

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2001, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 8, 2001.

=====

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Thomas introduced The Rev. Dr. Benny Mitchell, Pastor, Connor's Temple Baptist Church, who gave the invocation.

=====

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

=====

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
Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
Martin S. Jackel, District Three
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
David M. Gellatly, District Six
B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

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

=====

RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN JACK KINGSTON

Chairman Hair said, it's a real honor today and a privilege for us to have Congressman Jack Kingston with us today, and I'd like to ask -, recognize him and ask him if he'd like to make any remarks.

Congressman Kingston said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. Let me just say hello to you, greetings from Washington. Yesterday in the Agriculture Subcommittee of Appropriations I had a vote similar to what you go through every single meeting in that I had two friends on different sides of the fence, both in attendance at the meeting, both watching me very carefully to see which way I raised my hands and I always have said I thank the Lord that in a

legislative body, like the Legislature in Atlanta or Congress in Washington, you're away from your constituents 90 percent of the time and they don't see how you vote until about three weeks later and then they get made, but here you get instant feedback. So I admire you, I respect you, I know you have a difficult job today, as you do every single time you meet, and my hat's off to you.

Chairman Hair said, thanks a lot. Congressman Kingston said, thanks for letting me join you. Chairman Hair said, keep up the great work.

V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. YOUTH COMMISSION GRADUATE RECOGNITION.

Chairman Hair said, the first thing on our agenda this morning, we're going to have the Youth Commission graduate recognition. I'm going to call on Van Johnson to introduce it.

Mr. Van Johnson said, good morning. Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, it is at this time of the year that our hearts are filled with joy and we see the beginnings of bright tomorrows that only this season brings. Even as our hearts were saddened as we awoke this morning and learned of the massacre occurring in a Japanese elementary school where eight young people lost their lives, we realize that even today we are still blessed beyond belief. There has been so much talk of survivors lately, from 20 years ago when Gilligan in Skipper II, the millionaire and his wife, went out on a three-hour tour and they had to survive on an island in the middle of nowhere, to even now where the most popular television show deals with individuals that have been stranded in the middle of the South Pacific or in the middle of the Australian Outback where the object of the game is to outwit, outplay and outlast the competition. So even today I submit to you the 2001 version of survivors. They are they that have enjoyed 12-plus years of education, who have lived and prospered in a time where children in other communities have attempted to bomb schools, they've survived at a time where school shootings have increased, they have survived a time where metal detectors and guards adorn the entrances of our schools. These survivors are also known as the Chatham County Youth Commission Class of 2001, and even as Chatham County is even now being considered as an All-American Community, it is easy to understand why. When you adopted the vision of Dr. Thomas, you saw the need for this type of initiative in this community, you saw the need to make an investment in this community that will reap benefits beyond our collective lifetimes. There are over 200 graduates of the Chatham County Youth Commission program all over the United States. Some are now in graduate schools, some in the military, some in the work force, but they all have a bond that irrevocably ties them to one another. They were all part of a unique brotherhood or a unique sisterhood that started right here. They were all Chatham County Youth Commissioners, and as they are and were Youth Commissioners, we cannot forget that you, as a Commission, have a kinship with them. As they watched you debate and deliberate about the issues of the day, you were there with them. When they got together to discuss the issues that affect them, you were there with them. When they traveled to Washington, DC, you were there with them. When they met with Secretary of State Colin Powell, you were there with them. When they met with Senator Miller and Representative Kingston, you were there with them. When they visited the New York City Stock Exchange and were on the NBC Today Show in sub-freezing temperatures, you were there with them. You just weren't cold like they were on that day. These young people have adopted you as a family, and where their life's travels take them, you will be there because they represent you, they represent this County, they represent their parents and certainly their teachers. We hope that they now have a connection now to this community that will make them return to this community when their studies are complete. We want our young people to know that there is nothing in the world that they cannot do if they believe it in their hearts and if they're willing to work hard for it and if they're willing to sacrifice for it. It is our hope that we have taught them how to lead the parade and not merely just be in it. We thank Dr. Thomas for her constant support and wisdom and we thank you for your moral support. We thank Mr. Abolt for his desire to include them constantly in the equation. We thank Mr. Kaigler for his support. We certainly can't forget Pete Nichols who has become a friend indeed to this group of fine young people. I certainly thank my staff who constantly go above and beyond the call of duty and above their work duties to make this Youth Commission happen, and that's Ms. Debra Allen, Ms. Connie Roberts, Ms. Jill Grove and Ms. Louise Copeland. And, lastly, but prominent among them all, we thank the parents of these wonderful young people. We thank them for trusting their young treasures to us. We thank them for believing in the Chatham County Youth Commission, and we thank them for the support they have given us through the years, and we consider them our family. We'd just like the parents present of our Youth Commission graduates to please stand at this time. [Applause.]

Chairman Hair said, Van [Johnson], I'd also like to --, we have the Superintendent of Schools with us this morning. It's quite an honor to have here and I'd like for Superintendent Virginia Edwards to stand and be recognized as well. [Applause.] Chairman Hair said, also Dr. Jerry Smith, who is on her cabinet. [Applause.] Thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, Dr. Hair and Dr. Thomas, if you don't mind, would you please come down and present our graduates with a special gift from Chatham County commemorating this achievement. We're asking the parents of these young people to come up as their names are called.

Brianne Michelle Draffin has served three years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner, one year as secretary and currently serves as co-chairperson. Brianne graduated from St. Andrews School as valedictorian. Through her service on the Youth Commission she obtained an internship with Congressman Jack Kingston's Savannah office and will be attending Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She is the daughter of Mr. Thomas Draffin and Mrs. Naomi Genser.

Tiffany Renee White has served three years as a Chatham County Youth Commission and currently serves as co-chairperson. Tiffany graduated from Beach High School and will be attending Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the daughter of Mrs. Jacqueline White. Dr. Thomas said, her mama's on the way.

Henry Roswell O'Neal has served three years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner and currently serves as vice chairperson. Henry graduated from Beach High School and will be attending Florida State University in Gainesville, Florida. He is the son of Ms. Hattie O'Neal.

Shraddha Subramanian has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner and currently serves as an executive board member. Shraddha graduated from Jenkins High School and will be attending Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Subramanian.

Bridgette Janel Bess served one year as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Bridgette graduated from Beach High School. Bridgette will be attending Albany State University in Albany, Georgia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bess.

Eric Eugene Brown has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Eric graduated from Benedictine Military School. Eric will be attending North Carolina A&T University in Durham, North Carolina. He is the son of R. Emerson and Dr. Carol Brown.

Brooke Courtney Fortson has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Brooke graduated from Savannah Country Day School and will be attending Howard University in Washington, DC. She is the daughter of Dr. Mark Fortson and Attorney Gwendolyn Fortson-Waring.

Kathryn Alice George has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Katie graduated from Savannah Christian Preparatory School as salutatorian and will be attending Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the daughter of Mrs. Mary George.

Frederick "Eric" Lindsay has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Eric graduated from Johnson High School as salutatorian and will be attending Armstrong Atlantic State University right here in Savannah, Georgia. He is the son of Mr. Fred and Mrs. Sara Lindsay.

Wilbert Smith, Jr., has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Wilbert graduated from Jenkins High School and will be also attending Armstrong Atlantic State University right here in Savannah, Georgia. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Smith-Whiting. And last, and certainly not least:

Lydia Katherine Williams has served two years as a Chatham County Youth Commissioner. Lydia graduated from Savannah Christian Preparatory School and will be attending Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry K. Williams.

Mr. Johnson said, we have three Youth Commissioners that could not be with us:

Joseph Burnsed Geffen, who will be attending Occidental College in Louisiana, Justin Heddleson, who will be attending Georgia Southwest State University, and Lynn Vassar, who will attending DeVry Institute.

Mr. Johnson said, ladies and gentlemen, the 2001 class of the Chatham County Youth Commission. I believe we have remarks from our Youth Commission co-chairs.

Ms. Brianne Michelle Draffin said, greetings, Commissioners. I would like to express my thanks to the entire Chatham County Commission for giving me the opportunity to serve for the past three years on the Youth Commission. Dr. Thomas, thank you so much for your vision and support. The Youth Commission would not be here without you and we would not have had this wonderful experience as Youth Commissioners. I would like to, also like to thank all of our advisers and especially our senior adviser, Mr. Van Johnson. He has given countless of his time putting up with us and making sure the Youth Commission runs smoothly. The Youth Commission has grown so much, even during the time that I have served, from a local dream to a nationally known body. We helped other start Youth Commissions of their own, sponsored many events for youth in our area, and even met with Secretary of State Colin Powell on our annual trip to Washington, DC. I'm also very excited about traveling with the Youth Commission to Atlanta in two weeks to participate and support Chatham County in the All-American Community competition. I would not trade my time on the Youth Commission for anything. Again, on behalf of the entire Youth Commission, I thank all of you for this incredible opportunity and ask for your continued support of this amazing organization.

Ms. Tiffany Renee White said, good morning. First, I'd like to say to the Commission for the gift that they have given me this morning. I will cherish it always along with other gifts that they have given me, not only mentally and physically but also in my heart because the Commission has served as parents for the whole Chatham County Youth Commission. It has been

a long four years of high school, and with your support these past three years as a Youth Commissioner, it has made the task a whole lot easier. I would now –, I would also like to thank the Youth Commission for electing me as their co-chair for the 2000-2001 session. I have had a wonderful time and I hope that –, well, I know that as the years go on, the Youth Commission will only continue in tradition to get better each and every year. Along with our trip to DC, this year we met with Secretary of State Colin Powell, and I know as long as our tradition is getting better each year, next year you all are going to meet the President. To Brianne [Draffin], it has been an excellent –, a pleasure to serve as your co-chair, and I know you will agree with me that technology is a wonderful thing and we have enhanced our friendship greatly. I also look forward in two weeks to going with the Commission to Atlanta to serve –, well, to participate in the All-County [sic] competition. I know that we will bring home the trophy because we are the best county in America. To our mother and friend, Dr. Thomas, we cannot thank you enough for your love towards us during our service on the Youth Commission. You have been there for us through the good and bad times, and we will all be thankful. On behalf of the Class of 2001, we would like to present to you these roses, which as you will notice are different colors, but when they come together they form a beautiful bouquet. The same with the Youth Commission. We are all different, but when we come together we are a beautiful bouquet. Thank you.

Mr. Henry Roswell O'Neal said, good morning. The Beverly M. Whitehead Award is named in memory of Mrs. Beverly M. Whitehead, formerly Human Resource Director of Chatham County. Mrs. Whitehead assisted Dr. Priscilla Thomas in initially developing the Chatham County Youth Commission in 1992 and resurrecting it in 1996. Mrs. Whitehead was a champion of youth and a strong advocate for the Chatham County Youth Commission. Since she left us in August of 1998, two concerts have been held in her memory to fund the Chatham County Youth Commission, the Summer Bonanza Partnership and for medical research. The members of the Chatham County Commission wanted a way to recognize and think of those in this community and beyond who have demonstrated a love for the youth and [inaudible] for the support of the Chatham County Youth Commission. Since there are so many people who have helped us greatly over the past five years, we have decided to recognize five individuals this year and offer an award to one or two people for the years to come. The first recipient of the Beverly M. Whitehead Award was a no-brainer. This woman is a Chatham County Youth Commissioner [sic]. She has given so much of her time and energy to the Chatham County Youth Commission that it's only fitting and appropriate for this first Beverly M. Whitehead Award. This award is presented to our mother, our founder and our friend and everyone's mother and friend, Dr. Priscilla Thomas.

Ms. Shraddha Subramanian said, good morning. Our next recipient is a sweetheart of the Chatham County Youth Commission. When we were trying to get the Youth Commission known in the community, she stepped right in. She helped us to get national recording artists to our events and she made sure that we were represented when we needed to be. She has helped us coordinate our Youth Draft Conference, our Youth in the Chief Conference and our annual Youth Rallies. We love her here and we hope she knows it. I proudly present this next award to Mrs. Jewel Carter Warnock, Director of Music for Cumulus Broadcasting and E-93 Jams.

Ms. Bridgette Janel Bess said, our next recipient has been a constant friend of the Chatham County Youth Commission for the past three years. It is because of this person that we have received national attention from counties from this program. This woman recognized that we were an All-American Community even before we applied for that recognition. For the past few years this lady has arranged for us to not only visit but to actively participate in the Annual Legislative Conference of the National Association of Counties. She could not be here with us today, but we know that her thoughts are with us on this day. This award is presented to Ms. Jacquelyn J. Byers, Director of Research for the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC.

Mr. Eric Eugene Brown said, the next recipient has devoted her entire adult life to the education and welfare of children in this community. She has served as teacher, administrator, principal and eventually superintendent of the Savannah-Chatham public school system. She was instrumental in the development of the Youth Commission by encouraging principals and administrators to not only recognize Youth Commissioners as representative of the youth in this community, but also allow Youth Commissioners to be excused on official functions and trips. I am pleased to present this award to Ms. Virginia Edwards, Superintendent of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

Ms. Edwards said, good morning. You know, I think you have the right slogan, if I may, "Vocalizing our views for a prosperous future." I had the pleasant opportunity of coming before the Youth Commission, but I had not been prepared for the challenge that I was going to receive, because believe me there is no hesitation in vocalizing their views. Do not think in any way that this group of young inspiring minds, that this group is intimidated by anyone or any particular issue and, quite frankly, that's what we need. As I look to the future in my aging I want to be sure that I'm in good hands, and I can assure you that the Youth Commission, the experiences that these young people have had, certainly puts me at ease because I know that I will be in good hands. And I want to thank the Chatham County Commission and Dr. Priscilla Thomas, Mr. Van Johnson, for not only having the vision to create a Youth Commission, but also have –, continuing with an ongoing commitment to these young people because this is our business, and I believe if we're going to change and improve the quality of life in our community that we all must be committed to helping to raise the children because we all own them, and I am very pleased, honored and touched that you would recognize me in this way because I truly believe that our young people are our future and we must invest in them. Thank you very much.

Ms. Brooke Courtney Fortson said, last, but certainly not least, is a man who's been a friend of the Youth Commission from the very beginning. He has always been available to us when we've needed him. It's because of him that we've had the opportunity to meet Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, when he was in town. He assisted us in meeting Secretary of State Colin Powell when we were in Washington, DC, this year. He always gives us the red carpet

treatment whenever we're in DC, taking off time from his busy schedule to give tours himself. He is my friend and a friend of the Chatham County Youth Commission. I proudly present this award to Congressman Jack Kingston.

Commissioner Thomas said, this is truly a great honor. First of all, let me thank the Chairman, Dr. Hair, and the members of the Chatham County Commission for your support because without your support this could not be possible. We want you to know that the investments that you have made with these young people certainly was a great investment, and I challenge you to continue in investing in our youth because if we give them the opportunities that we have given them, we see the product, you know, the end results right here. I'm full today because it's like, you know, your own child getting ready to leave home and you don't want to see that, and I have been so close to these young people, but I'll always be with them and follow them throughout lifetime journey. And I want to say to the parents thank you for your support because it's with —, could not have been made possible without the support of the parents as well, and they truly have been there for us, not only for the children, but they have supported us as advisers. I want to thank Mr. Van Johnson. This man has more energy than anybody I've seen. He knows how to deal with the young people, you know, he can deal with the language and all that kind of stuff, and —, but yet he is very demanding and he gets the respect that he needs even though he knows how to deal with the situation, and that's very good because, you know, you need to have all of that to be successful, and I want him to know that I really and truly thank him for all that he has done and continues to do. Also, to Mrs. Allen and to Mrs. Roberts, they too have been there every moment. Thank you so very much, and as each of you go your separate ways, I want to say to you God's blessing and hope that you will continue to be very successful. Thank you so very much.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas, on behalf of the Commission and the community, I would like to thank you so much for your leadership on this and your vision because truly without Dr. Thomas we would not have had a Youth Commission and it's been an absolutely wonderful program for our young people, and we all owe a great deal of gratitude to Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Murray said, for the Youth Commission, you know, the media's here. They normally cover our meetings, they normally pick up the negatives and not a whole lot of the positives when there are positives, and I'll probably have a negative for saying something about the media, and that's okay, but if you'll look around at the youth that were up here today and what they've been doing in this community and what they will do in the future, and also the fact that each one of them, if I'm not mistaken, when they called out the name, they also called out the college they are going to, and I don't think we had one person graduating from that Youth Commission that's not going to college. That says an awful lot by itself, but we've got all the publicity about the school shootings and all these other things going on, but this is a prime example of what can be done to overcome a lot of this, and I commend each one of you, your parents and your teachers, for what you've done and wish you the best when you go off to school, and you're pretty much on your own for a while, a little bit anyway, but it's going to be a little different, but I think you'll enjoy it. We look forward to you coming back to this community and continuing in your support of the community and getting involved in what goes on here. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I basically was thinking what Commissioner Murray said there. It would be nice if we could open up the front page of the paper and see everyone of your pictures on the front page tomorrow. You're a shining example of what determination and great education, everything. You're the best example of what can happen in Chatham County with our good Board of Education, the Chatham County Commission working together with bright young determined people. So I challenge the press out there, all walks there, the television and the newspaper, let's get some good news there and show these young outstanding Chatham County residents, put them on the front page, show the good of Chatham County because they are the good, and I appreciate everything y'all did. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Rivers said, first, I want to thank the Youth Commission for being you. I have an ego and I'm very active on the national level, and when I walk among my peers, they were so impressed with your participation and the various committees, especially within my committee. It just makes you feel good for someone to come back and reflect that you had input on decisions that we would make on a national level, so I appreciate you, I love you, and I wish you God speed, and if there's anything that I can do for anyone of you at any time, just feel free to call me. I love you, you're a part of the family. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I think I, too, would like to challenge the Savannah news media. You know, we have such a very small percentage of our youth in Savannah that ever gets in trouble. We're talking actually, probably two or three percent of the entire youth population in Chatham County or the City of Savannah that ever gets in trouble, yet when they do they're always in screaming headlines on the six o'clock news and like World War II headlines on the front page of the Savannah paper, yet when we have such distinguished youngsters like we have in our audience right now, I would certainly challenge the Savannah newspaper and all three television stations to take a good look at that and give them their just due because that will help tremendously for other youngsters to do as good, and I too am very, very proud of each and every one of you. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Gellatly. Again, we wish you all the very, very best in the future.

=====

VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

=====

VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. COHEN'S RETREAT (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel is not here, so we will pass over that item.

* * *

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel has now entered the building and he has --, he wants to talk about Cohen's Retreat.

Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I just --, when I put this item on the agenda, this item had not been resolved. I think most of you have followed the story that Cohen's Retreat was going to be converted as a homeless shelter and we have gotten --, it's right in the middle of --. The Clerk said, excuse me, can you wait because this is not going to be coming out on the tape with all the background noise. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel waited while audience members left the room.] Chairman Hair said, okay, continue. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Cohen's Retreat is in the middle of several very nice neighborhoods, which are also in my district. These --, I cannot tell you how proud and excited I was to see the turnout when there was a community meeting on short notice. Over 200 concerned citizens turned out to express their views on this. I also want to publicly state my respect and admiration for the Homeless Authority, their director, Mike Elliott, and their whole board. When they saw the turnout of the people and they heard the people's fears and concerns about what was going on there, they had the courage to say we need to reconsider this. They did reconsider it and they changed their minds and Cohen's Retreat is now not going to be a halfway house or a drug treatment facility, a homeless shelter, or whatever it is or could have been in the middle of some stable neighborhoods. It is great just to see the people involved in the public forum, both sides giving information, listening to each other, and I think we've had an excellent resolution of that. What I'd like to say, if anyone is really listening, that if people do get involved, they can make a difference. I was asked repeatedly by residents in that area, "Is it going to make any difference that we turned out?" and I told them it would, if it didn't make any difference here I'm sure it would have made a difference at the MPC, but just their turnout and their expressions of concern turned the tide of what was going on, and I'm real glad to see that resolution. This is not to say that, you know, I've already said good things about the Homeless Authority, and they do excellent work, we've supported them, but it's just not the right location and I think they made the right decision. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Jackel.

=====

2. ADVANCING SECOND READING ON ISLANDS PLAN ON TODAY'S AGENDA, SEE ITEM XII-2 (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I know we have a lot of people in the audience, and I would really request that we move this up to one of the first items on the agenda so they don't have to sit through the whole meeting on the Islands Land Use Plan, if we could do that.

Chairman Hair said, without objection we will move it up.

[NOTE: No objection was made; therefore, Item XII-2 was taken out of order and was heard as the next item on the agenda.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

At the request of Commissioner Murray, Item XII-2 was taken out of order and was heard next on the agenda.

=====

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 9:47 a.m., and reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

The Chatham Area Transit Authority was adjourned and the Board reconvened as the County Commission at 10:40 a.m.

=====

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 (*).

- * 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE SAVANNAH AND OGEECHEE CANAL CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN PROPOSED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANAL CORRIDOR AS A MULTI-USE TRAIL.**
Tabled at meeting of January 26, 2001. *Public meeting was held Thursday, May 24, 2001. See report on compromise alternative.*
[DISTRICTS 6, 7, and 8.]

Chairman Hair said, I need a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved.

Commissioner Rayno asked, can I be excused first. Chairman Hair said, yes, we need to recuse Mr. Rayno. State your reason for recusal. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm a member of East Canal Society and also had business dealings with the East Canal Society and hope to have future dealings with them.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to recuse Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Jackel said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present; Commissioner Rayno did not cast a vote.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Rayno said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, now I'll entertain a motion to take item number one off the table. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll move. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The Clerk said, we need more votes than that. Commissioner Odell said, let's vote, people. Chairman Hair said, this is the motion to take it off the table. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have Jo Hickson with us today. Jo [Hickson], I'll ask you, if you would, just come up to the microphone and I'll be asking you a question or two in just a few minutes, but basically I'll let you know I'm happy to report that we had a meeting with the Bush Road residents and basically had about 35 people approve what was recommended and about three people opposed it, so I was really happy with that part. Since then we've had some questions come up which needed to be addressed, and one of the questions was on page six of the master plan, which was under the controversy potential, and I spoke with Ms. Hickson and she is saying that if we approve this master plan today that that part would be eliminated from the master plan, under controversial—, controversy potential under page six, because there would not be bridges involved there. So that part would be struck from the overall master plan. On—, another concern from the residents on Bush Road was about the historical designation, and briefly, if I could get you, Ms. Hickson, please explain what that entails.

Ms. Jo Hickson said, the current designation of S&O Canal is a National Register of Historic Places District. That's the same designation as Historic Savannah. That is currently in place. What I believe the concern is about was an additional scenic designation that was proposed by the master plan, and that was proposed in the form of an overlay zone. That designation has been omitted from the master plan, and so if you approve the master plan today, you would not be approving that scenic corridor designation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Another concern expressed by the residents in the area, actually by me on this one, was the fences, but it's now my understanding, and I want to state it for the record, that as far as the residents go on Bush Road if this is approved today if the property owner wants a fence on the property distinguishing the property lines, that would be accommodated through this plan, but if the property owner does not want the fence distinguishing the two areas, then a fence will not be installed. Is that correct, Ms. Hickson? Ms. Hickson said, that's correct. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Basically, if we could then, what I'd like to go through here is just to update the Commissioners, which they've read the material here, but also just to give you the chance to correct me if I'm wrong here, what we're going to do along Bush Road is basically two four-foot wide connecting to Bush Road —, paths connecting to that, which would be bicycle trails and no historical designation there. Ms. Hickson said, that's correct. There will be two paved shoulders, they would be marked for bicycle facilities on either side of the existing pavement. In other words, you'd widen the pavement. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. And let me ask you this, Ms. Hickson, and maybe this is a question that Russ [Abolt] or the attorney can answer. Should because we were not able to obtain the full documents until recently, the full revised master plan, should anyone researching the information from anywhere, Bush Road area, find out that we accidentally left a section in there, could that be brought back up for [inaudible].

County Manager Abolt said, sure. We understand the complexity and the volume and you're always open, but I think the important thing is to make the progress you're about to do. It can always be fine tuned.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, great. One other thing I want to address for the public, the people in the audience and people watching at home, is I'd like to read something on page 38. It's under segments B and C, number 2. I'd just like to read this for the record. This addresses access issues for the residents along Bush Road: "Bush Road was built and is maintained by Chatham County. It is wholly located within the SOCC, owned by the City of Savannah in fee simple. Mr. Michael Brown, City Administrator, made the following statements at the May 24, 2001 Public Meeting, concerning access across the canal corridor: The City does not intend to revoke current access. Future development would need to be permitted by the City. The City has no intentions of allowing access to new users. The City does not intend to stop use of existing access. Existing culverts at houses can remain." Commissioner Kicklighter said, here's where there was a typing error. It currently states: "Now new access across the canal will be permitted." That should be and I make the recommendation that should be: "No new access across the canal will be permitted." That's what Mr. Michael Brown stated. "It is not the City's intent to block access if property with access across the canal is sold, but it must be sold for the same and not a new use." Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. What I stated to some of the residents that expressed a concern they would like to see this in the form of a vote from the Mayor and Council of the City of Savannah is something previously we've discussed here. A Mayor and Council cannot bind a future Mayor and Council, so basically that would be worthless. The best that I believe we can do as far as today is read this for public record, let it be known that it is not the intent of this Commission to affect the access one way or another for the residents along Bush Road. Michael Brown addressing this issue, it's now in public record here in the plan, and we now have it in public record as far as the minutes of this meeting. So I'm really happy with that. At this time I just want to ask if Hilda Whitaker, Herman Lee, any questions that we can answer at this point before we move forward.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, I think Mrs. Whitaker had something concerning the technical part of it.

Mrs. Hilda Whitaker said, I did receive a copy of the technical manual I've been seeking on Tuesday, and it's this thick [indicating], and I haven't had a chance to go through it. My mother has been ill. Some of the documents in it were not complete. I didn't get all the pages, which probably happened in the printing process, and I did not receive a copy of the revised master plan as requested because when I check revisions I go page by page sentence by sentence and then make me a list of what it is. One thing that concerns me overall in the plan is the wetland regulations that the citizens have to adhere to on their property, and my government is fixing to ask through this master plan that my government be exempt from the regulations to develop this project because the canal is used as a drainage ditch. Surely my government doesn't want their citizens to follow regulations that they aren't willing to follow themselves. I think that we need to rethink reading that part that says that you're going to ask to be exempt from it. It may cost money, but you think of what people who have to go through the regulations feel like and then, you know, you're exempt from something minor like that. Also, I'd like to ask you if the money calculation has been changed since you're making these revisions? Thank you.

Ms. Jo Hickson said, I can address the last first. Yes, the budgets have been revised based on the new revised master plan. The budget has also been revised in accordance. And to address Mrs. Whitaker's concerns about the wetland issues, it's not an easy thing. Wetland issues never are. Currently a portion of the canal in the Bush Road area in particular is used for drainage. This was not the original intent when the canal was constructed. It was not constructed as a drainage corridor. However, currently it is serving as a drainage corridor and it is maintained by Chatham County as a drainage way. And I did make some recommendations in the master plan concerning the need to review its functions in regard to drainage, and I think that that would be wise for the County to pursue, and then that would impact the wetland issues, and if the canal is not used for drainage, then I would concur that all wetland issues need to be addressed as they would be normally through Federal review. However, because portions of the canal are currently used for drainage, I think it would be appropriate for the County to review that to see the appropriateness of the drainage function and whether or not it can serve as drainage in some segments, which it currently is doing. And so that is the recommendation of the master plan that the canal corridor actually be reviewed for its drainage function. In other words, the master plan did not solve whether or not the canal is existing as a drainage corridor, which in some sections it is.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I just wanted to ask Mrs. Whitaker again. You're referring to your technical manual that you have not had an opportunity to peruse. Did you feel that given the opportunity to review that and if possible to come back on the following meeting and make a decision at that time would be very helpful? Mrs. Whitaker said, yes, if you'll wait

a minute, I'll show it to you. I lugged it in here today. [NOTE: Mrs. Whitaker shows manual.] Mrs. Whitaker said, I got it Tuesday and I have not had a chance to thoroughly read it, but I have tagged some mistakes, as you see.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Lee. Mr. Herman Lee asked, are you finished, Mrs. Whitaker?

Mrs. Whitaker said, sir, I just would –, I would appreciate the opportunity, but if you can assure me that I'll be able to get the conflicts resolved, but I have started tagging this.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mrs. Whitaker. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Lee.

Mr. Herman Lee said, and this is –, the current time is only concerning what Mrs. Thomas asked Mrs. Whitaker, from a good while ago the –, I and some of my neighbors have been requesting the opportunity to review this and Mr. Golden's not seen fit to allow us that opportunity. So we will be requesting this time, and I'll go into a lengthy discussion of that that you not take a vote on this today simply for that reason, it's not been provided to us.

Chairman Hair said, it seems to me, Mr. Kicklighter –, I thought this was ready to take off the table, but apparently it's not. There's still a lot of unanswered questions out there and it may be appropriate to retable the item.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I would have no problem to give them the time to review it, but I would like to state that I thank Ms. Hickson for her work. What started out here as a devastating possibility of eliminating access to properties, historical designations that would not permit the landowners to use their property in the way they deem necessary, started as possibly sidewalks going on their side of the property on the canal. Ms. Hickson has graciously worked and done a fine job of taking every bit of that along Bush Road and turning that into nothing but two shoulders running down the road that will permit the bicyclists to exercise and do what they would like and also protects the property owners, but I have no problem if you want to table to give them time –.

Chairman Hair said, I do think it's probably appropriate to allow time for everybody to ask –, I mean, this is a long term project and –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Chairman Hair said, delaying two weeks is not going to really cause any serious problems. I would entertain a motion to table.

Commissioner Murray said, move to table. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present; Commissioner Rayno was recused from voting.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Ms. Hickson.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Jackel moved to recuse Commissioner Rayno from this item due to a business conflict of interest. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present; Commissioner Rayno did not cast a vote.]
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to take this item from the table and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present; Commissioner Rayno was recused from voting.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to table the request for approval of the Savannah and Ogeechee Canal Corridor Master Plan proposed for development of the canal corridor as a multi-use trail. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present; Commissioner Rayno was recused from voting.]

=====

- * **2. TO AMEND THE INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH TO ALLOW APPOINTEES TO SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS ON THE SAVANNAH-CHATHAM LAND BANK. Tabled at meeting of March 9, 2001.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor of taking it off the table vote yes, opposed no. Everybody needs to vote. This is taking it off the table. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, this is an issue that has been on the table for a while, but there was a very productive telephone conference call involving representatives in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County, and their Land Bank Authority recently. The issue has to do with something that's been advocated by Tax Commissioner Danny Powers, who could not be here today, but I feel that with your permission I can convey to you, and I also have his permission to convey to you his enthusiasm for an opportunity that's before us. It is to restructure the Land Bank Authority and, in effect, just not in the current structure, which though working well has not reached the potential it has either in Fulton County or the

City of Atlanta, and the difference is that though ours works well, Atlanta and Fulton County has used theirs as an arm of the urban renewal efforts. It has involved some infusion of money by the City of Atlanta and Fulton County to make that happen. By what essentially, if I may describe it is, the Land Bank Authority masses certainly underutilized depressed land and then makes that available for redevelopment in conjunction with various redevelopment agencies within their jurisdiction. That has been very successful just prior to, through and after the Olympics. The Executive Director for that agency, as well as Atlanta representatives and Fulton County representatives are generally most supportive of the product they have. The change –, it needs though some further tweaking, it needs some further refinement and some further agreement between the City of Savannah and Chatham County. The particular issue that's been tabled has been one of form, and by that I mean is that we have two County staff members that have done an excellent job, Mr. Monahan and Mr. Anderson, and they've done in serving on the Land Bank Authority to the point that the intergovernmental agreement prohibits two consecutive terms. That was the reason for what amounted to a fairly routine and ministerial recommendation that was picked up by the Tax Commissioner, who was aware of what was going on in Fulton County and the City of Atlanta, and saying now might be the time to look at revamping the Land Bank Authority. There was no objection to the ministerial action before you, but the opportunity was there to talk about the possibilities.

Chairman Hair said, I would also comment. I've been involved in this and I commend Commissioner Danny Powers. He's the one that really brought this to our attention about the potential. What this really will do is it will allow us to generate revenue from tax held properties that we now have difficulty doing. We've also met –, the County Manager's met with the City Manager and the Mayor's also supportive of this, I met with the Mayor of Savannah on this, and I just think this –, it's really basically a technical amendment that simply will allow us to do some things. Fulton County, as the County Manager has said, has been very successful with this Land Bank, and Commissioner Powers has –, sees this as an opportunity for us to raise revenue and to, also as the Manager said, to help with some urban renewal areas.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, you said they're redoing this whole plan, is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, in fact, I've some more –, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray said, well, my point is, you know, instead of amending it where they can serve more than two consecutive terms, why would we not say that because of those –, the position they're in, just as you and the City Manager are on MPC, that it be done the same way and you wouldn't have to worry about terms. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Permit me, it's two different issues. The one issue on the limitation in the intergovernmental agreement is very minor, very, very minor. That's what precipitated the who discussion. The opportunity here is not a party, or not represented in the staff report. Essentially, the staff report says, yes, allow these two people to proceed. What the Tax Commissioner is advocating and the Chairman has summarized is changing the role of the Land Bank Authority, and it would involve within a year an infusion of dollars from the City of Savannah and Chatham County to in effect allow this Authority to be about being the right hand of redevelopment, and by that they would have to have the staff and the wherewithal to not only manage property that is damaged and challenged by tax sale, but also being able to aggregate that and then market that for redevelopment. That's the change, and that has nothing to do in this case with whether Mr. Monahan or Mr. Anderson proceed. This was only used as an opportunity to open the door to discussion. Commissioner Murray said, well, the writeup on here says to amend the inter-local agreement with the City of Savannah to allow appointees to serve more than two consecutive terms on the City of Savannah-Chatham Land Bank. County Manager Abolt said, you're right, sir. Commissioner Murray said, that's what it says. County Manager Abolt said, you're absolutely right, sir, and that was the issue that was tabled. Commissioner Murray said, I know that. But that's not what we're discussing? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, sir, we're not discussing that. That –. Commissioner Murray asked, why are we discussing something else that came up under that?

Chairman Hair said, we are discussing that issue. County Manager Abolt said, okay, sir. It –. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's not what I'm being told. I mean, I don't have a problem with what y'all are talking about, but I want to know how we're doing it.

County Manager Abolt said, well, let me try to explain. Let me try –, I did a poor job of explaining. Let me try to reintroduce the subject. The subject came before you in March as something we thought was quite simple. The Tax Commissioner about the same time I believe had conversation with the Chairman and they said there's an opportunity to do things differently. This particular routine item then was used as the entree in to the discussion I've just summarized for you. Whatever you might do with this, you may do with it in the context of the ministerial function, but the Tax Commissioner has recommended, and I do support it based on the potential, that in effect rather than allowing the membership to continue as it is, certainly Mr. Monahan and Mr. Anderson continue, but what I was going to advise you, that there is a strong support to appoint an elected official from this body to serve on the Land Bank Authority partnered with someone from the City Council and to do that for a test for the next six to twelve months, allow that board then to fully appreciate what its potential might be. There is some, as the Chairman knows very well, there is some reluctance, not at the level of the Mayor, but through the City Attorney, as to what can be done, so there still must be more work done there, but if you wish, you can, in effect, not only approve this, but instruct staff to expand the membership on the Land Bank Authority to include one of your own. The same opportunity would be there for the City of Savannah, and then for a minimum of at least six months that body would deliberate and discuss the opportunities, but I must remind you that if this goes on as it hopefully will, that there will become a point in the next six to twelve months where we'll have an issue of infusing money into the Land Bank Authority because this is not continuing the status quo. This is changing it completely. And I apologize for any confusion.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Murray said, again, I don't have any problem with that. That sounds great. My question is I don't think we can be discussing all that when we've got it written on the agenda a specific that we're only two positions, non-consecutive terms. County Manager Abolt said, that's a part -. Commissioner Murray said, to me it should be another item on the agenda. I don't have a problem with it.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we are -, we are going to vote up or down either on just this issue of extending the consecutive terms, that's all we're voting on. I think what-, I can't speak for the Manager, I think what he was trying to do was put it in perspective of a bigger issue than just -. County Manager Abolt said, it must be addressed. Chairman Hair said, we'll have to vote on it later, but this is all we're voting on today is the additional extension. Commissioner Murray said, you could, permit me, you could, I would assume, because this was meant to be an amendment to the inter-local agreement, instruct staff to prepare a further amendment that would appoint one of your members to it. Chairman Hair said, sure. Well, hopefully, that's the kind of motion that we'll get.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'll make that kind of motion in order to do that. The reservation that I have on this whole thing is where will we find the revenue to create this body, and is it a continuous revenue that's going -, revenue stream that's going to be built in there? That's my concern. Chairman Hair said, I can answer that, Commissioner Rivers, because I was in several meetings on this. This is a case where it will eventually generate -. Commissioner Rivers said, it will eventually -. Chairman Hair said, yes, and it will generate a revenue stream much higher than the cost of starting it. I think what the Manager referred to is potentially there is some start-up costs, but we would deal with that at that time as to whether or not we wanted to do that. We don't have to do that, but this vote up or down today would not say we are going to increase funding today. Commissioner Rivers said, I understand that. Chairman Hair said, so I just think it's a first step. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, I want to be a little further ahead of the curve. Chairman Hair said, sure. Commissioner Rivers said, I want to know and I want to know that that money's there because we're going to have such a shortfall.

Chairman Hair said, I think the person that-, and you may want to talk to Commissioner Powers about coming before the Commission. He is -, he's gotten to be a pretty good expert on this issue and he can, I think, tell all of the Commission the real benefits and advantages of doing this, and I think that would be appropriate to do so everybody's up to speed and everybody has the same level of information about this. Why don't you contact Danny Powers and ask him to do that. County Manager Abolt said, I'll be glad to. He was already committed and could not be in town today.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno asked, so why don't we just amend what's on there today and then at a future date we'll do what -? Chairman Hair said, exactly, that's all we're talking about today, so I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Rayno said, I move we approve the amendment to the inter-local agreement with the City of Savannah to allow appointees to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Savannah-Chatham Land Bank. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to amend the inter-local agreement with the City of Savannah to allow appointees to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Savannah-Chatham Land Bank. Commissioner Thomas said, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

=====

- * **3. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF HIRING FREEZE. The following (#2 and #3 under "Facts and Findings) were tabled at the meeting of May 11, 2001:**
- **POLICE: MAJOR (1 POSITION AND RESULTING VACANCIES IF PROMOTION FROM WITHIN); OFFICER (1 POSITION)**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, I'm sure this item will generate a lot of discussion, and I will start the discussion off since I was the one that originally had a problem with this and I still have a problem with this. And let me restate my problems. One is if we approve this today, this would give three majors at the Chatham County Police Department. The management study recommended two. I also would point out that in recent years we have also increased the number of captains in the Chatham County Police Department, and the Chief will correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we have gone from three captains to five captains. We now have five captains and if we approve this today, he would have three majors. That would put us roughly at, what, eight management positions. If you compare us to the Savannah Police Department, which is much, much larger than the Chatham County Police Department. They only have a combination of ten to supervise a much, much larger department. So I just think that at this budget situation we're in, that this is the appropriate time, I think, to -, with a

vacancy, this way nobody loses their job. We waited until the vacancy occurred, which I think is the proper way to do this, but I would oppose waiving the hiring freeze and a hiring addition made. I'll entertain anybody –, I'm sure the Chief wants to –, Chief, you want to go ahead and make your presentation? Chairman Hair recognized Chief Sprague.

Chief Sprague said, to clarify the records, we have had three majors, and I came in in '96 and we have five captains now. To get the fifth captain we converted a lieutenant's position, and that came about after we moved in the new building our technology increased in our computer-aided dispatch system to the point where one captain could not handle the services that we provide from our administrative services division. Going to another thing, I don't compare the Chatham County Police Department to the management and the management techniques at Savannah Police Department. They have different problems, they address them in different ways than we do, but I will point out, with the three majors system and the command staff that we have at the Chatham County Police Department, up until this vacancy occurred, has provided the citizens that we serve in the unincorporated of Chatham –, areas of Chatham County, a very, very good police service at a minimum of cost, and it was done with a management team that included that third major. The management study, when it first came in and in their final report they recommended that we should consider the abolishment of a major's position, but not to be done then but after a vacancy occurred or to increase the operational and strategic duties of the majors we had in place and if those increased and the results defined it, that we should keep the system that we have. In the report that we furnished to the Commissioners at the request of Commissioner Murray at the last meeting, we furnished the history of the management study as it pertained to the Police Department. The things that aren't in there is –, I remember one in the initial report where they were cut and paste where they told us that our dispatch function should be transferred to the town fire department. We had a lot of problems with getting the management study coordinated so that they were directing their attention at our problems and to try to address quality as opposed to numbers crunching. There were a lot of problems with it. We had additional meetings with the leader of the group and finally got it straight, and then the final recommendations came out that basically if what we were doing worked, we should remain with what we have. And that major system, we've been able to keep services at good levels, at extra good levels while we've had vacancies in the past two years, enormous numbers of vacancies, and while we –, we had to patch around them using the majors as the commanders of their divisions to ensure that with less manpower we were doing more or at least keeping up with our services. The results from that two-year plan was the result of the three majors in place providing the strategic leadership we needed during short officer times, keeping response times to the citizens up, and we were addressing increased population and –, which automatically increases traffic, traffic problems, incident reports. We were still doing that with the three majors system. Crime declined over those five years by 19%, and that's an attribute to the three majors system that is in the Chatham County Police Department. I think you'll find other Police Departments that are performing well that are nationally accredited and state-certified would be envious of the record that we achieved over that time. Most recently, this was brought up as a budget problem, with regard to the management study, but the Police Department had a targeted figure in its coming budget, and the targeted figure for reduction was \$600,000. We provided that to the Manager's office and to the Commission that we are cutting \$600,000 going into July 1st to balance the deficits that were in the budget. We're in the, of course, the Special Service District and we have certain units in the M&O budget, but with regard to bringing it up as a budget item, it can also be looked as a –, if we had to convert to a two majors system that there would be an overload on those two majors in providing those services. We did not go from three captains to five. We went from four captains to five by converting a lieutenant's position, and we did that at a very inexpensive price. Because that's what the overall management of the department needed at the time, that's what we did and it has worked to the benefit of the citizens we serve.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Chief. Any questions? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Chief, I heard you on the intercom. Your budget reduction, does that anticipate or include the monies for the vacant position? Chief Sprague said, sir, I'm a member of the Southside Optimist Club and, consequently, I'm an optimist. So we did program our budget to include the \$75,000 in salary and benefits that would cost out that position. Yes sir, it's in there and that's –, we made our cuts with that in there.

Chairman Hair asked, Russ [Abolt], do you want to answer that? County Manager Abolt said, yes. Just to testify to not only my position, but certainly the Board's well aware of we do have some budget challenges. We've had them this year, we'll face them next year. I have been very proud of all the appointments I've made since I've been in your Manager. Tom Sprague is at the top of my list of what I think is really a quality appointment. It's my management style in dealing with subordinates to pick good people, allow them to look at what their needs are and then, given full knowledge of our challenges are, to make decisions and make recommendations based on what they see the future of that department. Chief Sprague has been very forthcoming, he's also very understanding of the budget challenges. In spite of everything that we do face, his reductions which will be discussion in the weeks are head are made with the major position because he feels very strongly as a professional that from the standpoint of the quality of the department that we have, the supervision of the employees, that he needs that major position. He's time tested. Certainly with CNT and before that all of the reference checking, all of the people that I've talked to say not only is Tom Sprague a good man, he's a good manager and a professional law enforcement. It would be easy for me to say from the standpoint of balancing the budget to interject myself and say no, here's a possibility; however, in this case, as with all others involving the Police Department and my department's forthright I have been with them in telling them what their budget challenges are, he's made the cuts, he realizes yes the option might have been to cut the major position, but he feels very strongly as a professional he needs that, and I certainly support Chief Sprague.

Commissioner Odell said, I would agree. I think we're fortunate to have Chief Sprague. I don't say that simply because I personally like him. I think he's done an excellent job. Chief, your house is divided by two now? You have two majors, everything flows under those two majors? Chief Sprague said, currently –, yes. Currently we have two majors and a

vacancy in our criminal investigation division. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And the design is to have three majors and to have everything flow up through those three positions? Chief Sprague said, yes sir. Basically everything gets planned by the division, that's where the major has the major input, if you will. Everything gets vented through them. It comes up and we go up/down and down/up management. That includes meetings with the newest officers, the APO's, all through the ranks on problems that are occurring that affect each division. When we get to our administrative services divisions, we're broken down into the communications thing itself with the --, since 1998. There was no way we could continue. We were dealing on contracts, we were dealing with putting a CAD system in with a company out of New York, out of Long Island, we needed computer expertise as well as police background. It takes a lot to run a 911 Center in the fashion that we do it because the 911 Center is under one of those majors, as well as other units that that major is responsible for, but y'all, I believe, or most of you, have called in with constituent concerns about a late call on an ambulance or the ambulance is late or the police didn't respond, and you get that back from that system, which is managed by a major and one captain with regard to, for instance, communications or records management or evidence storage. That captain does a lot, plus the Open Records Act which hit us, I believe, in '99, the State Open Records Act. That caused a lot more paper to flow basically. Commissioner Odell said, I just --, but it's obvious that I've said it's your opinion that in order for you to effectively run your department within budget that you need the third major. Chief Sprague said, yes sir.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then I'd like to make a comment again. Commissioner Thomas said, and I would too. Chairman Hair said, and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just want to agree with several of the previous statements, particularly Mr. Abolt, the County Manager. We all agree the Chief's done an excellent job for us. He's managed his department. I don't think it's time for us to micro-manage his department. We ask him to do a job and he does it the best way he knows how to, and he says this is what he needs, and then coupled with that he's reducing his budget \$600,000. I don't know what else you can ask from someone. He's not asking much of us, so I'm definitely in favor of complying with his request.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll make a couple of comments and then I'll call on Dr. Thomas. I don't always agree with *Savannah News-Press*, but several times the *Savannah News-Press* had editorialized that sometimes we as a body have not been willing to make hard decisions on cost cutting. It's never an easy issue to do something like this, and I think we have to divorce this issue from the personnel involved. I like Chief Sprague, this has got nothing to do with how wonderful a manager he is, and he's a great manager. I have no problem with that. I'll agree with everything that's been said. This is not personal, but this is an opportunity for us in these very trying budget times to do what I think is the right thing by cutting the budget, implementing part of the management study that we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on, and I just want to tell you this, if we vote this today, you're going to have every department head in the County government standing right where the Chief is standing when you begin to want to cut a position out of their departments, and that department head's going to stand up there and give you 15 reasons why that position needs to be filled or why we don't need to cut that cost. So we're going to --, you prepare yourself because you're going to see everyone of the department heads up here saying just what the Chief's saying when you begin to cut departments or cut positions, but I just think this is the perfect time to do the right thing and cut costs and implement management study. It's not an easy decision, Chief, but I just think it's the right thing to do, and I would encourage my fellow Commissioners to think seriously about that. Dr. Thomas and then --.

Commissioner Thomas asked, are these positions --, the salaries for these positions [inaudible], right? Chief Sprague asked, ma'am? Commissioner Thomas said, the salaries --, the positions. Chairman Hair asked, what is the salary of the positions? Commissioner Thomas asked, the salary? Chief Sprague said, with salaries and benefits it's right at about \$75,000. Commissioner Thomas said, 75,000. Chief Sprague said, salary and benefits. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Are you continuing to look at diversifying in that area or will you not be doing that? Chief Sprague said, ma'am, with regard to that, we've provided the Commission through the Manager's office with our plan for imaging the community, and we as a department, including command staff, are behind that. We have --, we have lists of persons that have been interviewed for the major's job that includes minorities, it includes women, and it includes non-minorities. Commissioner Thomas said, that's what I'm referring to. Chief Sprague said, I have not looked over the list to make a decision at this point because of the hold-up in this. Commissioner Thomas said, I'm not asking you about whether you have made a decision. I'm asking you are you considering diversifying in that area in that position was one by a minority. Chief Sprague said, I can put it this way. I have minority candidates that are on that list and they're highly viable candidates. Commissioner Thomas said, and it doesn't necessarily --, and I'm not referring to it that it has to be a black. It could be a woman. You know, it could be of other ethnicity, you know. That's my question. Chief Sprague said, yes ma'am. I've got --, I have African-Americans, white males, white female, as far as the diversity complexion, diversity ethnic complexion of the --, and gender complexion of the list of applicants for that position, and the department has taken a stance on imaging the community that we serve in all ranks. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Kicklighter and then I think we're ready for a vote.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I would like to first say that I think Chief Sprague does a great job. I appreciate everything you do and echo what the Chairman said. Nothing's personal here. I do not believe we should pick and choose the areas where we should have a hiring freeze to reduce expenses. Following the management study's recommendation, taking into account the fact that the unincorporated areas of Chatham County has greatly been reduced over the past eight to ten years, I believe that an increase in the police force is not justified when you're actually losing area at a drastic pace, such as what's going on out on the Westside. Pooler has really grown, annexed unincorporated areas. Garden City did the same. Port Wentworth also did the same thing. Meanwhile the Police Department has actually increased as far as the staff goes when you should have logically seen a reduction there. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, it's not square miles, it's people. We have 74,000 people we provide services. Commissioner Murray said, population has gained. County

Manager Abolt said, 74,000 is gained. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we're not controlling land mass areas. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, but the significance of the population, and you saw it, this thing right here, the per capita coverage, and we are woefully inadequate. I don't disagree with what --, essentially what you're talking about as far as the annexation, but to be very direct, we have more people we're serving. We have the second largest City in this County we're providing police service to. The census, I understand, yields a population of about 74,000 people, which has grown. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, well, then I'll take that back. I was wrong on that point, but we shouldn't have a hiring freeze, and that's why we pay you the big bucks to be the experts to tell us what we need. I don't mind admitting if I'm wrong and good point, but the point is that if we have a hiring freeze, I don't believe we can pick and choose what we're doing when we're looking at the budget problems that we have. So I believe we need to keep it, and it's nothing personal. Chief Sprague said, I'd just like to say, as a comment if I could, Commissioner Kicklighter, Chairman Hair brought this up at the beginning that the management study recommended that we abolish the position. We provided each Commissioner with the exact verbiage and what the recommendation was, and I believe if you read that management study final report, the verbiage that's been provided to you, you'll see that that was not the recommendation. It was a two-edged recommendation.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then I'd like to make a comment and then I think we're ready to vote.

Commissioner Murray said, first of all, I'd just like to thank you for the report that you sent out to all of us. I thought it was very thorough and had a lot of good information in it. And, yes, the population has increased, and I'm speaking for somebody that represents a large portion of the unincorporated area. The only municipality that's in the fourth district is Tybee, so we have quite a bit of need for the County police and services that they render in our district, along with the rest of the unincorporated area. I am going to support this. I don't look at this as a hiring freeze part of it. That position has been there. The Chief has cut his budget and reduced his budget and keeping that position in there, and I think the position is needed. And this --, you know, this is not meant what I'm getting ready to say, to any department or anything else, and I don't like to reference departments either, but the Savannah Police Department has been referenced. Several weeks ago the Sheriff promoted five people out there, one going to a major and some other positions and everything else. Those were positions that were in there that were open because of the death of one of their employees at the Sheriff's Department and moved into another position which moved other people up. That's why we have people in positions and that's why we have managers to request the needs in those departments, and I have no problem with the Sheriff's Department promotions, but I didn't hear any outcry that we should keep those out of the way, that they shouldn't have been done, and now all of a sudden we've got one position that was created that's been there, but it's created by a vacancy and now we don't want to support the Chief by putting this position in place. I think we need to do it and I would hope that we'd have a majority of the Commission to vote to do that.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm going to make a couple of comments --.

Mr. Manigeros [phonetic] said, Mr. Chairman, could I please say something. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Mr. Manigeros said, could I ask that you --. Chairman Hair said, you need to come forward and state your name for the record please. Come forward. Mr. Manigeros said, my name is Manigeros. Chairman Hair said, you need to be at the microphone, sir. Mr. Manigeros said, I'd just like to ask the manager --. Chairman Hair said, he's the Chief. Mr. Manigeros said, instead of promoting a major, how about making a couple more new Chatham police? Chairman Hair asked, Chief, would you answer that? Chief Sprague said, yes sir. The management that we used for our officers included the positions that we're talking about here, the three majors. I would like to increase the officers at the bottom, but I don't want to do it at a loss of efficiency for the officers that we already have being managed by the three majors.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. Let me make a couple of comments about some of the things that have been said. This idea that, you know, we should approve this because he's cut \$600,000, all departments, you know, we've cut our budget 17%, the County Attorney's budget, everybody's. You know, I don't think that should be a reason to support this because everybody's cut their budgets, so that's not --, to me that's a moot point the fact that he's cut his budget by \$600,000 is a moot point because everybody's done that, and some have taken much larger hits dollar wise than that, Chief, much larger than \$600,000, and so I don't really think that's an issue here. And again I just think we have to look at this objectively and not related to the personality of the Chief, which we all have great respect for. So, this is not personal, but I do think that we have the opportunity to make the hard decision here, and it is a hard decision, it's very hard. Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I want to ask, as I look through the little budget, and I may be wrong, I want to see. What we're seeing here, I don't believe is actually --, what I read, and maybe I read it wrong, is that what's going on is no one is actually cutting what is the existing budget. They cut \$600,000 out of his proposed budget and actually would be an increase --. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, in the Police Department over the current year's budget. Chairman Hair asked, is that true or not true? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. You're talking about two different things. The budget proposal for the SSD, as we all are well aware, was out of balance by about \$1.2 million. It was a situation different than the M&O budget, it was driven by a much larger deficit and other issues. We were able to reasonably guarantee that with the end of this fiscal year, which is just now a couple of weeks away, that we would finish the SSD budget in the black as opposed to the problems we're facing in M&O. The cuts that you will see that will come out on Monday, in effect, call for \$1.2 million in cuts. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, over the existing part --, Police Department's budget? County Manager Abolt said, yes.

Chairman Hair said, he's asking just the Police Department's budget. Is there more budgeted next year than this year? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, it --. Well, I can't answer that question. I don't have the figures in front of me. Chairman Hair asked, Chief, can you answer that? Is your proposed budget larger than last year? Chief Sprague asked, the

proposed budget? Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Do you have more dollars in your budget for the next year than —, in the next year. I'm asking the question. Chief Sprague said, yes sir, I know you are. And —. Chairman Hair asked, do you have more money in your proposed budget than you did in your last year's budget? Chief Sprague said, in our budget preparation as a department, the pay raises for employees had to be incorporated in six months of the new budget between July 1st and January 1st, number one. The police officers under the pay plan, that had to be incorporated. Yes, we had an increase in our proposed budget, which was driven by salaries, and when we went back and cut the \$600,000, we had to cut it so that we had salary and benefits for all the officers that are now on board. Chairman Hair said, you still didn't answer my question. Is your proposed budget larger than your last year's budget? Yes or no. It's a yes or no question. County Manager Abolt said, we'll find out in a moment, sir. I'm calling for the budget figures.

Commissioner Odell said, that is not a fair question, and here's why it's unfair. One is that this Commission approved pay increases for the Police Department because we're losing —, and for the Sheriff's Department, and if you annualize that in this coming budget year, obviously it's going to cost more just for the personnel than it did last year. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, I agree with that. I agree with that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I read, Mr. Chairman, what I read, and then again, [inaudible] okay. After the proposed budget, after the County Manager made his cuts of \$600,000, it's my belief that the existing proposed budget, after the cuts, still exceeds the current budget of this year. Thus, that's a false —, not false, but it's a good —. Chairman Hair said, it's misleading. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's misleading some how or another. Chairman Hair said, to say that you're cutting \$600,000 —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you're right. Chairman Hair said, I think Commissioner Kicklighter's point is a valid point. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, if I may. Commissioner Rivers said, it's valid if you understand it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's what I'm saying, if you understand it. Chairman Hair said, it's misleading to me. Commissioner Rivers said, it can't be misleading if you understand it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if it's pointed out and we know it —. Commissioner Rayno said, it's called [inaudible]. They do the same thing on the federal level, they cut the budget and then every [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, since the Chief can't answer it, we'll get an answer.

Commissioner Murray said, this sounds to me like —, is this the same people up here talking right now about not including it in your budget that were okay with increasing the CAT budget a few minutes ago? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Chief Sprague said, sir, I don't know, but I do know this, I believe the targets —, our was \$600,000. I believe that was Countywide that those budget targets went out from the Finance Department, so if ours was at a certain level of cuts, all of them were.

County Manager Abolt said, right now, and please understand, you are privy to this information, the budget will be released on Monday as proposed, but based on the figures I have in front of me for the SSD budget, the amended budget for the Police Department right now is \$7,946,000. The budget you will receive, it has a figure of \$7,951,000, which is about the same, but let me explain in effect what has happened. Obviously, in this budget we are balancing it from reoccurring revenues and no hiring freeze, so the monies that are available in the SSD budget in effect would allow, without any tax increase, the expenditure of that amount of money within the Police Department. The type of requests that the Chief has made have been reduced and he had to reduce it by \$600,000. So we also had to have a cut of \$400,000 in the Public Works Department, \$100,000 in the Engineering Department, \$89,000 in MPC, and the list goes on, but that's based on revenues that we forecast next year that will be reoccurring.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Murray and then I think we're ready to vote one way or the other. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to make a motion that we approve the major position. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All in favor of vote yes, opposed no. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Murray voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Okay, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve the request for waiver of the hiring freeze for the Police Department: Major (1 position and resulting vacancies if promotion from within). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Murray voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of six to three.

=====

4. MIKE WEDINCAMP REQUESTING A CURB CUT OFF OF JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER). Tabled at meeting of May 25, 2001.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

=====

*** 5. APPEAL FROM HATHAWAY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY TO PAY FULL COST OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD AND WHITEMARSH ISLAND ROAD. Tabled at meeting of May 25, 2001.**

Chairman Hair said, I believe that Commissioner Murray wants to take this off the table. Is that true or –. Commissioner Murray said, I do for discussion right now. I don't know that I will call for a vote on it today, but I –. The development's attorney is here and I've talked with him and I'd like for him to come up and speak first. Do you want to take it off the table first? Chairman Hair said, we need to take it off the table. Commissioner Murray said, move we untable. Chairman Hair said, untable. All those in –. I need a second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray recognized Phillip McCorkle.

Mr. Phillip McCorkle said, I would appreciate the Commission's indulgence on table –, continuing to table this matter until such time as I can have some more discussion with my client because I do not know all the facts of yet, and with Commissioner Murray, and I understand Commissioner Murray is going to be serving his country overseas for a while and will not be back –. Commissioner Murray said, over the 4th of July too. What a great time. Mr. McCorkle said, he won't be back until like the first meeting in August, if I'm not mistaken, so I'd be glad to have it postponed for that long. Chairman Hair said, I think it's fair to postpone this.

Commissioner Murray said, I do too after talking with him, and let me explain for those people out there that may disagree with us tabling this any further. Right now he is –, the developer is working –, that he has to put that traffic light in. That is what was approved and without it going in right now he will not get a certificate of occupancy for that development. I don't have a problem. He called me yesterday and wanted to talk. I told him I would be able to talk with him, but I didn't know when I would get back with him to do that, but I can tell you right now my vote is going to be that this stays as it is even after talking with him too. So if he still wants to talk, that's fine and I'll be glad to and I'll be glad to listen to what he has to say, but this is one of the things that we need to be doing in more areas than just this one place. Chairman Hair said, well, let's retable it. Commissioner Murray said, and so I would move that we table it –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Murray said, until the 10th of August.

Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you. A motion to table is not debatable, ma'am.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to take this item from the table and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table until August 10, 2001, the appeal from Hathaway Development Company to pay full cost of traffic signal at Johnny Mercer Boulevard and Whitemarsh Island Road. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

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 TRANSFER OF \$500,000 FROM THE 1998-2003 SPLOST, RESERVE TO THE ATLANTIC CREOSOTE CANAL ACCOUNT.

Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair said, motion to approve. Do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the transfer of \$500,000 from the 1998-2003 SPLOST, Reserve, to the Atlantic Creosote Canal Account. Commissioners Odell and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF HIRING FREEZE:
 • **POLICE: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER (1 POSITION)**

Chairman Hair recognized Chief Sprague.

Commissioner Jackel said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request for waiver of a hiring freeze for Police: Emergency Communications Dispatcher (1 position). Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar other than, you know? Commissioner Jackel said, how about let's take a quick look at G. Chairman Hair said, G, okay, that's -. G, I don't even have that. Yes, G, okay. Anything else? All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 1 through 12-H, except Item 12-G. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

=====

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 25, 2001, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 25, 2001, as mailed. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 17 THROUGH MAY 30, 2001.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period May 17, 2001, through May 30, 2001, in the amount of \$1,521,520. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO SELECTIVELY ADJUST CHATHAM COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER FEES (OTHER THAN INDIVIDUAL ADMISSIONS). THE ESTIMATED IMPACT WILL BE AN INCREASE OF \$15,000 PER YEAR IN REVENUE EARNED BY THE AQUATIC CENTER.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request to selectively adjust Chatham County Aquatic Center Fees (other than individual admissions), the estimated impact of which will be an increase of \$15,000 per year in revenue earned by the Aquatic Center. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 4. **REQUEST BOARD ACCEPT A GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY FUND GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE HALL OF FAME SHRINE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to accept a Governor’s Emergency Fund Grant in the amount of \$20,000 to convert te Hall of Fame Shrine to an electronic entity. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 5. **REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR HERON CREST DEVELOPERS, INC., TO RELEASE THE REMAINING BOND FOR BETZ CREEK, PHASE 5. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, HeronCrest Developers, Inc., to end the 12-month warranty period and release the \$325,201.50 letter of credit from Prime Lending/Tucker Federal Savings and Loan for Betz Creek, Phase 5. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GDOT AND CHATHAM COUNTY FOR STATE ROUTE 26 OVER PLACENTIA CANAL IN THUNDERBOLT. [DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve a supplemental agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Chatham County for State Route 26 over Placentia Canal in Thunderbolt. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEED FROM CHATHAM COUNTY TO GDOT FOR PURPOSES OF BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve a quitclaim deed from Chatham County to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for purposes of bridge construction across the Placentia Canal. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 8. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EARLY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY TERENCE AND DUREEN NORRIS AT 13 RIVER BLUFF DRIVE FOR TRUMAN PARKWAY, PHASE IV.
[DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the early acquisition of property owned by Terence and Dureen Norris at 13 River Bluff Drive for Truman Parkway, Phase IV. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 9. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF COMMISSION TO SIGN AN APPLICATION REQUIRED BY GDOT WHEREBY CHATHAM COUNTY AGREES TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE AND ENERGY COSTS FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON US 17/SR25 AT CHEVIS ROAD.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to authorize the Chairman and Clerk of Commission to sign an application required by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) whereby Chatham County agrees to be responsible for maintenance and energy costs for a traffic signal on US17/SR25 at Chevis Road. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 10. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE STAFF TO REQUEST A COUNTY CONTRACT WITH GDOT TO CONSTRUCT UNIVERSITY DRIVE RELOCATION, PHASE 1, FOR ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION, COUNTY ENGINEER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO SIGN THE FORMS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE GDOT FORM 532, A UTILITY AGREEMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT AND THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CERTIFICATION.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to authorize staff to request a County contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to construct University Drive Relocation, Phase 1, for Armstrong Atlantic State University and authorize the Chairman, Clerk of Commission, County Engineer and County Attorney to sign the forms necessary to implement the project, which include GDOT Form 532, a Utility Agreement, a Local Government Project Agreement and the Right-of-Way Certification. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 11. **REQUEST FROM SOUTHBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT CO., THROUGH THEIR AGENT, THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERING, TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR SOUTHBRIDGE, PHASE 16A, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from Southbridge Development Co., through its agent, Thomas & Hutton Engineering, to record the final plat for Southbridge, Phase 16A, accept the subdivision agreement and financial

guarantee, and recombine the subdivision into the existing streetlight assessment district. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Confirmation of the disposal of vehicles, equipment and truck tires additional to those previously approved	Fleet Operations	N/A	N/A	N/A
B. Replacement tail rotor blades for the MD 500E helicopter	Mosquito Control	Helimart	\$21,356	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
C. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide rental uniforms	Various	Aramark Uniform Service, Inc.	\$36,927.80	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various •Water and Sewer •Solid Waste Management
D. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide elevator maintenance and services to various facilities	Various	Atlantic Coast Elevator (WBE)	\$23,796	General Fund/M&O - Building Maintenance and Operations
E. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide HVAC water treatment chemicals	Various	Anderson Chemical Company	\$9,735.62	•General Fund/M&O - Building Maintenance and Operations •General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
F. Contract for the construction of the Phillips Avenue Stormwater Improvements	SPLOST	R.B. Baker Construction	\$786,213.25	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Atlantic Creosote Canal (pending transfer)
G. Annual contract for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for use by various County departments	Various	•Barrett Oil Company •Sommers Oil Company	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
H. Award a Property Disposal Agreement to auction police evidentiary items on the Internet	Police	Property Bureau.com, Inc.	N/A	Revenue Producing

As to Items 12-A through 12-H, except Item 12-G:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 12-A through 12-H, except Item 12-G. Commissioner Kicklighter - seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

As to Item 12-G:

Annual contract for purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for use by various County departments; Barrett Oil Company and Sommers Oil Company; Amount varies by item; Funding: General Fund/M&O - Various, and SSD - Various.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just think it ought to be disclosed that Jackie Sommers is on our Board of Assessors, but this was an open bid, anyone was free to bid, and there was no influence one way or the other.

Mr. George Lynch said, none whatsoever, sir. We solicited nationally, came out about 40 people. We had the responses indicated, and it's fully disclosed along with price.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve.

Commissioner Jackel said, that's --, I wanted to get that on the record. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, if you want to bid on that the next time --.

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, moved and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, only with the opportunity of having that pulled off, please note what Mr. Lynch has done and the concern, one of methodology of your budget, is joint purchasing. The solicitation which you just approved was not only with the County, the Airport Commission, the Board of Education, City of Savannah, Tybee Island, Thunderbolt, Bloomingdale, Effingham County Board of Commissioners. Effingham County is a new participant.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 12-A through 12-H, except Item 12-G. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Item 12-G. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

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. **AN AMENDMENT TO REVISE THE CHATHAM COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ANTENNA AND TOWER REGULATIONS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
 MPC FILE NO. Z-010302-49754-1
 [NO DISTRICT/UNINCORPORATED AREA.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Hair read this item into the record as the first reading.

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **AMENDMENTS TO REVENUE ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR CHARGES BY SAGIS FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS. SUCH CHARGES ARE AUTHORIZED BY SENATE BILL 230.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second.

Commissioner Rayno said, I have something to ask. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Rayno said, I notice we charge fees, but do we have anything as far as franchise fee for somebody –, not a franchise fee, but a fee for somebody that uses it a lot, a service fee for that? It looks like they're all one time charges.

County Manager Abolt asked, you're referring to SAGIS? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, SAGIS. County Manager Abolt said, the charges were driven by limitations of State law, and the subscription service is one, and the more you use it obviously is more beneficial to you to have subscription service.

Chairman Hair said, and that's also very common in that industry where engineers and architects subscribe to, you know, [inaudible] plan –.

County Manager Abolt said, and, permit me, there's a fine balance here because we had a board meeting and the board consisting of representatives of the County, the City and SEPCO. It's a tripartite arrangement. When this was initially created, it was meant to give reliable and easily accessible information that would facilitate development. It's very much compatible with the goals of the Power Company as well as the City and the County. So there was some trepidation when we even added additional charges. Our situation is this, budget applies also to SAGIS. They don't have a bottom line —, a bottomless pit as money goes. I've encouraged, based on the recent legislation that's Senate Bill 34, which said, it's just not the protection of open records, which means you have to give everything. They specified certain things could be charged for. That's what we're trying to do here. Minimal amount of revenue yield, about \$15,000. I think it's more important to send a message that where we can we will charge so that property taxes in the future will not have to subsidize this.

Commissioner Rayno asked, if we had an individual or an organization that contributed to the data that goes into the SAGIS system, would we have the discretion as a body to waive the fee for that? County Manager Abolt said, you do not have the discretion, sir. There's a SAGIS board that governs this. We are, in effect, recommending and you're amending the Revenue Ordinance, which subsequently they have approved, but the ultimate determination and the intergovernmental agreement talks about a public service access point, which is MPC. If there were specific situations, something quite unusual where someone came in and contributes something that could be determined as to value, the SAGIS board could determine that. Commissioner Rayno said, oh, they would have the discretion there. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. So we understand this partnership, which I'm very proud of, SEPCO as an entity has been instrumental, in fact they were providing all the monies for the longest period of time, and then they convinced us all that both the City and the County should come in, so they're the major contributor, but when you look at the size of the user, though they may be relatively large, they would not be able to contribute in the volume of quality of what we're talking about right now.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request that the Board amend Article P. Other Revenue, of the Chatham County Revenue Ordinance by adding a second to include fees related to SAGIS users. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLAN, ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AND MAP AMENDMENTS. SEE ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS BASED ON FIRST READING TESTIMONY AND WORK OF COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND MPC.

Chairman Hair said, I believe there is pretty much unanimous support for this plan. The only issue that was resolved, I think, by the County Attorney was the grandfather issue, and that was the only issue I had, and I was assured by the County Attorney this morning that that has been put in there, so I really think it's going to be probably a unanimous vote. I'll call on Commissioner Murray to make a motion.

Commissioner Murray said, I would like to make a motion that we approve the Islands Land Use Plan and also we have a little bit of discussion for I would like to make a comment. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, we've got a motion and second. Do you want to discuss it? Commissioner Murray said, yes, I'd just like to make a comment, if I could. Chairman Hair said, sure. Commissioner Murray said, I know at the last meeting, which was the first reading of this plan, and that's why we have a first and a second reading so we do any discussion, and we do find things that —, there were some questions asked, quite a few questions. The attorney and the MPC staff took notes of each question. Every one of those questions to my knowledge was addressed. The people that asked them, I think, have gotten —, feel good about it at this point. If there are any other questions that anyone has about it, I would ask they go ahead and ask those now, but I think all the questions have been answered, and I appreciate the work that the staff has done, I appreciate the Commissioners up here for going through asking questions they asked because it makes it a better plan, and once all of this has been adopted this is the first of three phases of the plan, and I think once this is complete and approved today then you'll see other areas of Chatham County of the unincorporated area doing the same thing, using this as a guideline to go out and rewrite plans for the different areas throughout Chatham County. I just say thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd just like to echo what Commissioner Murray had to say. It is a good plan, it's been improved. It's very exciting that we're planning for the future of the Islands. I especially thank Commissioner Murray for helping push this forward and I don't want to forget the hard work that the MPC staff did, the good job that they did, already did of a lot of hard work and good work, and the citizens that turned out at the different meetings, to give their input. It's one of these things where we have had real good involvement. I can tell you my phone's been ringing off the hook, and I've only gotten one person opposing it. Everybody else was in favor of it. If you don't have a plan, you're never going to get there, and now we've got a plan. And it just dawned on me, I've always said if you don't have a plan, you're never going to get

there, but it's much more than getting somewhere, it's also preserving what we have. So I think it's win/win in that situation, and I'm glad to see us move forward on it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd also like to thank the MPC. Commissioner Jackel and myself had a ton of questions and they took the time to answer them very quickly and very succinctly, and I appreciate what they did, and they made changes where I had problems with the plan, and I'm encouraged by the fact that on March 21st the State Supreme Court passed a ruling in the case of *Atlanta v. Path Associates*, where they backed a plan that was wedded with a zoning plan, but the only caution I would urge the Islands residents is just because this thing passes today, I hope you wouldn't leave the room thinking that you don't have to be vigilant in your watching of how things develop on the Islands because lawyers and things happen. So I would caution you to keep a very watchful eye on things. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Rayno said, no offense to my two friendly lawyers up here.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, no offense was taken, Jeff [Rayno]. Commissioner Murray said, not at present anyway. Commissioner Odell said, not at present. But I think this exercise has been extremely good, [inaudible] MPC that I think produced a quality product, and beyond that those people who live on the Island should be extremely pleased because your Commissioner, Mr. Frank Murray, has worked extremely hard, devoted a substantial amount of time, and I agree with Martin [Jackel] that if you don't have a plan, then you don't have a direction. Nothing is perfect. This is a good starting point, and I'm disappointed that my good friend, Marianne [Heimes], did not call me on this. She calls me on everything else, but I think the process is good and I'm very pleased with the effort that Frank [Murray] has put in.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I too would like to echo those sentiments. I feel very good about it in fact that we do now have a plan and we can move in a direction that we would like to go. Nothing is perfect and nothing is etched in stone, but it does give us some direction, and I would like to thank the MPC staff and all of the citizens for your input because without your input I don't think we would have ventured where we are today. So I just want to thank you and, as has been said, we need to always have a plan because if you don't have you have a plan or a goal in mind, then we are going nowhere.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd like to echo what everyone else has said, and also say to the Metropolitan Planning Commission that I have a tremendous respect for the quality of work that you have put out under immense pressure, and I certainly respect that. I think that we all worked together, we came together and come up with an excellent plan that I certainly support. I guess my only regret is that it's too bad we couldn't have come up with a plan like this 20 years ago. Mrs. Hilda Whitaker said, hear, hear. An unidentified gentleman in the audience said, amen to that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want to respond to the, Chief. Chief [Commissioner Gellatly], we started on this plan here maybe about 10 years ago, so I'm glad that it is through. And I want to again thank MPC for working on this so expeditiously and coming up with a good plan that we all can live with. Of course, there are always revisions, so we must be cognizant that we get what we want in the end. The outcome is what counts. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, before we call the question, again I'd just like to reiterate what I said at the outset that it is a good plan and I think it shows more than a plan. I think it shows the process has worked very well because it was a little flawed to start with and it needed to be tweaked, and the process works in tweaking it and getting it to this point because my major concern was the grandfathering, and that has been taken care of now, and it is a good plan and if no one else has any more, we'll take a vote. We already have a motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

An unidentified gentleman in the audience said, thanks to Commissioner Murray and the people for this. It is something I'm glad to see. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We appreciate y'all being here. The unidentified gentleman said, Commissioner Murray, I know what he done and I appreciate him doing it. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, y'all have adopted the plan, you now need to adopt the text amendments to the zoning ordinance.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain –. Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved that the Islands Land Use Plan be approved. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Commissioner Murray moved that the zoning ordinance text and map amendments be approved. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:40 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 12:28 p.m.

=====

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, V. 14,980 LINEAR FEET OF ACCESS RIGHTS, JAMES ROYAL, ET AL, CV98-0683-KA (JON HART).**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the settlement of Chatham County, Georgia v. 14,983 Linear Feet of Access Rights, et al, CV98-0683-KA, to declare the eastern portion of the former Flannel Street right-of-way that adjoins the Royals property consisting of approximately 0.328 acres (14,271 square feet) as surplus and convey said property to the Royals and instruct the County Attorney to incorporate the terms of the confirmation of settlement letter to the Royals dated May 9, 2001, into a consent order to be approved by the Court. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 2. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

APPOINTMENTS

1. CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to reappoint Patricia A. Stringer to the Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors to four-year term which will expire on June 27, 2005. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Jackel, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.
- 2. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to appoint Elijah McGraw, Jr., to the Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors to four-year term which will expire on June 27, 2005, to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Kenneth L. Jayroe which expires on June 27, 2001.

=====

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

=====

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK