonrecurring revenue. Commissioner Rivers said, we keep building it and we keep digging a hole.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, that was my question too. I support the MedBank and I think it's a great organization and I've looked at the presentations that it makes sense for us to do that. In other words, Russ [Abolt], what you're talking about doing is adding \$20,000 to grant-in-aid and then bumping it up by \$20,000 there. I would rather us not do it that way. County Manager Abolt said, I gave you at least two choices. One, you can go back to the committee and say find \$20,000 in some other contract you're currently recommending. That keeps the cap on. The other option, which you're now entertaining, is to dip into your contingency for \$20,000 and, in effect, do that. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we should go back to the task force. I think they've done their job. Commissioner Murray said, I think they have too. I think they've done a great job, and the purpose for forming this task force when it was originally done was to take all that pressure of all these different groups coming to us as the Commission, every time somebody wanted money, and to me that's why when somebody comes up and asks, just as today in our meeting, I recommended they go through that process and see what they can get out of that first. If they don't, then they come back and we'll see what we can do, but I would like to see this additional \$20,000 done just as the recommendation for the \$30,000 the other group wants. I don't see how we can treat one any different than the other, and if you can find the sources to fund it, then we do that.

County Manager Abolt said, sir, because of the type of service, again it's either cuts or adds, and the only way we'll add this early in the budget year would be by depleting contingency and keeping this balanced, or wait until the audit's in and look at what we have in fund balance, but we've already committed fund balance to balance the current budget. I can't be as potentially creative with this because the question was asked relative to SPLOST, something like this would not be SPLOST-eligible.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Let's go ahead and make a motion. Commissioner Murray said, I move that we approve the recommendations from the task force. Chairman Hair asked, okay, does that include the \$20,000 -? Commissioner Murray said, as submitted to us. Chairman Hair asked, without the \$20,000 extra? Commissioner Murray said, without the extra \$20,000. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second to that? Commissioner Saussy said, second.

Commissioner Saussy said, let me -, I'd like to ask a question and it's nothing about funding. I notice on here that there's no representative of the Chairman, the First or the Eighth District. Now, if I had known that, I would have, in my district, I would have appointed somebody else. Commissioner Thomas asked, where is that? Commissioner Saussy said, it's the last paragraph of this letter. That they left on the table for us. If that's the case, I think we need to know that these people are not participating because I want somebody from the First District -. Chairman Hair said, yes, I'll agree with that.

Commissioner Murray said, well, my appointee is at our meeting so I'm satisfied with him. I think he's done a great job. Thank you, Jerry [Loupee].

Chairman Hair said, I think we should be [inaudible]. Commissioner Saussy said, I need to take care of this at the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, and I think Priscilla [Thomas] and myself as well.

Commissioner Odell asked, how can we have that as an automatic survey, it's routinely done, whether or not people serve on committees? Chairman Hair said, one way we can do that, Commissioner Odell, would be to have the Chairman of the task force submit their, you know, attendance to us at the end of each meeting. That way we'd know who's coming and who's not coming.

Chairman Hair said, that's a good point, Commissioner Saussy. Thanks for bringing it up. Okay, we have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, we are funding MedBank, right? Chairman Hair said, to 20, not to 40. This motion has the \$20,000, not the \$40,000. Commissioner DeLoach asked, all right, now what would we do with the other 20? Chairman Hair said, well, we'll entertain another motion after this to add 20 to it or we can defeat this motion and 20 if you support it. That's the only way --, if this motion passes, you'd have to add it as a separate motion. Commissioner DeLoach said okay.

Chairman Hair said, all right, all those in favor of this motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rivers voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, all right, the motion passes. Now would you like to make a --, add another motion?

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion that we increase from whatever location the \$40,000 funding for MedBank. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do I have a second to that? Commissioner Saussy said, second.

Commissioner Murray asked, we're going to increase what? Chairman Hair said, MedBank 20 to 40. Commissioner Murray asked, but you're not going through the task force on that? Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Saussy said, we just accepted theirs and then --. Chairman Hair said, we've already approved theirs. Commissioner Murray asked, which contingency? Commissioner DeLoach said, source of funds based on what recommendation --. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, I hate to be --, not trying to be a purest on this. We said that we'd have to take it out of M&O Contingency. Obviously, I'll talk to Mr. Persaud and we'll decide how much is benefitting SSD and how much M&O, and when you see the accounting for it it might be a tad in SSD, but you're drawing down your contingency by \$20,000. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Murray asked, which contingency? M&O? County Manager Abolt said, I can't tell you exactly. It will be your contingency. The reason I cannot be exact is Finance will attribute a certain amount of those services to the City of Savannah and a certain amount to SSD. If they can attribute, they will make an adjustment. Commissioner Murray said, I would rather us know where the funds are coming from before we vote on it, and I think we could do that at our next meeting. Chairman Hair said, well, we do know, we just don't know which contingency. It's one or the other contingencies. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'm talk --, I can't vote on it --.

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

Commissioner Jackel said, let's just explain so the record is clear. My understanding is from the 20 that they already have with the Human Resources [sic], and then the 20 that we just voted, they're able to multiply that by over a factor of 10 in necessary drugs for people who [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray said, that's what I'm saying. Chairman Hair said, yes. Well, I think you [inaudible] for the public record, I think, Commissioner Jackel. Thank you, Commissioner Jackel.

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

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve the recommendations of the Human Services Grants-in-Aid Task Force as follows: Ashtree \$10,000, CARC \$11,295, CASA \$10,000, Citizens Advocacy \$7,500, Coastal Children's Advocacy \$8,000, EOA \$39,000, Fair Housing Council \$2,250, Frank Callen \$15,340, Georgia Legal Services \$17,500, Hope House \$4,645, Hospice - Savannah \$8,000, LIFE \$22,300, Savannah Runaway Home \$9,410, Open Arms \$7,060, Parent & Child Development \$65,000, Rape Crisis Center \$33,000, Royce Learning Center \$4,000, Safe Shelter \$15,795, Salvation Army \$9,500, Savannah Association for the Blind \$23,305, Second Harvest Food Bank \$10,000, Senior Citizens \$31,070, STEPS \$11,770, Union Mission \$9,410, Wesley Community Centers \$11,000, West Broad YMCA \$23,535, West Chatham YMCA \$16,620, Youth Futures \$230,000, Youth Service Corps \$43,375, Community in School \$10,000, MedBank Foundation \$20,000, and Sheriff's Reserve \$2,000. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rivers voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to increase the funding to MedBank by an additional \$20,000. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO REVOKE CURRENT BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE HELD BY MS. TONISE GARDNER, ZONING VIOLATIONS REGARDING HOME OCCUPATION BEAUTY SHOP OPERATED AT 7 LANSING AVENUE.**

**[DISTRICT 3.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Gregori Anderson.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move we approve of staff recommendation. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second.

Chairman Hair asked, anybody here to appear –. County Manager Abolt said, please, afford an opportunity for hearing. Chairman Hair asked, is anyone here who would like to speak to this issue? Is Ms. Gardner here? Okay. If not, we have a motion and a second to approve staff recommendation. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve staff’s recommendation to revoke the current business tax certificate held by Ms. Tonise Gardner for zoning violations in the operation of a home occupation beauty shop at 7 Lansing Avenue. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Hair said, remember our time constraint here. Does anybody want to pull anything off of the –? Commissioner Murray said, I have three. Items C, D and E. Chairman Hair said, three, C, D and E. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve every other item. Chairman Hair said, the balance. Okay. Do I have second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes –.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I have a question. I just want to ask a question, I don’t need to pull it. Commissioner Saussy said, I’d like to pull J and be recused from that one. Chairman Hair said, okay, J. The Clerk asked, reason? County Attorney Hart said, reason. Chairman Hair said, well, if he’s going to pull it, it’s going to be separately, he’s just pulling it. The Clerk said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let’s go ahead and –. All right, Commissioner DeLoach made a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Is there a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

# moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items # and #. # seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas 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 JULY 28, 2000, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 28, 2000, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 20 THROUGH JULY 31, 2000.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period July 20, 2000, through July 31, 2000, in the amount of \$6,969,196. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH CLAIRWOOD ENTERPRISES, INC., AS IT RELATES TO THE FAWCETT CANAL PROJECT.  
[DISTRICT 6.]****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign an agreement with Clairwood Enterprises, Inc., as it relates to the Fawcett Canal Project. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE APPENDIX A TO THE LETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE WETLANDS MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO DEVELOP A SITE SPECIFIC MITIGATION PLAN FOR PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE PIPEMAKERS CANAL.  
[ALL DISTRICTS.]****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Appendix A to the Letter Agreement between Chatham County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Wetlands Mitigation Implementation Plan to develop a site specific mitigation plan for property adjacent to the Pipemakers Canal. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT COUNTER OFFER FOR PURCHASE OF 5.03 ACRES ADJACENT TO THE PINE BARREN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THE OPTION FOR PURCHASE.  
[DISTRICT 7.]****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to accept counter offer for purchase of 5.03 acres adjacent to the Pine Barren Wastewater Treatment Plant and authorize the Chairman to execute the option for purchase. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH TO RELOCATE A 12-INCH WATER LINE LOCATED WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY INTERCHANGE AT I-95, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$50,000 FROM THE 1985-1993 SPLOST, JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY (ACCOUNT 3306502) TO JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY/I-95 INTERCHANGE (ACCOUNT 3306527).  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve an amendment to an agreement with the City of Savannah to relocate a 12-inch water line located within the right-of-way for the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway interchange at I-95, and to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 from the 1985-1993 SPLOST, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway (Account 3306502) to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/I-95 Interchange (Account 3306527). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND SELL AN OUT-PARCEL OF LAND AT 114-116 E. 39<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN SAVANNAH AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S TEEN CLINIC.  
[DISTRICT 5.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to declare as surplus and sell an out-parcel of land at 114-116 E. 39<sup>th</sup> Street in Savannah at the Health Department's Teen Clinic. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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- 8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR BID CHATHAM COUNTY'S INTEREST IN A VACANT LOT HELD BY TAX DEED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OFF OGEECHEE ROAD.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to declare as surplus and offer for bid Chatham County's interest in a vacant lot held by tax deed in the unincorporated area off Ogeechee Road. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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- 9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CONVEY INTEREST IN A PROPERTY IN TREMONT PARK SUBDIVISION THROUGH THE LAND BANK AUTHORITY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to convey interest in a property in Tremont Park Subdivision through the Land Bank Authority to Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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- 10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY TO QUITCLAIM ANY INTEREST IN WILD CAT DAM ROAD TO THE CITY OF BLOOMINGDALE.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved approve the request for the County to quitclaim any interest in Wild Cat Dam Road to the City of Bloomingdale. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve renewal of the contract between the County and the State Department of Children and Youth Services to provide housing and programs for juvenile offenders at the Sheriff's Complex. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR A "STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN" GRANT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve renewal of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a "Stop Violence Against Women" grant for the period 10/01/00 to 09/30/01 for \$50,000 from Federal funds with a local match of \$16,667. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**13. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION AND RENEWAL OF THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AWARENESS MINI-GRANT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request for continuation and renewal of the Pedestrian Safety Awareness Mini-Grant in the amount of \$23,100 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for the Chatham County Police Department to establish a Pedestrian Safety Awareness Program. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**14. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT \$24,000 IN LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE APPLICATION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to accept \$24,000 in Local Assistance Grant funds to purchase fitness stations that will be installed along the walk/jog trails at Lake Mayer, L. Scott Stell, and Tom Triplett Community Parks, and authorized the Chairman to sign the application. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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**15. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM OF ANTONIO SELLERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,750.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve final settlement of the claim of Antonio Sellers in the amount of \$2,750. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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- 16. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR THE YEAR 2000. PETITIONER: MATTHEW K. STARLING, D/B/A BONA BELLA MARINA, LOCATED AT 2740 LIVINGSTON AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for the year 2000 by Petitioner Matthew K. Starling, d/b/a bona Bella Marina, located at 2740 Livingston Avenue. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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- 17. 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.)**

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Annual contract with option to renew for two additional one-year terms to provide collection of delinquent real and personal property taxes	Tax Commissioner	Government Tax Solutions, Inc.	N/A	N/A
B. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for demolition of specified structures on Truman Parkway right-of-way to provide for an additional structural demolition	SPLOST	Atlas Sand & Gravel, Inc.	\$6,224	SPLOST (1985-1993) Truman Parkway, Phase III Right-of-way
C. Change order No. 2 to the contract for the design/engineering of the new Chatham County Tag Office Facility to provide for the development of a master plan	SPLOST	L. Scott Barnard & Associates	\$8,770	SPLOST (1993-1998) Modification and upgrade of Tag Office
D. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for the design and engineering of the new Chatham County Tag Office Facility to provide for modifications made during the development of a master plan	SPLOST	L. Scott Barnard & Associates	\$6,700	SPLOST (1993-1998) Modification and upgrade of Tag Office

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
E. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for the design and engineering of the new Chatham County Tag Office Facility to provide the design of the Lightning Protection System	SPLOST	L. Scott Barnard & Associates	\$1,115	SPLOST (1993-1998) Modification and upgrade of Tag Office
F. Amendment to the annual contract to inspect, service and maintain elevators located in various County facilities to provide for the addition of two elevators located at the Bull Street Library	Building Maintenance and Operations	Atlantic Coast Elevator Service	\$4,360.80	General Fund/M&O - Library
G. Change Order No. 11 to the contract to provide engineering services for the development of Pooler Parkway Phase II to provide for revisions	SPLOST	EMC Engineering	\$5,549	SPLOST (1993-1998) Pooler Parkway, Phase II
H. Annual contract with the option to renew for two additional one year terms to provide a Day Reporting Center for children under the supervision of Juvenile Court who have been suspended from school	Juvenile Court	Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority in conjunction with St. Pius X Family Resource Center	Not to exceed \$17,000	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court (Children Youth Coordinating Council Grant)
I. Annual contract with option to renew for two additional one year terms to provide specialized age-appropriate assessment and intervention for children under the age of 11 as referred by Juvenile Court to prevent further involvement with the Juvenile Justice system	Juvenile Court	Parent and Child Development Service, Inc.	Not to exceed \$17,000	General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court (Children Youth Coordinating Council Grant)
J. Award professional services contract for the engineering analysis and design of the Conaway Branch Canal	SPLOST	B. P. Barber & Associates, Inc.	\$68,125	SPLOST (1998-2003) Drainage, Conaway Canal
K. Award of contract for the fabrication and installation of new signs for Truman Parkway Phase II	SPLOST	Mitchell Sign Company	\$26,646	SPLOST (1985-1993) Truman Parkway, Phase II
L. Declare old trucks and sedans as surplus and sell by public auction	Fleet	Southeastern Auto Auction	N/A	N/A - Revenue Producing
M. Annual contract with option for two additional one year terms	Juvenile Court	Allen H. Canady	NTE \$17,000	Multiple Grants Special Revenue Fund (Pending Board Acceptance of Grant)
N. Professional services contracts	County Engineer	•Vincent J. Grevemberg •Patricia J. Bush	•\$40/hr. •\$40/hr.	LDAO Funds

**As to Items 17-A through 17-N, except 17-C, 17-D, 17-E and 17-J:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 1 through 17-N of the Action Calendar in their entirety with the exception of Items 17-C, 17-D, 17-E and 17-J. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

**As to Items 17-C, 17-D and 17-E:**

- C. CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN/ ENGINEERING OF THE NEW CHATHAM COUNTY TAG OFFICE FACILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN; L. SCOTT BARNARD & ASSOCIATES; \$8,770; SPLOST (1993-1998) MODIFICATION AND UPGRADE OF TAG OFFICE.
- D. CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF THE NEW CHATHAM COUNTY TAG OFFICE FACILITY TO PROVIDE FOR MODIFICATIONS MADE DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN; L. SCOTT BARNARD; \$6,770; SPLOST (1993-1998) MODIFICATION AND UPGRADE OF TAG OFFICE.
- E. CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF THE NEW CHATHAM COUNTY TAG OFFICE FACILITY TO PROVIDE THE DESIGN OF THE LIGHTENING PROTECTION SYSTEM; L. SCOTT BARNARD; \$1,115; SPLOST (1993-1998) MODIFICATION AND UPGRADE OF TAG OFFICE.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, the only reason I pulled this, and I'm going to vote in favor of it, but I just question the fact that this early in the stages we're already having three or four change orders, three of them on this agenda, and these don't amount to a lot of money considering what we're getting ready to put into the facility. I'm just wondering how many more change orders and what kind of money we're talking about and where is this money going to continue to come from? Mr. George Lynch said, sir, I do not anticipate any more. The design is substantially complete. The last ripple we had that actually affected two of the three that you're looking at, at this time was a requirement for master planning, which was not initially either bid or required. We picked up and that caused two of these three to occur, but I will say this —. Commissioner Murray asked, we planned to do a facility without a master plan? Mr. Lynch said, shouldn't have missed it, and I take the responsibility for having missed it. Commissioner Murray said, well, I appreciate you taking responsibility. I move we approve this.

Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, General [Lynch].

**As to Item 17-J:**

- J. AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ENGINEERING ANALYSIS AND DESIGN OF THE CONAWAY BRANCH CANAL; B. P. BARBER & ASSOCIATES, INC.; \$68,125; SPLOST (1998-2003) DRAINAGE, CONAWAY CANAL

Chairman Hair said, we first need a motion to recuse Commissioner Saussy for what purpose? Commissioner Saussy said, I do business with them, a slight little business. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor of recusing Commissioner Saussy vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy did not vote on the motion; Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, he is recused. Now I'll entertain a motion to approve the item. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, motion. Second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy was recused from voting on the motion; Commissioner Price was not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 1 through 17-N of the Action Calendar in their entirety with the exception of Items 17-C, 17-D, 17-E and 17-J. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 17-C, 17-D and 17-E. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved that Commissioner Saussy be recused from voting on Item 17-J due to a conflict of interest because of a business relationship Commissioner Saussy has with B. P. Barber & Associates, Inc. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy did not vote on the motion; Commissioner Price was not present.]
4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 17-J. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy was recused from voting on the motion; Commissioner Price was not present.]

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**XI. FIRST READINGS**

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

**1. ADOPT REVISED SPEED ZONE ORDINANCE (LIST NUMBER 07132000).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Chairman Hair read into the record as first reading.

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**2. PETITIONER, LARRY DRIVER, OWNER, IS REQUESTING TO REZONE AN ADDITIONAL 150 FEET OF A 3.6 ACRE PARCEL AT 4921 GARRARD AVENUE, LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF GARRARD AVENUE, BETWEEN U. S. HIGHWAY 17 SOUTH AND THE SOUTHWEST BYPASS OVERPASS, FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO AN R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURAL) CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW THE PLACEMENT OF A MANUFACTURED HOME. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUESTED BE APPROVED.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-000620-56393-1  
[DISTRICT 5.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Chairman Hair read into the record as first reading.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

None.

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**XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Written report received as information.

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**3. STATUS REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND COUNTY INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENTS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Written report received as information.

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**4. STATUS OF COUNTY'S NEW ROLE IN RECYCLING.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner DeLoach, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:13 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM OF BETTYE BERKSTEINER (JON HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve settlement of the claim of Bettye Berksteiner against Chatham County in the amount of \$7,388.81. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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**2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD DURING THIS COMMISSION MEETING WERE HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the two Executive Sessions held during this Commission meeting were held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**1. CHATHAM-EFFINGHAM-LIBERTY REGIONAL LIBRARY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to appoint Mr. John Barrett to the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Ted Albert. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2000

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

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