

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2002, 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, October 25, 2002.

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II. INVOCATION

Mr. Van Johnson gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two John J. McMasters, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five David M. Gellatly, District Six B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair said, introduced the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Ms. Ciarra Callis, a Junior at Savannah High School, Ms. Otani Cheley, a Junior at Savannah Arts Academy, representing the Housing Authority of Savannah, and Ms. Rachael Cohen, a Senior at Jenkins High School, representing the Jewish Educational Alliance.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE JENKINS, SUPERVISOR I, PUBLIC WORKS.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Chatham County is privileged to have employees of high caliber and great skills and today we honor such an employee, George Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, George Jenkins, a devoted employee of Chatham County Public Works, began his employment as a Public Service Worker in October of 1978 and has received several promotions; and

WHEREAS, his performance has always been exceptional and he has received several compliments from citizens and co-workers for working as a team leader and doing a job well done; and

WHEREAS, George has always been an excellent role model for other employees and always willing to extend a helping hand to the citizens of Chatham County as well as his co-workers. He can always be depended on to get a job done right during and after hours. During his employment, he became very knowledgeable of all aspects of the Road Maintenance Section and is retiring as a Maintenance Supervisor I.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

GEORGE JENKINS

for twenty-five years of dedicated service to the Chatham County Public Works Department and extend best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 25th day of October 2002.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Robert Drewry said, good morning. I just want to say a few words about Mr. Jenkins. I dare say there's probably a harder worker in Chatham County government anywhere that we're going to --, we're going to greatly miss. George, it's been fun working with you, it's been great. I tell you what, also I don't --, in all these years of service, and all the time I've known him I know, I don't think I ever heard this gentleman complain about any job or any assignment that he had. So I can tell you that much, he's going to be missed. Public Works would also like to present him with a plaque he can hang on his wall for 25 years of service. Congratulations, and there's supposed to be a lamp here. County Manager Abolt said, we'll get that.

Mr. Jenkins said, I appreciate everything and I appreciate my Superintendent who stand by me all these years and you will be missed. Thank you

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Jenkins.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. RANGER JOHN MORAN, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, we have Ranger John Moran here from the Department of Natural Resources, and basically he has a request for us. He would like to be able to enforce the hunting, I guess, laws on the County properties, and I'll just throw it over to him to explain.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Moran.

Mr. Moran said, good morning. Chairman Hair said, good morning. Mr. Moran said, I'm John Moran, Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section. The reason I'm here today is to try and get an affidavit filed by you. I've made many attempts to try to find out who I needed to contact. I got in touch with Mr. Kicklighter and he said that I would probably need to come in and schedule an appointment such as this. With County property that's owned or operated –, controlled by the County, and I have one property that shows a lot of interest to us because we have a lot of people that we go check hunters and they seem to want to evade us constantly every time we go back there, and we've come to the conclusion that without an affidavit, a hunting affidavit signed by you, our policy says that we need to have the hunter affidavit signed so we can enforce the hunting without permission. We do enforce hunting without permission, but it's by land owner or lessee by signing this –, the form.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Moran, I'm curious as to what property you are referring to that we own. I guess you're asking for an affidavit for all property, but the particular property you're referring to. Mr. Moran said, yes, sir. This particular property is off of Highway 307. Chairman Hair said, Dean Forest Road. Mr. Moran said, Dean Forest Road. Yes, sir, and I have an overhead map if you would like to see that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's 126 acres or something like that. Mr. Moran said, and we have one –, one lot is 129.7 acres and then there's –.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is land we acquired for wetlands mitigation. Chairman Hair said, wetlands mitigation. County Manager Abolt said, we're familiar with the property. The attorney has presented some options for you, actually the decision for your to make in a memo that's in your packet.

Mr. Moran said, this hunting affidavit allows for me to speak in your behalf in court whenever we do find who has and who has not permission on your property.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters has a question.

Commissioner McMasters said, I don't know if he has the benefit of this –. Thank you. This is the County Attorney's legal opinion, Mr. Moran, and it says in the third paragraph that it appears that it provides that certain persons or organizations may be excluded from the policy of enforcement from hunting on these properties. Do we know –? County Attorney Hart said, it's blank so it implies that you could fill in the blanks as to who you want let hunt and my question is, you know, it's really a policy decision whether you want to allow hunting on public lands or not, and that's up to you folks, but then if you make the decision that you want to exclude hunting on public lands, do you want to make exceptions, and my only point is, you know, you want to be consistent in what you do, one way or the other. Commissioner McMasters said, I think that's a very salient observation. I mean, I don't think we want to be in the business of excluding people, but let's go back to the original premise and how much liability do we really potentially expose the County to by essentially authorizing hunting activity on County land? I don't know how wise that is personally. I mean, I own guns, I want to be clear on that, anti-hunting [inaudible] but it is a huge liability.

County Attorney Hart said, well, we've never really had a policy on it before. It's really never come up. We've been pretty rigid about enforcing or running people off, for the lack of a better word, in regard to construction projects or road projects, and that's where it's mostly come up in the past. The point is that if you're going to prohibit this, you're then going to have to have somebody to enforce it and you're going to have to post it and you're going to have to be consistent about enforcing the no-hunting issue. So it can't be sort of a here's the –. Commissioner McMasters said, either or. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's where the Georgia DNR comes in play.

Chairman Hair said, it seems to me what –, I want to make sure –, I'm unclear too as to what you're asking. It seems to me though that if this Board were to say no hunting on County property, and I agree with you, Commissioner McMasters, there's some serious legal liability issues, I think, if we allow it because then if you allow it, then, you know, you're going to have to take every parcel that we own and –. County Attorney Hart said, that's the other issue. Chairman Hair said, – allow on some and not allow on others, and that's the inconsistency of it. But I think, and correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Moran, but I think what you're asking is if this Board were to say no hunting period, then you guys are asking permission to enforce that. Is that what I'm hearing?

Mr. Moran said, well, the thing is we can enforce it, but what our policy says is they not only must show that permission was granted, but also that the owner or lessee of the property failed to grant the permission. So if a person were to be caught out on the property, they would have to have written permission on their person by law that, you know, they have permission to be here. If not, then the land owner it falls on –.

Chairman Hair said, so I think what's being suggested is that if the Commission feels that we would pass an affidavit that would say no hunting on that property and then authorize DNR to enforce the no-hunting provision. I think that's what we're saying. Is that essentially what you're saying? Mr. Moran said, yes, sir, and if there are questions –, it eliminates questions for us in the field if a man brings a card of some sort and it says, Mr. –, Dr. Billy Hair has given permission to me to hunt on such property, then that eliminates me questioning him any further. You know, in our code section it says any owner of land, lessee land, or lessee of game or fishing of rights to land who gives permission to another person to hunt, fish or take wild life upon land without charge, shall be entitled to the same protection from civil liability provided by Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 51. Chairman Hair said, so basically that also deals with the consistency issue if we said no hunting and then giving DNR the right to enforce it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I think basically what you're saying then is if we make a decision today that we are not going to allow the hunting on County properties, then y'all have two things. You would go in and enforce that and you would also be allowed to speak on behalf of the County if you go to court. Is that correct? Mr. Moran said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, does that deal with the consistency issue, Mr. Hart? County Attorney Hart said, yeah, and the only other issue there I would ask the DNR representative is would y'all assume the responsibility for posting the land? Mr. Moran said, no, sir. That is up to the land owner. Commissioner Rayno asked, does it have to be posted for you to enforce it? Mr. Moran said, no, sir. County Attorney Hart said, it should be though. Chairman Hair asked, well, does it need –, it probably doesn't have to be, but it probably would be a good idea. I mean, from a legal issue I would think –, I mean, that can't be too expensive I wouldn't think, Mr. Abolt, would it, I mean, to put posting signs out there. I mean, that can't be –. Mr. Moran said, but if the person doesn't own the land or he doesn't have permission to be there he is trespassing, so –. Chairman Hair said, that's right. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, plus, you know, it sounds like it's pretty standard. The surrounding counties have, you know, signed this over. It's nothing new, it's just something that this County –.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve that we first are saying that there will be no hunting on County property and authorize DNR to enforce that provision. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll so move. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes –. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas asked, are we going to include that we post the signs to make sure that –? Chairman Hair said, yes, I think we should. That's a good point. County Attorney Hart said, and no exceptions.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, yes, my only comment is that I think there's ample hunting opportunity throughout the County and should in the future, and it may not be this Commission, but I think if the hunters and fishermen in this community in the future want to come back to the County and ask us to readdress that, we'd be open to it if the space is –.

Chairman Hair said, plus I think, as Mr. Moran said, it also authorizes even in the interim if we wanted to allow people to hunt, all we'd have to do is issue that and notify DNR of that and they would know that in advance. Thank you, Mr. Moran. We appreciate you being here. Mr. Moran said, yes, sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve that there will be no hunting on County property, that the County post signs to that effect, and that the Chairman execute an affidavit authorizing the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enforce that provision. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. MS. ROSEANNE JOHNSON (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Mrs. Roseanne Johnson said, good morning. The Commissioners said, good morning. Mrs. Johnson said, first of all, thank you for affording us the opportunity to address the Commissioners. We fully appreciate it. Commissioners, the police need your help, as do the people of the Fifth District. What we are requesting is just not the sole task of Commissioner Odell, but it requires the joint effort of all Commissioners. What is happening in our district could just as well occur in your respective districts, and I'm sure that your constituents will be interested in the results of this petition and how it is handled by the County Commissioners. Once you receive your copy of the petition, please note that many legitimate and honest businesses have signed this petition along with the residents of this community.

Mr. Johnson said, I'm her husband, just in case you wanted to know. To the Chatham County Commissioners, in recent months there has been an increase in the amount of crime in and around the Ogeechee Road corridor. These crimes have included prostitution, drug dealings, residential break-ins, and most recently a murder behind the Liberty Inn. When is the time to really do something about this problem? The answer is now. The police have made numerous arrests for prostitution and drug dealings that do business along Ogeechee Road; however, those persons who commit these crimes are now extending their area of operation in the surrounding residential areas that lay to the south. The people that live along the streets of Wildwood, Pine, Lane, Gamble and Garrard no longer feel safe in their homes. Some of the people that live on these streets have been residents there for their entire lives. Some played in the woods when they were children over 50 years ago. This is the only place they've ever called home and now it stands on the brink of extinction and all because of a few that do not belong. The attached petition is being submitted for the anticipated results that, if findings warrant, the business licenses of these establishments would be revoked or not be renewed in the year 2003.

Mrs. Johnson said, and we'd like to submit the original petition and we have made copies, and I think I'm short one.

Chairman Hair said, that's okay, we'll take care of it. I'll recognize Commissioner Odell and then the Chief.

Commissioner Odell said, first, we want to thank you for participating by coming. We've discussed this, in part, with our Chief and I'd like to recognize our Chief of Police.

Chief Thomas Sprague said, first off, I support the goal of the community that's out there with reducing crime along that corridor. In the past probably two years, it has denigrated from vice crimes, some say victimless crimes and I don't agree with that, but it's now in this day and age it's come down to vice crimes coupled with more and more drug crimes and the violence that's related with the drug crimes. What are the police doing about it? We do not have the manpower to station a person at each level of that corridor, motel areas, bar areas, et cetera, but we have been responding and we've used pulse and surge operations with Special Investigations Unit to arrest prostitutes, anyone offering drugs for sale, et cetera. Currently, using overtime we are addressing it very aggressively, and there may be some complaints coming in from some of the business owners in that corridor where these crimes have been occurring. It's going to be very visible in one phase and it's going to be less visible in other more aggressive investigative techniques. We are addressing it. We can't do it constantly, but the plan that we're using hopefully in conjunction with Counter Narcotics Team efforts, if we identify business owners who are supporting drug trafficking, prostitution, or other crimes of that nature through their businesses, we will do everything we can to support a seizure of those properties, either Federal or State. Again, in conjunction with CNT. CNT did put one of those businesses out of business, a motel out there. Between January and August, the County Police Department responded to 142 calls at that particular location. CNT had other responses to that from a narcotics investigative nature. With regard to other motels where we've had aggravated assaults with sawed-off shotguns, a week later a murder on the premises, those particular violators have been arrested, but it's wanting these situations where we have to put manpower in, which we can't leave there constantly, but it's basically an operation where you see them and you don't. It's a combined uniform and plain clothes. That's how we're addressing it at present, but again aimed toward the goals of the citizens in the Fifth District, as well as the Seventh District. So I would like to ask if the Commissioners get any complaints from business owners out of there emanating from our police operations, that they please give me a chance to speak with that business owner.

Mrs. Johnson said, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, Chief. Chief Sprague said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, what I'd like to see happening, we have a copy of the petition and the people took enough time to sign those petitions. I know that we're coordinating efforts with our Counter Narcotics Drug Team. It would be good if within 30 days we could provide a summary of activities to each person on that list. Their address is also listed. Would that be possible, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chief Sprague asked, a summary of all traffic arrests? Commissioner Odell said, in some of my neighborhood associations we have status reports that show number of calls, number of arrests, the rest are broken down as to the type of arrest, prostitution, burglary. Chief Sprague said, I have those now up through about October 10th. I don't have it with me. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but what I'm saying is that each individual, if we could provide them at least in 30 days a summary of that information, then they can see the impact of our efforts. Chief Sprague said, we can do that and I know in conjunction with the Counter Narcotics Team with Commander Williams, their arrest data, et cetera, is separate from ours, but we can give them two sheets. Commissioner Odell said, and often the kind of problems that they identify go hand in hand. When you have an area that is frequented by prostitution, unfortunately it's also frequented by drug sellers and drug users. Chief Sprague said, prostitution breeds the —, many of the prostitutes are drug abusers, and we've seen this back and forth across Highway 17. Savannah has the jurisdiction on the other side of the road. In that corridor, I have just bare statistics from them, but the Savannah Police Department has responded to 848 calls, but I believe theirs is along the entire corridor of 17. It's definitely a breeding ground, in my opinion, for crimes of prostitution, drug trafficking, drug abuse, armed robberies, et cetera. Commissioner

Odell said, and when you have those kinds of things clustered in an area, unfortunately those people who live near that area their properties become victimized by burglaries, car break-ins, because unfortunately it –, if you leave a car and you leave a radio on your car, a drug user potentially could break in it just to get that radio, and if they're in the area, crime automatically goes up, and I think –.

Commander Eddie Williams said, good morning, everyone. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Williams, would you like to –? Commander Williams said, yeah. We've already addressed a lot of those issues that we're talking about right now and some of them are undercover in nature at this point. I do have the stats up here with me showing all the different crimes that we had addressed as far as seizures of guns and what have you, and it's unfortunate that we didn't get back into Liberty Inn in time to prevent maybe that incident that happened there. But I also have some other stats of some other motels that are happening around there. The corridor across from our jurisdiction into the City, we closed down one particular car wash there, and I was concerned about that because we were going around putting out fires in other places and what not and this place opened up again and right now I don't even have the information to find out who opened it, where did they get the license from, and their background and what's going on. So it's taken us a little time and what we're trying to do is redirect our efforts of what we're trying to do and doing a real concerted effort, not only with the Chatham County Police Department, with the other agencies that we had come in contact with in our area also. So you will see some results pretty soon and I've already reassured the Johnsons that we're going to do our best to improve the quality of life around there, and I know what they're going through because people have been calling me and they're waiting to see what's going to happen, and it's going to happen. And I really thank you. Mrs. Johnson said, thank you so much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commander. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner McMasters, Commissioner Rayno. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to thank the Johnsons for coming up here and to let you know that, in my talking with Dr. Thomas and Commissioner Odell, we're very much aware of what's going on because our districts all border, you know, right there, and this specific crime that's in the Fifth, but we're all affected by it. We're aware, and I want you to know that we're all working with the Chief and with the Major at CNT, and when I spoke with the Chief, he was right out there to my business and he knew exactly every little thing going on. This is not something that's he's prepared for because he heard you were coming. When I spoke with him, he was there, and they're really honestly on top of it, and please just bear with us. We're all aware of it, but I think with a little bit more time we're going to see some good results out there because they're really, really trying hard.

Mrs. Johnson said, well, this is definitely a very close neighborhood and it was a neighborhood type joint effort, and it makes us feel a lot better that this is being taken so strongly, and it does reassure us, and we want to thank all of you because it does require a joint effort between the residents, the businesses, the police and the Commissioners. This is the only way to get it done.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I've said this before, and it's on a personal note to myself. I had a brother that was murdered years ago, and if he had to be murdered I'm glad it fell under Chatham County's jurisdiction because we've got the best detectives and the best officers out there to stop this type of crime. They're a determined group. It took them six years, but they found the person that murdered my brother and they'll stop these people. So, they're aware of it and they're working on it. Mrs. Johnson said, thank you. We don't want to lose our neighborhood.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Mr. Johnson said, we do appreciate it and want you to know that this is not anything against the Chatham County Police or the City of Savannah Police. We're just here to try to help them because they have responded. I've noticed a tremendous amount of time being spent around that area by the police, and we do appreciate what they're doing. So we're here to ask your help with them.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize the gentleman in the audience and then I'll get to the Commissioners. Please state your name for the record, sir.

Mr. Stanley Kaczorowski said, I'd like to be recognized just for one second. My name is Stanley Kaczorowski, K-A- -. Chairman Hair said, I'm sure the Clerk can get that with no problem. Mr. Kaczorowski said, okay. I reside in Mr. McMasters' district. I just wanted to say one thing very quickly. My career, I was a prosecutor in New Jersey. Don't hold that against me. I've been reading in the newspaper about the fine work, and I mean the fine work being done by the police officers. I'm really overwhelmed by their statistics, and that tells me they're doing a good job. I'm not familiar with all of the laws of Georgia, but in New Jersey I worked with this particular problem at a legal level, as a prosecutor, and there are things that either a District Attorney or a County Attorney can do because you do have forfeiture laws. There are ways to attack this problem by going after the delinquent property owners, and I think that would be a boon to the police. You can't image –, and I'm not saying you do it to make money –, but if you can confiscate property, you take it over and then you sell it to an honest owner. It's only done against those that continue to violate the law and don't take care of their property. I believe the police are doing a fine job. You may want to look at a couple of other areas to see if the legal system can help these fine police officers and the judicial system has to be involved also. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Stanley [Kaczorowski], unless you moved, you live in the Fourth District. Did you move recently? Mr. Kaczorowski said, the new maps messed me up a little bit. Commissioner Murray said, you live in the Fourth District, but if you want to be in John's [McMasters] district, that's okay. Chief, a couple of questions and then I want to make a few comments. The main question I have though is once you go through the process and you have arrested an individual either for prostitution or whatever reason from that area, what is the next step and how long is it before they're back on the street? Chief Sprague said, well, for prostitution times vary, but not a long time. Availability of making bond on drug charges, depending on the type of drug, quantity, et cetera, sometimes they're back on the street on bond. Of course, for homicides, ag assaults, it's less likely they're going to be out the door very soon. Commissioner Murray said, well, I guess the next question then would be to the County Attorney. The limits of prosecution and how much time someone has to serve, if it's in Chatham County is that up to us to set those parameters or is that a State-mandated –? County Attorney Hart said, that's generally a State-mandated situation. Commissioner Murray asked, so we can't make it any stronger as far as the jurisdiction of Chatham County? County Attorney Hart said, you've got to enforce the State law as to the criminal law, and generally in the areas of typical prostitution cases, it's, you know, the repeat offense increase the amount of time.

Commissioner Murray said, Chief, a number of years ago –, I say a number of years –, probably about three or four years ago, we approved a special funding for the Chatham County Police Department for the recreation restrooms and the boat ramp restrooms and things like that because we had a lot of problems going on in those facilities, and I would not be opposed if you need the same type thing to enforce what's going on out there because you say you don't have the manpower to do all of it all at one time. If we need the same type setup put on this, then I would certainly support that, and we do have some funding in Contingency that we could utilize out of Special Service District Contingency to do that. Chief Sprague said, Commissioner Murray, with regard to that, you're correct. The Commission did authorize some overtime funding for both the County-owned recreational facilities as well as in another area the Marine Patrol in order to cut down on residential, dock thefts, et cetera. The problem is the manpower itself. The County Police does not have adequate manpower at this stage to support multiple overtime operations as well as daily routine police patrols and investigations into crimes. We're prioritizing and we may have to change the method of operations that's going on. We've got about 15,000 people more than we had when I came here six and a half years ago, we've had no increase in manpower, et cetera. So what I'm doing now is using our routine overtime in order to address this problem because that corridor is a breeding ground. The comment I wanted to make with regard to your thoughts on the petition itself is to –, I don't know if it's possible to deny licenses by January 1st of this year. With regard to the former prosecutor's comments, we have been working both with Federal prosecutors and State prosecutors. The laws are different with regard to prostitution and those types of crimes, as they are with narcotics, as a location being deemed forfeitable or even seizable to begin with, but we have been doing that as has the CNT. What we're doing right now, I believe we can address the problem on 17. What I would like to see with regard to the prostitutes, which if you look at it, the prostitutes are here, but it brings in johns, and they might want to smoke marijuana or do crack, then you've got the dealers behind the johns, and then you've got the dealers fighting amongst each other regard to the homicides and armed robberies that are incurring in these locations. I think if we start at the bottom of that pile, if it were possible for the Commission to recommend to the courts that prostitutes, upon conviction, any place in this County, either City or County, that they be barred from that 17 –, banned I believe is the term, which will make it a lot easier for our police officers and Savannah police officers to pick them up if they violate that banning. The judges are using it in the deviant activities that were occurring of people convicted or pleading guilty on crimes occurring at the boat ramps and recreational facilities. I'd like to see something like that along 17, which is a problem area right now because we can bet everything we own right now that if we can move it out, and we're going to move it out, it's going to move some place else, so we need to move with the flow.

Commissioner Murray said, just a couple more things and I'll be through. One would be since this is health, safety and welfare issues and quality of life issues, I would like for you, if you would, and you probably already have it, it's obvious that nothing's going to happen with a police merger anytime soon, even if we were unanimous in saying we wanted to do it, the City Council certainly is not, but I would like for you to work up a list of what you need as far as manpower for the Chatham County Police Department and what it's going to take us funding to get to that point, and give it back to us. The other request is to Jon Hart. If you would draw up a resolution that we can send to the courts pertaining to what the Chief just mentioned. County Attorney Hart asked, about keeping the people out of corridors after being found guilty? Commissioner Murray said, yes, sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Chief Sprague said, and we'll define that corridor for you, Jon [Hart]. County Attorney Hart said, great.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to –.

Chief Sprague said, and I can do the other, Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, okay, thank you.

Commissioner McMasters said, I want to thank the Johnsons for taking the initiative to organize what appears to be 150, 175 signatures. You're obviously committed to your community and that speaks volumes. I'm curious. Do you –, have you yet organized –, do you have a neighborhood watch group in your –? Mrs. Johnson said, we try to watch out for ourselves and when people are on vacation they let their neighbors know, but as far as formalized neighborhood watch, we haven't taken –. Mr. Johnson said, not really. Mrs. Johnson said, we haven't taken that step yet. Mr. Johnson said, we've got one gentleman right now who was the victim of a residential break-in who wakes up at three o'clock in the morning and goes out and goes around the neighborhood. Mrs. Johnson said, he's our own private neighborhood watch.

Mr. Johnson said, he is our neighborhood watch, as such, but we do not have anything formalized. Commissioner McMasters said, that's good news. In several neighborhood organizations that I work with in my district, Nottingham, Robinhood, Terrace Heights, they have been extremely effective working with Lt. Glover, I believe, in Chief Sprague's department, who's a community liaison officer, and she has resources and knowledge to help you guys get a grip on your problem, and having heard an awful lot of these discussions, I'll tell you that the mandate is that if you don't get a hold of it quickly, it'll run like wildfire, and I just urge you to take advantage of what's available to you from the Chatham County Police Department and Lt. Glover and her operation [inaudible]. Likewise, if your businesses want to form –, your better businesses there want to form a business watch organization, that's also a possibility. I just wonder if Gregori Anderson, Russ [Abolt], in Inspections could –, I know that for several of my neighborhoods that had problems with code enforcements, with abandoned vehicles, shrubbery, grass too tall, health and sanitation issues, he voluntarily went out and did a fine job of cataloging and reporting back to the neighborhood all the problems that existed so that they could voluntarily comply. I would think that this would be an excellent opportunity to go out and visit these –. County Manager Abolt said, be glad to. Commissioner McMasters said, these commercial –, let's ask Mr. Anderson to do a review of enforcement, code violation problems in this area so that these motel/hotel owners are keeping their places up to code, tidy and clean, if at all possible. I think that would help the problem a little bit. Yes, ma'am?

Mrs. Johnson said, a question. Is it in your power or jurisdiction to revoke business licenses if you find that the atmosphere or the environment around these businesses is not up to par or standard? Can business licenses be revoked? Commissioner McMasters asked, Attorney Hart, would like to –? County Attorney Hart said, yeah, in certain circumstances you can revoke a business license if you can demonstrate that the activity engaged in there is a consistent pattern of illegal activity and constitutes a public nuisance. There's some other requirements under the ordinance that you'd have to make specific findings. It would require a public hearing of the licensee and due process rights. Commissioner McMasters asked, is that a County Commission prerogative? County Attorney Hart said, I'd have to look at that. Yeah, within the confines of that they'd have to apply for the permit and then it would have to be reviewed under typical procedures and possibly end up back here. Yes, sir. Mrs. Johnson asked, who would initiate that? Would that have to come from the police or from –? County Attorney Hart said, generally that is initiated at the time of application because the application has to be renewed on an annual basis.

Commissioner McMasters asked, so what can we do to –, if this community were to give us a list of what they perceive to be the hot spots in this corridor, could we then provide them with a list of renewal dates for those certificates so that they could participate? County Attorney Hart said, I would think that the Building and Regulatory Services Department [sic], if you had the name of the –, correct name of the business, could probably provide you license dates. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, we'd be –. Mrs. Johnson said, Liberty Inn, Tedder's Motel. Commissioner McMasters said, we'd be happy –, I think what we're saying here, Mrs. Johnson, we'd be happy to assist you in getting you the information you requested if you can give us the information that we'll need to respond. Mrs. Johnson said, okay.

Commissioner McMasters said, the other thing I'd like to ask Chief Sprague about, I've attended several crime presentations from the City of Savannah wherein their statistician comes in and gives a 6-month, 12-month and 24-month power point presentation on crimes in the neighborhood defined by category. Is that something your department has the capability of doing? Chief Sprague said, our department is, in that regard, is much leaner than the Savannah Police Department. We don't have the civilian analysts that do that all day. It's done by police in a function that's a part of other duties that they have, and that again goes back to our lack of manpower. We can –, we can't put it on as the Savannah Police Department does. They're geared for it. We could put on, not a power point presentation, but a presentation of facts in another manner. Commissioner McMasters said, well, barring the glitz and the glamor of the power point presentation, could you work up, if this community is interested in knowing, the variances in the various crime categories over 6 months and 12 months. I think it would set a nice base line, if nothing else, to determine whether or not our enforcement is picking up the pace. Chief Sprague said, we can show –, as a matter of fact, on the operation I talked about earlier, we're going to be looking for reductions in calls for service, but actually over a short period of time, a reduction in arrests there because basically this is going to be very aggressive and initially there will be arrests, we'll take care of the spikes, and we'll follow the traffic where it goes in conjunction with CNT. But, yes, we could put on, say, quarterly if that were –, if that were the desire –. Commissioner McMasters said, would you ask Lt. Glover to contact the Johnsons –? Chief Sprague said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, – and set up a meeting with them to go ahead and share what –, all of her valuable knowledge about community policing, neighborhood watch and statistics, if any are available, and let's try to assist. Chief Sprague said, I sure will. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, here's the order, Commissioner Rayno, Commissioner Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter, and Thomas. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to further make comments on what John [McMasters] has said, and to thank the Johnsons for your efforts and I would encourage you to start a neighborhood watch. Lt. Glover will come explain to you. You only need to have three meetings to establish a neighborhood watch, to express your desire to do that, and she'll make the presentations and give you all the materials you need, and then you break down your neighborhood into block captains so that when you're going to have a meeting, you let your block captains know and they disseminate the information to each of the blocks, and then you start an E-mail loop to get information back and forth to each other, and then thing that I would stress is once you start it, you keep it going. Just because you've got a problem now and solve it, doesn't mean the problem disappears and, you know, things are fine and let's continue this process. I'll give you an example. One neighborhood where I started one and the crime went away, but after my wife and I moved, they dropped the neighborhood watch and a pedophile moved into the neighborhood and nobody knew that the person was there, and that's why you have to be vigilant and ongoing in the process. I also wondered if the businesses might consider doing

a partnership with the police department and using technology as one of their allies in this situation. There's a technology out there where you could put multiple cameras in multiple sites. You wouldn't have to have –, particularly have an officer there, that's sent back to a central web server and they could see –, one person could look at the multiple sites on the screen, and if they see activity at a particular site, they call up the patrol vehicle to go to that site. That way you don't have to have 10 officers at 10 places, you just have to have a camera. If the businesses chose to participate in this program, they could move the cameras from one hot spot to another, access would be made through a regular phone line. I think that that's a much cheaper alternative to going out and hiring more and more individuals to put on the street. We'd essentially be waiting for something to happen for a camera to do that and it's not labor intensive. I don't know, would you be willing to talk to businesses to see –? Mr. Johnson said, I'd be glad to. Commissioner Rayno said, – if they might want to contribute. Mr. Johnson said, and I think that –, in fact, there's one brand new business being built right now right across the street from the Liberty Inn. It's a legitimate business going in and now they're going to have to sit there and look across the street at this. And it's very prevalent. It doesn't make any difference if it's 6:30 in the morning when I go to work there's one standing on the corner, at 4:00 in the afternoon on Sunday when I come home from playing golf there's one standing on the corner. It's very prevalent. Commissioner Rayno said, sure. Mr. Johnson said, Commissioner McMasters has stepped out and I would like to say we have seen a big marked noticeable difference in the patrol cars being in there. They are doing a very concerted effort in trying to help us. This was before we even came to them. So, I do commend you.

Chief Sprague said, I'd like to just say that Commissioner Rayno's recommendation on the technology and being monitored, that's not being monitored by police officers, right? Commissioner Rayno said, well, it could be. Chief Sprague said, I don't –, it's manpower intensive. We've looked at that and, as a matter of fact, we're inserting some of that technology in some other areas as I speak, but to watch a camera takes a human being, and if you're talking about a police officer, I don't have the officers to do it. Now if you're talking about business owners and community monitors –. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm talking about this as an alternative to putting 10 more officers on the street. You've got the cameras in place and you have one person sitting in front of the camera who calls out dispatch and sends a smaller number of officers to the scene. Chief Sprague said, if you put one officer watching the screen, that one officer can't do the things he's doing now without that screen. What you're going to take is take an officer out of the line to watch a camera at one location as opposed to –. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm saying you would probably hire one additional officer to watch the screen instead of hiring 10 officers to sit at a location. Chief Sprague said, the 10 officers, sir, that I was referring to was not for the 17 corridor. I'm talking about the unincorporated County that applies to most jurisdictions represented by y'all. We are understaffed right now.

Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Perhaps also the businesses could participate in a drug-free program. Mr. Johnson said, I'd be willing to speak to them and I think I know one of the gentlemen down there at Savannah Truck, they're right across the street. I can speak to them that if they see any kind of activity, they make a call. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Mr. Johnson said, that would work just as well as a camera. Commissioner Rayno asked, Russ [Abolt], what's the possibility of setting up an enterprise zone for that corridor that would encourage businesses to go in and upgrade the area, give them some kind of tax relief? County Manager Abolt said, it would be a pride enterprise zone as before, and there were certain challenges with State law, but I'd be glad to look into it. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Can you look into it and come back with some kind of a report? County Manager Abolt said, of course, I will. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Mr. Johnson said, there are a number of new businesses in the area now. Maddox Supply just built a place out there, Fox Appliance is fixing to build a place out there, a new dry cleaners going in and they're all right in the close proximity of these establishments.

Commissioner Rayno said, Chief Sprague, on your reverse sting operations, what's the possibility of publishing the pictures of people who are known as johns and putting them in the local paper? Chief Sprague said, I like the idea. Going back two years when we did the recreational facilities and boat ramps, that was a recommendation I made, publicly as well as on paper, because there are health concerns with regard to prostitutes, johns, et cetera. We found that statistically that in the deviant activities at the boat ramps and the recreational facilities, about 75% of the participants were married with families, so there's definitely a health consideration on that. With regard to publishing their photos, that couldn't be done until they're convicted of the crime. Then it comes down to what is the newspaper's policy on putting those photographs in the paper. I know we see DUI's now out there, the deadbeat dads are out there. I don't know what impact it would have, but I'm not against that thought upon conviction. Commissioner Rayno asked, could you make a contact with the paper and see what their policy is and see if it's possible and if they would donate the space for free? Chief Sprague said, I can again. I've done it with them before and their policies don't seem conducive to that type of presentation of photographs. But I will, if you wish. Commissioner Rayno said, thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Chief, don't leave. Just by way of clarification, Jeff [Rayno], I think your point as to pictures being published, I don't think there has to be conviction before you publish in the paper, and the reason I make that conclusion is I see people arrested all of the time and I see their pictures and they haven't been convicted, so if you want to create a substantial demotivator for people not frequenting prostitution areas, if you have a solid case and you have pictures, and again a vast majority of those people are married. What I'd like to see us do is to schedule a meeting within 30 days, to schedule a meeting with this neighborhood within 30 days. Do you have a place we could have a neighborhood association meeting? Chief Sprague said, yes, sir, at the police department. Commissioner Odell asked, can you contact Chief Sprague and set up a meeting? I would like to meet with our staff prior to that meeting, and I'd also like to be notified of that meeting well in advance so I can put it on the calendar to make certain that I'm in the City when the meeting occurs. Some of the issues that we've talked about, and just by way of clean-up, we do currently in

Recorder's Court and State Court if you're convicted of prostitution, during that period of probation, we do ban people from known prostitution areas. Consequently, what's happening is that they move to an unknown prostitution area, and we have in our district moved them from various locations to various locations based upon the good work by our police and especially our Counter Narcotics. So I think we are doing this, I think the courts are sensitive to this, but realizing that we still operate under a Constitution, there are some limitations. We can say no prostitution areas and, if it's a prostitute, then they go to an unknown area. What I'd like to see us do really is when they're on probation, which takes it a step further because we're not addressing the problem, is during that period of probation we make a needs assessment, we determine what --, this is not you, this is general information --, we determine if the person has a drug addiction problem, then the drug addiction problem would be mandatory treatment while we've got them in probation. While you've got them in probation, you've got their hearts and souls because if they fail to comply with probation, then they go see the Sheriff, and that's a kind of clean quick trip to seeing the Sheriff. But some of the things that Jeff [Rayno] mentioned I think are innovative and creative. Just as we cannot pave our way out of the transportation problem, we can never hire enough police to have them in all of the places potentially that they need to be in. I think when we do the budget that from at least Commissioners, that we look at the viability of our having some surveillant [phonetic] --, I'm sorry --, some video surveillance systems in what we know as hot spots, and obviously those are going to move, and I think what Jeff [Rayno] is saying is that if you have a bank of 20 cameras that are keyed on 20 hot spots, that one person, not necessarily a certified police officer, can monitor those 20 spots and by radio can say, Officer So-and-So, we have a purse snatching at so-and-so. And the only reason why I say that is that they're doing it in Canada. I recently looked at when we were in Europe, they're cameras everywhere. They had cameras everywhere. So it is an idea that maybe we need to look at, even if we just discuss it. Chief, I'm not --, don't oppose me with [inaudible]. Let's just look at it, and I'd like to be a part of that and I'm certain that Jeff [Rayno] would like to be a part of that.

Chief Sprague said, well, what we find, Commissioner, on that is currently, currently the ratio of officers per thousand residents in the United States is 2.7 officers per thousand residents. The Southeastern United States is 2.4 officers per thousand people. Currently, in the Chatham County Police Department in the unincorporated area it's 1.6 officers per thousand residents. What I'm saying is, it sounds good, a bank of cameras, one officer doing a lot, but when you put out the call for the officers to respond to these 20 cameras, we don't have the officers to respond to it.

Commissioner Odell said, I know, but what you're doing is you've heard from Commissioner Murray who asked that you prepare for us what it is that you need. We're not experts in this. If you need, because of the increase in crime, more people, this type of equipment, then we need to know about that and we need to know about it well in advance of budget so that we can anticipate and plan for it. I guess what I'm saying is that we need to order our priorities, and in ordering our priorities if you need additional staff, then tell us and explain to us why we need it and what benefit we'll have from it. I think you'll find a receptive Commission, but my last point is that when we meet with the neighborhood, this particular neighborhood, and I'm --, and you meet with Westlake, you meet with Sylvan Terrace, Colonial Village and others, we would like to have the statistics, we would like to have a --, Officer Glover, who can assist them in developing a neighborhood watch program. I would like to meet and review our presentations prior to it being presented, just as a matter of courtesy, I would like to be notified in advance of the meeting as quickly as you can get that to me so I can schedule that. I think that this has been good. You are a seasoned police officer. You have gotten compliments from both my left and my right, and I don't mean that politically because I think I'm about as far right as you can get, but it's a good opportunity for us to look at making the correction so that the quality of life, not just for this neighborhood, but for the 38,000 people who live in the Fifth District and for the other individuals that live in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth. I've been impressed with your department. As an attorney, I've said in court, and I agree with Dean [Kicklighter], your people do a good job, they're respectful of citizens because just because someone says it happened, that's why we have a courts system to determine the truth of those allegations, and your people do a good job. Rather than have a business --, a private citizen to go to the business and determine whether or not they would buy into our proposal, I think that would be good to have a representative of your department to do that, and the reason I think that that would be good is that, one, it is official it is from Chatham County, that's important, that they know that this is not one citizen or several citizens, that this is Chatham County who are asking them to be good citizens, and we all want to live in an environment of reduced crime. So I'd recommend that, and --. Commander Williams said, Commander Williams. Commissioner Odell said, I think you were on the first case where you arrested a citizen that I represented who just unfortunately happened to be guilty. So I will always remember your name. Did you have a comment?

Commander Williams said, just that we have --, we do have an analyst now that's looking at a lot of our stats and what not, and we're putting things together as far as how we're going to redirect our resources to allow us not to be putting out --, we call ourselves fire fighters because a lot of this drug work is out there being invisible in some communities, so we're putting out fires here and there, but we need some breathing room so we can redirect our resources and find out where we can utilize them to the fullest, and we do have an analyst. I'm putting some more people on staff with that analyst to really look at our situation that we have in Chatham County because right now this is my biggest fear, when Mr. Abolt saw me about a month ago, if I had to stand before the Commission right now and you asked me how bad is the drug problem here in Chatham County, I really haven't had time to really analyze this and I'm really putting it together now so I can give you a good answer when I'm up here on this carpet and say how bad is the drug problem here in Chatham County, I can be able to answer that and I will be able in a little while. I will be able to answer that. But right now I don't have the answers to that.

Commissioner Odell said, so that the general public knows and understands, your efforts are coordinated with those of the Chatham County Police Department. Commander Williams said, Chatham County Police Department, Savannah Police Department --. Commissioner Odell said, Savannah Police Department. Commander Williams said, -- DEA, GBI.

Commissioner Odell said, that we are all working together to try to solve this problem so that we don't get into a jurisdictional problem where we're chasing from one place and they set up with immunity. That doesn't happen as long as they're in Chatham County. Commander Williams said, no, sir, we're preventing to make sure that doesn't happen by keeping our connection with all law enforcement agencies throughout not only Chatham County, but throughout the State of Georgia. I even cross boundaries sometimes going over to South Carolina also. Commissioner Odell said, and just lastly, thank you all for coming and thank all the neighbors, and in 30 days we're going to have a meeting. Bring your notes, write down problems and concerns. I think that you're going to find that Chatham County is not only responsive, but our staff can be creative in solving the problems of the various citizens, and I thank you.

Chairman Hair said, the order which we'll –.

Chief Sprague asked, can I say one thing before you close, a suggestion? At that meeting, I know Commissioner Kicklighter and possibly Commissioner Thomas have businesses in that zone. I suggest that they might be invited to that meeting also. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, or maybe we could do a separate meeting for them, but the three of us will talk and we'll get back to you by the first part of next week, Chief. Is that good, Dr. Thomas and Dean [Kicklighter]?

Chairman Hair said, here's the order which we'll proceed, Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Thomas, Mr. Earls. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you. First of all, it's gratifying to me to see such a large number of citizens appearing before us right now. On so many cases we have serious problems in the County and nobody shows up at a public meeting, and so, Chief, you're very fortunate to have this group of citizens behind you. I'm also very happy that we have a nationally accredited, state certified police department with the Chatham County Police Department. A lot of times you can say you have a good police department, but that's bragging rights. You have the certificate to prove it, and I think that the drug squad also is doing a good job. One of the problems that we have right now, I think, when we've identified these very problems and some of the comments that you made, Chief, and you alluded to analytical capabilities, I'm certainly familiar with the importance of having a good analyst on board for a police department, and I don't mean someone that can just count beans. I mean someone that can actually look into the causation of the problem. Obviously, you have certain problems in this neighborhood that do not exist in the middle of Ardsley Park. Why? And before we –, but the problem with –, in government and certainly in law enforcement is that a lot of times when we come under pressure, we come up with the solutions before we fully understand what the problem is, and there would lie the great value of a good strong analyst in the police department. So I would certainly support your acquiring a good analyst, and again I emphasize, not a bean counter but someone that can actually determine what the underlying causes are out in that area. I think that there –, without getting into a lot of reasons, you know, obviously when you're dealing with drug dealers or prostitutes, they need certain conveniences to operate. They can operate well in this particular location, but what are those reasons? If they are in fact the businesses, we need to analyze this and I'd ask the County Manager when we come up with this in 30 days that we take a good look at the neighborhood to see exactly what is it in the neighborhood environmentally that is conducive to prostitution and drug dealing, and it could be, you know, do we lack lights, do we have bad businesses, do we have –, well, whatever they are, let's list them and let's systematically go after them, and that's the value of an analyst. And certainly if you need more police officers, Chief, you're going to probably be just like I used to be in my last life, why if I wanted 10 or 20 more police officers, first I had to show how I was going to use them, and to use them effectively, and an analyst can be a big, big asset to that, and when you get these people obviously you have to show results, and again an analyst is important with that too. At the risk of coming up with solutions before an analysis is done, I would suggest that the one thing, drug deals and prostitutes they don't care –, if they get arrested, that's part of doing business. They don't really care if they get their picture in the paper. On the other hand, their customers, the people who buy the drugs, the people who utilize the services of a prostitute, they tend to be family people, they tend to have jobs. They do not like publicity, and I would –, I'm not disagreeing with you, Chief, about the picture, but you might not be able to get the picture out immediately after an arrest. I don't know whether you can or you can't, but for sure it's public information and the newspaper can go out to the County jail and get that picture. In fact, they've done it many times on people that have been arrested, so it's a matter of just going ahead and doing that. I really strongly believe in a thorough, thorough publicity for the users of drugs and the users of prostitution services. I think they need to be known throughout the community by their family, by their bosses and everybody else, and I would suggest the one that we could do, we have our very own government channel and I would like to see that when these people are arrested that we go ahead and get their pictures and the data right on that government channel and I guarantee you if we're looking for a way to increase people looking at our government channel, that'll do it because there will be a lot of wives and bosses who are checking that out, you know, and that needs to be done. And we've certainly found that to be true in Savannah. When we shined the light on the customers, why it solved problems in neighborhoods right away. The other part is that you absolutely have to go after these businesses, and the businesses need to be put on notice. Sometimes they're willing doing it, you know, like a convenience store, they get to sell beer and what have you to the extra customers that come through, and others are not so willingly contributing to it, but nevertheless they are, and it needs to be brought to their attention too. But that has to be done through analysis, and I would certainly look forward to seeing that part of the equation too in 30 days. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chief basically –, I heard him ask us to do one thing today, and I like the idea. I believe when he arrests the prostitutes, they are immediately out of jail. He requested that we pass some type of resolution to ask the judges to ban convicted prostitutes from Highway 17. So at this time I'll make a

motion that we pass the resolution to ask the judges to ban convicted prostitutes from the Highway 17 area. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion, do we have a second? Commissioner Odell asked, would you entertain from all other known prostitution areas. Commissioner Thomas said, all. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, and let me ask you this. Can we –, I know years ago you could –, can you ban a convicted criminal from the County? County Attorney Hart said, that would require some more research than just sitting here today. There's no question y'all can pass a resolution and there's no question that the courts as part of the probation or bail can put certain restrictions on it. I've talked to the Chief and he's going to get me a description of the area that he wishes to have expressly put into the resolution and we'll have you a resolution drawn pretty quickly.

Chairman Hair said, but as I understand it, the resolution will be that the judges would have to issue the order. We could not do that. County Attorney Hart said, oh, no, no. They would have to –, you'd have to –, it would just be a resolution requesting the judges –. Chairman Hair said, asking them to do that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I'll amend my motion to include all other known prostitute areas, and I'd like for you to get with the Chief and he can list the other known areas. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Any discussion of the motion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think most of what I had to say have been said, but I did want to reemphasize the fact that, to the citizens, we certainly commend you for coming forth this morning to bring this information to us, but I also want to encourage you to follow up with what Commissioner Odell has suggested about your neighborhood watch program, your community meetings. Get organized very quickly. I can tell you that the West Savannah Community Organization has done a tremendous job in this area. They have those block captains and the block cap–, they meet on a monthly basis, and the block captains report to the total community at large when they have their combined meetings, and it has made a tremendous difference in that particular area. So I just wanted to suggest that you do that, and also to the Chief I want to also encourage you and others to consider the innovative methods that have been suggested here this morning so that we can have a full parameter of ideas that you can probably look to in the future.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Ken Earls.

Mr. Ken Earls said, my name is Ken Earls. Commissioner Gellatly said part of what I was going to say about the public channel. I think that would be very effective. Another thing that was mentioned about the cameras, we're talking –, Commissioner Rayno mentioned hiring one person to watch these cameras. There are 24 hours in a day, seven days in a week and 365 days in a year, so you'd be hiring more than one person to do this. To hire three, four or five people to do this, you could put another officer on the street. Also, over the past several years I've been attending these meetings, actually more than 13 years now, the Police Chiefs during all those 13 years have said, "We need more officers." So –, and also the Chief has stated that in the past couple of years, so it's not like he has not been telling you that. So there has to come a time when whatever pledge you made to your people, you have to use common sense and spend the money for public safety. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Earls. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Sid Nutting.

Mr. Sid Nutting said, much of what I would have said if I could have said it a few minutes ago has been said to you in the meantime; however, I'd like to just mention quickly that in the land use planning discussions we've had, this whole matter of safety and creating conditions to keep crime out is a high priority. The second thing I wanted to mention that I don't think has been covered well is that you don't have to watch a camera 24 hours a day if you'll put a recorder on it. You'll notice that most of the crimes you see nowadays on television have been traced back to some parking lot camera that picked up something, driver's license or a car or whatever, so that's a tool that retroactively that this is good for. And the last thing I wanted to mention is just as a deterrent, in another mill, not the one here, we had a very bad problem within a short time of people stealing batteries out of the cars, and the stealing seemed to be going on right at shift change when there were a lot of people around. So we put up a big tower and put the camera on top of it and we had power to it, so we turned it on although we still didn't have the actual cable run, and just that thing up there randomly turning around immediately there were no more batteries stolen. So I even had the question in a tight budget year of perhaps we don't need the cable, but it was the kind of thing that I think the police officers would tell you is an awfully valuable tool to have and, even if not manned around the clock, it gives you a reference.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Nutting. Commissioner Rivers and then I think we're ready to move on. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Chief, do we have throughout the area neighborhood watches being established, throughout the total unincorporated area? Chief Sprague said, yes, they've been available since I've been Chief and before, and when we get inquiries from any neighborhood or from any Commissioner, then we put the people together with our COP Unit in order to form up the neighborhood watches. Yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, let me say this, Mrs. Johnson. I want to thank you for bringing this to our attention, and I would advise you that you organize not only a neighborhood watch group, but a neighborhood organization that meets on a regular basis and invite your Commissioner and have him invite whomever, the Chief of Police, CNT, in each month. In the Second District I think I'm kind of fortunate. I've got

about eight or nine neighborhood organizations that the City of Savannah does, and neighborhood watches are established throughout, so we have regular meetings plus, in addition to that, once a month I have a Second District meeting so all of my people can come to me. The presidents of the neighborhood associations come to my meeting. So this may be another way that you may need to look at, Billy, as far as neighborhood development. I don't know how we'd get that person —, the City of Savannah has a staff and all the stuff to do that, but that's something that we can look at organizing our neighborhoods because the best camera is the eyes of the people. They see more than anybody else. Everybody can tell you what they want to about everything that goes on in that neighborhood.

Chief Sprague asked, can I make a closing thought on cameras and technology with regard to this problem? What we're talking about is the corridor —, the 17 corridor, and what we're talking about is looking —, having someone look at a camera to determine where the crime is or 20 cameras around the County. Now, that is great if you're looking for a reactive mode. If a burglary or an armed robbery occurs at a motel, a car break-in, et cetera, you could punch in the time and date that occurred and pull out and you may get a picture, and it may be a long-range picture of the violator. What I'm talking —, what I understood the argument to be here is the corridor itself having business owners and citizens cooperate and using a camera on that area. Without a person on it, a human being, you're not going to see the trends that are occurring, be they stolen cars, break-ins of cars, armed robberies, that's where you need, to quote Commissioner Rivers, human eyeballs, police eyeballs, and we can look at all different ways to say we don't need police officers, but I'm here to tell you today we do and technology is not going to change that. In this instance, I know it won't.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Chief. We're about ready —, I'm going to call on the two Youth Commissioners, Ms. Cheley and then Ms. Callis and then we'll have Ms. Cohen.

Youth Commissioner Cheley said, I just had a question about the neighborhood watch. I mean, there are a lot of areas throughout Savannah and throughout Chatham County that has a lot of problems, and I was just wondering how long would it take to set up a neighborhood watch? Chairman Hair said, well, I think it would depend upon a lot of things. I think it would depend upon how organized the community was and how many people you had that were really interested in it. Certainly, the help of the Police Department, that's what they do. They have a unit that just does that, so I think it would depend upon the neighborhood, but we would encourage all neighborhoods to attempt to do that. I think it would greatly help the problem. Youth Commissioner Cheley asked, so if we wanted to start one like, because I stay on the Southside, so I really don't know how could we go about finding out —? Chairman Hair said, Lt. Glover —, is that correct, Chief? Is that who? Chief Sprague said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, contact Lt. Glover at the Chatham County Police Department and that would be the first step in the process. Commissioner Rayno said, but if she lived in the City, it would be somebody else. Chairman Hair said, yeah, the City. Are you a City —, I'm sorry, I didn't —. Do you live in the County or the City? Youth Commissioner said, I stay on the Southside. Chairman Hair said, Southside. Well, it could be either one really. Chief, do you know who in the City would be the contact person for neighborhood watch in the City that Ms. Cheley could contact? Commissioner Rivers said, just call Community —. Chairman Hair said, let's do this. Let's have her call Lt. Glover and if it's not, if she's not the one, she could put you in contact with the City person. Commissioner Rivers said, just call Community Development in the City and they'll tell you who —.

Chairman Hair said, let's stay in order here. Ms. Callis and then Ms. Cohen and then Commissioner Kicklighter. Hopefully we'll wrap it up here.

Youth Commissioner Callis said, okay, good morning. I agree with Mr. Rayno using the advantage of technology, but are there a sufficient amount of funds available for this or would the businesses around the area have to provide for it? Commissioner Rayno said, pardon me. I didn't hear you. Chairman Hair said, speak in the microphone please. No one here heard what you said. Youth Commissioner Callis said, I agree with Mr. Rayno. When using the advantage of technology, are there amounts —, are there a sufficient amount of funds available for it or would the businesses around the area have to provide for it? Commissioner Rayno said, well, eventually we'd ask the businesses if they would be willing to chip and fund some kind of a partnership with the County. I mean, we're just in a brainstorming portion right now and then we'll come back with ideas. I think we'll know better then.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Callis. Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Cohen.

Youth Commissioner Cohen said, the Chief was talking about how he needed more officers —. Chairman Hair said, yes. Youth Commissioner Cohen said, if we know we needed more officers, what's stopping us? Chairman Hair said, well, it's primarily budgetary issues in terms of funding it. That's the issue, just the costs associated with it and probably, I guess, other priorities as well. You know, other things competing for those same dollars. Were you through, Ms. Cohen. Youth Commissioner said, oh, yeah. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, first I'll state that Commissioner Odell will be glad to set up a neighborhood watch. He will actually incorporate it. He's done that for several organizations, so he will actually help you set that up. Next, I have a radical thought, an idea that I bounced off the former Chief here. There's no better police of these unruly, wedded husbands than their wives. If you want to put Saturday Night Live out of business on Saturday nights, put the cameras out there and throw it on live TV on the government channel, and you'll thousands policing the area. When people drive up and stop, that's a radical thought, but it's possible it would stop it. I sure wouldn't drive up in any area that my wife's at home watching on TV.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you very much. It's been a very fruitful discussion and I appreciate Commissioner Odell putting that on the agenda.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that we pass a resolution to ask the judges to ban convicted prostitutes from all known prostitute areas. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

At the request of Commissioner McMasters, and without objection, Item VII-7 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS (Continued)

3. EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, let me just preference my comments by saying that within the last week or so we received a notice that the preferred provider for the HMO product has moved from Candler/St. Joe to Memorial Medical Center, and I asked at that time that this be set down on the agenda. I know that Mr. Mahoney, one of the partners, had a death in the family and will not be here, and Mr. Hardeman is out of town. I do ask if there are representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield? Are there representatives from Blue –, can you come forward? Good morning, would you–, for the record would you identify yourself and your position.

Ms. Paula Scott said, I'm Paula Scott and I'm the Account Manager over the Chatham County account for the local Savannah office. Commissioner Odell said, okay. For Blue Cross/Blue Shield? Ms. Scott said, for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Commissioner Odell asked, and you report directly to Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Hardeman? Ms. Scott said, no, sir, I report directly to my senior management in Atlanta. Commissioner Odell said, in Atlanta. I promised Mr. Hardeman that we would ask that no action be taken today in that he was out of town and Mr. Mahoney had a death in his family and could not be here, and my sympathy goes out to him, but because of the substantial questions that literally employees have, I promised him that I would make a list –. Ms. Scott said, correct. Commissioner Odell said, and the list would not be all encompassing, but it would be a summary of the concerns. Ms. Scott said, correct. And I've been speaking to our senior management, and due to negotiations ongoing, all of our questions have not been addressed either, and they have promised us to have some answers within five to ten days, and so that's why we were asking for the date to be moved up so that hopefully we would have enough information to address all of your issues or questions.

Commissioner Odell said, right, and so that you'll know what those issues that I have are, I'd like to read those into the record. Okay? Ms. Scott said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, and I'll provide you a copy of that. One is that –, I think I'm still on the board at Memorial, but if I continue to ask questions about indigent care I might not be, but I've been a supporter for Memorial, so my question isn't regarding Memorial. My question is what is the status of negotiations with Candler/St. Joe. I don't expect you to answer that today, but I'd like for us to know. I'd like to have that knowledge to be in writing. As of December 1st, what will happen if the agreement with Candler/St. Joe is not signed. That is a separate and distinct question and it's number two. We moved our health insurance from a self-insured fund to Blue Cross, what I'll refer to as a bid, based upon a projected savings. My question is what affect will St. Joe/Candler leaving Blue Cross/Blue Shield have on the projected savings? If it has none, then it has none, but if it has an impact on what was said and what was promised, then I'd like to know that, and hopefully other Commissioners would like to know that also. When we entered into the agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, our employees were specifically told that nothing would be changed. I guess my concern is that a lot of our employees are being treated primary care with Candler/St. Joseph's, members of that physician group. What –. Ma'am? Ms. Scott said, and I can't address that. Commissioner Odell said, no, these are not for you–. Ms. Scott asked, you don't want me to address anything? Okay. Commissioner Odell said, it wouldn't be fair to Mr. Hardeman and Mr. Mahoney, and I think it would probably be fairer if they got a listing of the questions, but I want them to know what the question is so it does not appear to be an ambush because it's not. My concern is that when Blue Cross/Blue Shield presented their proposal, I asked the question as to whether or not we had a signed contract with Candler/St. Joe. In that negotiations have failed, I read that to mean that we did not when we were told we did have a contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Also, too, given the light of all of the things that have been besieging our employees, I think that continuity is very important. If I am a diabetic, if I had hypertension and I'd been seeing the same physician at Candler/St. Joe for those kinds of problems, under this plan how will that change? That's the fourth question. And I guess putting it another way is what affect will St. Joe/Candler leaving the network have on provider network? And that is doctors? Are we talking about all of the doctors will be part of the network, and it's just a question that you're not going to answer today, but it's, I think, a necessary question. If Candler/St. Joe leaves the network, and I have no information whether or not that will occur or will not occur, but it is a possibility, and as a possibility I'd like to know if they leave the network, how will Blue Cross/Blue Shield handle providing primary care physicians for our employees? In that Memorial had been considered to be the preferred provider for the HMO, what impact, if any, will that have on the stated savings? There were promises made. I'm just trying to determine if those promises will be kept as to a savings.

Commissioner Odell said, I promised Mr. Hardeman that if I had additional questions that I'd get them to him. I ask that no action be taken today because they are out of town for legitimate reasons, death in the family and what have you, and I'd ask that any report addressing those questions or providing a status report be shared with all of the Commissioners, and I do ask the Chairman that this matter be set down for the next Commission meeting. If all of the questions are answered by then and I don't have further concern, I will withdraw it, but as of now I'd ask that it be scheduled for the next Commission meeting if there is no objection. Chairman Hair said, we'll put it on this section again. Commissioner Odell said, that's all I have. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you very much.

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Commissioner Thomas said, I wanted to go back to the health thing. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Thomas said, employees health insurance. I did have dialogue with Mr. Hardeman, he did call me. He said he was going to be out of town. He wanted to know whether I had any concerns and, yes, I did have a lot of concerns. One of the concerns that I have was relative to prescription drugs. I did get –, I believe I got a notice. I'd have to go back and read it to make sure that I am correct, indicating that one of the prescription drugs that I take for my high blood pressure, that I would have to change that to something else. And when I looked at the changes that were being suggested, it's something that I cannot take and I will not take under any circumstances. That's one of my concerns. I'm also concerned about doctors, the use of doctors. Am I going to be able to use my own doctor or am I going to be told what doctor to be used? I'm not interested in being told what doctor to be used because I want to be able to choose my own doctor. I also want to be able to choose where I want to go as far as the services that I want to be rendered for me. And those are some of my concerns, and I want to get that in the minutes at this point because as of right now it doesn't appear that I will be here at the November 8th meeting.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner McMasters. \

Commissioner Murray said, I've got a couple of things. One, our next meeting is what? November 1st? County Manager Abolt said, 8th, sir. Commissioner Murray said, November 8th. Okay, well, that's fine. Then that answers that part of it. The other question I would have, with all of our political commercial on TV and radio right now, one of Governor Barnes' commercials states that it's in effect that HMO's now can use any doctor they want to. What I want to know is that correct or not because under this plan we cannot. We have a list of doctors we can use under HMO or PPO, but under the –. Chairman Hair said, we can add that to the list of questions. Commissioner Murray said, okay. So I'd like to know. Chairman Hair said, okay, add that to the list of questions that we're –. Commissioner Murray said, the add said HMO so that's why I want to know. If that's the case, we need to get it corrected.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that I supported the health care conversion and I'll also remind us that we handled it rather poorly in terms of the speed with which we moved on it. The intent of it was to save taxpayers' money and to try to keep the employees' level of care the same. And that's a commitment that I made when I supported this, and I am concerned about the volume of letters and outrage that's happening with the County employees about what may happen with the system and I caution may happen with the program, but my patience is limited and if this does not deliver, what we committed to employees, I will in all likelihood withdraw my support from the program but I am hopeful that these questions will be answered and that the levels of service will remain the same and that employees will be able to have all their needs met, as was committed by this Commission to them through this health care change.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, briefly I just want to let the employees know basically I echo what Commissioner McMasters said down there. Talking to a gentleman the other day on the phone, it sounded like within ten business days we would have definite answers of what would actually happen with the medical insurance plans. From what he said on the phone, it sounded like things could actually wind up better with more choices than we had before, but we will have those answers coming up shortly and, you know, if we're getting basically shortchanged, I, like Commissioner McMasters over there, I'll vote to jump back to the other one too because I voted also to try to save some money, but we were sold a –, sold a policy that looked like it was exactly the same or even better, and if they don't hold up to that quality of service, then, you know, I would go back with the other also. We're going to –, I believe, we're committed as even a group up here to keep your health care coverage at that level or better, or we'll take some type of action, but I'll just ask the employees to try to not panic for –, give us at least five, ten more days to get the actual answers to see exactly what we're facing, but hopefully what Mr. Hardeman was saying will actually pan out and we'll wind up in better shape actually with more options and more choices than we actually had before. And I want some answers on the prescriptions also because I've gotten phone calls where certain medicines that were included with our past insurance are not included now, and that really hurts people, especially with the people that's retired from Chatham County. One pops out, and you can take this one to Frank [Hardeman] or whoever. I have a constituent in my area that her husband retired and he is on the medication, I believe it's Nexium, and all of a sudden now this insurance says, no, you don't need it. Commissioner Thomas said, that's right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that's not what we were sold and, you know, things need to get back to what we were told or I'll be moving to move this thing in a different direction too.

Commissioner Murray said, just to clarify, that's Frank Hardeman, not Frank Murray. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, Frank Hardeman. Did I say Frank –? Commissioner Murray said, you said Frank and I just wanted to make sure it's not me.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so please relax as much as possible and give us ten days to find out exactly what we're facing.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers has informed me that there's somebody out in the audience from St. Joe's that wants to make a comment. Come forward please. We're not going to take any action today, so –.

Ms. Allen said, no, I just want to make a clarification, if that's okay. Chairman Hair said, sure. Ms. Allen said, my name's Melissa Allen and Paul Hinchey was –, regretted that he couldn't be here today. He is enjoying his first Parent's

Weekend with his freshman in college, but he'll certainly be here at the next one. I do want to make one clarification, especially in light of what was in the newspaper last week. St. Joseph's/Candler did not leave the HMO. We did put forth a very, very competitive proposal. So we feel like that we've got to make that clarification. It's that Blue Cross/Blue Shield chose not to accept the proposal that we offered, and again it was very, very competitive and we felt like that, as a matter of fact, it was so competitive we're surprised that there's another that outbid, as competitive as that proposal was, but that we felt like as a guiding principle that we could not shift costs to other payers and ask other people to pay for that contract or jeopardize any of our services or to subsidize it. So, you know, I just wanted to make that one clarification. We did not leave the HMO.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Allen, we appreciate that.

Commissioner Odell asked, Russell, may I give to –, I'm sorry. Billy [Hair], may I give to Russ [Abolt]. I've jotted down a list of the questions.

Commissioner Thomas said, may I also suggest to the employees that if they have questions and concerns that you need to direct them to the proper sources that they can be cooperated [sic] with that particular list so all of the concerns may be addressed at the same time.

Chairman Hair asked, sir, do you want to make a comment? Again, we're taking no action today, so –.

Dr. Hissam said, I understand. I'm Dr. Hissam, I'm family practice. I've been sent here really at the request of my patients to try and represent some of their views in regard to this, and there's been quite a few discussions in my office on a daily and a nightly basis lately. Many of my patients remember probably about 25 years ago when I first went into practice, there was a coalition called the Savannah Business Coalition that met with the Georgia Medical Society to try and come to some consensus on some of the problems. Some of that we're still facing today. Those of you that were around then will remember what just started as a discussion ended up in immediate disagreement on each and every point. It spent about five days, I believe, on the front page of the Savannah News and Press and was very, very destructive, both for the Savannah business community and the Savannah medical community. I see today some parallels starting to occur that I saw some 20 years ago regarding the health care issues that we're looking at. I'm here today particularly at the request of my patients. They've been in and out of my office this last week, we've discussed various options, we have the scenario of a 10-year-old crying because he's losing his primary care physician. We have another physician here in town who's been in practice for 56 years, whose patients are being actively directed, even as we speak. I know Mr. Kicklighter asked for ten days. This direction's already taking place. They're actively being directed to other physicians and other care panels. So, you know, I know you need another ten days, fellows, but there's some action going on already. We decided the best action to take at this point was to try and give the Commission some information. I'm going to pass around a fact sheet here that regards some of the issues at hand. You can read it at your leisure. I'm not going to go through everything here. This was put together by my patients, not by the medical society or any particular interested group other than the patients. Give me one second. A couple of very quick points on this. I think there's a misnomer. When you talk about Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Georgia, it does not exist any more. It was taken over, in fact, by Wellpoint Health Care Services back about a year ago and they've kept the name, but nothing else. I spent three hours in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield headquarters last November looking for the 30 or so individuals that I've worked with for the past 10 years on health care issues here in Savannah. There was only one remaining. The other 29 are no long with them. The same with the Wellpoint. I think we have some information here, exactly who they are and what they –, and you can pick this up on the Internet or any place. The same with Memorial, Quorum and Third Party [inaudible] hospitals. And I'll leave this just as information. If anything's wrong with it, I'm sure I'm going to hear about it, so that being said, we're concerned with quite a few things here with the patient population, with what's happening here, with the information that's been put out, with some of the disinformation that's been put out, but I think the main attempt today is to let this council know who the players really are, what names are real and what names are not real.

Dr. Hissam said, yesterday I managed to call a lot of my old contacts from the Savannah community that are in Columbus, Macon, Marietta, Athens and Augusta. They are watching what happens here right now very, very closely. They feel that what's happening here in Savannah is a kickoff for what Wellpoint will do with their communities and how their communities will be treated and handled, and each one of them is watching very closely the newspaper and what transpires at this time at this particular location. I point out that Savannah was one of the original founders of Blue Cross/Blue Shield back in 19 –, I believe it was 1939, and it does set some standards for the State. Very nicely so. The matter of quick quality here is good. We have excellent medical institutions. I sort of feel personally this is more a fight between Wellpoint, that's realizing some of the factions that exist within this community. But we are being watched very closely and on behalf of my patients I appreciate you all's time and interest, and as I celebrate 25 years in practice in this community, I look back upon four sons that I've raised here, for all the things I'm still in, still doing and the patients I care for. During the 1990's I was instrumental in dealing with Blue Cross/Blue Shield on several issues with the HMO. In 25 years of practice, I owe my patients an apology. Hindsight is always 20/20. I feel that the actions we took back then, which we had good intentions, have ended up with just horrible results, and to my patients I tried other ways, but this one I do owe them an apology. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Hissam. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Pierce.

Mr. John Saxon [Piccolo] Pierce said, I want to thank the County Commission for bringing this thing under cover. I would appreciate it. If it wasn't for y'all bringing it down under cover because thank God, thank Billy Hair, all the things that are under the cover. Now we can [inaudible.] Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Stanley Kaczorowski said, I'm sorry. I'm not a regular at your meetings, but I'm going to tell you, I can see what you're faced with—. Commissioner Murray said, you will be after today though, won't you? Mr. Kaczorowski said, no, I'm not going to be a regular. I want to tell you this though. I am not one of your employees and I'm not retired, but I am a Blue Cross/Blue Shield card-holding PPO member, which means I go to the ones that they tell me I can go to, and if I don't go to them, I've got to pay out of my pocket. I am one of your constituents. I'm not the only one that fits into this. It's more than just your public employees, it's a whole group of us out there in the County. I didn't know this was coming up. It troubles me. I'd like you to add this to your agenda and add to the questions to be asked of them, will it not only affect your public employees, but will it affect the public in general?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it affects everyone on Blue Cross. Chairman Hair said, yeah, we know that answer.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. Commissioner Odell requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

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PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - COMMISSIONER ODELL

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I did have one thing. That's kind of confusing news. I have great news from State Court and I would like unanimous consent for a two-minute announcement. This was—. Chairman Hair said, without objection. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Dan Massey, who's our Court Administrator, and I think he shared it with each of you, too. We have mandatory continuing legal education in our court system and some of you asked when the court personnel—, when the judges are out, what do the court personnel do? Well, we answered that. People are obsessed by and thanks to the effort—, and this occurred from October 7 through October 11, 2002, that our wonderful people in State Court took their time when the judges were in mandatory education and they hit all of the people who owed fines and who were not paying and who were dodging and ducking, well, we caught some of them. We caught some of them to the tune of \$90,409. Hopefully, bringing that total—, monies that we had theoretically written off—, to \$200,000. So if it's good news, my compliments to Mr. Massey and my compliments to the employees in State Court. A job well done and keep up the good work. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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4. SOUTHEAST LAND PLAN PUBLIC MEETINGS UPDATE (COMMISSIONER MCMASTERS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Chairman Hair. And I'll try to be brief on this subject, but in an effort to keep my fellow Commissioners informed on the Southeast Land Plan progress and also the citizens who watch and follow County government at home via a very fine Channel 16, the Southeast Land Plan meetings were held, as scheduled, on October 17th and 21st at Bethesda, and I'm quite pleased to tell you all that in the first meeting on the 17th, 50 to 60 citizens participated along with MPC staff and the Southeast Land Planning board. On the 21st, which is the one of the two meetings which I personally attended, there were over 70-plus people from the community representing Skidaway Island, Dutch Island, Isle of Hope, Sandfly and Cedar Hammock neighborhoods. MPC staff presented the work that they had received from the Southeast Land Planning citizens advisory panel. The purpose of this was that the MPC planning staff could seek comments from the public living in those neighborhoods, as well as elsewhere, on the advisory panel's recommendations. Citizen comments were many, but to name a few of the highlights, I'd like people to know that the residents in Southeast Chatham County want to basically protect their community character as it currently exists. Residents clearly wanted to see more responsible and compatible future development planning within their communities. Major land use issues were zoning, densities, marshland environmental impact, traffic congestion in the neighborhoods, but most of all over-arching was maintaining residential character. Interestingly, what these couple of hundred citizens that turned out to these two meetings really want to see is improved communication with County planners at MPC and their elected officials. The citizens asked that I arrange a public meeting with the County Engineer, coordinator of the MPC land planners, to brief the community and answer specific questions about Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the Truman Parkway. I've contacted Speedwell Methodist Church and they were kind enough to make their sanctuary available for this community meeting, which I have tentatively scheduled for November 11th at 7:00 p.m. I mentioned to Al Bungard, County Engineer, and he's going to check his calendar. Russ [Abolt], I'd like you to follow up with the two respective

County departments, MPC and Al Bungard, and know if they can –, let us know if they can accommodate this November 11th, 7:00 p.m., presentation on Truman Parkway, Phases 4 and 5. I would also like to –, I asked Ms. Helen Stone, Chairman of the MPC, who attended the meeting I attended, to also share her thoughts, if she’s willing, as a citizen who participated in this important dialogue of Southeast Chatham planning process.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir.

Ms. Helen Stone said, good morning. I would just like to reiterate what Commissioner McMasters said. It was a good meeting. I do think it shows that people are interested in their community character. I do think that that is the intent with the Tri-Centennial Plan. I think we’re on the right track. I would urge your support. Hopefully within the next month we’re going to put together a workshop to update all the elected officials as to where we are with this process and to get your input, but I do think that it was a wonderful opportunity for the citizens to come out and give us direction for what they want for the future of their community.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Stone. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. I’d like to just –. Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Commissioner McMasters said, I want to just conclude and urge –, tell my fellow Commissioners that as this Southeast Land Planning project moves forward, I will participate in that process and I’ll bring back regular reports to you to let you know what’s happening in the community and the progress of it. I’d also like to say that this sort of substantive community turnout and interest in land planning, I think, validates that we made a very good decision to fund the Tri-Centennial Planning and hope that we will continue to do so. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters, I’d like to thank you personally. I think it takes a lot of your time to do this. It is something that you’re very interested in, but it helps when we know what goes on, and we appreciate that very much, or I personally appreciate it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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5. MPC/LAND USE PLAN (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, the reason I put this on here, we have one land use plan in place right now and that’s in the Islands. We have another one, of course, that Commissioner McMasters just spoke on that hopefully will be adopted before the end of the year, and after that there’ll be another one that will be worked on towards the Westside hopefully. What I would like to propose right now, make a motion, that anything that goes before the MPC that is outside the scope of any land use plan that we have in Chatham County, now or in the future, would be referred to the County Commission for final approval or non-approval.

County Attorney Hart asked, do you mean by that something –, some action of the MPC that would be inconsistent with the adopted land use plan? Commissioner Murray said, that’s exactly right. County Attorney Hart said, okay.

Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, on that would you please make sure –, we’ll serve that officially on the MPC. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that anything that goes before the MPC that is outside the scope of any land use plan that we have in Chatham County, now or in the future, would be referred to the County Commission for final approval or non-approval. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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6. JOE VESTAL (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Murray, do you want to introduce Mr. Vestal?

Commissioner Murray said, yeah. I have not talked to him. I did see him come in. I just assumed he would be here. When I was going through my packets, I saw a letter requesting to be on the agenda and I called and said if he's not on the agenda, please put him on. So, Mr. Vestal, you're here and --, so speak.

Mr. Joseph Vestal said, thanks very much. I brought my personal attorney with me to advise me also. What we're requesting is for the Board of Assessors to have their own attorney, and the reason for that request is that we have specific needs in the BOA, and Mr. Hart is a part-time attorney and when it gets down to us, he's a part time part-time attorney. This is nothing --, nothing about his ability or anything, it's just we feel like we need our own representation because we have many meetings where particular issues come up that we need some advice from council. Mr. Hart can't attend all of our meetings because he's got other duties that he's doing for the County.

Commissioner McMasters asked, can I ask a question of Mr. Vestal? Chairman Hair said, sure, yes. Commissioner McMasters asked, is this --, is this request funded? Are you planning on funding this request out of your existing budget? Mr. Vestal said, well, that's a question. I can do that, but --. Commissioner McMasters asked, are you just looking for us to facilitate a request to move your funds around? Mr. Vestal said, either or because, you know, I've got statutory --. Commissioner McMasters said, obligations. Mr. Vestal said, obligations, right, that I have to do. For instance, right now we have eight different attorneys we're using for Superior Court duties. Commissioner McMasters asked, are those property appeals? Mr. Vestal said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

Mr. Vestal said, so what I wanted to do is have one attorney to do all of our work. For instance, we've got certified cases to the Superior Court for '98, '99, 2000, 2001 that hasn't come up. Commissioner McMasters said, and I might add '99. Mr. Vestal said, well, okay. But anyway from what I understand we can ask the court to move those up and that hasn't been done, and I think that's probably because of the work that the County Attorney and he's got a pile of --, just this morning he's gotten more work.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Vestal, I have a couple --. Mr. Vestal said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I want to make a comment and then a couple of questions. Mr. Vestal said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I think that everyone up here --, I think I can speak for everyone up here. This has --, I think we want to make sure that you have adequate legal representation. You do have a very important job to do and, by the way, I think you're doing a good job over there. I just have a couple of questions. What are you --, are you asking for a full-time lawyer or a part-time lawyer? Mr. Vestal said, well, a full time, part-time I guess. It's all --, I would like to have an attorney at every meeting because we have specific things to come up at every meeting. For one thing --. Chairman Hair said, I guess my concern --, we want to give you what you need. I think there's a consensus up here to do that, but we, you know, we don't want to sign blank checks. Mr. Vestal said, no, I understand. Chairman Hair said, we need to know exactly how many dollars you're asking and, you know, I think when we approve something, it would be nice to know what the amount you're requesting is. Mr. Vestal said, sure. Chairman Hair said, secondly, I guess my question is who would select the lawyer? Would it be the Board of Assessors or the County Commission or who would select who is in that position? Mr. Vestal said, well, I think we probably have to do that together. I mean, I wouldn't want to, you know, unilaterally do that. Chairman Hair said, I think that that's a good answer from my standpoint because, I mean, ultimately the decision they make is going to affect us and they're going to cost us money. Mr. Vestal said, sure. Chairman Hair said, I mean, so that was my concern. Mr. Vestal said, and a problem we also have is at some point in time we have [inaudible] service situation with you guys.

Commissioner McMaster said, conflict of interest. Is that what --? Chairman Hair said, well, I don't know. I mean, that concerns me even more now though. Now you're asking us to fund a lawyer that's going to sue us. Commissioner McMasters said, no, I don't think he's saying that. Chairman Hair said, I'm real concerned now. Mr. Vestal said, what I'm talking about is --, what I'm talking about is we're mandated by the State to do certain things, as you know. If you don't give me the budget to do that, I can't do it.

Commissioner Rayno said, certainly if you're using eight attorneys right now to do the legal work, it would be much more efficient to have one person. You don't have to get them up to speed like you do with eight people, and you've got one set of insurance forms, one set of telephones, one telephone. Everything. It makes it more efficient. How are --, what line item are you paying for the eight out of right now? Mr. Vestal said, it's out of your --, out of your budget right now. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Do you --, and you would have money within professional services to hire an attorney, wouldn't you. Mr. Vestal said, that's correct. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. And you know you do have the authority as a department head to move funds within your own budget? Mr. Vestal said, that's correct, but the main thing is I don't want to do anything unilaterally, of course, because you're my boss, but at times we have situations where we need our particular attorney.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Vestal, you said that the eight attorneys that you have now, you going to eliminate it. Mr. Vestal said, we'll eliminate that and have one attorney to handle that. But also --. Commissioner Rivers asked, is that going to be adequate? Mr. Vestal said, sure, sure, because what's happening now, they're --, I think Mr. Hart's office actually --, isn't that correct, Jon [Hart], that you assign the attorneys for Superior Court? County Attorney Hart said, what happens is the tax bills go out and you get appeals and you get a bunch of them at one point in time during the year, and you might get 400 or 500 of them, so all of a sudden you go from a modest amount of work load to just an incredible work load, so what we have done is we've tried to spread those out over four or five groups of attorneys and maybe give each one of them 30 or 40 of them, and then as the year goes along they'll settle out and then hopefully by the later portion of the year you're down to the --, you know, the stubborn 50 or the hard 50 or whatever you want

to say. So, you know, it's a peak and flow type situation. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, well, I just want to know if that's a manageable situation where you've got one lawyer gets a whole bunch of cases dumped on him at one time, is that feasible? Is he going to be able to handle it? County Attorney Hart said, sure, because -. Mr. Vestal said, if you use a law firm, it doesn't -. It's not a one lawyer law firm. What I'm saying is that they have staff.

Chairman Hair said, so you're not asking for a lawyer, you're asking for a law firm?

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, let me -. I'm not finished, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask this. Jon [Hart], do we have -, what does that budget curtail? What have we spent in the past on -? County Attorney Hart said, somebody asked us that. Commissioner Rayno said, I did. County Attorney Hart said, yeah, a month or so ago and I think -. Commissioner McMasters said, \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year. County Attorney Hart said, yeah, I was going to say \$60,000 to \$65,000 a year. We've been pretty fortunate. We've kept a fair amount of it in house except, you know, with the high peak area. So -. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Is \$65,000 going to be the amount that you're going to need to hire a firm, or what kind of money are we talking about? Mr. Vestal said, I would think that would be sufficient. I couldn't answer that totally. Commissioner Rivers asked, Jon [Hart], do you think -? Mr. Vestal said, you don't know how many appeals you're going to have for one thing, Mr. Rivers. Commissioner Rivers asked, do you think within managing those attorneys that you have been managing if you went to a firm that would be about in a ball park, 65 grand? County Attorney Hart said, I have no idea really. It would be one of those things you'd have to try and see. The -, you know, we've been attending Assessor meetings. If you have an attorney that's going to also, you know, take care of the appeals and also attend Assessor meeting, you know, that would -. Commissioner Rivers said, but if we put \$65,000 out there, allocate \$65,000, that should be sufficient if that's what we're spending now. County Attorney Hart said, hopefully.

Chairman Hair said, that's an assumption. I mean, it's an assumption, but I'm not sure it would be a valid assumption. Let's stay in order please. Dr. Thomas and then Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner McMasters. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, yeah, that's what I wondered. Do you have a line item? Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Vestal. Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Vestal. Mr. Vestal asked, excuse me? Commissioner Thomas asked, do you have a line item? Commissioner Kicklighter asked, will y'all pay -, do you have a line item right now or are you paying -? Mr. Vestal said, it comes out of your budget not mine. Chairman Hair said, it comes out the County Attorney's budget. County Attorney Hart said, County Attorney's budget. Chairman Hair said, it come out of the County Attorney's budget now. Mr. Vestal said, no, I do not.

Commissioner Rayno said, he's got additional funds in managerial professional services. Mr. Vestal said, that's correct. I do have professional services, but there's other things in that. There's other items in that we use. For instance, our computer guy we had to bring in.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah. Jon [Hart], all the billing right now and all the charge backs for legal services to the BOA is paid through the County Commissioners' budget over here, not through their budget. Is that correct? County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. It's -, it goes to the County Legal Services. Commissioner Murray said, but what you're saying though is you have -, all right, say, you've got -, I'm just using round numbers -, you've got eight people doing appeals right now. Say, eight different attorneys doing appeals. That's what you're talking about right now that is averaging about \$58,000, \$60,000? County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. We don't -. Commissioner Murray said, \$60,000 a year. County Attorney Hart said, we don't include any of Ms. Garrard's time in handling appeals or my time. Commissioner Murray said, that's what I'm saying though. We've got a Assistant County Attorney that's full time here that handles some stuff and that's not calculated in that. We have the time that you spend that's not calculated into that. So if we allocate the \$65,000 that is being spent on those eight attorneys now, and you've got a line item in your budget for the outside services, that should be enough to do the difference. Is this making sense? County Attorney Hart said, I don't know what his line item is for outside services. Mr. Vestal said, well, our line item is \$75,000, I think. Commissioner Murray said, so between the \$65,000 and \$75,000 combined with that, you certainly should be able to handle what you need to out of that. Mr. Vestal said, I would think so. I do have a situation where -. Commissioner Murray said, it would certainly free up the County Attorney's time to do other things that we're working on right now and not have to be dealing with that at the same time. Mr. Vestal said, that's correct. That's the goal because I know Jon [Hart] has got his plate full and he's trying to work with us too, and I know sometimes we get into conversations and Jon [Hart] says, well, I've got to go at a certain -, and then he's late getting to his next meeting because we were trying to work on some things and it's not fair to Jon [Hart] and his staff because we have some very particular things that we need. I cannot keep up with eight attorneys, and the BOA cannot -. I'm having problems, and I can speak only for myself, I don't know if the other members have, keeping up with what's going on with eight different attorneys.

Commissioner McMasters said, I need clarification. Ms. Garrard, who's budget does she fall under currently? County Attorney Hart said, well, mine or yours. You know, I'm a line item budget and I guess it's ultimately your -. Commissioner McMasters asked, is she part of your 405? County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, Mr. Vestal, do you experience difficulties trying to manage all of the appeals through eight different attorneys? Mr. Vestal said, oh, absolutely. I can't keep up with them. Personally, I can't speak for the other members of the BOA, but I'll assume they're having the same problem. Commissioner McMasters asked, do you have -, do you have a consensus of your board that wishes to do this? Mr. Vestal said, oh, it was unanimous decision at our last

meeting. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, I think the letter –, did the letter say that? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. I think it does. I don't remember exactly the wording. Commissioner McMasters asked, you said that you understand you have the right to request your own representation and you do have consensus on your board? Mr. Vestal said, yes, unanimous decision was voted on at our last meeting. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. I would like to –, I'd suggest too that if he had one attorney handling all these appeals from one firm, we might be more successful –, we might be more successful with our success rate in those appeals and, therefore, generate a little additional funding because we're winning more than we currently are by the consolidation under a new attorney. So that –, there's some potential hidden money there or savings, if you will, whichever way you want to view it. I certainly have no problems with it. I know that we had asked the County Attorney and the Human Resources Director to commit to attending all of their meetings until the Gary Udinsky matter was resolved over there. Will this happen –, how will this –.

County Attorney Hart said, for the record I don't believe I've missed a single meeting they've had. There have been times when I've had conflicts later in the day with prearranged meetings and the meetings run over, and they have been very gracious to move and I've asked them to move legal matters up to the front of the meeting so I don't sit through three hours of things that don't pertain to what a lawyer does for a living, and they've cooperated in that regard.

Commissioner McMasters said, well, this idea certainly would –, would facilitate faster access and consolidation of efforts and maybe better success rate in court. Mr. Vestal asked, may I say something? Commissioner McMasters said, please. Mr. Vestal said, what brought this to a head was –, was –, got all the members on the board upset because we had eight different attorneys, it's hard to keep up with, and we had actually one attorney to sign a consent agreement without our knowledge. Commissioner McMasters asked, without your board's knowledge? Mr. Vestal said, absolutely. I wasn't –, I wasn't happy, the board wasn't happy. We were really –, and we instructed Mr. Hart never to use that attorney again. Commissioner McMasters asked, has that instruction been –? County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. We had a situation in which we have traditionally had the attorneys reporting directly through the Assessor's office and the Assessor's office was giving reports to the BOA. When the new board came in, they decided they wanted reports directly to them. Apparently, we –, our office had asked that the various attorneys give them an update report on what was going on and, for whatever reason, that document was not passed along to the BOA, not through our office, but through the Board of Assessors. Commissioner McMasters asked, and lastly, Mr. Hart, how do you feel about this? Are you –, do you endorse this? County Attorney Hart said, it doesn't matter to me. It's your business. I mean, you know, we'll be glad to handle it. I think the \$65,000 figure that you got the other day was probably understated because I know Ms. Garrard spends, you know, a fair amount of time and I do too over there, so you would probably have an increase in overall costs because some of that is –, the cost we sent you doesn't accurately reflect how much work is there probably because it's being absorbed in other parts of the County. Commissioner McMasters said, that's a very, very conservative number then. County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir, it is, and the other –, the other issue is that the board in the past has instructed that they wanted an attorney designated to do the work for the board, such as the County Attorney, and that they were not interested in having their law firm –, the associates do the work, and we have been consistent about trying to avoid that situation. So, you know, you'd need to have some clarification there whether you're hiring a attorney or you're hiring a law firm. That's the only difference.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to let the BOA hire an outside law firm and increase the budget by \$65,000. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair asked, from what source are you taking the \$65,000 from? Commissioner McMasters said, the Attorney. Commissioner Rayno said, from the Attorney's budget. Chairman Hair asked, so you're shifting –, you're shifting \$65,000? County Attorney Hart said, it would have to come out of my budget. Chairman Hair said, so you're shifting \$65,000 from the County Attorney's budget to the BOA budget? Commissioner Rayno said, it's already coming out anyhow. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, that –, I guess so. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I want to state that in my opinion this is no reflection on Jon Hart. His plate is full and, not to be funny, he's about to have a full time job defending our previous actions earlier today on the Walmart issue, so he's going to have plenty to do.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Mr. Vestal. Mr. Vestal said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Board of Assessors be allowed to hire an outside law firm and authorize the transfer \$65,000 from the County Attorney's budget to the Board of Assessors' budget. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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7. CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE 11.3 – ALEX LUTEN, SANDFLY BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION (COMMISSIONER MCMASTERS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Dr. Hair. The members of the community have asked for –, have asked for this time, and I'm not certain if Mr. Luten or Mr. Maxwell –. Ms. Aries said, [inaudible]. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Well, please come forward and tell us your thoughts.

Ms. Cecilia Aries said, good morning, Commissioners. My name is Cecilia Aries and, as you see on the agenda, Mr. Luten was to speak today, but I'm here in his stead. Let me first say thank you for allowing me to speak to you today, and I would really ask that you hear me. I know sometimes you listen, but can you please hear what we have to say today because it's very important to our community and our way of life. I'm going to read to you –, I did have some petitions to present to you, but I humbly come before you today to ask for your understanding and your help. While I realize that many constituents come before you asking for assistance, today I come to you as a resident of Sandfly as I believe you are our last hope. And I say that with sincerity. You are our last hope for our community. In recent meetings you have heard residents and neighbors of Sandfly express concern about the manner in which zoning regulations and the planning process have been handled. I am not here to argue what is right or wrong, but I am here to ask that you consider rezoning the 52-acre tract that sits in the center of Sandfly, which I call the heart of our community. As our Community [sic] Commissioners, I respect that you have the final say in matters of this nature. It seems to be that it is a good thing that you have this authority. The right thing for you to do as well. The current zoning and the way it has been interpreted has put our community in a difficult position. Recently the Sandfly community has worked on a number of partnerships in an effort to bring a lot of positive opportunities to Sandfly. While these efforts will all benefit the greater good of Sandfly, my only regret is that it did not –, it didn't start these –, we didn't start these efforts sooner. But, then again, we weren't aware of a lot of opportunities until recently and, once aware, went quickly to work to do what we could to better help our community. These positive benefits –, the positive beneficial effects of the partnerships include recent approval of our historical marker from the Georgia Historical Society, an important step in our quest for listing on National Register; getting the attention of the National Trust for the Historic Preservation including a feature article in our upcoming publication –, in an upcoming publication; working with the Georgia Conservancy and its Blueprint for Successful Communities Program; participating in the Southeast Chatham Land Use planning process, and as we speak visitors from the Georgia Department of National [sic] Resources Historic Preservation Division is part of an effort to learn more about Sandfly. We're doing a tour out there right now and a lot of our residents were unable to be here today because of that and the fact that we are a working community. And I say we are a working community, we work –, as a matter of fact, I'm here today taking some time from my job to be here to address you. So this is how important it is to me. And we're also waiting approval of grant application requests from several well-respected foundations, such as Sapelo Island and the Annie Casey Foundation, and other opportunities that are also coming forward. Because of these positive efforts, which will result in the long-lasting preservation of our heritage, handed down to us for more than 20 generations, we ask that you give us the opportunity to develop responsible growth in Sandfly, enhancing the quality of life for the total community. Not just Sandfly, but the surrounding communities as well because I'd like to stress to you that this is not just a Sandfly issue. I mean, it's very important to us because we live in the heart of the community, but the outer community as well will be affected by the development that's coming into our area. So we humbly ask that you hear us and hear what we have to say, and take into consideration how important it is for me, my children, their children, because this is how it's been handed down. The property that we live on, the homes that we have, have been handed down for generation to generation, and I can't imagine any one of you not understand how, you know, what you would like to give to your children or legacy that you would like to leave, and Sandfly is a very, very important part of our heritage, and we've been there for –, since the 1700's, and we've grown, we've had development and we've had progress, and we would like to continue to see it grow, but in a responsible manner. So I do thank you for taking the opportunity to hear me.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Anyone else like to speak?

Ms. Gwen McKee said, I'm Gwen McKee, a resident of Isle of Hope, and if you'll recall, I stood before you about a year and a half ago and brought this 11.3 issue to your attention. I have a respectful request. If or when the Commission decides to take a vote on this issue involving the reconsideration of zoning based on Section 11.3 of the Zoning Ordinance, I formally and respectfully request that Commission Chairman Dr. Billy Hair recuse himself from any vote. This request for recusal from voting is based on the request for files on 11.3 under the Georgia Open Records Act. This recusal would protect the Commission from any charges of impropriety or present the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Chairman Hair asked, may I Ms. McKee on what grounds would you ask me to recuse myself. Ms. McKee said, I will refer to a public legal document that was signed by you in September '01 prior to this Commission deciding to retain 11.3 in the ordinance, and the document requested the MPC staff to remove 11.3 from the ordinance. Chairman Hair asked, and because I signed that I should remove myself? Ms. McKee said, that's my suggestion. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. McKee. Next?

Ms. Aries said, I did have some petitions here that I wanted to –. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. If you'll give those to the Clerk, we'll make sure that all of the Commissioners get those.

Chairman Hair asked, anybody else that would like to speak?

Senator Regina Thomas said, good morning. Chairman Hair said, good morning. Senator Thomas said, thank you for this opportunity. My presence is indicative of my support for not only the Sandfly community, but for the contiguous communities as well. And I feel sort of like this ship will not stop and the spinning will never stop because African-American communities are being annihilated and the attrition rate is increasing year after year after year. I look at the

Coffee Bluff area, even the Skidaway Island Landings area, Monteith and North Port Wentworth and Grange Road area. We are losing what we had, not just here in Chatham County, Georgia, but globally as well. We need to be good stewards of our citizens and taxpayers of Chatham County. The Historic Preservation Division's mission is to strengthen and expand the African-American historic preservation network to ensure that the African-American community is an active partner and since the 1940's the attrition rate continues to increase. But there are three steps to the basic methodology in determining the significance of property. One is information gathering; two, the place in history; three, applying the criteria, which no time, in my opinion, has been allotted for this. The wishes of this community and the contiguous communities has not been considered, in my opinion, in this process. Everything should not be about big business or profit. Human beings, their homes, their families, their heritage, their inheritance should be factors. I beg you to please slow this process down. Listen to the residents. Take time to gather the information, and do what is right for these citizens, residents and taxpayers of Sandfly, the contiguous community and for everyone involved. And I thank you for your time and I know that in the final analysis you will consider everything, and I'm hoping and praying that the wishes of this community, these residents, will not fall on deaf ears. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Senator. Commissioner Rayno asked, may I ask a legal question of Mr. Hart? Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Commissioner Rayno asked, under what legal authority would Mr. Hair have been able to request to have 11.3 removed? County Attorney Hart said, I'm not familiar with the document. I mean, that was news to me. I'd have to look at the document to see the context it was written in. This is, you know, brand new to me. Commissioner Rayno said, so he suggested changing an ordinance and he didn't run it by you, the County Attorney, at all? County Attorney Hart said, I don't know. I mean, I don't know what the document they're referring to. I've not seen the document. If I've seen the document –.

Chairman Hair asked, Ms. McKee, could you provide me with the document please? Ms. McKee said, I don't have a copy. It's in our attorney's office in Atlanta. Chairman Hair asked, could the attorney please provide me with the document. If you're going to ask me to recuse myself, I need to know on what basis. Ms. McKee said, well, it's in the open records file that we received from –. Chairman Hair said, I'd be happy to look at it. Could you –, can you provide me with a copy of that? Mr. Donald Stack said, as we stand here today, Mr. Hair, I cannot. What I can tell you is on November 7, 2001, you signed an affidavit that was submitted with Ms. Tillman's, as the County Clerk, signature on it also in which you advised that 11.3 had in fact been deleted from the County Zoning Ordinance when in reality that had not occurred. Chairman Hair asked, Ms. Tillman, are you familiar with this? Ms. Tillman said, I am. This is –, it was done in error and then on –, that was on a Friday and either that same –, well, on Monday the MPC was notified that that document was done in error and to destroy it. Commissioner McMasters said, it sounds to me like a clerical –. Ms. Tillman said, it was. Commissioner McMasters said, – problem. Okay. Chairman Hair said, I certainly don't remind –. It's kind of interesting that that be brought up. I can assure you I've never signed anything that did not go by this Commission. So I don't understand the document. I think it's interesting that they can't provide the copy that they're referring to. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, do we have –, do we have a copy of it, Sybil [Tillman], in our records? Ms. Tillman said, no, I destroyed it because it was done in error. Ms. McKee said, well, we got it. We got it. Ms. Tillman said, I destroyed the original. Ms. McKee said, oh, well, we have a copy.

Chairman Hair said, provide it to us. We'll be glad to look at it. If there's some legal reason I should recuse myself, I'd be more than happy to do so, but I –, just because somebody suggests I recuse myself –. Ms. Tillman said, it was in the stack of papers that we normally sign at the end of each meeting. Because the recommendation had been to approve it, it was in the papers that it was approved –. Chairman Hair said, and it wasn't approved. Ms. Tillman said, – and I failed to pull it out of there in the documents that you signed, and that's how it got signed. And then I caught it.

Commissioner Rayno asked, well, how many documents have you signed, Mr. Hair, that you don't remember signing and you haven't read. Chairman Hair said, you know, I'll defer to my good Commissioner Odell. They don't pay me enough to read everything I sign, I can tell you. I sign on the average of 500 documents a week and –. Commissioner Rayno said, but your name is attached to that and I think that's very important that you read everything you sign, sir. Chairman Hair said, well, Commissioner Rayno, I think that the Clerk has explained to you, you know, what happened. If that doesn't satisfy you, I'm sorry.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, I've heard a little bit about this and I'm pretty well convinced that it was a clerical error and nothing more than that, and I'd like to stick up for the Chairman on this. I don't think there was anything untoward about it. I do have a question, however, if I may. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner McMasters said, I see Mr. Newton is in the crowd. Could I ask a question? Good morning. Mr. Milton Newton said, good morning. Commissioner McMasters said, in 1989 when you were the Deputy Director of the MPC, do you happen to recall what the standard for a PUD-B-C was? That is, has it changed to your knowledge? Was it 45,000/200,000 square feet back then? Mr. Newton said, my vague recollection is that there was an addition to the initial PUD that did add a table to it. I'd have to go back and look to find out when that table was added. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Again, that's –.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Abolt, did you have –. County Manager Abolt said, permit me please, I want to clarify beyond any reasonable doubt. I appreciate Commissioner McMasters's comments. I believe having looked at the file on –, from the MPC on the very matters you've been questioned on, the MPC voted seven to one to repeal that section of the ordinance. The County Commission moved to deny that. So it was kind of a double negative, and I can understand why Ms. Tillman, and I can also understand that the Chairman would sign it in that way, because in the context it was a double negative.

Commissioner McMasters said, I think we're talking about two different. County Manager Abolt said, I know, but I just wanted the opportunity to explain. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters, continue please. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. Mr. Newton, going back through the minutes of the 1989 MPC meeting, your staff recommended denial back then of the change to PUD-B-C for this property. Is that correct? Mr. Newton said, that's correct. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. And your staff recommended rather an approval of a PUD-M-12 and PUD-13 classifications? Mr. Newton said, I believe that is correct. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. I have the minutes here. Do you still have those classifications? Mr. Newton said, the PUD-M, we still have the M. What was the other classification? Commissioner McMasters said, the –, maybe you can –, let me ask a question in just a minute. Mr. Saxman stated the approval –, I'm reading from the MPC minutes from 1989 –, Mr. Saxman stated that the approval of a business zoning at this location would be inconsistent with past policies for the area and could alter the character of the residential area. What –, I think the –, here. Mr. Zittrauer, one of the owners, states in this MPC minutes that based on the ordinance, the best zone for the property is a PUD-B-C classification. He said that zoning the property for multi-family homes would render the property undevelopable. Are you –, if we have these current or comparable zoning classifications that your staff recommended back in 1989, are they –, do you know what they are today in case this Commission wants to act on 11.3? Mr. Newton said, are you asking about the classifications that the staff had recommended back then? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. I'm not going to ask you to make a recommendation. I know I can't do that. I'm trying to just go back to what was the testimony of the MPC. Mr. Newton said, I believe that those districts are still in existence. Commissioner McMasters asked, and could you –? Mr. Newton said, – classifications. Commissioner McMasters asked, could you describe –, is that not a mix of residential and commercial? Mr. Newton said, it would allow a –, would have allowed a smaller commercial area that would –, the majority of the property being a mixed institutional residential type of use. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Mr. Newton said, it would have been a less intensive type of development. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Do you happen to know how much square footage for commercial space would be within that? County Attorney Hart said, without looking at it, I don't know. Mr. Newton said, I believe it may have been just a few acres, but I can't –, I'd have to have that –, I'd have to recollect my memory. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Well, let me make a motion then. That in light of 11.3 and the fact that we have the authority under 11.3, that this particular property be rezoned from PUD-B-C back to the original mixed used of residential and commercial, as was suggested by your staff in 1989. Commissioner Rayno said, second.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Discussion on the motion?

Commissioner Murray asked, what zoning classification would that be and what will it allow? Commissioner McMasters said, Frank [Murray], it says PUD-M-12 and PUD-13 classifications. Commissioner Murray asked, do you –, can you tell us what that would allow? Mr. Newton said the PUD-M would allow single-family up to multi-family at the district –, at the density that would be established by the zoning, which would be referred to by the number following. Commissioner Murray asked, what would the second classification on there allow? Mr. Newton asked, what was that classification? Commissioner McMasters said, 13. Mr. Newton said, the PUD-M-13 would allow multi-family to 13 units per net acre.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Where is the commercial direction contained in either of this because –. Commissioner Murray said, it's not. Commissioner McMasters said, well –. Mr. Newton said, there was a PUD-M, what was the other classification? Commissioner McMasters said, M-12 and PUD-13. It says commercial and mixed residential. Mr. Newton said, okay, the –, there may be a typo there or something. I'd have to –. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, well, what would be the appropriate so that I can make my motion. I want to allow some commercial development here clearly. We just want it to be in scale and mixed with residential or multi-residential. So, Mr. Newton, what would be the appropriate language here? Mr. Newton said, what I would suggest is since your proposal would have –, under the current County regulations, and the County Attorney can correct me, would have to go to the Planning Commission for a recommendation before you'd be –, before you could actually act on the rezoning, what I would suggest is you would share with us the intent, which you have, and then we would go back and take that through the process and bring it back to you for formal action. Commissioner McMasters asked, Jon [Hart], is this –, is this the proper sequence or can we not do this now? County Attorney Hart said, normally you would refer it to the MPC to come back with a recommendation, especially when you don't know what you're zoning from to what. Commissioner McMasters said, we know where we're going from, it's PUD-B-C. County Attorney Hart said, yeah, but from –, obviously from there, but to what? What are you asking for? Commissioner McMasters said, okay then, well, let me restate the motion.

Commissioner McMasters said, I'd like to make a motion that we exercise our authority under 11.3 and to refer this property back to the Metropolitan Planning Commission for advice and council as to an appropriate zoning change that would allow for mixed used of residential, multi-residential and commercial. Commissioner Rayno said, I accept the change on second.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I admire the effort of Commissioner McMasters and all the people opposing it, and I feel for the people that oppose this project there, but based on numerous legal opinions from our own County Attorney, this County's going to get sued when you change the zone, the County's going to lose, they're going to lose big, millions of dollars. It's going to have a huge impact because you can't change zoning in the middle of —, once it's been petitioned, and it's —, it's, you know, as heartfelt and as emotionally detached as everybody is, you can't do it. 11.3 is an ordinance that was in place years ago. Had this body been enforcing it all those years, I think there would be a good legal argument, but because some people oppose this particular development, to pull an unused ordinance out of the air and enforce it on this particular tract, we've been told time and time again, we're going to lose the lawsuit, and I just think, based on our own attorney's opinions, it's a bad idea to change the zoning and it should stay just like it is, and look to the future of the Land Use Plans to prevent things like this in the future. But it's just my opinion we can't change it now.

Chairman Hair said, also, before I call for the vote, Mr. Hart, I want your —, I want your legal opinion as to the question Ms. McKee raised —. County Attorney Hart said, I'm sorry, I didn't hear the last part. Chairman Hair said, I would your legal opinion as to the issue Ms. McKee raised. I want to make sure that if I vote, I vote in a legal manner. This original motion is going to be on 11.3 and that's what she was referring to. This is a different motion. In your legal opinion, based on what you've heard and the explanation Ms. Tillman gave, is there any reason I should recuse myself? County Attorney Hart said, no, sir, I do not think there's grounds for recusal unless you so select to. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you, sir. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, let me get clarification of the motion. In other words, if this motion were to pass, the only thing we're doing right now is referring this back to the MPC to come back to this Commission with a recommendation and then we would, therefore, have to vote again to either adopt that or to leave it as it is. Is that correct? Is that the motion? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. County Attorney Hart asked, do we need to do notices on that, advertise that? Mr. Newton said, no, the referral to the Planning Commission would go through the normal process and —. County Attorney Hart said, and then it would come back here. Mr. Newton said, — then when the Planning Commission's recommendation comes back, that would be advertised per the code. Commissioner Murray asked, now that is the way we will have to do every 11.3? County Attorney Hart said, correct. I just wanted to make sure we have a notice requirement over there. They'd have to go back and reconsider it and come back with whatever their recommendation would be. When it got back here, it would constitute a rezoning so we need to meet all the rezoning requirements with the advertisement and notice and opportunity to be heard.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Newton has a question.

Mr. Newton said, Mr. Chairman, there is one thing that the attorney may wish to respond to. There are two types of issues that you have. One, if you're recommending that the Planning Commission look at rezoning the property to the initial staff recommendation, in my opinion —, and I believe you concur —, that would require to go back through the process. If it's to rezone it back to the zoning classification that it originally was, which is single-family residential, whether or not there would be a requirement for the same process, the attorney may want to look at that. I don't know the answer. County Attorney Hart said, I'd have to think about that one. I'd just have to think about that. I don't know. Mr. Newton said, that was just in response to the question whether all would have to go back or not.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Dr. Thomas first and then the lady —. Dr. Thomas first, ma'am. Let's get the Commissioners first. Dr. Thomas and then Commissioner Rivers and then you, ma'am.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want clarification here because to me it's getting cloudy. On your motion, John [McMasters] —. McMasters said, yes, ma'am. Commissioner Thomas asked, you're asking that this goes back to MPC, you know, and then it will come back to the Commissioners for the final vote? Commissioner Murray said, that's pretty much what I was asking, and I wanted to make sure we got a clear answer. Commissioner Thomas said, I want to make sure. Now, what kind of impact is that going to have on what has already been done? From a legal standpoint? County Attorney Hart said, I don't know that I can give you a total answer to that question. You know, all of this is news to me. Commissioner Thomas asked, what about, you know —? County Attorney Hart said, you know, one side's going to say it stops everything, the other side's going to say full steam ahead. Probably going to end up in front of a judge somewhere. Commissioner Thomas said, you know, what —, I want —, what I want to do, I want to do what is right, but I'm also —, I also want to do what is right legally, and I'm going to do what is right legally because I'm not going to jail for nobody. Nobody. I'm just going to make that very clear, and I do understand the ramifications, you know, of what's going on. Been there, done that. Still going through it. So I know exactly where the people from Sandfly are coming from. I had three occasions, same thing. The same thing happened to my family and others in Garden City, Port Wentworth. I can go on and name a few other places, but I want to be sure of what I need to do. Chairman Hair asked, are you satisfied with the answers or do you need —? Commissioner Thomas said, they're still up in the air.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so your legal opinion is this —. Chairman Hair said, I think his opinion was he's —. County Attorney Hart said, I've rendered my opinion to the MPC and Commissioners several weeks ago. I don't vary in what I said in that, and this action's just, you know, the ordinance is clear that y'all have the power to rezone. Obviously that's subject to what the State law is in regard to pending petitions and somebody will rule on it, I guess.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask you this, Jon [Hart]. 11.3 says that we have to petition for a change. My question is, is this starting the change process? Mr. Hart said, well, you've got two ways in theory you could go under this thing.

To make things simple, let's assume we're starting anew without all the history of this property. You could follow 11.3, which is to ask the Zoning Administrator to make a recommendation and you could either act or not act on that. However, the Zoning Ordinance allows this Commission, on its own motion, to seek the rezoning of property. A classic example of that is the property about a month or so ago that we did on our own motion down on Wilmington Island. The difference was there was no zoning action going on at that time that we took that action. I was advised day before yesterday, I guess it was, that there would be some litigation arising out of that action. So we'll deal with that situation separate. So in –, in a vacuum you have the power to rezone property. You could do it on your own motion and direct staff to proceed with that and they would follow your directions, or you could ask the Zoning Administrator to come back with you under 11.3. Commissioner Rivers asked, what direction is this particular motion taking? County Attorney Hart said, I don't know. Mr. McMasters, how do you intend to proceed? Under 11.3 or –? Commissioner Rivers said, because my question would be if we're going on 11.3 petitioning back, then we need to direct 11.3 action right to them as a petition to rezone. Am I correct? County Attorney Hart said, well, 11.3 spells out the procedure if you're going under 11.3, which is to go back to the Zoning Administrator for him to come back and take action. Although the proponents are saying that because something didn't happen within 24 months, that petition doesn't apply, and that's obviously an argument that they can make. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, and we're just saying absent of the zoning recommendation, then we have to go back through the procedure of asking –. County Attorney Hart said, that's the argument. Commissioner Rivers said, asking them to come back. County Attorney Hart said, that's the argument, and, you know, the other thing you could do is proceed under the general zoning requirement of the ordinance that says y'all have the right to rezone subject to what the State law says about vested rights and other issues such as that. It's up to y'all. It's y'all's call.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. Hart, we've directed staff two meetings back to actively employ 11.3 and that generated a lot of material on cataloging properties that we had neglected for years to enforce our zoning ordinances, and it distilled down into a list of 645 properties. I called the County Manager because I found nothing in my packet advising us what was going on. There was no partial report, there was no complete report. Mr. Abolt was very kind and helpful and we had a conversation about how to manage this volume of property, and it was suggested that we might do it in one of two fashions. We might either direct staff to do it on a geographical basis, being fairly logical, proximity being a way to approach it, and the other fashion that seemed to make sense was to do it by the oldest forward. Regardless, I submit that we are actively in the process of employing 11.3, which I think is good. So, in the absence of time, I thought that this is a contentious issue, that we needed to bring some closure to the community. The community that are here today are taxpayers as well, and this matter, I think, is probably going to get resolved by a judge, but I think it would behoove us as elected officials to stand up for our constituents and our community and say we failed by not enforcing 11.3 historically. This much is a given. We are now recognizing that and we're moving forward as fast as possible and as cautiously as possible to do the right thing, and that's all we're saying. So I'm suggesting that I'm doing this under 11.3, which has already been started four weeks ago, now actively waiting for a decision on how to proceed with geographic or time, and that if this needs to ultimately go before a judge, that the community must bear the cost of this in their ultimate tax burden, but this is their right.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Murray and then if there are no other questions, we'll take a vote on the motion.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I would say that it goes back further than four weeks ago. Maybe that's when it actively started looking at the different properties, but long ago than that, and I don't remember the exact date, when we voted to keep 11.3 in the ordinance, we said at that time to start enforcing 11.3. So if you want to be technical, we can go further back than that, and whatever we voted to keep that in the ordinance. So I think that if you're doing this, it has to be done under 11.3.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor –.

Commissioner Murray said, just one –, just for clarification because I think –, Dr. Thomas, do you understand the motion because I still want to make sure –. I would like to hear it again. Chairman Hair said, I'll have Commissioner McMasters restate the motion.

County Attorney Hart said, before Commissioner McMasters restates the motion, if the intent is to take action to rezone, given everything that's gone before this issue, it would perhaps be in the best interest of the Commission to proceed with this motion under 11.3 directing that the Zoning Administrator bring back to the next meeting a recommendation on the property and to simultaneously move under the Zoning Ordinance on the County's own motion to consider sending this to the MPC for purposes of recommendation concerning rezoning, and that way there –, this Commission is proceeding under both procedures provided in the Zoning Ordinance.

Chairman Hair asked, is that your motion? Commissioner McMasters asked, may I ask for clarification? Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Commissioner McMasters said, in the language of 11.3 it sets forth that certain actions will occur. One is a cataloging of property that has not been –, certain things have not occurred to, and that list then comes to us and a report is then generated by the Zoning Administrator, and then some action is taken. Are we –, do we not have the power and authority to pluck one subject out of that and not wait for the report? Are we fouling up by not waiting for the report? County Attorney Hart said, I don't know the answer to that right now. All I'm saying is there are two methods for

rezoning, and if you want to proceed, my recommendation would be to pursue both avenues so that you've given yourself two chances at it rather than one. Commissioner McMasters asked, okay, what does that --, how do we proceed on doing dual tracks? County Attorney Hart said, well, your Zoning Administrator will come back and report to you on that property, the status of the property, and then you'd make a decision of whether you --, under 11.3 whether you consider that to be rezoned. Simultaneously with that you would have a request for rezoning petition pending over before the MPC for recommendation back to you, and that would give you the opportunity to either act under the MPC's recommendation under the general Zoning Ordinance, subject to whatever the law is of this State, or 11.3. Commissioner McMasters said, well, regardless though, Jon [Hart], if the Zoning Administrator comes back and says I think it should remain PUD-B-C, we still then need to take action and make a decision. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner McMasters said, so I think we need to make the decision --. County Attorney Hart said, well, you could take no action and make a decision. Yes, I understand what you --. Commissioner McMasters asked, but action is required based on that report? County Attorney Hart asked, which report? The one from the MPC? Commissioner McMasters said, no, the Zoning Administrator. County Attorney Hart said, well, the way the ordinance reads, you can either take action or you can not take action. Commissioner McMasters said, or not take action, but either way you're taking action. County Attorney Hart said, yeah. Yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. So I don't think that there's much left to know about this issue. I think this issue has been exhaustively covered over a very long period of time, and I think that we can go ahead and in this instance move ahead without the benefit of the Zoning Administrator's report and move directly back to MPC. That's my motion.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Does everybody understand Commissioner McMasters's motion? The second understanding. Commissioner Rayno said, the second change --, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved that the Board exercise its authority under 11.3 and to refer the Sandfly/Walmart property back to the Metropolitan Planning Commission for advice and council as to an appropriate zoning change that would allow for mixed used of multi-residential and commercial. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

None.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to ask for unanimous consent to move Item 3 up because we have our distinguished Mayor in the audience that --, and also some other folks that want to talk. Without objection, I'd like to move Item 3 up to the head of the agenda. Okay.

NOTE: At the request of Chairman Hair and without objection, Item IX-3 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET TO REDUCE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY \$765,000 TO TRANSFER THE BUDGET FOR THE TRADE CENTER PAYMENTS TO THE SALES TAX II (1993-1998) FUND, AN AMENDMENT TO THE SALES TAX II (1993-1998) FUND TO RECOGNIZE \$1,200,000 REVENUE FROM SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND TO APPROPRIATE \$765,000 TO THE TRADE CENTER PAYMENTS, \$225,000 FOR TRIPLETT PARK, AND \$210,000 TO TRADE CENTER LIGHTING, (SHACKELFORD BOULEVARD), AN AMENDMENT TO THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND BUDGET TO ACCEPT A CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL RENEWAL OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT GRANT FOR \$38,510, TO ACCEPT A \$51,280 GRANT FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA CHILDREN AND YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL AND TO ACCEPT AN \$8,000 GRANT FROM THE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES, ADOPTION OF A WEATHERWOOD DEBT SERVICE FUND RESOLUTION TO REFLECT RETIREMENT OF BONDS IN FY 02, AND A GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE REVENUE OF \$33,470 RESULTING FROM RETIREMENT OF WEATHERWOOD BONDS.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, so moved, but –. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I just would like for everybody to understand how significant it is, the last item on this with the Weatherwood debt. We went through a long process several of us that are on the Commission now, through that process when Weatherwood Subdivision came up, and that has been dealt with and this pays the last payment on those bonds and we have money back in our account now based on that. County Manager Abolt said, go back in M&O Contingency, sir. Commissioner Murray said, so I just wanted to bring that to everybody's attention. County Manager Abolt said, you tired it early also.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the following: An amendment to the General Fund M&O budget to reduce revenues and expenditures by \$765,000 to transfer the budget for the Trade Center payments to the Sales Tax II (1993-1998) fund, an amendment to the Sales Tax II (1993-1998) fund to recognize \$1,200,000 revenue from sale of surplus property and to appropriate \$765,000 to the Trade Center payments, \$225,000 for Triplett Park, and \$210,000 to Trade Center Lighting, (Shackelford Boulevard), an amendment to the Multiple Grant fund budget to accept a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council renewal of the Victims of Crime Act Grant for \$38,510, to accept a \$51,280 grant from the State of Georgia Children and Youth Coordinating Council and to accept an \$8,000 grant from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, adoption of a Weatherwood Debt Service fund resolution to reflect retirement of bonds in FY 02, and a General Fund M&O budget amendment to recognize revenue of \$33,470 resulting from retirement of Weatherwood bonds. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 2. DETERMINATION OF YOUR STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT SESSION IN ADVANCE OF YOUR MEETING OF THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER WITH THE DELEGATION. LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, MR. BOB MCALISTER, WILL BE PRESENT.**

Chairman Hair said, we do have Mr. McAlister, who is our representative. Before Mr. McAlister speaks, I would just like to relay something that came –, it's every year I've been in office, the six years I've been in office. The Legislative Delegation always asks us to do things. They ask us to –, and they've asked it this year, too, that's why I'm saying it now –, they've asked us to, you know, not give them a list of 25 things or 15 things –, because they want us to keep the list fairly short –, of things that they think they can accomplish and devote their effort to, and the other thing they've asked us to do is to prioritize, you know, if we could only have one thing, what do you want, if we can only have two things, what do you want, and it really helps them when they go to Atlanta to do that. So I just want to keep that spirit in mind as we discuss this today. Mr. McAlister, I'm going to start with you.

Mr. Bob McAlister said, I think you have a draft of the proposed legislative agenda in your package and I would be pleased to answer any questions on that or make any changes to it.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any Commissioners have any questions of Mr. McAlister or want to make any amendments or changes, add to, delete from, whatever?

Commissioner Rayno said, you know my feelings on SPLOST. Chairman Hair said, restate that. I think Mr. McAlister has done an outstanding job of putting this together and I think that we've benefitted from the fact that he's been with

us for a few years and having been –, you know, the past experience of past years, and I think he's got an excellent feel for –, you know, there's a lot of things that we'd like the Legislature to do for us that we know is never going to happen. You know, we'd like for them to give us, you know, \$55 a day for the prisoners. We know that's not going to happen, you know, but –, so we've got to be realistic about the requests and I think this is a good package that we have before us.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Bob [McAlister], you and I served on the Tideland Community Health Board together –, and that's not why it's closed –, but what do you see, and you don't have to tell me now but when we have a meeting, I'm concerned as to our treatment of the mentally ill and mental retardation. I'm concerned that they set up the consumer boards and they were first localized based on counties and then they spread them out to region. The underlying legislative purpose was to bring the community closer to the board and the service providers, but now they're going to a regional. If you could just do a little mini update because I'm concerned. I think that we have too many people falling through the holes as far as mental health services. I think that once we broaden that and make it a regional board, we're going to have more people than that, and that may not be anyone else's –. Mr. McAlister said, let me look into that and can a report to you. Commissioner Odell said, and if you can give me a call and –. Mr. McAlister said, yes, I'd be glad to.

Commissioner Rayno said, I feel your concern because I just sat in a regional planning meeting last Monday down in St. Simons and they've taken away the board's ability to provide an oversight on contracts to make sure that they're holding up their end of the bargain. We had oversight committees, we had particular groups that would go out and make visitations on properties and report back to us and we'd take action, but now all the contracts, the way it's set up, are going to be done under one regional planner. And I'm wondering who holds the regional planner accountable? I know the board is coming down from DHR, but let's say you get a crooked person in there that's getting kickbacks on contracts, who holds that person accountable? And you don't have a large body any more keeping an eye on what's going on. Mr. McAlister said, I think the whole –, whole policy of how to handle local mental health services is in transition. I think it's mostly –, you're aware at the last Legislative Session that there was one movement to basically do away with community control of mental health and move it all back to the State Department of Human Resources, and that came –, there was a lot of support for that. The Speaker particularly was pushing very hard on that, and I think what we ended up with was really a compromise, moving away from local control and more towards regional control as a compromise between going all the way to the State. I shouldn't be surprised if the Legislature doesn't clarify that in its next session. I wouldn't know how to guess how they'd go on that. Well, let me look into that and report back to you on it.

Chairman Hair said, and also I just wanted –, you know, I think this is a fair start, but just for the benefit of our audience primarily, you know, we still are going to have discussions with our Legislators in our regular meeting and we will –, if we wanted to add things or delete things at that point based on something they would say to us, it would sort of –, be sort of a joint-developed list once we meet. This was just sort of a preliminary package put together. Mr. McAlister to start discussions. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Bob [McAlister], with the redistricting we will have how many State representatives representing portions of Chatham County that live outside of Chatham County? Mr. McAlister said, well, there will be one that would live outside of Chatham County. Commissioner Murray asked, is that Ann Purcell? Mr. McAlister said, that would be Ann Purcell or her opponent. Commissioner Murray asked, do we have –, and they've moved the third Senator back out, so that district is not –. Mr. McAlister said, at this point there are only Senators in Chatham County and then six Representatives that represent parts of Chatham County. We have the five districts –, rather have the five seats that we had before, but the sixth seat is really moved over to the west side –, west side of the County and then kind of –, it's one of those special districts, but it's basically an Effingham County district with part of –. Commissioner Murray said, but she will be included in this meeting. Mr. McAlister said, that's correct. Commissioner Murray said, she did send us letters [inaudible] what she could be and –.

Chairman Hair said, I've already talked to Mr. Abolt about that and she got the full package and everything, and I'll also say something for those of you who don't know Representative Purcell very well. She has contacted me after the change was official and said that she looks forward to working with us and my experience with her even when she wasn't in our –, didn't represent Chatham County officially, she –, and over the past few years she's been extremely supportive of what we've tried to do in Chatham County. I think even as y'all get to know this lady if you don't know her, and I think she is going to be a good spokesman for us. She has great respect in Atlanta and she's looking –, very anxious. I ran into her actually this week, and she said she's looking forward to working with us. So I appreciate that. Thank you very much, Bob [McAlister]. Appreciate it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information for the meeting scheduled with the Legislative Delegation for November 20, 2002.

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3. SETTING A PROCESS TO REFINE AND EVENTUALLY PRESENT TO THE VOTERS CONTINUATION OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX.

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Mr. Abolt first.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, this is the first attempt by staff, in the words of Mr. Bungard, to wrap our arms around all that we know that SPLOST wish lists from each of the municipalities plus from Chatham County as an organization and based on your direction. As you may know, in previous conversations I have asked, and he's agreed, but Mr. Bungard will be the manager of SPLOST on the County's side throughout this all. This is a very detailed report with intention because even though it's a work in progress, it also is meant to list out all the things that must be done. We did refine a little bit, which is not on the written report, but Mr. Bungard can allude to as far as the choices for election dates on page three of the staff report. We gave you, in effect, what looked to be three options, but then in re-reading Mr. Hart's legal opinion, if you were to vote for the last option in September, there would be a short gap in the collection of taxes. So we legitimately feel that from the standpoint of options you wish to entertain, the election would occur on the 18th of March or the 17th of June. Now what happens between now and then? Obviously, a lot has to happen. We're recommending in this report, after inventorying all we know about projects and what we don't know, that there should be a workshop, which is not required by law, with the County Commission and of course your staff and then the representatives of each of the municipalities to get this going. Mr. Bungard is available to those municipalities, if they wish, to help them in project estimation. Also, we point out from the standpoint of just kind of a sticker shock, just looking at what we've received from only one municipality, the City of Savannah, and then that coming for the County, which is yet complete –, incomplete in its tally, are revenue estimates for five years of One Percent Sales Tax \$245,000,000. The projects I've just enumerated, which are very sketchy at best, we have already surpassed \$300,000,000 in costs.

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

Commissioner Murray asked, Jon [Hart], I think Commissioner Rayno has already asked something on this of [inaudible]. The question has come up can we structure the referendum so we can set up in categories on the referendum where it's not a vote that it's all or none. You've got several different categories that different projects falls under and the citizens would have the right to vote certain categories up or down. County Attorney Hart said, I can look into that. I'd have to think about that because the act has some forms in there about how they want the referendum to be followed and then the law says that you've got to substantially comply with that form, but in the last term of the Legislature, they amended some of the portions of that act. So I'll be glad to look at that and come back with you on that. Commissioner Murray said, well, if we can do it and this Commission is in consensus, I really believe that it would be a better referendum for the citizens who are voting on this thing to have those choices because the biggest complaint we've gotten over the years is that, "I didn't want certain projects, but I had to vote for them anyway to get the overall package." And if it can be put in categories, maybe two or three different categories, then it might work better.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to call on Mayor Adams. Mayor Adams, if you would like to come forward. We appreciate you being here today, and make any comments or ask any questions you'd like.

Commissioner Odell said, I don't –, on Frank's [Murray] question, I don't know how that would be done if you had the –. County Attorney Hart said, you're going to end up having to have three or four different questions is what I'm thinking you're going to end up having. Chairman Hair said, yeah. Commissioner Odell said, you'd have to –, okay, say, they didn't vote for one, how do you know if it passed? You'd have to say, no I don't want it or yes I want it. Chairman Hair said, well, I think he's suggesting certain types of projects in certain questions and then they can vote one question up and one question down. I think that's the idea. Commissioner Odell said, they'd vote yes or no. Chairman Hair said, right, on each question which would have different projects. County Attorney Hart said, you'd probably end up adopting three resolutions and have three referendum questions or four referendum questions, I think.

Chairman Hair recognized Mayor Adams.

Mayor Floyd Adams said, Commissioner Hair, gentlemen, and Dr. Thomas is absent. Basically, I'm here to encourage you to look at the total community when you're dealing with designing of SPLOST. I concur the early April date on election so we can get it out so we won't have any transition, but it's more than roads and buildings in this community that the community has, and if you look at several projects that have been completed by SPLOST, it's been a great economic tool for this community, and I want you to look at it. Personally, I think you can list the –, I'm not a lawyer –, but I think you can list the categories –, not necessarily the categories, but the ballot has to detail exactly what you're voted for on it, and it has to be yes or no situation, but I want you to look at. And I would also suggest, like you did in the past, Russ [Abolt], the Managers, the County Managers and the City Managers get together and work out the procedures and work out their priority lists as to which they need and then present it to the elected bodies to go forward and the recommendation as to which going. Since we're estimating only \$245,000,000 and we've already reached \$300,000,000, so we go back and check the priorities and go form there. But SPLOST has been a great economic boon for this community, especially when all the tourists and other people passing through help pay for it. So I just encourage you to be very diligent and be positive about this community and deciding an early date for it. You know, let's all work together and make if possible for this community. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mayor Adams. I appreciate you being here. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, yeah, if you add up just the ones that we know what the costs are going to be, you've got the City wanting \$200,000,000, you've got the County wanting \$127,000,000, the Library requested the other day \$62,000,000, and then you add in seven municipalities after that. Without even adding in the municipalities, we've got \$389,000,000. The pot is only \$245,000,000. So when you add in the municipalities, you're well over \$500,000,000 that people want in projects out of a \$245,000,000 pot. When are we going to come down to earth and get real about this SPLOST and realize it's not the cash cow that's endless. It's a finite pool of money. And the other question that nobody ever wants to answer, we've all [inaudible] before is the fact that every time you build something, you've got to maintain it. Has there been a cost benefit analysis on any of these projects that would tell you how it's going to affect your M&O budget? Have any of the municipalities done that to tell their constituents, uh oh, we're going to have to raise your taxes down the road because you're going to have to have electricity for the buildings, you're going to have to have maintenance people, you're going to have to have personnel, and all that other stuff that adds to it?

Chairman Hair asked, are you asking that question of Mayor Adams or are you asking that of us?

Commissioner Rayno said, it's a generalized question. I mean, these people are out there asking for close to \$500,000,000. There's only \$245,000,000. Mayor Adams said, well, these are wish lists that all money. That's why I suggest that the County Manager gets with the City Managers and work out some kind of priority list. You have your priority list, you have your wish list, we have ours, the other municipalities have theirs, and basically we're going to all come together and, hopefully, as you suggested, in categories, but I propose we should go up and down rows or across the board and that benefits the community. You set the priority of what you want on that list as elected officials and the community has the right to say yes or no to it. But I think the \$500,000,000 is only a wish list. We could probably go \$100,000,000, \$200,000,000, whatever is there. They are wish lists. We just have to prioritize the lists and hopefully everybody will be in agreement when we put it to the voters. Commissioner Rayno asked, have you folks done a cost benefit analysis on your projects? I'm sure you have. Mayor Adams said, oh, we have done that already. We absorb most of it out in our general fund budget, but one of the things the Legislators are looking at through the GMA and the ACCG, is possibly looking at the possibility of maintenance operational costs to be taken out of the SPLOST, and that's --, that legislation has to be approved in January when they go back to the Legislature, but they're looking at that. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm opposed to that simply because you're making a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax a permanent tax, and that's not what it was meant to be. That's not the spirit of the additional law. You're trying to change the spirit of it and make it a permanent tax because we'll never be able to make it go away if you add maintenance costs a part of it. Mayor Adams said, it's not a permanent tax. You have every five years the voters can either approve it or disapprove it based on the projects, and I think we've done very well by it in this community by some of the projects. The City of Savannah, most of it went into drainage, pumping stations, and what have you, just as you've done drainage, but we have some other projects benefit the community as well. Commissioner Rayno said, but you hold the taxpayers hostage at that point and say, well, we'll have to close this building down because you're simply not going to redo this for another five years, and say, well, there's no way we can maintain this building, we'll have to shut it down. And you've essentially held the taxpayer hostage in making him vote for the referendum. Mayor Adams said, that's not necessarily true. When you build something, you're also project in costs for maintenance and, basically, we --, from the City's perspective, we've done that. Now whether other --, and I think other municipalities have done that as well. Now I'm not saying that the County hasn't done it, but basically you know you're going to build --, if you're going to build an athletic field, you know you have to maintain it. Thunderbolt built a new Senior Citizens Complex. They know we have to maintain it, so we've maintained it through our general fund. That's just basically preplanning an economic development situation, and we do, and that's all you have to look at. But the projects itself, we could not afford to do the drainage situation had it not been for the SPLOST. Commissioner Rayno said, and I think that the City --. Mayor Adams said, and the roads that we built --. Commissioner Rayno said, -- has done a fabulous job with the drainage and they're good stewards of the SPLOST money and you get the projects done on time. Mayor Adams said, well, we do that, but basically --, most of us, you know, most of the projects are done from the County, so we look at the County personnel to do that. There have been some complaints from the City's perspective why we didn't move a little faster, but we were all working in conjunction with each other and ultimately the total community is going to benefit in the long run. Commissioner Rayno said, I would hope that if the idea of the concept of the SPLOST adding maintenance costs fails, that you would consider supporting the Legislature allowing us to have a HOST tax because that would take care of what you're talking about without the problems. Of course, you would have to have still a little bit of property tax in the equation because we know the problems that happened in Cobb County when they took back the property tax a hundred percent. So I think if you work with Clint Mueller, the Revenue Specialist for the ACCG, or the folks with your organization, you'll find that if you leave a little bit of the property tax on the table, and institute the HOST tax, then we'll have a pretty good equation for getting some of those tourist dollars to help pay for infrastructure, and I know that that's going to take a change in the Legislature because we can only levy two taxes right now. It's going to be the LOST and the SPLOST, but you can't have any more. Mayor Adams said, well, that's not necessarily true. The HOST --, out of 159 counties in the State of Georgia, only one county has the HOST, and that County Commission Chairman told me himself personally he wished he didn't have it. Commissioner Rayno said, that was DeKalb because they ran out of revenue. Mayor Adams said, well, they ran out of revenue because basically they didn't share that revenue with the city and, therefore, it caused additional problems within the cities within DeKalb County. But everyone has reached an agreement, just like we reached agreement. I didn't particularly care about all the things in our LOST, but it's worked out fine for everybody and in the long term it's going to work, but if we come to get a corporate --, and cooperate with each other and work in conjunction with each other, we can make the SPLOST work very well for this community, and I think that's what we need to do.

Commissioner Rayno said, just one final comment on DeKalb. The 20/20 analysis that was, you know, Monday morning quarterbacking on it, was the fact that if they had left some property tax on the table, a percentage of between 20 and

50%, they wouldn't have had those revenue problems. Mayor Adams said, well, if you'd also look at all of the major 15 municipal counties in the State of Georgia, Chatham and Glynn County are the only ones who doesn't have seven cents on tax, okay. They have it –, other counties have a special tax just on the school system. So, that is one of the things you need to look at as well if you're talking about reducing taxes, shift it to the sales tax because it's based on revenue and how much money you spend. That's a rollback, but if you start talking about rolling back stuff with SPLOST, you defeat the purpose of SPLOST. Commissioner Rayno said, no, HOST. Mayor Adams said, and HOST, but I'm –, personally I'm against HOST, and if that's the case, give me MOST so the municipalities can have the tax as well, okay.

Chairman Hair said, before I call –, the order we're going to go in is myself, Commissioner Odell, Commissioner McMasters, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Kicklighter and Commissioner Murray. Mayor, I just want to say I totally agree with your philosophy that we need to continue to work together as we have in the past. I think if we do that, the City and the County, not just your City, but all the other cities working together, the taxpayers benefit from that cooperation, and I would hope that we would continue that spirit of cooperation and do what's best for the community, and I personally appreciate the cooperation you've given. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, you know, Floyd [Adams], the City of Savannah is my City. I'm a resident of the City of Savannah. As we determined in the LOST negotiations, SPLOST is as good a mom and homemade apple pie because tourists –. Mayor Adams asked, with ice cream on top of it? Commissioner Odell said, with ice cream and a cherry. Because tourists –, tourists, in essence, fund some of the cost of government. That's why I think it's good. Jeff [Rayno] and I have debated HOST at a STOP meeting almost a year or so ago. I have some serious concerns about HOST because it is so economically sensitive and when we have employees to pay, we must pay employees, and the problem with HOST is that it depends upon revenue, and if you have something like September 11th, you cannot go to your employees and say, "Uh, we don't have the money." So you do need a continual. I would like to meet with the City of Savannah and those other aldermen –, I'm sorry, Commissioners who are members of the City of Savannah so that we are unified on our wish list because your citizens are my citizens. I mean, I have a very small percentage that's not in the incorporated area, and I think it would behoove the City of Savannah and those Commissioners who represent the City of Savannah so that we could have a united front as far as the list. Mayor Adams said, I'll have it to your office this afternoon, sir. Commissioner Odell said, SPLOST is a political decision and I am not in a position to say how Garden City should best use their funds. They have elected officials in Garden City who know more about Garden City than I do. I'm not in a position to say to Thunderbolt that –, how you should use your funds. If it meets within the guideline, it is my impression that they have the right to use it within the guideline. It is a give and take. It is not all or none, my way or no way, and it will be a political decision. I have checked the New and the Old Testaments. SPLOST and LOST are not in the testament, so we can find no biblical direction as to what is right and what is wrong. It is a political decision, people, and in order for us to pass it, we must have all –, like we did the last time, we had a truck load of politicians on, and did we have some projects that some of us didn't like? Of course, we did. Of course, we did because we don't live in a perfect world. We had some projects that we personally hated, but we also had some projects that we didn't have another way to finance it. I would like to say that Jeff [Rayno] and I will be debating the feasibility of HOST on cable TV some time within the next, what, six years? Commissioner Rayno said, sure. Commissioner Odell said, okay, and that –, I appreciate your coming. Mayor Adams said, thank you, but we can also be like Nehemiah when he brought the community together and cleared the walls of Judah, okay. So we can build Chatham County the same way with the SPLOST. Commissioner Odell said, I love it when you say that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Dr. Hair. Welcome, Mr. Mayor. Mayor Adams said, thank you, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, it's good to see you. I've got some quick things here. I want to –, I want to tell you that I went to a meeting on drainage over on Ell Street, Bilbow Basin, the district I live in and also the district I represent, and Mr. Brown, Mr. Jones and a couple of other staffers came to the meeting with a very solid presentation on the problem of the drainage in the Bilbow Basin and showed systematically a \$17,000,000 fix and an \$11,000,000 fix and a \$4.2 million fix and I was extremely gratified to find them coming down to the \$4.2 million fix and telling the community that they felt very confident that the design work could be completed by January and that the project work might actually begin by Spring. That –, it just is a tribute to your management at the City. Mayor Adams said, I was briefed on that meeting, but I knew you were there. Commissioner McMasters said, well, I'm sure you probably would have come to the same conclusion whether I was there or not hopefully. Mayor Adams said right. Commissioner McMasters said, I just want to commend the City for their ability to suss [phonetic] out a situation, come up with options and actually fund those options. Mayor Adams said, when it comes to financial, we are very prudent in our financial dealings. You know, you might consider me a liberal to moderate, but when it comes to money, I'm very conservative about that. Commissioner McMasters said, that's excellent. And I'm very pleased that, if I understand you correctly, you would support sort of a menu style on the ballot, if it's legally possible, so that voters can vote up or down bundles or specific things. Mayor Adams said, no, I –, let me clarify that. It depends on how it's written when you put it on the ballot, okay. I don't want it confused with –, that's why I suggested the Managers get together, work out a prioritized list and then the elected officials agree to that and then everything that goes on that ballot that we have a consensus, and whether you have a project in your particular area or you want to deal with downtown, whether you only have one subject on Skidaway, or whatever, everyone be in accord with what's going on the ballot and the way it's phrased because my knowledge is that everything that's on that ballot the way it has to be approved by the citizens and the money has to be spent as it dictates on that ballot. But categorizing and lumping it together, or categorizing, no. I'm personally against that because how you –, unless you have a separate ballot, like Category A, Category B, Category C, and people voted independently on each one of those categories, I don't think you'd be able to do that. Commissioner McMasters said,

but I think we're going to examine whether or not on-going of SPLOST of projects can be both legal and manageable within the context of the election. I also want to thank you for the City's support of the tri-centennial planning process. I think you exhibit great vision and your commitment to that project is outstanding. I also applaud your enforcement of the sign ordinance that's in the City of Savannah. I know that's a controversial topic right now -. Mayor Adams said, it is controversial, but for the audience it doesn't just go for the historic district, it goes citywide so we get caught up in that occasionally. Commissioner McMasters said, and lastly, I have to agree with my colleague, Commissioner Rayno, that you can't -, you can't come forward with \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 worth of wants against \$200,000,000 of reality, so while Commissioner [sic] Hair suggested it has to be politically considered and positioned, I think there's a fundamental reasonableness to what we have to do in terms of this work for SPLOST and balance with the political side as well. Mayor Adams said, well, I think we all learned from the negotiation of LOST and I think we can use what we learned to deal with coming up to priorities for the SPLOST, but it's an economic tool for the entire County, not just the City of Savannah or Tybee or Pooler, but for the entire County.

Commissioner McMasters said, I'm glad you brought up LOST. I wasn't going to do it, but -. Mayor Adams said, I was ready for it. Commissioner McMasters said, I presume that you probably have seen the Department of Revenue's initial commentary, as backed up by ACCG, that the 10-year LOST might be -, I don't know if it was called unconstitutional or illegal -, that is, committing future -. Which is the proper word, Jon [Hart]? County Attorney Hart said, I think the issue there was whether -, there's an opinion out there as to whether you could have an agreement that expands, you know, one Commission over to the other. The contrary argument to that, governments can by arbitrary agreement -, not arbitrary agreement -, by intergovernmental agreement can contract for up to 50 years, so I think ultimately there's going to be -, those two legal issues are going to collide and we're going to get a ruling definitively one way or the other. Commissioner McMasters said, either way, Mayor Adams, if we have to go back and negotiate I'll look forward to that. If we don't have to, I'm certainly going to support -. Mayor Adams said, if I'm around then, we'll be able to negotiate that. Commissioner McMasters said, good, okay. Mayor Adams said, and if you're around, we'll negotiate that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just wanted to say that I really support the combined efforts and I think it's only through a combined effort is the way to go, that we would be very successful in this. I know this is what happened the first time around. Everybody was in the room, everybody had an opportunity to sit down and sort of prioritize all of the things that they wanted to see on the ballot and, therefore, it formed a consensus so by the time it got to the citizens it made it easier for them to make an assessment, and that's the way it was done then and I think that's the way it should be done this time around.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Mr. Mayor, as a former mayor, I don't blame you for not supporting HOST whatsoever. Mayor Adams said, thank you very much. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I wouldn't want the County divvying out all the money on its own either, so I understand your opinion there. I also agree with you, it's - or agree with someone up here that stated it's your right as the elected official of your city to come up with the projects that you deem necessary for your municipality. It's not for us, we're not a dictatorship, we're a community of people that must work together. If the -, your constituents don't like what you choose, they can vote you out of office. If they don't like what we choose and we put on the ballots, they can vote against it and vote us out of office. That's not our place to tell Savannah what to do, Garden City what to do, Pooler. So we have to work together and, you know, this whole conversation has been great, but it's not really the place to do it. This is workshop talk right here. This is what we need to hammer out there. If, you know, sure, if you see us put a project on that you think will blow the entire thing, tell us, tell us why and we can work together and maybe we'll get it off. And that's, you know, that's just working together. I appreciate you, appreciate everything you do for Savannah and the entire community, all of Chatham County, and I'm ready to move this thing forward here. What's the recommendation? County Manager Abolt said, schedule a workshop -. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, we just approve a time line? County Manager Abolt said, well, yes, sir. Well, why don't we begin with the first step to have a workshop.

Chairman Hair said, I would suggest that we -, if it's the consensus up here today, I totally agree with the Mayor. I think we ought to do the earlier date, the March date. I think if we go ahead and set the date today as well, what that will do is that will give us some sense of urgency with the workshops to make sure that we move posthaste. If we set it a later date, then we're going to say we've got all this time, but I think -, I'd like to see a motion setting the March 19th [sic] -. County Manager Abolt said, March 18th. Chairman Hair said, March 18th as the day and also to begin scheduling workshops.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved March 18th. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. All those in -.

Commissioner Murray asked, the motion is establish a date -. Chairman Hair said, March 18th, and then begin to schedule the workshops -. Commissioner Murray said, let me ask you another question. By doing that is that going to cause any problems with March 17th being St. Patrick's Day and everything else and get people to the polls? I think we've got a real problem if we try to have it that close to a major day like that in Savannah. County Manager Abolt said, that was staff's position. Commissioner Murray said, I just think that -.

Chairman Hair asked, Mayor, what do you –, what's your opinion about that? Mayor Adams said, well, I just thought about, you know, although we spent –, we're very festive, we've cut out a lot of the alcohol and everything so hopefully –. Commissioner Murray said, that sounds good. Mayor Adams said, maybe people will be in a festive mood and go to the polls. But it all depends on –, actually it all depends on how positive we are in encouraging people to go to the polls. Chairman Hair said, what if we do –, I think that's a legitimate concern. What if we just move it one week until the 25th. County Attorney Hart said, you don't have an election. You don't have an election then. I think the only –. Chairman Hair said, oh, that's the day of the regularly scheduled election. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, that's a State mandate.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, June is our only other option? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. September is, but as I mentioned, we found that that will cause probably an interruption in the collection. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, then June would work.

Chairman Hair said, you know, I understand the concern about St. Patrick's Day, but I still think that that's not –, to me that's not sufficient reason to move it to June. Mayor Adams said, I would go with March 18th. Chairman Hair said, I think we should go with March 18th as the, you know, and not try to move it just based on St. Patrick's Day. I just think that's the better date. So, Commissioner Rivers, would it –, your motion –.

Commissioner Murray said, before we do that though, this is just going to be –, this is the only thing that's going on the ballot. Is that what we're talking about? County Attorney Hart said, it's a special election –. Commissioner Murray said, so we're going to spend \$100,000 just to do that when we could have –, do we have any other elections next year? Mayor Adams said, we have a primary. You've got the City primary, but that's the latter part of the year though. Chairman Hair said, that's just City though. County Attorney Hart said, it's not Countywide. Commissioner Murray said, we could include it at that point is what I'm saying. Mayor Adams said, that's the latter part of the year. Then again you have that gap in the collections.

County Manager Abolt said, what I'd like to do, when the Mayor is complete with his comments, in advance I'd like for Mr. Bungard to come forward and just go through the schedule on page three because then if you adopt, let's say, the 18th of March, you want everybody fully aware of that and what has to occur. I think it's very important for him to [inaudible]. Mayor Adams said, well, I haven't seen any schedules. The City is ready to cooperate any time you get ready. And the other municipalities as well.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think the schedule, Mr. Abolt, would not be a schedule that can't be achieved or anything, but I –. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Chairman Hair said, and I still think it's our decision to set the date and I do think March 18th would be the correct date. County Manager Abolt said, my only intent there is to make sure that everybody understands the gravity of the commitment. Chairman Hair said, well, that's in the –, that's in the packet, I think. County Manager Abolt said, okay. That's fine.

Mayor Adams asked, what's the date in June? County Attorney Hart said, June 17th. Mayor Adams said, oh, you're looking at vacations and everything else, kids out of school. The earlier March date would be better, I think. Chairman Hair said, I think you're right. Mayor Adams said, if you're worried about –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and this just sets a time line. No figures. All our discussions will come later. Chairman Hair said, just the date of the election. Which I think would drive all the other things.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion by Commissioner Rivers. Do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Thomas said, I second it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second, I made it. Chairman Hair said, okay, I have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Adams said, thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Chairman Hair said, we appreciate you being here.

Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to say in public that you and I don't always disagree. I'll agree with something you said, and that was –, and Commissioner Rayno and I will just have to agree to disagree on it, and we have over the last year about it, but last year I got with the County Attorney and with Burke Day to try to come up with some type of resolution for the State Legislators to address just what you said about a percentage of the SPLOST money being used for maintenance only on those facilities that were paid for by the SPLOST money and that that be tied up so that there's no loophole in there where it could be used for anything else, and I still say that to me that's the only way we can do it and continue to maintain the facilities because if we build more facilities, it's either that or continue to raise property taxes to maintain them, and so I do agree with you on that and I appreciate you coming and appreciate your comments. Mayor Adams said, thank you very much, Frank [Murray], I appreciate that. You and I get along very well.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mayor. As always, it's good to see you. Mayor Adams said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much for coming. We appreciate that.

* * *

Commissioner Rivers said, let me apologize. We have a conflict with ACCG district meeting on the 20th. That was set and gone before we changed the date and I didn't realize we had changed it. Chairman Hair asked, date for what? Commissioner Rivers said, for the ACCG district meeting. Chairman Hair said, okay, conflict –. Commissioner Rivers

said, yeah, the 20th. It conflicts with the Legislative –. Chairman Hair said, oh, the meeting you're saying. Okay, well, I appreciate that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that a special election be called for March 18, 2003, for vote on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum. Commissioners Kicklighter and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. TO APPROVE STREETLIGHTS, SIGNAGE AND OTHER HARDSCAPE FOR SHACKELFORD BOULEVARD ON HUTCHINSON ISLAND.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to Mr. Monahan on this. Mr. Chairman, as you're so well aware because of your leadership in it, and with the opportunity of the Senior PGA Tournament and again the economic engine being driven by development on Hutchinson Island, we now have an opportunity to further prepare that site for that event plus other events. County Manager Abolt recognized Mr. Pat Monahan.

Chairman Hair said, before Pat [Monahan] starts, the –, as most of you know, y'all appointed me to the Trade Center Authority Board and I've really enjoyed serving on that board. It's a really good group of people. The –, I think that the proposal in front of you today is an excellent proposal. A lot of people, staff particularly on the County, the City, and the staff of CSX has worked on this, but in a nutshell what it does is it fixes the road situation over there permanently and it basically includes that the County would fund initially 50%, City of Savannah 25% and CSX 25%, but the City of Savannah will, and this is something that Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner McMasters brings up constantly, and rightly so, is the City has agreed –, the City of Savannah has agreed to, in perpetuity forever, to maintain it, to all –, you know, to cut the grass, to plant the shrubs, replace trees when they die, replace the light bulbs when they burn out, and so that's always a cost that when we approve this today, and I certainly hope we will, that the City has agreed to maintain the entire road, 100% of it. Everything. So I think that's a pretty significant commitment. Mr. Monahan, do you want to add anything to that or –?

Commissioner Rivers said, I'll move for approval. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve. Do we have a second. Let's just get –. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, back in our –, back in our agenda –, and I apologize, Pat [Monahan], I didn't turn in my binder so I got a binder that had no tabs, so I'm hunting and pecking throughout this thing. Commissioner Murray said, I'll bet you'll turn it in next time. Commissioner McMasters said, yes, I will. Commissioner Odell said, that wasn't intentional, John [McMasters]. Commissioner McMasters said, I wasn't suggesting a conspiracy. I think we're going to find in the Berwick Plantation motion to not require the builder to put in streetlighting and yet here we're asking the taxpayers to do it for Hutchinson Island, how do you square those two requests? How do you –, because I know in the third phase of the subdivision that what's going to happen is that the property owners are going to be asked to pay for their own streetlighting. So how do we explain to the taxpayers on one hand we want to spend your tax dollars to create lighting and hardscaping for the Trade Center, yet we won't spend their tax money or require the builder to do the same for them? Mr. Monahan said, the difference is with the Berwick Plantation that represents a single subdivision and a single developer. Hutchinson Island encompasses almost 900 acres of which there are multiple property owners, including a public property owner, and because it is within the City of Savannah, the City of Savannah charges its maintenance costs, unlike the County, charges its maintenance costs throughout the entire City of Savannah for all –, for all lighting. The City of Savannah would actually become the owner of this –, of these improvements and responsible for the maintenance. So it's a little bit different situation.

County Manager Abolt said, also I appreciate Commissioner McMasters bringing to our attention, Facts and Findings item number four says this is an option not to –, to not have streetlights –, forgive the double negative. "They have submitted a private roadway streetlighting system and propose that the homeowners association pay the cost for these lights." Apparently there's some community identity or special type of lighting that they want and the homeowners association is paying for it.

Chairman Hair said, also, Commissioner McMasters, I can –, I think I can add a little bit to that. We deal with the DOT all the time, our very good friends at DOT, and DOT has repeatedly refused –, they cannot fund lighting. We had the same situation out at the Georgia Tech –, out at the Tech Industrial Park out at Crossroads. We had exactly the same situation where DOT came up with the money for the roads and the sidewalks, but they could not fund lighting and so this is sort of a cooperative thing. When DOT built this, they made it very clear that they could not put the lights in, you know, in this situation. I understand your question, I just wanted to make sure I clarified it.

Commissioner McMasters said, having said all that, when we get to the Berwick –, am I saying that correctly, Berwick? County Manager Abolt said, Berwick. Commissioner McMasters said, Berwick. I know that MPC staff recommended approval of letting the builder not erect streetlights. I want to make the distinction of whether you're an unincorporated

resident or a municipality resident, they're all taxpayers. I think they all deserve streetlighting, and I think the builder should provide it and pass it along in the cost of the job and not lay it back on us, so when we get to that --, I'll support this, but when we come back to that I think what's good for the goose ought to be good for the gander. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve streetlights, signage and other hardscape for Shackelford Boulevard on Hutchinson Island. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

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5. REQUEST BOARD CONSENSUS FOR AN UPGRADE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE WILMINGTON ISLAND RESIDENTIAL CONVENIENCE DROP-OFF/RECYCLING CENTER SITE, LOCATED ON CONCORD ROAD IN WILMINGTON ISLAND.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is another innovation in recycling opportunities. I would like to have Mr. Drewry and, if necessary, Ms. Lamb --.

Commissioner Murray said, well, while they're coming up I'd like to make a motion for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Okay, Mr. Drewry.

Mr. Robert Drewry asked, well, should I go into my presentation or --. Chairman Hair said, well, I mean, if everybody --. Commissioner Murray said, I just made a motion, but if you want to give that. Chairman Hair said, I mean, I don't --, if everybody's in favor of it, I don't know --.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'm not, and let me say why. Because if we approve the design today, the butt or the thing that comes later is the fact it means you're agreeing to spend in another budget \$200,000 to \$300,000 to build it once you've designed it. The design is all you're approving today for \$22,500, but later on you're going to have to build it for \$200,000 to \$300,000. We don't know if that money's going to be in the budget next year or not or what the situation is going to be and plus there's more than just the cost of building it, more than just the \$200,000 to \$300,000. You're going to have staffing costs because it's a bigger facility, you're going to have increased electric costs because it's going to have a cardboard compactor there, which is not currently on site, and maintenance costs of that cardboard compactor, perhaps more phones and insurance costs associated with those employees, so if you approve the design today, it's almost like saying you're going to approve \$200,000 to \$300,000 down the road, so why waste \$22,500 today if you don't know where you're going to be next year? We could include it in the budget next year as one thing if we know where we are.

Commissioner Murray said, I think that, if I'm not mistaken, the funding to build this would be coming out of a restricted fund that can only used for this type stuff. It is not part of the budgeted money anyway. County Manager Abolt said, and the money's in place, the money's in place. Commissioner Murray said, and it would have to be used --, it cannot be used for anything we want to do in our general budget. It's from the tipping fees that were collected with the landfills.

Commissioner Rayno asked, yes, but where would the electric costs and maintenance costs and all that come out of your next year's budget? Mr. Drewry said, that's part of the innovation that Russ [Abolt] had mentioned. We're making this --, this is now our --, basically a one-stop recycling center and those funds now --, that site now can be funded out of that restricted revenue source also, operation and maintenance and now the upgrade. It can all come out of that one fund source. Commissioner Rayno asked, so it's acting as an enterprise fund? Mr. Drewry said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. And you will never pull from M&O to pay for anything else? Mr. Drewry said, all my --, all my expenses out there I hope to eventually become part of that. Right now it is coming out of it. Right now today the operation of that site is coming out of the M&O subsidy to the Solid Waste Fund. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Will there be a subsidy in the future if we approve this today? Mr. Drewry said, not because of this action, no, sir.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request for an upgrade and improvement of the Wilmington Island Residential Convenience Drop-off/Recycling Center Site, located on Concord Road in Wilmington Island, and to approve Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble, Inc., to provide the necessary engineering services at a cost not to exceed \$22,500. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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6. STATUS OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is, in effect, a continuation of information we've been sending to the Board based on a concept referred to as performance contracting, which means that in public buildings by energy savings and energy savings alone it's possible to enter into a contract with the private sector to make immediate improvements to the system and then over a 10-year period those savings defray the cost of the improvements. This has been a closely competed for RFP and it is an RFP, it is not a bid. In effect, we have received one appeal, which I have dealt with and given you the results of that. Now, since my decision and subsequently pulling off of your last agenda because there were additional inquiries made from the two other competitors, we have to at the staff level view the letters from Southern Energy and Siemens as like requests for appeal. I do point out though that, and it's very important, I think, in understanding this process as an RFP process, on page two of the staff report, in bold type in four paragraphs, we explain and answer each of the allegations in the letter that were received from Southern Energy that allude to some type of collusion or price-fixing. As an RFP the maximum discretion is there and, obviously as you all know, this Board makes the decision as to whether or not you wish to proceed with any contract, and it's also important to note that in my recommendation to you, even if you were to select one of these contractors today, all is dependent upon what in effect amounts to a successful contract fully protecting the County's interest, which would have to be brought back to you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I think we've got some legal questions that need to be resolved in this, and I would request that we take this up in Executive Session before we have too much discussion out here. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Commissioner Murray said, I mean, I'm not saying we need to go into it right now. That's up to the rest of the Board, but I think that there's some things that we need to find out about from a legal standpoint.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, you're tabling it to Executive Session later? Chairman Hair asked, why don't we do that -. Commissioner Murray said, yeah. Chairman Hair said, just table it to Executive Session. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine.

Commissioner Rayno said, we've got people here though to speak to this subject. Why don't we go into Executive Session now and hash it out and come back out and then get their testimony. Chairman Hair said, if that is the wish of the Board, that's fine. Commissioner Rayno said, let's do that.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to go into Executive Session now? Make a motion. Commissioner Rayno said, let's go into Executive Session, that's a motion. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner McMasters said, second. Chairman Hair asked, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. County Manager Abolt said, for litigation. Commissioner Rayno said, for personnel and litigation. County Attorney Hart said, I guess litigation. Chairman Hair asked, is that the reason? Commissioner Rayno said, personnel and litigation. Chairman Hair said, okay. The motion carried unanimously.

[NOTE: The Board recessed at 12:42 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. The meeting of the County Commission was reconvened at 1:25 p.m.]

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to call on Commissioner Kicklighter for a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a motion to reject all performance contracting request proposals and work out a schedule for re-proposals. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners McMasters and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to reject all performance contracting request proposals for energy conservation measures and work out a schedule for re-proposals. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners McMasters and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, before you leave page five, I just want to point out that the rectangle, darkened print there, we have put on your Information Calendar specific information as to those projects on the CIP determined by staff to be critical. It's fairly extensive written documentation. I don't want to assume you want us to read it for you, but if you choose, staff is present and we could at the end of your meeting give you a project by project briefing, if that is your choice.

Chairman Hair said, okay.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair asked, would anyone like to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Murray said, yeah, 5. Commissioner McMasters said, 3. Commissioner Rayno said, I, please. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner McMasters wants 3, Commissioner Murray wants 5. Commissioner Murray said, D. Chairman Hair asked, what, Commissioner Rayno? Commissioner Rayno said, I please. Chairman Hair said, I. And -. Commissioner Thomas asked, did you say I? Commissioner Rayno said, yes.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 3, 5, 10-D and 10-I. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 11, 2002, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 11, 2002, as mailed. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2002.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period October 2, 2002, through October 15, 2002, in the amount of \$2,669,627. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, INTERNATIONAL PAPER REALTY, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT AND RECREATION AREA, ACCEPT THE

**SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A STREETLIGHTING DISTRICT FOR BERWICK PLANTATION, TRACTS G-1, G-2, H-1, H-2.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We touched on this earlier when Mr. Monahan was here talking about streetlighting on Hutchinson Island, and I just want to go on record and urge my fellow Commissioners that what in fact we have in front of us is a developer who's building communities in the unincorporated part of Chatham County where great development is going to occur, that is occurring and will continue occurring, and to not put in streetlights and to pass that --, ask us to waive that, despite MPC recommendation for it, I think is shortsighted. I think streetlights are fundamental to a quality neighborhood. It's obviously in the ordinance. They've asked for a waiver on it, and, you know, they deter crime, it's a safer place, it's a more complete community, and what this really does is put --, make it incumbent upon the residents to pay for their own streetlights, and I would think the community overall would be far better off by having the planning in place that mandates --, and we do have it in place. Let's remember that. This is a request to not have to do it, and I would like to suggest that we deny this and ask that the developer put in proper streetlights for this community.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, then Commissioner Kicklighter, and then --.

Commissioner Murray said, I would agree with that because I look at that pretty much like we do the sidewalk ordinance that we have, and that is a requirement also, and I just feel like that when this development is being developed, that the streetlight system needs to be in place, and it should be in place as part of the cost of that development.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I was wondering, what's the developer's reasoning behind this? Was he wanting to upgrade the lighting system or --? Chairman Hair said, anybody --, is Mr. Bungard here? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Bungard's coming forward. County Engineer Bungard said, I apologize. I thought y'all were done with that so I didn't bring my notes back down, but I believe that he's doing that privately, and they are being installed and it's going to be operated and maintained by the homeowner's association. Is that not in the staff report? County Manager Abolt said, it's in there. Commissioner Murray said, no, it's a waiver to do away with it. County Manager Abolt said, no --. County Engineer Bungard said, there will be streetlights. County Manager Abolt said, you are --. Chairman Hair said, but it's a waiver to use the taxing district for it. Is that correct? County Engineer Bungard said, it --, what we're waiving is the streetlight assessment district. That's the way we charge by lien to pay for the lights if we have Savannah Electric put it in.

Chairman Hair said, but in this case the developer is putting it in at his cost. County Engineer Bungard said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, so that's what I thought, too, because right now currently the residents in the unincorporated pay for those lights through the streetlighting district. County Engineer Bungard said, assessments. Commissioner Kicklighter said, but this is just done where they can have a different quality of lighting. They'll pay it through the homeowner's rather than right to Savannah Electric Company.

Chairman Hair said, so that changes the --. Commissioner Rivers said, it's your folks though. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, when you say it's a different quality of lighting --. Commissioner McMasters said, that has nothing to do with the electrical. Commissioner Murray said, but it has nothing to do with the electrical bill. That's what we go against the property owners with on a tax form is the bill itself. Is that correct? County Engineer Bungard said, I'm not sure I understand your question, but instead of the standard --. Commissioner Murray said, the cost of electricity to power the lights. County Engineer Bungard said, they will be paying for that out of their --. Chairman Hair said, homeowner's association. County Engineer Bungard said, homeowner's association. Commissioner Murray said, but the reason that we have always gone with the taxing district is because the homeowner's associations basically don't have a lot of authority when it comes down to collecting that bill. County Engineer Bungard said, I'm not familiar where that issue --. Commissioner Murray said, that's why we have put this in under the taxing district for the streetlights because we do have the authority. It goes out on the tax bill. I think mine this year was something like \$30 where I live for the year. So, I mean --, I think if we do that, we're asking for problems and we're going to have citizens down the road if something doesn't happen or that homeowner's association come in wanting us to resolve the problem --. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, let me ask --. Commissioner Murray said, because people don't pay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- this as a favor from y'all. Could we possibly table this and get the developer in to explain this better before we say no? Chairman Hair said, that would be fine. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine with me.

Chairman Hair asked, do I have a motion to table? Commissioner Rivers said, so moved to table. Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner McMasters asked, may I ask one question? Chairman Hair said, not on a motion to table. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor to table vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk asked, who seconded that? Commissioner Rayno said, I think Joe [Rivers] did. The Clerk said, he made the motion. Commissioner Odell said, I did. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Russ [Abolt], will you contact the developer and ask if he'll -. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Bungard will, sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to table to the next meeting the request from the engineer for the developer, International Paper Realty, for the developer to be present to respond to questions regarding the request to waive the requirement for a streetlighting district for Berwick Plantation, Tracts G-1, G-2, H-1 and H-2. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, TURNER'S COVE DEVELOPMENT, TO RECORD FINAL PLAT FOR TURNER'S COVE, PHASE 4-C. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Turner's Cove Development, to record final plat for Turner's Cove, Phase 4-C. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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5. TO REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ALLOW COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO HAVE DUES FOR THE PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND PAYROLL DEDUCTED.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I think I understand this, but I just want to make sure it was clarified. This has nothing to do with any type of union? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter 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, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to allow County Law Enforcement Officers to have dues for the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund payroll deducted. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A GRANT APPLICATION ACCEPTING FUNDS TOTALING \$8,000 FROM THE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a grant application accepting funds totaling \$8,000 from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia to fund services which include the community works program, education-tutorial assistance and drug screening. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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7. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A GRANT APPLICATION ACCEPTING FUNDS TOTALING \$51,280 FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a grant application accepting funds totaling \$51,280 from the State of Georgia's Children and Youth Coordinating Council to fund services which include an In-School Probation Officer assigned to Scott Learning Center as well as Conflict Resolution and Mediation. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 8. TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SUBSTANDARD-SIZED VACANT LOT IN UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY ON GARFIELD STREET AND A SUBSTANDARD-SIZED VACANT LOT IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AT 102 W. 36TH STREET AND AUCTION THE COUNTY'S INTEREST IN THESE PROPERTIES HELD BY TAX DEED. [DISTRICT 3 AND 5.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to declare as surplus a substandard-sized vacant lot in the unincorporated Chatham County on Garfield Street, described as "3 PLT 189 Homestead Park" [PIN 1-0361-01-007], and a substandard-sized vacant lot in the City of Savannah at 102 West 36th Street, described as "Lot Letter D & East 6 Feet of Lot Letter C, Estill Ward" [PIN 2-0065-07-004], and auction the County's interest in these properties held by tax deed. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 9. TO AUTHORIZE CHATHAM COUNTY'S CONVEYING ITS INTEREST TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY THROUGH THE LAND BANK AUTHORITY FOR TWO PROPERTIES ON DANCY STREET HELD BY TAX DEED IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH. [DISTRICT 5.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize Chatham County to convey its interest to Habitat for Humanity through the Land Bank Authority for two properties located on Dancy Street in the City of Savannah held by tax deed and described as: Lot 8, Block AA, Dancy Jackson & Rossignol Subdivision and known as 5134 Dancy Street [PIN 2-0110-11-037], and Lot 14, Block A, Dancy Jackson & Rossignol Subdivision, known as 0 Dancy Street [PIN 2-0110-05-003]. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Scene scope reflective ultra violet imaging system	Police	Spex Forensics (sole source)	\$18,995	Multiple Grant Fund - Local Law Enforcement Block Grant
B. Change Order No. 4 to the contract to widen Stephenson Avenue for the installation of a permanent sewer lateral to the property of Chatham Investment Management Company	SPLOST	APAC-Georgia, Inc.	\$8,262.81	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Stephenson Avenue widening project (100% reimbursed by the City of Savannah)
C. Annual contract extension to provide cellular telephone service	Various	Alltel Communications	Varies by service	•SSD - Various •General Fund/M&O - Various

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
D. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one-year terms to provide attendant services at the Wilmington Island Recycle/Drop-off center	Solid Waste	Riptide Services, Inc.	\$60,000	Solid Waste Management
E. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide janitorial services to the Juvenile Justice Center and the Administrative Annex/Police Headquarters	Various	Quality Cleaning Contractors (FBE)	\$53,475	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
F. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide pest control	Various	Ideal Pest Control, Inc.	\$17,320	•SSD - Various •General Fund/M&O - Various
G. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide various inmate supply items	Detention Center	•Bob Barker Company •I.C.S. Company •ATD American Company •Robinson Textile Company •Paul Dubin Company	Varies by item	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
H. Annual software license agreement and maintenance support	ICS	Sungard Pentamation (sole source)	\$22,200	General Fund/M&O - ICS
I. Installation of Protective Hanger Floor Coating for new Mosquito Control Facility	Mosquito Control	E & D Coatings, Inc.	\$18,923.61	Receivables- Mosquito Control facility

As to Items 10-A through 10-H, except 10-D:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-H, except Items 10-D. Commissioner Kicklighter - seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

As to Item 10-D:

Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one-year terms to provide attendant services at the Wilmington Island Recycle/Drop-off Center; Solid Waste; Riptide Services, Inc.; \$60,000; Solid Waste Management.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, my only question on this is we've had a number of complaints recently. Is this the same contract that we have in place right now? Mr. Drewry said, no this is new. They've only been doing this since the first of October, if I'm not mistaken. Commissioner Murray said, well, my problem is, and I've seen it myself, is we've got -, we say we don't allow contractors to take the debris from jobs in there, and I've been in there and witnessed myself and it's pretty obvious to me that it's a roofing truck that comes in and they're allowed to go dump but the person behind them can't dump and something's got to be done to correct it, and if this company is allowing it, then they don't need to have the contract. Mr. Drewry said, I certainly agree with that and that's what we're trying to crack down on. I agree with you, you can go in there at any time and you say I know that person is a contractor -. Commissioner Murray said, and I use it pretty regular. Mr. Drewry said, yeah, we're trying to crack down on that and we've been very successful by all the complaints we've been getting. Commissioner Murray said, and I know it's being addressed, but what's going to be the final outcome? Mr. Drewry said, well, what we're looking at right now is formulating a plan that may be opening it up to a small business, but we would haven't defined the limits of that plan yet, but we are looking into it. Commissioner Murray asked, with a fee structure for them? Mr. Drewry said, some sort of fee structure. Commissioner Murray said, where they have to buy a permit or something. Mr. Drewry said, that's correct.

Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter 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, the motion passes.

As to Item 10-I:

Installation of Protective Hanger Floor Coating for new Mosquito Control Facility; Mosquito Control; E & D Coatings, Inc., \$18,923.61; Receivables - Mosquito Control Facility.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I was in favor of keeping Mosquito Control on Eisenhower, so to be consistent I'm going to vote no on this one.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-H, except Items 10-D. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 10-D. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 10-I. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. ADOPTION OF 90-DAY MORATORIUM FOR SOUTHEAST CHATHAM COMMUNITY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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4. REPORT ON UNFUNDED CIP ITEMS DETERMINED TO BE CRITICAL.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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5. STATUS ON ZONING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rayno , seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 12:42 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation.

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

* * *

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Kicklighter, seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 1:35 p.m., to go into a second 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 2:33 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WERE HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Sessions held during this meeting were held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. MEDIATION AGREEMENT RE: JACKIE SOMMERS (JONATHAN HART)

County Attorney Hart reported that the claim of Jackie M. Sommers against the County Manager and the County Commissioners regarding an open records request has been resolved through mediation.

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APPOINTMENTS

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS
VETERANS COUNCIL**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to make the following appointments: Metropolitan Planning Commission - appoint Mr. Alexander Luten effective January 1, 2003, to replace Mrs. Hilda Whitaker, with a term expiration on December 31, 2005, and appoint Jim Poteet effective April 1, 2003, to replace Mr. Clifton L. Kennedy, with a term expiration on December 31, 2005; Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals - appoint Mr. Billy Doniel as the Master Plumber to a term which will expire on November 28, 2006; and Veterans Council - appoint Mr. Walt Harper to a term which will expire on December 31, 2004, replacing Mr. Tommy Shearouse. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2002

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK