

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012, 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 9:10 a.m. on Monday, March 26, 2012.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Liakakis said, I ask Commissioner Dean Kicklighter for the opening prayer.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I would like to ask Russ Abolt to do that, please.

County Manager Russ Abolt gave the invocation as follows:

Heavenly Father, on this beautiful day we all remember this is a day that you made for us. It's also a special day for this community and for this Commission. One member of this Commission, Commissioner Odell, has been selected to serve in a higher position to be Judge in situations that affect the lives of so many citizens. We understand through your wisdom, through the intervention of the Holy Spirit, he is the best choice. We also recognize and it's very special for this community to realize that from its own, from this County Commission, one has been selected to do your work and for this we are blessed. In all things else we remember our First Responders, our – our – our men and women in the military and we ask that they be kept in the hollow of your Hand, to protect them as they go in harm's way as they protect us in this fight against terror. In all this we remember in Jesus' name. Amen.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Liakakis led all in the Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United States of America.

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Chairman Liakakis said, good morning everyone again.

Commissioner Shay said, good morning.

Chairman Liakakis said, glad to have all of you here this morning. Sorry we didn't have enough seats for everybody but this shouldn't take a long period of time. This morning, of course, that we are having a – we're having a day that's a little sad for us, as far as the County Commissioner goes, but it's also a great day for one of our Commissioners who is being elevated today as a Judge of Recorder's Court. And what I'd like to do right now is have Commissioner Harris Odell to speak.

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RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER ODELL

Commissioner Odell said, thank you. Good morning.

Members of Board of Commissioners and audience said, good morning.

Commissioner Odell said, politically they say the worst time you can have a meeting is on Monday morning. But we want to thank each and every one of you for coming. I have a letter here that I've addressed to the Chairman of the Chatham County Commission, which I'd like to read with your permission. It goes, Dear Chairman Liakakis, I've enjoyed given the opportunity to serve as the Commissioner for the 5th District of Chatham County. I've served in that capacity for over 16 years. It has been my pleasure to serve the public and to work with my fellow Commissioners, each and every one I consider to be a personal friend. It was my pleasure to work, and I've said this before, the finest County Manager, I used to say in America, but I've extended that to the world. And I think the finest County Attorney, R. Jonathan Hart, and the rest of the County Staff. As you are aware, I have been given the honor of serving as

Recorder's Court Judge for the City of Savannah and Chatham County. I will be continuing to serve the public, but now in a capacity as a Judge. This letter is tendered as my official resignation and just for that moment I got really misty because for 16 years, this every two weeks has been a part of my life. We would come here and convene but during the week I would study the agendas and do the research, and I just realized that in less than a minute, that part of my life will end, and I have strong regrets because I truly enjoyed working with each one of you and the staff, and I am very grateful for the kindness and generosity that you have each shown me. This, Mr. Chairman, please accept as my tender of my resignation. Signed, Sincerely, Harris Odell.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Harris [Odell], and I know you're going to be sworn in very shortly, but my comment on that is that you and I have been friends for well over 30 years, and I've known you in many aspects, being a community activist, long before you got on the County Commission, and the things that you have done in the community where there have been many things, whether it was a charitable organization in our community that you would support giving your volunteer time, in addition to that, your finances also. And I can see that they will have another great judge on the Recorder's Court because we can look at your history, and we can see the wonderful things that you have done. On the County Commission you have been a great Commissioner. Not only did you represent the 5th District but the entire County. And then numerous things have come up and with your long abilities in things and your knowledge and you studying this like all of the other Commissioners do, you would bring up many good things that were good for the people of Chatham County, and that is really good. Because you were very positive in the things that you brought up and the information and all of the legal things that you helped us with was really appreciated. And now we will have you come to the front and so that we can have the swear – official swearing in. But I'd like to see if any of the other Commissioners, if you'd like to make a remark right now because we're going to move right on into the swearing in. Priscilla [Thomas]?

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. I just want to say to our fellow colleague who's about to be sworn in as judge, and I want to say thank you for your leadership and your wisdom and for your guidance. I know that your new job will take upon a lot of time and that you're going to do a great job. We will miss you because you have been an excellent representative. And so I just want to say thank you for all the things that you've done and for your support.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you. Thank you. And I think Pat [Shay] had his hand up. Shay.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, you will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Odell said, this is from a guy who gave me a Pittsburgh Steeler had to wear in the St. Patrick's Day parade. I'm riding in there saying Steelers. What about the Falcons?

Commissioner Shay said, you will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, Pat [Shay].

Commissioner Gellatly said, Harris – Harris Odell. I met Harris Odell when he was a much younger man in 1980 when I first came here and was sworn in as Chief of Police in the City of Savannah. And I always felt that – that he was a very – obviously a very intelligent man. A very – a man that thinks things out, but more importantly, during my career in law enforcement, he was someone that always backed and supported law enforcement, even when it wasn't popular to do so. Not to be confused with the fact that he was very intolerant of police misbehavior or improper training and things of this nature, but he was always a fair, impartial man and always supported us. You never had to look – look behind you 'cause the first time we got into trouble, why Odell was right behind us and always supported us. When I became a County Commissioner almost 12 years ago, I had the privilege and the pleasure of him sitting right beside me. Sometimes it wasn't all that much of a privilege or a pleasure, but for the – for the most part – I mean this guy can talk, you know. And if you ever want to extend a meeting for a long time, why Harris Odell – but on a – on a serious note, he's very smart man, very – this community's very fortunate to have him, and I – I've considered him as my close, personal friend and advisor for the last 32 years. And I – and I will miss you, but I – I know you're going to a place where you're going to make the big bucks.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Odell said, I think that was private practice – I'm leaving that place.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, to my fellow Commissioner, Harris [Odell], the knowledge and the insight that you brought to this Commission is going to leave a huge void. It has been a pleasure to serve with you, but I have to admit that I agree with Commissioner Gellatly that I think our meetings will be a little shorter now. So – but I want to thank you very much for everything that you brought to this Commission.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you Helen [Stone].

Chairman Liakakis said, James [Holmes]?

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Odell, we worked together at the Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club for many years.

Commissioner Odell said, don't tell them how long ago, James [Holmes],

Commissioner Holmes said, I met you when you was a board member and I was a staff man, and you were one of the only member of board that always come down from the meeting to observe what was going on. And for the last seven years we worked together shoulder to shoulder as Commissioners, and I must say that I'm going to miss you, but the part that I'm going to miss really is knowing how articulated [sic] you are. Knowing that conversation that you and I have had before and sometime after our meetings. But, you know, I'm wondering how your courtroom is going to be with – you can't really dominate it like you dominate our meeting up here. You have to leave that to the judges – to the attorneys to handle that. But I'm – I'm going to miss you Odell, and I'm hoping that at the end of this day that you will enjoy being a judge as well as you enjoyed doing everything else. Thanks.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, James [Holmes], and just for your information, the Judge is the boss of the courtroom. And – and anyone who fails to acknowledge that will meet Al St. Lawrence jail. But thank you, James [Holmes].

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thanks, Chairman. Harris [Odell], I just want to say right up front that – to you and the other judges just in case I wind up in front of y'all one day, this casual outfit, I meant no disrespect to the judgeship. I thought I'd slide in the back of the place and just let you get sworn in here. But, I stated it the other day, you're one of the – well basically, I know you know what I think, but you're one of the best people I've ever met. And I've enjoyed it. If I ever write a book about my time in politics, you'll definitely have a few of the – I guess breaking up the serious parts of it, you – you're – had an ability to say some of the funniest things I've ever heard in my life, and somehow, it shows how well you're liked, you didn't wind up in the paper with them. I just – I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm going to miss you, and yeah, we need to roll the greatest sayings out one day, after you get out of the judgeship. But I enjoyed it, and we're going to miss you.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. I have been on this Commission for nearly eight years, and that's when I met Harris Odell, really for the first time when we sat together at our first meeting. So I have been very impressed with his character and his analytical skills, and his communication skills. Chatham County will have a large void to fill when – when he vacates that seat. And I have thoroughly enjoyed working all these years with Commissioner Odell and look forward to keeping tabs on him at the – at the Recorder's Court in the future. So, I'm sure he'll do very well over there. And I wish you the very best. We'll – we'll be seeing you even though we won't see you on a more regular basis.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you. The –

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you for your great service.

Commissioner Odell said, the first time that Pat [Farrell] attended a meeting, we had some controversy with a department and Pat [Farrell] looked at me very caringly and he said, watch out, be careful, because, you know, they're gunning for you. I said, they need to watch out and be careful. And we successfully completed that that day, and I have appreciated from that day Commissioner Farrell. I mean, exceptional human being.

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Liakakis said, well, you know, it's hard to really have a lot more comments for him because we could go on and on. But what I'm going to do is make some introductions right now. We can't introduce everybody. Everybody here's important, no matter whether you're just an individual and you live in our City and County, we want all of you to know you're important. And what I'm going to do, 'cause I see so many judges, and this is the first time in a long time that I have seen such a diverse amount of persons in our community come to a – a function like this, but what I'd like to do right now is have all our – now there are judges in the back so what I want you to do when I ask all the judges to please stand up, I want you to raise your hands, you know, so that the people will know that these judges are here from the Probate Court; they're here from the Recorder's Court; they're here from the Juvenile Court; they're here from the State Court; they're here from the Superior Court; and – and the Magistrate's Court, so we really appreciate that. So, now, will all the judges please stand up. [NOTE: Judges stand. Applause].

Chairman Liakakis said, and now I see that we have the Mayor here and city counsel members also we have now, and that's important because the two Judges, of course, in Recorder's Court that will be working with you, they'll be your partners there, I see they are here too. Chief Judge Stokes and of course chief – the Judge Williams also who is in the audience from Recorder's Court. And both of them have done an outstanding job as all the other judges have done. A couple of more quick introductions also. And we want everybody to know we're not slighting anybody, but we could be here a long time trying to give out everybody's name right here. But in the audience too there's a special individual, and that is John White, who was the first black police officer in the State of Georgia. He joined the Savannah Police Department in 1947 and he's up in age, and he was in the police department for many, many years, and John [White], would you stand up? [NOTE: Mr. John White stands. Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, and I see the number one Sheriff in the U.S.A., Al St. Lawrence, and then the number one Tax

Commissioner in the U.S.A., Danny Powers. So glad to have all of you here. [NOTE: Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, and I think this is the first time in a long time that we had a U.S. Marshal from Savannah, and that's Marshal Steve Smith. [NOTE: Applause].

Chairman Liakakis said, and a former Mayor of Savannah, the first black Mayor, is Floyd Adams. [NOTE: Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, with all of that, and then Chief Willie Lovett, he's also here. Chief of the Metro Police Department. [NOTE: Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, and of course, Mayor Jackson, as I just mentioned the Mayor of Savannah, and we appreciate her coming also.

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SWEARING IN OF JUDGE HARRIS ODELL, JR.

Chairman Liakakis said, now what we'll do, we're going to have the official swearing in of our former Commissioner, Harris Odell. And Judge, would you come forth for the swearing in ceremony.

Chief Probate Court Judge Harris Lewis issued the oath of office to Judge Odell as follows:

I, Harris Odell, do solemnly swear, that I will administer justice, without respect to person, and give equal rights to the poor and rich. That I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Judge of the Recorder's Court of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, according to the best of my ability and understanding. And agreeably to the laws and constitution of this State and to the Constitution of the United States. So help me God. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, I think I can talk loud enough without a mike. I want to say thank you to the Mayor, Edna Branch Jackson, and the entire City Counsel. We, and I almost said, the Commission, I'm no longer a Commissioner, we enjoy an excellent relationship between the two governments. And I'll ask Mayor Jackson to come up and just give words.

Mayor Edna Jackson said, thank you. Thank you.

Judge Odell said, Mayor Jackson?

Mayor Jackson said, thank you, Judge. I have the opportunity of saying it first. Pete [Liakakis], sorry .

Chairman Liakakis said, that's okay. I was going to mention your name again for the come up forth.

Mayor Jackson said, let me first honor our Commission Chairman Liakakis and members of – of the County Commission. It's always a pleasure just to say congratulations. In this house this evening – in this room this morning, rather, we have our Mayor Pro Tem, Van Johnson, along with Alderman Tom Bordeaux, Alderman Shabaz, and former Alderman, as we call the dean that you work hard with in the 5th District, Clifton Jones. We are very happy for you. You have served us well. We've had an outstanding working relationships, and as you look over this audience here this evening – this morning, you see representatives from the 5th District. Not only did you represent them here in the meetings, but as you moved about, and we have attended many community meetings to make progress in those areas. It has always been a team effort with the City and the County elected officials working together. We grad – we congratulate you. We know that you're going to do exceptionally well in the court because you realize that you too will be making decisions here on the residents of not only – not only Savannah but Chatham County as well. Any way that we can be of help to you, and we will be getting with you and all of the judges to let you know that we're not there just to do some of the things that we do, but also to make sure that you know what we would like to see you do to help us with our residents here in this community. Congratulations, Judge.

Judge Odell said, thank you.

Mayor Jackson said, and we look forward again to working with you.

Judge Odell said, thank you, Edna [Jackson]. Thank you. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, you know I've – I've just suffered the first cardinal sin.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, you have.

Judge Odell said, my neighbor, Jim Shelton, he and I cut the yard at the same time. Good friend, great neighbor, he looked at me and said, you didn't introduce your wife. This is my wife, Tabitha [Odell]. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, and my family is here. My only brother in the world. I'll ask him to stand. Randall Odell and his wife. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, my best buddy, my mother-in-law. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, and my daughter, Margaret and Hatim and Victoria. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, oh, they were a little late. And a lady that's been like a daughter to me. (Unintelligible, who's been my legal assistant. [NOTE: Applause.] And I'll ask – I'll ask her to stand, this is Mya and this is Margaret. And they want to take my office and open a business. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, Carletha, will you please stand? [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, we don't have a lot of family but we are extremely close. And there is a grand named Harris Odell – Harris Odell and Khatlyn Odell, could you come around here. Please. I'm paying them to do this. [NOTE: Applause.] These are my grandkids, this is Harris Odell the 4th, who is a better fisherman than his granddad, and this is – I'm very proud of her, she's named after my mom, this is Margaret Khatlyn Odell. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, did I fail to mention anyone? (Unintelligible). And I got Laney, did I not? Laney, please stand. [NOTE: Applause.] And Davita and Tonya. [NOTE: Applause.] There are more people here than I really expected. The list wasn't that long. I – I really thank you. And I guarantee the following for those of you that don't know me, I am a worker bee. The Commissioners know I work hard.

Chairman Liakakis said, Harris [Odell], excuse me a minute. Just a little closer to the microphone 'cause we want all of Savannah to see you on our government channel – to hear you.

Judge Odell said, God, I love that guy. I really love that guy. But it's a manly love. I've – there's no way that I could acknowledge everyone. I won't try it. Every – everyone here is a friend or a colleague or an associate, so you all are extremely important, and I am honored and grateful. Twenty years ago when Judge Burke was appointed to the Recorder's Court the City administration talked to me about sitting on Recorder's Court. I went over there when Larry Dillon – Larry [Dillon] was a good friend, God rest Larry [Dillon], and I sat for three or four days. And then Dr. Clyde Andrews – I broke a tooth and I went to see Dr. Clyde Andrews who did a root canal. And then I came back to Recorder's Court and I did a couple more days. And that Saturday when I do my week review, I said, you know, I kind of enjoyed the root canal more than I did Recorder's Court. But I'm a much more mature guy now. I'll enjoy it. Someone who – got so many people from the 5th District. I'm very grateful. My long term friend and colleague, Mr. Shabaz is here. And we did not mention our district attorney, Larry Chisolm, and the Judge of all judges in this County for County government is our Chief Judge, Michael Karpf, who has been a 35-year friend. Judge Karpf so the people can see you. [NOTE: Judge Karpf steps forward and raises his hand.]

Judge Odell said, and I know that I'm going to overlook someone. Each and every one of you are important. I would call for comment of Chief Judge what – oh, I'm sorry – Tammy Stokes. [NOTE: Applause.]

Chief Judge of Recorder's Court Tammy Stokes said, congratulations. And I promise you I won't be long. But one of the things that struck me in hearing everybody talk is endings and beginnings. Harris [Odell] had a wonderful career on the County Commission for a lot of different reasons, most of those reasons we've heard commented by the folks he has served with. There's a new beginning and it begins today, Judge. And I have to say that the County Commissioners loss is Recorder's Court gain, and I am happy to have him come, and I welcome you in coming. I know that we're going to serve well. Judge Odell brings a – a breath of experience, common sense, respect from the community, and he's going to do a wonderful job. Congratulations. [NOTE: Applause.]

Judge Odell said, I know she'd rather not do this. Judge Claire Williams, any comments, Claire [Williams]?

Recorder's Court Judge Claire Williams said, I think it's just time for us to go to work Harris [Odell].

Commissioner Farrell said, now you know what we're talking about.

Judge Odell said, Pete [Liakakis], I think we're done.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, I want everybody to know from the citizens to the business people to the industry to all of you here this morning, we really appreciate you coming. This just shows the support that Harris Odell has done in many things in our community. How he's been a great Commissioner and all, and we, you know, we would announce everybody, but you know this, that you are important because the citizens are important. Our office belongs to the citizens and not to the individual elected official. So with that, I pray that God will bless each and every one of you. What we're going to do right now, is that we will have another part of our special meeting to see about some appointments. And thank you very much for coming. And if you'd like to leave now, you are happy to do so. [NOTE: Applause.]

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PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO JUDGE ODELL

Chairman Liakakis read the plaque as follows:

in recognition of your leadership as District 5 representative during an era of projects and achievements unparalleled in the history of one of Georgia's oldest county governments.

Chairman Liakakis said, and in here we have different organizations and many things that he's been involved in and we present that special plaque to you to you for all those things so that you can look at that and realize that people really appreciate all these wonderful things that you have done in the past.

Judge Odell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. [NOTE: Applause.]

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FILL THE VACANCY CREATED IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESULTING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER HARRIS ODELL, JR., 5TH DISTRICT.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, the Clerk and I have conferred and you did not recess, so there is no need to restart the meeting.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Good morning everyone who's left in the audience today. We appreciate you coming and staying for this. Of course now – and what we're doing in this special meeting, I'm going to read off some names of people that were interested and would like to have that position of 1st District Commissioner.

Commissioner Farrell said, 1st?

Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me, 5th District.

Commissioner Stone said, I'm still here, Pete [Liakakis].

Chairman Liakakis said, let me get that straight. They'll be appointed to the wrong district. Yeah. Thank you Patrick [Farrell]. Okay. The appointments for consideration for the 5th District Commissioner, Clinton Young, Yusef Shabaz, Charles Gordon, Leonard Small, Grover Thornton, and Tabitha Odell. Those are the six names that we have that are interested in this particular appointment today. Now what I'll do is ask are there any members of the Board that would like to make a selection here or bring up another name?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thanks to all of the people that have submitted – submitted their names here. This is tough because it's up to us to appoint someone to fill a seat that has been filled with someone of extreme intelligence, someone with a great sense of humor, a just outstanding knowledge of County government and how things should operate. The ability to tell right from wrong and then moving the forward – move forward for the – in the right direction. These people that we have in front of us today I'm sure are all very good people that are trying to help out their community, and I say I appreciate that, but what is scary to me at this point is any of us voting for a particular person that we really don't know. And what I see in front of us here is one common thread, someone on here that everyone of us has – we had the opportunity to get to know for many, many years, and we know of this person's high intelligence, honesty, ability to own and operate their own business successfully, and I know this person has to have a sense of humor, because they were married to Commissioner Odell. So at this point, and with the understanding that there will be an election coming up and the citizens will choose, I with respect, nominate Ms. Tabitha Odell to fill this voided – this vacated seat.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I – I second that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any other nominations.

Commissioner Holmes said, I have – I have something I would like to say, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, would we – would we vote on it?

Chairman Liakakis said, well, here – here's what we can do. If you have another name, go ahead. Yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, what – what I don't like and feel that the choice that we were put into, this choice that I just heard just now should have never put this Board in this position. I feel like it should have been discussed to how the process would have gone. I feel like we as sitting Commissioners should have had a more input to how it went. I set on this Board for 7 almost 8 years, and I have the most respect for every last one of you all. This choice that I just heard that was nominated, I have nothing against that choice. I have nothing against that person personally. But the process in which we going about choosing this person to represent the 5th District, to me it should have been done in a more collectively [sic] manner. My choice for this of all the ones that I've seen here, and I looked at all of them. And ladies and gentlemen, I don't think the citizens really knew the process of how this was going. I got many calls from many people asking us how did it go, what do I have to do. Well my recommendation was to call our Attorney; call our Chairman. I don't know whether they called. I don't know whether they know. But as of yesterday, one of these candidates didn't even know much how to go about doing it. So we sitting here and we choosing someone without collectively sitting down choosing this. Why are we the only person that is choosing this choice? Have this came from the citizen of the 2nd [sic] District? Is this a choice that they had? Is it a recommendation that they had? And all of us need recommendation. So looking at the names here, my recommendation off the top of it, I liked all of them. But Clinton Young would be my choice.

Chairman Liakakis said, so you're bringing –

Commissioner Holmes said, so I would like to – yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're nominating Clinton Young?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have two nominations here.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, well we have a – a motion on the floor, we need a second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a second.

Commissioner Farrell said, how many motions can we have at the same time?

County Attorney Hart said, well, I don't – we – we can separate them and do them one at a time.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Then what we'll do then to – we'll ask for a second then. So what we'll do then, Jon [Hart], the proper procedure right now since we have a first and a second for a name is to vote on that and then come back to the next one?

County Attorney Hart said, well you can either – you can do it two ways. You can either put both names in the hat and see who gets the most votes. You've got to have a majority vote to win. I mean that's the primary function is to vote on the names and see who gets the majority vote.

Chairman Liakakis said, but – so how about getting a – do we need a second to do that? Put it in the same hat?

County Attorney Hart said, we – we will need a second to do that.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a second then.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll make a –

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd like to make a statement.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll make second so that we have –

Chairman Liakakis said, you make a second?

Commissioner Stone said, – can move forward.

Commissioner Thomas said, no. I want to make a statement.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes.

Commissioner Thomas said, Helen's [Stone] seconding.

Commissioner Stone said, so that we can move forward.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're seconding?

Commissioner Thomas said, she's already seconded.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to make a comment. First of all, I'd like to say that in part I do agree with my colleague, James Holmes. The process to me has not been what it should have been. However, I want to say for the benefit of those who are running, when you are running for an office, please understand that when you use someone's name and say that that person supports you, make sure that you have their permission to do so, because when you do that, you are passing along false information. Now that has happened to me, and I don't appreciate it. Secondly, I want to also indicate that if we were to select the first candidate that was mentioned, it would not be a precedent in the State of Georgia nor federally. It's being done all the time. However, I respect each and every person on this list. I think they have excellent things that they can bring to this table. And lastly, I want to say that those of you who are running, remember that the County Commission, as well as any other governmental entity, that you should consider being a public servant first and the other way last. That's very important, that you are not self-serving. And the final thing is that whomever is selected today will carryout the final few months of this position and anyone on this list, as I understand it, Mr. Chairman, will have an opportunity to run in the November election.

Chairman Liakakis said, sure. All of these names –

Commissioner Thomas said, am I correct on that?

Chairman Liakakis said, that's correct. All of these names right here, here and anybody else's name, they can run in November. The election will be in November, and of course, there'll be a primary that's coming up that's in July. Isn't that right –

Commissioner Farrell said, July 31st.

Chairman Liakakis said, – in July?

County Attorney Hart said, I think it's July 31st.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, in July there will be a primary at that particular time and any of these names here can run in the – of course the deciding of – on that will be in November. Whoever wins on the primary, and they will face each other in the November election. So we have two names now that is put in the hat for this particular appointment this morning. The first name that was mentioned was Tabitha Odell. Let's go on the board.

County Attorney Hart said, the highest number of votes with majority.

Commissioner Farrell said, there's no red light. Only green lights on both votes.

County Attorney Hart said, only greenlights.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. all right. We have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven votes for Tabitha [Odell]. The next name that was mentioned by Commissioner Holmes was Clinton Young. Let's go on the board for Clinton Young. Okay. The appointment goes to Tabitha Odell.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter nominated Tabitha Odell to fill the 5th District vacancy. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the nomination. The nominee received 7 votes. Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners Stone, Shay, Farrell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas all voted in favor of the nominee. Ms. Tabitha Odell receives the appointment.
- b. Commissioner Holmes nominated Clinton Young to fill the 5th District vacancy. Commissioner Stone seconded the nomination. Commissioner Holmes was the lone vote for this nomination.

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ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Liakakis said, and so we want everybody to know this, that anyone in Chatham County can run for this particular position –

Commissioner Farrell said, anyone that lives in the 5th District.

Chairman Liakakis said, that lives in the 5th District now.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Stone said, not the first.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, in the 5th District. And so if you know somebody else that would like to run, and Clinton Young can also, Yusef Shabaz, Charles Gordon, Leonard Small, and Grover Thornton can run for this position for the 5th District Commission. So those people that are interested in it can start that right away. We thank each and every one of you for attending this morning and we'll go from there. That we have to go to a meeting now at the – across the river for the budget hearing at the International Trade Center.

County Manager Abolt said, it's actually your goal session, and we'll start as soon as a majority of you get there.

County Attorney Hart said, adjourn the meeting.

Clerk said, yes, thank you.

County Attorney Hart said, adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, move to adjourn.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, the meeting is adjourned.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners Stone, Shay and Gellatly did not vote.].

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF APRIL, 2012.

PETE LIAKAKIS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY,
GEORGIA

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION