

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2006, 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 Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., on Thursday, July 13, 2006.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner James J. Holmes 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: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
 B. Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven
 James J. Holmes, District Two
 Patrick Shay, District Three
 Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
 Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
 David M. Gellatly, District Six

Absent: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
 Helen L. Stone, District One

Also present: Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
 A. G. Bungard, County Engineer
 Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to ask a motion on the floor because Commissioner Stone is out of town and Commissioner Priscilla Thomas had an operation yesterday and is unable to attend. I'd like to have a motion on the floor to excuse the two of them.

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Stone, Odell and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.]

Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes, and Commissioner Odell should be on the way. He stated that he was coming to the meeting.

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V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

PUBLIC HEARING FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO EXPLAIN THEIR PROJECT REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 19TH OF SEPTEMBER SPLOST VOTE (See attached memo from the County Manager dated the 6th of July).

Chairman Liakakis said, you know, the meeting this evening where we're not making any decision, but we've asked several of the cities to come this evening to talk about — explain their project requests and, of course, we have the board set up for anybody that wants to do a Power type of presentation.

Chairman Liakakis said, the second public hearing from today will be on Friday, July 21st. That will be the second public hearing that we'll have, and I'd like to call on Al Bungard. Is there anything that you want to state right now. He is representing the County for the County Manager, who is out.

County Engineer said, only that we have the agenda here in the order you see, generally coordinate the schedule with amounts of time for each one based on their request, and we have the projector set up, and what we'll be doing as each municipality goes through it, Mr. Grevenburg has that spread sheet out in front of you with all the Level I and Level II projects, and as they discuss their particular municipalities — you didn't bring it with you? We'll get some more copies. They'll be on the board and he's just going to highlight what they're talking about.

Chairman Liakakis said, first on the agenda is the Town of Vernonburg. Jimmy [Hungerpiller]. Jimmy, identify yourself for the record please.

Mr. Jimmy Hungerpiller said, I'm Jimmy Hungerpiller. I'm the Intendant for the Town of Vernonburg, and I suppose I'm here to discuss our projects. They can be found in the handout. I don't think they're segregated, so we only have a few and I guess for the record the first one is on the handout under the Roads and you'll see it there at the bottom of the list, and I have here — we have here Local Road Purposes/Resurfacing, \$50,000. The next under Drainage again at

the bottom of the list you'll see that we have Water Quality Improvement Project listed as budgeted at \$175,000. As you go through the list, you flip past the County-Wide projects and then we get to the Not County-Wide section and going through that list again you will come to the end of it and there's two entries, one of which is the Sewer Capital Outlay Project, which is listed as being budgeted at \$200,000, and then below that, the last entry, Public Safety Equipment Outlay Project, and that's budgeted at \$100,000. So I know I have a five-minute time limit here and I'm done. So I guess that's why I'm going first.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you, Jimmy [Hungerpiller], because we appreciate the information and we'll go from there. Mr. Hungerpiller said, all right. Thank you. And we'll be having additional meetings. The other public meeting is on June the —, I mean, July the 21st, and of course that's when Thunderbolt, Port Wentworth, Tybee Island, and then the County Commissioners and one other entity will make their case also. I'd like to call on now Bloomingdale for their presentation.

Mayor Wayne Tipton said, okay. Our SPLOST Level II Projects, Local Street Improvements \$950,000, Drainage Improvements \$500,000, Public Safety \$1,125,000, Recreation \$700,000, Water and Sewage \$100,000, Other Capital Improvements \$800,000.

Chairman Liakakis asked, okay. Is there any additions —. Mayor Tipton said, I'm sorry. Wayne Tipton, Mayor of Bloomingdale. Chairman Liakakis said, Wayne [Tipton], any other —, that's it?

Mayor Tipton said, well, I would like to comment on the Level II projects County-Wide. We strongly support the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway and support it getting back underway.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me do this for you, too, Jimmy. I had the break down the roads, drainage and you've got your public safety and all of that. I want to give you this. Pete [Nichols], could you pass this on to Wayne [Tipton]? It shows the other projects for the drainage improvements and also the road projects that are in Bloomingdale. If you'll just pass that on to him.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, could I ask Mr. Bungard? The Mayor said getting it back underway. We've never halted the process of finishing the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, have we? County Engineer Bungard said, no. But on the strawman that I put up, I included some additional monies for Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase II, because of the increased right-of-way costs. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. You've been busy acquiring and —. County Engineer Bungard said, correct, and on the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway interchange at U. S. 80, there's some additional money for right-of-way acquisition there.

Mayor Tipton asked, is that going to be a flyover? County Engineer Bungard said, that will be a full-blown interchange, and I've been asked to bring the Bloomingdale City Council, they're coming over to my office on Monday, the 17th, at 3:30 and I'm going to show them about the six or seven alternatives we've already developed for that project. Mayor Tipton said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you, Wayne [Tipton]. Appreciate it. Next, Garden City.

Mr. Bob Krause said, I'm Bob Krause. I'm the Finance Director of the City of Garden City. Unfortunately, our Mayor was unable to make it this evening and he asked me to come in his place. I've got a handout I'd like to distribute, if that's all right. We've spent an awful lot of time looking this SPLOST over and the first list that we presented we had an awful lot of project on it and our department heads spent a lot of time figuring out what was best for the City, but I felt that the Mayor and I worked on coming up with a more summarized plan that I'd like to present. And in the meeting several things came up that we thought were important, and that is the emphasis on public safety and the definition of the Level II projects, and we have looked at several of our projects and feel that these meet the criteria of Level II projects, which we understand is a County-Wide capital project of one or more municipalities that benefit both the municipality and the County. Port Wentworth and the City of Garden City —, well, basically the Georgia Port Authority is in Garden City and Port Wentworth and we service the port with services the cities of the area, the County and the State, and we feel that a lot of the public safety items that we have, like through SPLOST funds we purchased a ladder truck. Now everybody knows, there are no tall buildings in Garden City. One of the main purposes for the purchase of that ladder truck with SPLOST funds was for the port, to service the port and the port, as everybody knows, wants to buy our City Hall and we have a beautification project where we want to beautify our area and we will be at some point need to move our City Hall. And since that is due to the needs of the port that we will be moving, and the port is the major economic driver of this area, we feel that moving City Hall is a Level II project. All our public safety items that we support, we feel that that's County-Wide. The County due to a strong police department and our fire protection, the County is able to put their efforts, their public safety efforts into other areas. The next item was already listed, and that's Street Improvements, and we have a lot of words here on our screen from the traffic from the port. Which, I mean, is a good thing, it's an economic thing, but still those roads need a lot of work. Then we have another project which is Rossignol Hill area, and the infrastructure there, you know, I'm just going to read what I wrote. Area, City and Chatham County requiring infrastructure improvements to correct potential safety and drainage problems that could result in major liability to the City and County. What we have in that project is water, fire protection, they're going to put in new fire hydrants, and then, of course, they're going to re-do the streets and the drainage along with that. And so we feel that that's a very important project to benefit the City and the County. And then the last item we have is just our general storm-water repairs that we need. And that's it.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any questions? Pete [Nichols], if you will. And this is a list of the Level II and all of the ones that the County had in their Level II of the Garden City area also. So also that's a list there. You can look over that also. Mr. Krause said, okay, we moved these items. We feel it's important to move these items up to the Level II. Chairman Liakakis said, right. But that's in addition to what you had, some that the County had also in addition to some that you had. So you can look it over —.

Mr. Krause said, if I can explain a little bit better. These projects were in our original proposal. Chairman Liakakis said, uh huh. Mr. Krause said, and when we got — we already received the sheet back from the County and everything was categorized by the County, and so what we felt

in this presentation that we should present the projects that we feel that we have that would benefit the County.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Mr. Krause said, all right.

County Engineer Bungard said, I have a question. But it also appears that you've reduced the amount already another million dollars. Mr. Krause said, oh, no, no, no. This is just taking some projects that were not in — the County took our total — the total amount of our projects and moved them between Level I, Level II and then All Other, and all we did was take these — some of these items from the All Other and move them to the Level II. County Engineer Bungard said, got it. Mr. Krause said, but they are already on the list. County Engineer Bungard said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank you very much. Mr. Krause said, thank you very much. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Mike [Lamb] — Pooler. Identify yourself.

Mr. Dennis Baxter said, Dennis Baxter, Pooler City Manager. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners, I appreciate you gentlemen taking the time to come tonight and looking through our needs. Certainly Pooler's needs are great. It's no secret that for the past 15 to 20 years we have been the fast growing community in this part of the United States and with a low tax millage that the City has set for our citizens, we have to be very innovative. Certainly, the SPLOST funds have helped us tremendously. The early years with SPLOST funds we used it to do drainage studies and implement those studies through to [inaudible] our drainage in Pooler. We fondly tell people that Pooler's so flat that we run water around in circles until it dries up, but it works. I won't bore you tonight with each individual item. We have many. Our total that we're requesting is some \$29,746,337 if my math's right. If you have any individual questions on any of the project, I'll be happy to answer them, but I would like to you about three specific projects. Our number one priority if we had to set a priority would be our Recreation Complex. With Pooler's rapid growth, the Recreation Complex that we have now is simply not very large enough to take care of our needs, although we have through the years through the help of volunteers built a nice Recreation Complex. You might be familiar with that. Our present mayor, a couple or three years ago was able to seal a deal with International Paper that donated a little over a hundred acres to the City of Pooler off Pooler Parkway to use for recreation. We have implemented Phase 1-A of that park, which is clearing an area that will have two soccer/football fields and five baseball/softball fields. Phase 2-B of the that, which will actually be building the fields and all will take place — the bids will come in August 10th, I believe it is. Hopefully, we'll get some good bids and begin implementing that part of it. But the complex build-out is estimated to be some \$12,000,000. That would be our first priority now. We are growing so rapidly and our growth —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to help you on that point, too. One major reason that they're absolutely overflowing is because of the amazing growth in the unincorporated areas also in West Chatham, and I would venture to think that 90% of the children that participate in sports that live in the western unincorporated areas they use Pooler's facilities. Like all of the Southbridge area and the other areas, they're out there in Pooler's facilities. So — because we don't provide the recreation programs, the County and the unincorporated, we don't do it. So they're in a sense doing it for us, and much like Savannah does a lot of things for the Islands area,

Pooler tends to be the one that they all want to go to out there. So that definitely is accounting for that project.

Mr. Baxter said, that's true, and we welcome those people with open arms and will continue to do so. Two other things. When Pooler Parkway was designed, there was no lighting thought about, and I'm sure that's not a usual thing that you do, but Pooler Parkway needs lighting along the Parkway and it's not just a simple task or an inexpensive task. It's a costly thing, but for safety purposes we need to get Pooler Parkway light from I-16 to I-95. We were able through the Department of Transportation to get a traffic light put in at Pine Barren Road and Pooler Parkway. That was sorely needed. The Department of Transportation donated the signs for the traffic light for us and furnished the material. We picked up the installation cost.

The third thing, and with the Pooler Parkway in and Pooler's rapid growth, with other projects that are coming to Bloomingdale and Pooler, the A and B projects, something is going to have to be done with Pine Barren Road. If a mega site, if some happens to it, it will be a great impact on us. We need to start looking at widening Pine Barren Road. Pine Barren Road fortunately years ago when whoever obtained the right-of-way for it, obtained a hundred-foot right-of-way, which will be sufficient for widening. That's one of our top priority projects. Gentlemen, if you have any questions about any of the other projects, I'll be happy to try to answer them. If not, again I appreciate the opportunity to come tonight and stand before you gentlemen and just give you some comments about our projects.

Chairman Liakakis said, this other prepared list that we got, you won't need it because it's identical to what you just talked about. Mr. Baxter said, thank you, sir. Thank you, gentlemen. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, City of Savannah.

Mayor Otis Johnson said, good evening. I want to first commend the Commission for the way it is trying to deal with this SPLOST referendum. I was here when the last one came to vote of the Commission and it was not very collegiate, and to this point we've had a very collegial process and I hope that that will continue as we cut down from \$800 million wishes to a practical \$400 million reality. And we are here in a two-part presentation. The City Manager is going to do the presentation of the projects which you already have, but I'm here to say that when you think about the role of Savannah in Chatham County, we are the pivotal municipality in this County. All of our facilities are used and open to all residents of Chatham County, and yet much of the support financially for these facilities come out of general fund. The same thing is true for street improvements, drainage, but the SPLOST has been a blessing to the City of Savannah because it has allowed us to do projects that we would not be able to do under the current attitude of our taxation. If we were to do the kinds of things that SPLOST has allowed us to do without SPLOST, I can't imagine what the millage rate would be. So I hope that you will take into consideration the fact that Savannah is the economic engine that drives Chatham County and the surrounding area and that many of these Level II projects, which we have included here, are not just for the citizens of Savannah but will serve the interest of all of the municipalities in Chatham County, and I'd like to turn the mike over now to Michael [Brown].

Chairman Liakakis said, and Otis [Johnson], what you said about what the taxation policy, you're quite right on that because what has been paid by the citizens and tourists is \$1,500,000,000, and you couldn't put that burden on homeowners in our community to be able to do the drainage and the road projects and the others that have been done. So thankfully we got that, and the other great thing about this sales tax is tourists paid 38% of that, so the citizens here paid 62% of that, so that really helps us all. Mayor Johnson said, it's a great vehicle to get these kinds of projects going and paid for without increasing the ad valorem tax. Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Michael [Brown]?

Mr. Michael Brown said, Mr. Chairman and fellow Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity. I want to echo what — having gone through several of these, I do feel that this is a good process so far and, hopefully, our presentation will help you to understand how we think our projects fit into the category of the Level II projects. Let me kind of quickly go through this. In terms of economic development, we do respect the County and the unincorporated area and the other municipalities, but there's no doubt that we are the economic engine for this area, both in tourism, medical and a lot of other functions, improving critical infrastructure, such as roads and sidewalks. Look at the Abercorn corridor, [inaudible] in the last five/ten years, Mr. Chairman, to see new retail going in there, and that's why we are the retail driving force for the region. We were, Mr. Chairman, as you know, and you were part of this, we have significantly improved the flooding risk throughout this County, even though we know we have a lot more work to do, and I think you're approached the sound in this proposal. The revitalization of our neighborhoods. Savannah is the national model and, not only that, we all know that a core central city is not healthy, is a drag and not a credit to the area, and I think it's great to hear even Garden City and others working on revitalization, providing quality of life. Commissioner Kicklighter said, too, that each of us uses other people's parks and facilities. The largest tourism destination in Georgia is the Historic District. Much of that is based on our squares and Forsyth and so forth. Altogether we have leveraged millions and, as Mr. Chairman said, not just in terms of letting outsiders pay sales taxes and hotel/motel taxes, etc., but also helping us bring State and Federal funds here and reducing the property tax burden on Savannah. You will see in your projects now that we — and some of the projects, such as vehicles and so forth — we are paying for those out of our budget, so we do think we should focus on those projects that are truly countywide. This to — thank you very much.

Mr. Brown said, just to sort of focus on how the law works, and we think that this first clause should really be the relevant one, and that is that under the law we can work on and hopefully reach a six-year agreement, an intergovernmental agreement based on an agreement between the County and 50% of the municipal population. Hopefully, it can be a 100% of the population. There is this other clause that says, well, if you take 24 months then you split it by population, I think it makes more sense for us to listen to these projects and work with the criteria that the Managers involved. There's nothing magic about it, but they do have the rationality to them and then to use that first clause as the basis for this. This was and does need to be a public safety driven project as much as possible. What you'll see in Savannah is countywide or police training facilities. A good police department, a good police force needs good training facilities. I think Commissioner Gellatly understands that and always had to sort of [inaudible] in the eye with what we had. We're trying to improve these. We're trying to improve our mobile data capacity and all of our technological capacity. A lot of times our precincts have been operated less than ideal

circumstances, and we're proposing that the arena also be the co-location site for public safety. But we believe that an arena, such like you had the foresight to build a trade center that has put us — Commissioner Shay sits on the Trade Center Authority with me — we are working hard to bring in more countywide conferences. You can tell when they're here. When you have meetings here and you have big conventions in town, it's a good thing. We have a hard time finding a place to park, the restaurants are full. So we think that an arena, and ours is now over 30 years old and it's probably 35 years or 40 in design, if we wait — if we wait until the next round, we're going to be further and further behind in terms of having a major piece of community infrastructure. So we think that that is an excellent countywide project.

Mr. Brown said, next is that we are going to expand this downtown Savannah eastward and westward. We need to make sure that the site for a civic center and its connections to neighborhoods don't blow them away, but in fact connect with them and support the neighborhoods that are there and make those neighborhoods even more vibrant.

The next three projects that you will see are geared towards the almost, almost nonexistent facilities for attract — for our own children and for visitors. First, this is something that our council came up with and it's in Valdosta, in Statesboro, Jekyll Island. We essentially have no true entertainment venue for kids. A waterpark, music, non-alcoholic, non-adult facility that would be like — that's in these other communities. A second facility is that it happens in several other communities, there are cultural arts facilities that support the community. We have them in Savannah, but they're expensive and held by the colleges. We need a true cultural arts facility. And then the last one, I should say, estimated as a \$20,000,000 one and then the children's museum in Battlepark. If you have not had a personal guided tour, I would encourage you to talk to me or to Scott Smith. We have a remarkable facility there of national caliber. The River Street Trolley, that is the most visited spot in the most visited tourist attraction in Georgia, and that's River Street, and we are not far from being able to have a trolley that would actually serve them by going up and down River Street.

Mr. Brown said, oh, I better not forget that. The — much like our arena, we have a serviceable but aging baseball stadium. Savannah, I don't think — our identity doesn't rest on having a baseball team, but our baseball team have strongly and they have repetitively pointed out to us that every year one additional part of the facility is now becoming out of date. Specifically, restrooms, concessions, proper alignment of the seating. I don't really want to tell you how it is for the players in the clubhouse and the locker rooms. The offices are really 20-year-old trailers that I bought when I was Assistant City Manager. So the stadium truly is getting to be an old facility. So we believe that that's going to have to be addressed or we're going to lose a baseball team. It's something they've been saying I think it's not a threat. It's a reality.

Rightly, Mr. Bungard and County staff have pointed out what sorts of road projects that we need. We have in the past supported and paid for Pooler Parkway, Jimmy DeLoach, improvements to the Islands, etc. We're just asking that we work together and we're pleased that some of your projects are on the list and we can work together on this. Certainly, southwest Chatham is going to be a growth area, Little Neck Road, 204 Corridor. We're going to have to take a look at that and be ready for the future. East President Street, as you can see, if you haven't driven east of

the Marriott, you will see the work that is going on there right now. The reports [inaudible] get \$8,000,000 from the Legislature for the Riverwalk and they are ready to begin work. [Inaudible] the [inaudible] area and the people who live on the Islands try to come to work or come downtown every day, it would [inaudible] problem, not to mention when the Chairman calls me when there's water on the road.

Mr. Brown said, the Hampstead Connector — actually this was in our original list and I think I would defer to Al Bungard. I think that he has a \$14,000,000 estimate on the Connecting Savannah Project and that's what we mean by that project. That is the most — that road has the most over-capacity in terms of traffic volume and the highest traffic volume in Chatham County. We are going to be working with our traffic engineer on this issue of timing. That's improved. I'd encourage you, Mr. Chairman, to move ahead on the ambulance project, get with the hospitals and come up with how we can actually get that [inaudible] and to continue on. We do need to make that a neighborhood friendly set of improvements and we need to look down the road and look at ride share car pool, even light [inaudible] in the future, but for now I think those neighborhoods are being hard because we are not moving ahead with Connecting Savannah. We do need to have, just as Dennis [Baxter] mentioned about Pooler, we need to work on signal upgrades. Right now we were fortunate to get some from Henry and Anderson from the State and we believe we need an additional \$20,000,000 in drainage. Last Thursday was a test and I think we passed it. We didn't get an A, but I think we did pretty well considering that there were seven inches of rain that fell at the Derenne Pump Station between about 4:30 and 6:30, and so we did have two or three cases of structural flooding here and there. I think we would have had at least a hundred cases if we had not had those improvements placed. The areas that still need work, and I think the Chairman's very familiar, is Columbus to 63rd and also the Placentia Basin, which we share with Thunderbolt, which includes the Fernwood and Parkwood neighborhoods.

Mr. Brown said, the thing that I wanted to recap at the bottom of this line is we think that the capital budget planning in Chatham County is better for everyone. I mean, the County has a plan and seeks each municipality — we just wanted to stress to you that we've had one for 15 or 20 years and we envision spending \$124,000,000 of our own dollars, which come off of our taxpayers, but we want you to know that we depend on this but a lot of the things that you see on this list, as we try to narrow, we're paying out of our — all of our water and sewer, much of our parks and recreation, you know, a lot of our work is being done with our own dollars. Certainly, all of our [inaudible] and all of those sorts of things. So we just want you to keep that in mind that we're making the investment from our other sources of revenue as well.

Public safety. We've had a lot of calls for improved safety throughout the City of Savannah. Most all of our neighborhoods now are, you know, very active almost around the clock. Although we've made some big improvements in the last 20 years, we still have improvements yet to go. We do need to and to purchase the site for a central fire station, which would be on — between Bull and Whitaker at the old Gottleib's Bakery site, as well as [inaudible] would be on that site now. We would like to do street reconstruction. You know, the Chairman always lets me know about the smoothness of Drayton Street in his travels. And other demand that we have from our tourism base is we need to be increasing sensitive about the ability for the disabled to get around, and especially our Historic District.

Mr. Brown said, these are — I think we would say, yes, these are local — primarily of local benefit, even though I think the whole area benefits to some extent. The Mayor, our Mayor has made West Savannah a major priority and we're underway on that. The Fellwood Homes site, we'll need to put in infrastructure. We're working on the corridors, such as Waters, Wheaton, Augusta, Montgomery, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, etc. And then our urban redevelopment plans, like we've got in Cuyler Brownsville, [inaudible] Clark, etc., etc. Recreation — I won't read those. You can see them. You know and can visit today a vacant park. I would also point out the tennis facility. I'm getting lobbied mostly by unincorporated area residents for improvements to the Bacon Park. Okay? And I understood that we'd get a little bit more money if we kept this short. Is that right, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, keep on.

Mr. Brown said, okay, here's the summary. And we also have copies of the PowerPoint and we also have copies of our own projects. The guiding principles that continue to work collaboratively as our Mayor said, we do believe that local governments should sort of have a base. I think they did a good job with what we have so far. We should recognize the importance of Level I projects, but I do think that we do need additional information on our \$150,000,000 — the sizing of the jail, what are the health facilities, what are the improvements to the courts, what are the improvements to this building, and there are some questions that we would like to have answered about that \$150,000,000. Any Level II projects should meet this definition of projects that are of benefit to everyone and each of us should have to meet that test. That's why some of ours are not on that list. The importance of ours is drainage, priority projects that address countywide public safety and that we should be allowed — and I think you did last time — to prioritize our own projects after those first two levels have been met. We sincerely appreciate the process so far and I do hope in the next two to three weeks we can sit down, mesh knees together, and come up with a list that will be good for the County and all of the municipalities. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any questions?

Commissioner Holmes said, on the performance that you asking for Grayson Stadium — Mr. Brown said, yes sir. Commissioner Holmes said, I don't understand the pressure sometimes when those baseball organizations if we don't do that, don't do that, whether they will leave or not, but if we are to spend that kind of money there, would that site be used for multi-use other than it will be used for exclusively baseball? Mr. Brown said, as much as possible. I think to be candid about it, it is not suited to football. I think that's why the left field stands really need to come out and let as much as possible that it should be — I think there's places that have done these stadiums: Charleston, Memphis, etc., they do try to make them multi-use. Now, candidly, in the season they may allow some events, but they just don't want that turf messed up, but you will see to the extent that they're feasible other kinds of concerts, other kinds of sporting events, college baseball, etc., high school baseball. I think Commissioner that what we've done so far is in Daffin, some with City and some with SPLOST. We have a gorgeous setting. It's a good location. I think this team now realizes it, but they know that when you compare the stadium to others in their league —, at first they would come to us and say if you don't do this, we're leaving. I think they're well beyond that. They're just, look, we like this, we like the location but it truly is not satisfactory.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any other questions? Pete [Nichols], do you want to hand this to Michael [Brown], and this is basically everything that you had on the board also. Mr. Brown said, thank you very much. Chairman Liakakis said, it just says Savannah on there with all of the projects and all and the amount of money on that.

Chairman Liakakis said, somebody wanted to make a motion adding something to the agenda this evening. Now as everybody knows, we're not doing any negotiations. We're just hearing and we'll have the other cities on July 21st to make — to go over their project. Shortly thereafter we will start negotiating with all the cities and the County because we know how much money's in there and we're going to see that, Michael [Brown], the request that you're talking about on Level I, all of that information that the City receives that information also so that you can look it over, but hopefully that in the next few weeks that we can negotiate and go down and get a number of these things where we can disburse the funding and all, but looking at the overall request list, we don't have \$806,000,000 as you know. You know, that would be nice if we did have that. If there was two cents sales tax, we could honor everybody, you know, with all of their requests, but we'll be negotiating. We want to work with all of the cities along with the County because we have to scale ours back, you know, over 75% a number of our things on the Level II and other projects. So, anyway, we thank you —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, — right now, but we're going to have a request right now.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes sir. Commissioner Gellatly and myself would like to officially present this request from the Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association to be included in the SPLOST projects coming up. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, we'll need a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Chairman Liakakis said, — for this. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor and a second, and the Fire Chiefs Association, and in that particular requests —, let's see. Just stand by just a minute. Hold before we vote on it. I just wanted to let you know — they're asking for the City of Savannah, Southside Fire Department, Isle of Hope, Tybee, Garden City, Port Wentworth, Pooler, Bloomingdale and Thunderbolt. That's for equipment for the fire stations and all of those areas that they are requesting now to go on. So let's go on the board then, adding it to our list. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, and of course we'll be discussing this along with the other projects that have been brought up to us.

Chairman Liakakis asked, does anybody now have any questions or anything, anybody in the audience that would like to make a public comment. Chairman Liakakis recognized Ms. Edna Jackson.

Ms. Edna Jackson said, Mr. Chairman, in looking over the list —. Chairman Liakakis said, come up to the microphone because they're recording that, Edna [Jackson]. Ms. Jackson said, good evening. In looking over the list on several of the pages there are projects that are listed, but there are no funds next to the projects. How are they included in this \$806,000,000 because there are no costs.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, we're going to ask the costs. For whoever is requesting the project, we're going to ask that because you cannot, as you know, have a zero in there and be able to appropriate any money because we'll look at those specific projects just like other projects too. But we have to have a number, you know, on the ones where you see that.

Ms. Jackson said, so that means that the SPLOST figures will go up higher from what you have here? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. It will be higher, but we don't know what's going to be approved at this time. We're all working together, you know, for negotiations. Ms. Jackson said, I understand that, but most of them had a line item figure item —. Chairman Liakakis said, right. Ms. Jackson said, — and I didn't know what a projected figure was, and I didn't understand why there were four or five that were listed here under various categories that did not have any line item figures whatsoever. Chairman Liakakis said, right.

County Engineer Bungard said, Mr. Chairman, you'll notice I put on the list two of these are notional cost and in some cases we have no scope, no design, and it's more like a mark on the wall. Once you decide what projects you want to go on there, we'll be about refining, so —. Ms. Jackson said, okay. County Engineer Bungard said, — still the playing field is wide open from that standpoint, but it wasn't much point going through doing detailed estimates.

Chairman Liakakis said, we thank everybody for coming for this meeting. We'll have that other public hearing, as I said earlier, for July 21st. We'll hear from those other cities and the County Commission's requests, and then we will start negotiations. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell asked, is there anyone here from the Fire Chiefs Association that wanted to speak on it —. Chairman Liakakis said, we have the list right here. We've added it to it now.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, before we close, Mr. Chairman, let me just recognize a man I consider a good friend and a great former mayor, Mayor Floyd Adams. I've just recognized him out there.

Chairman Liakakis said, I didn't see him. He was hiding behind [inaudible] and the other chiefs. Well, listen, what we can do right now, come on up if you'd like to speak, Mary [Osborne]. Pull those microphones down.

Ms. Mary Osborne said, Mary Osborne, Savannah City Council. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to —, like the question that Edna [Jackson] just asked about your items there that don't say what they're for, by the same token the \$150,000,000 that the Count is talking about, is there a line item for what that \$150,000,000 is for? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. The City Manager just made the request for that from the County, and I stated that I'm going to have our County staff to distribute that to them. Ms. Osborne said, I'm sorry. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Carl [Smith], do any of the Chiefs — would you like to speak out since y'all did come here at this point? Commissioner Shay said, [inaudible]. Chairman Liakakis said,

I'm not saying how much or what you're going to — anyway at this point, but you can present your case.

Chief Jason Waterfield, CPI, President of Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association, I just basically want to go on record and say we appreciate the opportunity to get on the table. This will be our third time, and what we do basically is just a cooperative of bringing all fire departments —, pretty much bringing it together. We're just getting the opportunity of all of us working together and getting some specialized equipment, because as we all know we had an opportunity to go and see some devastated areas. I don't believe there's a city in America that's prepared for what happened, but we try every day and if we can save other people's lives, that's what we're about. And we'd just like to say thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank you. Mayor Johnson asked, what is the amount of the request? Chairman Liakakis said, the amount of the request, let me break it down what's on here: City of Savannah \$1,300,000, Southside Fire and EMS \$1,200,000, Isle of Hope \$100,000, Tybee \$100,000, Garden City \$200,000, Port Wentworth \$200,000, Pooler \$200,000, Bloomingdale \$100,000, and Thunderbolt \$100,000. Mayor Johnson asked, and what's the total? Chairman Liakakis said, the total is \$3.5 million. Well, the latest one I've got is — this is \$3.5 million, and do you have some additions to this one, Chief? Commissioner Kicklighter said, the one I just submitted to you is the latest version. Chief Waterfield said, we broke it down line item by line item in two different phases. One is our training and specialized equipment. Then we also broke it down by what we received in the past two SPLOST funds where individual departments got money to [inaudible]. We did set a minimum for smaller municipalities to get a little more than they base it on [inaudible]. If somewhere in the corrected version it will station [inaudible] municipalities that only had one or two fire stations in it, they would get a minimum of \$500,000 instead of just \$100,000. The City of Savannah and Southside Fire Departments, being the two largest departments, they got the [inaudible]. Mayor, did that answer your question? Mayor Johnson said, yes sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Anybody else who like to speak now? Anybody else from the audience? Okay, that's it. We'll meet on the 21st and then we'll start our negotiations and, Michael [Brown], we'll get that information to you, the staff will deliver that to you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to add the request from the Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association to the 2007 SPLOST list. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Stone and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.]

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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Shay said, motion to adjourn. Chairman Liakakis said, yes, I'd like a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to adjourn. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Stone and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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APPROVED: This _____ day of _____, 2006

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk