

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2013, 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 Albert J. Scott called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

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**V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**The purpose of this meeting is for municipalities to discuss possible projects for inclusion referendum extending the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. (See Letter attached to the original agenda in the Clerk's meeting file sent to all municipalities on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May.)**

Chairman Scott said, let's -- let's call to order this is a public meeting really for the purpose of hearing from all the municipalities in reference to SPLOST. And first on the agenda unless there's some reason for the City of Bloomingdale not to be first.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGDALE**

Mr. Charles Akridge said, that would be us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board of Commissioners. We appreciate the opportunity. I'm Charles Akridge, the City Administrator with Bloomingdale to present the items for consideration for the referendum. They include road and street improvements, sidewalks, water/sewer infrastructure extension and upgrades, recreation facilities and equipment, public safety equipment and vehicles, drainage, and other projects as outlined in our capital improvement plan that will be adopted Thursday night. And that is -- that's it. Any questions?

Commissioner Brady said, I have a question.

Chairman Scott said, go ahead. Commissioner Brady has a question.

Commissioner Brady said, since I don't have anything in front of me, what is the dollar amount for -- for everything if you have.

Mr. Akridge said, we don't have a set dollar amount. Last referendum I believe it was set at \$3 million. I would request \$3.2 million ongoing.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Mr. Akridge said, you're welcome. Thank y'all.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Well the City of Bloomingdale sure put us ahead of our schedule right quick.

Mr. Akridge said, we've got work to do in Bloomingdale.

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**GARDEN CITY**

Chairman Scott said, who's speaking for Garden City? Is it the County Manager -- the City Manager?

Mr. Brian Johnson said, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of Garden City I present to you a request from the City of Garden City for a project list for the upcoming SPLOST. It consists of four items, four items only. I'll do my part to get us even ahead of schedule. The first would be retirement of debt service related to loan payment on our municipal City Hall. We are assuming a SPLOST collection cycle of six years, so there is an assumption here, but if so at a loan payment of \$720,000, that would be a \$4.3 million line item. Next item on here would be the reconstruction of Chatham Parkway, the section of Chatham Parkway in between I-16 and Highway 80, the north section. That

is a Garden City responsibility. It was designed -- it was not designed for the amount nor type of vehicle traffic that it has on it. It is the fourth most traveled ingress/egress out of the Port of Savannah, and it is failing. It needs full depth reclamation, drainage, a complete reconstruction -- reconstruction of the parkway. Engineer estimate on preliminary design would be \$2,865,000. Third item would be the construction of fire station number three for Garden City which would be in the -- at the corner of Pineland and Fall Avenue, near Gould Elementary in Garden City in the Silk Hope area. Using recent -- fire station construction estimates, we estimate that as being \$600,000; and the last will be the purchase of a tanker truck for our fire department. We are currently utilizing a 1964 aviation fuel truck to transport water to areas of the City that do not have fire hydrant or municipal water sources. That would be a \$300,000 amount for a grand total of \$8,085,000. Pending any questions you have, that concludes the list for Garden City.

Chairman Scott said, okay. And I -- I would assume you're going to forward us that list in writing.

Mr. Johnson said, I can forward you that list Mr. Chairman, as well as any other back -- back up documentation you and the rest of the Commission would so desire to get to the point where you are prepared to make a decision on that, estimates, design -- conceptual design, so on and so forth.

Chairman Scott said, yeah, if you could send that to the County Engineer, I would appreciate it.

Mr. Johnson said, consider it done.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Center said, would you ask Bloomingdale to send theirs?

Commissioner Brady said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, and I -- I would -- would also ask that Bloomingdale if you would forward your list too.

Mr. Akridge said, be glad to.

Chairman Scott said, to the County Engineer, Mr. Al Bungard. He -- he's sort of compiling the list and keeping up with it for me.

Mr. Akridge said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, okay? Any questions.

Commissioner Brady said, no. I was just going to reiterate the point that everybody needs to have it in writing before you went to Bloomingdale, Mr. Chairman. You took care of it.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter, you didn't have a question?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, sir.

Commissioner Center said, comment though.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I fully support both of those requests.

Commissioner Brady said, I bet you do.

Chairman Scott said, I thought you might have a question as former Mayor.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, sir. Money well spent.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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## **CITY OF POOLER**

Chairman Scott said, I see the City of Pooler brought a complete contingency. Mr. Mayor, who's going to speak for the City? Is it?

Mayor Mike Lamb said, I'll try. Mr. Chairman, County Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Mike Lamb. I'm the Mayor of the great City of Pooler, Georgia, and we have seen tremendous growth out in our area, and today we're facing a lot of challenges coming up, and I've listed a few of those at this time. Back at the last SPLOST -- a little background, we were based on 6200 people, and we had to go with that as far as trying to get SPLOST. We now -- the last census shows us at 19,141, and most people think we're pretty much over

21,000. It's not just the people that we're growing in. We're growing commercial wise also, and industrial wise. So I have three lists here -- three headline areas that I'd like to mention. Public safety facilities is an area we need to work on. We've been doing a lot for our fire department in the last several years, now we need to do more for our police department. We want to do a -- take our police station and relocate it in the existing City Hall of -- of Pooler. This is going to take about \$2 million to do all of the work that we need to do. We also want to do some public safety training and have a center where we can do that at, and it will be \$3.2 million. Also in our fire vehicles, we would like to update some of those at the same time. We want two aerial 105-foot ladder trucks. That would be \$2.4 million for those, and one rescue truck, \$800,000. The reason I mention those is the City of Pooler not only has new businesses that are rather tall, we also need more fire trucks because we pretty much stay on 95 and 16 almost all the time. Our fire trucks are out there quite a bit when any -- any incidents that happens on that side of town.

Mayor Lamb said, our recreation complex was very big in our last SPLOST. We devoted almost entirely the amount of money that we received to our new recreation park on Pooler Parkway. It has been a huge success, used by not only the City of Pooler, but pretty much a large group of people on the westside. We want to change it a little bit and make it even more open to more people by adding a football stadium with concessions, parking and locker rooms at that facility. This will be very big not only for the City of Pooler and it would cost about \$3.1 million, but it would also help in the high school situation where they're always looking for stadiums to have these games. This will also -- at the same time we want to add five more baseball fields and softball fields with another concession, and that would be 1.4 million. Road work and infrastructure for that area, and that would be about 1.5 million.

Mayor Lamb said, since we had so much that seems to be coming mostly to our Pooler Parkway area, Pooler Parkway is getting worn down quite a bit. Some of the first part that was opened to the public is starting to break down a little bit, so we're getting ready to do some overlay at that point. Hopefully we can wait at least three years, but in three to five years, we're thinking we're going to have to do some work on that, and it's going to cost us about 2.5 million. This brings us to a total of about 16.9 million. There's probably some other projects that we're going to need to do because out there we seem to every day we build one thing, something else seems to come, and with growth there's convenience but there's also expenses that goes along with it, and the City of Pooler would appreciate the County Commission to look on us when they -- favorably when they start to divvy up the SPLOST money, and we'll be glad to send y'all a list of all of these things. Do y'all have any questions?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter has a question.

Mayor Lamb said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, to tell you Mr. Mayor, I was planning on presenting to the County also about the Pooler Parkway, the possibility of going ahead and 8-laning it because of all of the growth out there. It's -- it's unbelievable what's happening, and --

Chairman Scott said, not six-lane, eight lanes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, six lanes. Thank you. Thank you.

Mayor Lamb said, we about need eight.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well if we were really -- if we were really --

Commissioner Brady said, we'd eight-lane it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- if we were really planning ahead -- eight lanes would be the trick, four on each side, I mean, but -- actually eight is what would be the proper thing to do, but, I mean, I don't have a clue as to price. But I think you're on the right track there for sure, and I would like for the county hopefully to work with y'all and come up with something where we could jointly six or eight-lane it and cut off the traffic jam that's about to happen on that road. So.

Mayor Lamb said, well, and -- and I think you're touching on a good point there, and I will mention that we have shopping centers, new shopping areas coming in every day. We have some people wanting to bring some more recreational areas to our city, but also we have a mall that is getting closer and closer every day to coming out that way, and we know we're going to have a tremendous amount of traffic sitting there between 95 and 16. Pooler Parkway seems to be the road they connect on.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Right. And not -- not to mention that the State of Georgia seems determined to dump the highway -- I forget what they call it, Rincon Parkway Connector or something, somewhere near that Pooler Parkway also, which will add a lot more. I hope -- well, I'll just leave it there.

Mayor Lamb said, okay. Anything else?

Commissioner Brady said, I have one.

Mayor Lamb said, yes, ma'am.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, I have to be very candid with you when I read in the newspaper this morning about resurfacing Pooler Parkway, I mean, as you know, I'm a realtor and I -- I -- I sell a lot in Pooler and I travel that road a lot and I live southside Savannah, and when I saw that this morning, I thought I -- I can't recall in my travels even this week that there was a need for Pooler Parkway to be resurfaced. But having heard your explanation based on the growth and -- and every day I go in there I see something else coming out of the ground as far as commercial development there, I certainly can understand it, but I did have some reservations early on about resurfacing that roadway.

Mayor Lamb said, Ms. Brady I'd be glad to show you some of the area. There's separation, and it's been going on for quite some time, and you can see it. What -- what I mentioned was mainly in the first part that was opened from 95 to 80, that's the particular area that's probably starting to break down a little bit now as we speak. And hopefully we'll be able to, you know, make it for three more years, but we're planning ahead. You know, we know this SPLOST is going to cover a long period of time, and we want to be able to have the money. Three to five years we don't know how much more damage will be done to that road.

Commissioner Brady said, well and that area's the -- the area that's been mostly traveled.

Mayor Lamb said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Brady said, versus when I generally come in from the back side and then go to -- to 95 from there. So that makes sense.

Mayor Lamb said, we hope that end's going to pick up too. Anything else?

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Mayor Lamb said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Scott said, another excellent job, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lamb said, thank you.

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## **CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH**

Chairman Scott said, Mayor of Port Wentworth.

Mayor Glenn Jones said, Mr. Chairman said, I did some bring copies.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

[NOTE: Mayor Jones presented the Board with a list of requests.]

Mayor Jones said, good afternoon. My name is Glenn Jones. I'm the Mayor of the City of Port Wentworth, and I'm glad to be here today. We're coming here to request for four major projects that we consider very valuable to the City of Port Wentworth in the next years to come at a total of \$6.2 million. In order of significance, we are in the process now of a major sewer project where have budgeted this year \$1.2 million. Our sewer in the old part of the Town of Port Wentworth is just basically collapsing in. It's just the old part of the town that was built way back in the '40s and the '50s, and the storm water piles into the water, into the sewer, and it's just sometimes -- it's just -- it's just really bad. So we're in the process right now of a two-year deal of fixing our sewer, especially in the old part of the towns, and we estimate that we're looking to finish the rehab work as \$3 million for the next couple of years.

Mayor Jones said, secondly, road projects. Mr. Kicklighter when you talk about cracks and crevices, we got holes in a lot of ours, and we have -- actually we have a lot of roads in need of repair. We are in the -- right now I have a special called meeting tonight to ask Council to approve \$61,000. For you who go through Jimmy Deloach Parkway that comes off into Port Wentworth on Highway 21, which is going to be the extension, the last mile that's going to go into the ports, we have seen, and we've actually one -- blocked off one lane where the road is just corroded out. The mound, the dirt, the clay, which -- you know, is just eroding. We had engineers come out there to look at it, and they see a significant need to do it right now, not wait till next Thursday for my regular Council meeting. So tonight when I leave here at 6:00 o'clock we have a special Council meeting. That's \$61,000. I had one Councilman didn't even realize it was part of Port Wentworth. It was deeded to the -- deeded to us and, you know, probably I would venture to say less than 5 percent of the citizens of Port Wentworth use that road, but it is our City's street, so we are going to be in the process of fixing it.

Mayor Jones said, we also, if you've seen the papers, it was Savannah -- the Chatham Board of Education just approved a K through 8 school for us up on Highway 21. They are not allowed to use their monies to -- for the surrounding areas of the roads, so up there we will be building a -- they will be a new school in our Rice Hope community, and we need to take some monies to fix the roads there because the developers at the time, Ms. Brady, you would know as a realtor, Rice Hope started out it was blowing up really big, and then all of the sudden it just stopped and now they're coming back in there. But the developers just didn't fix the roads over there right where the school's going to be so we need to actually get ready for the roads to fix there so when they come in here -- hopefully the school's going to open in 2016.

Mayor Jones said, thirdly, anyone who -- who really knows me knows my passion for recreation and high school athletics. We have a recreation facility that is in -- was built in the 1970s. When I become Mayor eight years ago, we had roughly 20 or 25 kids playing ball over there. That was sufficient then. We're between 200 and 250 children that are out there playing in ball fields that are in dire need of some help. We just this past year spent \$100,000 on our gymnasium, put a new floor, painted the walls. We saw a need for that, and so we've upgraded our gymnasium, and now we need to go fix our football field, the drainage on our football field, so we're asking \$500,000 for that and another \$500,000 for the gymnasium annex, which was the old school building, school building I grew up in going to school. It houses right now the library, and we have other needs that we're going to -- want to put a fitness center in. It actually housed our senior citizen's building for so many years until we actually built a new senior building for our seniors, but we want to spend and annex that, and possibly use that also as a museum for the -- the old City of Port Wentworth.

Mayor Jones said, and last, if you ride through Port Wentworth coming from the Houlihan Bridge, coming from South Carolina into Garden City and Savannah, you know that the trip traffic is heavy going into the ports. We realize we're an industrial city, and we realize the fact that the ports is a major, contributing factor to the Chatham County growth. But as -- also as the time -- the trucks go through there, up until when Jimmy Deloach -- the last mile is built, we are looking to wanting to revitalize our downtown. So many cities lose their downtown identity, and we're wanting to come back in and start that again, and we're asking for \$200,000 to go back and start cleaning up the downtown area and -- and -- and do some things that'll -- that'll make the citizens of Port Wentworth do -- go back and look at the rich history of Port Wentworth, and just wanting to revitalize that.

Mayor Jones said, we've grown so much since I've been Mayor the last eight years, where our digest has increased almost 200 percent. We're over 7,000 -- 7,000 people strong, and we're growing. I mean we just read where the housing market is -- moved up, and I -- we never saw a slow down. So we're looking forward to the growth and the impact it's going to happen to the City of Port Wentworth, but with that, we also need the monies to keep up with the infrastructure, the roads, and the future for our children. Recreation is very, very vital to us, and our children are coming out in groves now and -- and we need to just to really do a lot of things for our ball park. So anyway, that's where we're at. We ask you to please if you have any questions -- if you have any question now, I'm here to answer it and if you have any questions in the future you need to call me or my City Administrator, Mr. Phillip Claxton.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Jones said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, we appreciate it.

Mayor Jones said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, and you're going to provide us with a list?

Commissioner Brady said, he already did.

Commissioner Center said, we've got it right here.

Chairman Scott said, you've already got it? Yeah. Okay.

Commissioner Center said, do you have one more? Commissioner Farrell came.

Mayor Jones said, okay. We've got some right here.

Commissioner Center said, thanks.

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## **CITY OF SAVANNAH**

Chairman Scott said, and City of Savannah, Ms. Cutter, are you?

Ms. Stephanie Cutter said, good afternoon, Mr. Chair and County Commissioners. My name is Stephanie Cutter, and I'm here representing the City of Savannah. I bring before you three areas for consideration. From

a regional perspective we are asking for funding for a civic center arena. The updated cost estimate for the arena is an additional \$120 million. We are also asking for funding for road and sidewalk improvements, in addition to public safety facility improvements to cover particularly fire stations in the area of Sweet Water and New Hampstead, and the new police headquarters. We will be presenting a project listing to you with further cost estimates on these projects. Any questions?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I've got a question.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter and Commissioner Brady. Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I didn't quite understand the civic center, what you stated. An additional \$120 million --

Ms. Cutter said, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- to the how many million approved in the last SPLOST for it?

Ms. Cutter said, there was a total originally approved of \$58 million. However, the SPLOST revenue did not come in as projected. Currently we have set aside for the civic center 20 million. It is projected that it will come in around \$140 million.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so did the SPLOST revenues come in less than half of what was anticipated?

Ms. Cutter said, not less than half. Some of the dollars have been re-allocated for other things.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. The City of Savannah chose to cut half -- over half of the amount of the monies allotted during the last SPLOST. Okay. No -- that wasn't a question. I'm sorry.

Ms. Cutter said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Thank you.

Ms. Cutter said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, so what's the total dollar amount for the City of Savannah?

Ms. Cutter said, we are in the process of getting updated cost estimates, and that will be submitted to the County.

Commissioner Brady said, and -- and I have two other questions. I -- I received information from -- and -- and I -- I guess this is the appropriate time to mention this, information from a resident in Paradise Park asking about sidewalks. And you talk about road and sidewalks, when -- when you come up with your cost estimate, are you going to give locations of where you're planning on putting these sidewalks?

Ms. Cutter said, we will give location by area, not necessarily neighborhood, but eastside, westside, southside.

Commissioner Brady said, and then my last question to you is -- is that since we've been talking with the other municipalities in reference to Pooler Parkway, Chatham Parkway, what about Abercorn where Truman Parkway's coming in? Is that on your list?

Ms. Cutter said, well that is not on the SPLOST VI list. We are doing some other things prior to SPLOST VI with Abercorn in terms of beautification.

Commissioner Brady asked, but just in terms of beautification?

Ms. Cutter said, yes,

Commissioner Brady said, not in terms of traffic control based on the Truman coming in at road grade level there?

Ms. Cutter said, well that's a study that's being examined by the MPO, and we are a part of that discussion.

Commissioner Brady said, and -- and -- and I do understand about the MPO and that discussion because I've attended some of those meetings, but I would just like to use this as my opportunity as a County Commissioner that represents that area and express my -- my grave concerns about what's going to happen to Abercorn in March of 2014. It doesn't only impact the Sixth District, it will impact this entire city. That is a -- that is a roadway that takes you from 95 all the way to downtown Savannah so if there can be any consideration by the City of Savannah, and I'll certainly do my part as a County Commissioner in reference to trying to -- to -- to

accommodate funds, and I've actually talked to members of the Georgia General Assembly to discuss this issue with the -- the -- with GDOT as well, but if we can collaborate together --

Ms. Cutter said, sure.

Commissioner Brady said, -- because I -- I really think it's going to be a -- a traffic nightmare on the southside.

Ms. Cutter said, sure.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center has one and then I'll get back to you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, thanks Ms. Cutter. Do you have a ballpark figure on these estimates you're going to come in with later or your don't?

Ms. Cutter said, you know, our list is really long, and we're going to have to prioritize, and that's what we're doing now. We have -- do have priority areas, just trying to get a better cost estimate as to what these costs will be.

Commissioner Center said, do you know when we will have those?

Ms. Cutter said, by next week. End of next week.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Ms. Cutter said, mm-hmm. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may owe you an apology. I think I misunderstood. Did you say they approved 58 million prior -- in the last SPLOST vote for a civic center?

Ms. Cutter said, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that y'all have 20 million set aside?

Ms. Cutter said, that's correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. I just wanted clarification that I did understand that. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Anything further?

Ms. Cutter said, thank you.

Chairman Scott asked, anything you'd like to add, Ms. Cutter?

Ms. Cutter said, we will be submitting the list as I said by the end of next week.

Chairman Scott said, but really the big driver on your list will be the \$120 million --

Ms. Cutter said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, -- for the arena.

Ms. Cutter said, yes, as a regional.

Chairman Scott asked, do you have a location in mind?

Ms. Cutter said, we're studying four sites.

Chairman Scott said, we've got some land on Pooler Parkway according to Mayor Lamb.

Ms. Cutter said, that's not on the list.

Chairman Scott said, that's a little far?

Commissioner Center said, Lori will find them some land.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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### TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT

Chairman Scott said, Town of Thunderbolt.

Mayor Anna Maria Thomas said, I do have my copies.

[NOTE: Mayor Thomas presented the Board with a list of requests.]

Mayor Thomas said, I know everybody knows who I am. I'm Anna Maria Thomas, and I'm the Mayor of Thunderbolt. We are requesting \$5 million. We have town water system improvements. We have an analysis phase and an implement -- implementation phase. We have extensive repairs to our water lines with replacement with -- of our lead joints, our interior road paving and sewer stormwater drainage needs throughout the town; to enhance and replace our vehicles and equipments for Public Works and for public safety; improvement of -- of enhanced and town facilities; and the Isle of Armstrong installation of a water suppression system. Those are our major concerns. We also put in a department SPLOST list on the back of it just telling you what each department was looking to replace as far as vehicles, fire equipment, town hall renovations, and general work. Any questions?

Chairman Scott said, no questions? Okay, madam Mayor, thank you.

Mayor Thomas said, thank you.

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### CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

Chairman Scott said, do we have someone from Tybee?

Commissioner Farrell said, the Mayor.

Chairman Scott said, oh, the Mayor is back there. I didn't see you, Mr. Mayor. I'm sorry.

Mayor Jason Buelterman said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[NOTE: Mayor Buelterman presented the Board with a list of requests.]

Commissioner Kicklighter said, now you know all the other Mayors are talking about you now, don't you?

Mayor Buelterman said, why's that?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, huh? The fancy display here. I see them out there.

Mayor Buelterman said, hey, got to be prepared. Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission I appreciate the time to be here today. Tybee Islanders, as anyone who's ever been to our town council meetings know, are not known for brevity. So I'm going to use all ten minutes, if that's all right with y'all.

Chairman Scott said, we're ahead of schedule.

Mayor Buelterman said, we're way ahead of schedule. We appreciate again the opportunity to speak. We have with us our Mayor Pro Tem and City Manager, City Attorney, and City Finance Director. I appreciate them being here to support us. As you all know, one of the fundamental justifications for the SPLOST is the fact that our county has a thriving tourism industry. The significant reason why approximately 35 percent of SPLOST proceeds are paid not by Chatham County residents but by people from outside of our county. This enables all of us to use money for the purposes of capital investment that would otherwise be funded by property taxes paid by residents, property owners and large and small businesses. Without tourism this 35 percent figure would be significantly reduced, thereby in a sense throwing by the way side the fundamental rationale for SPLOST. Like other communities in our county Tybee has been able to leverage SPLOST funds to make significant capital improvements to our community that we believe have enhanced our ability to attract tourists thereby increasing the amount of funds contributed by out of towners to the SPLOST proceeds. Since the last SPLOST negotiation, tourism on Tybee has increased dramatically thanks in part to the many upgrades we have made to make our community a cleaner, safer, more attractive place to visit. A few years ago in fact Tybee was named the healthiest beach in America and just yesterday in fact, we learned that we were recognized by a national travel website as one of the top ten family friendly beaches in America.

Mayor Buelterman said, one of the indicators that we use of determining tourism and its growth is hotel/motel taxes. As you can see in 2007 we collected one -- about \$1.4 million in hotel/motel taxes. In the last complete

budget cycle by comparison we collected about 2.2 million. An increase of over 57 percent. In addition to our out of town tourists, Tybee as you know serves as a playground for Chatham County residents. On an average summer weekend day, our traffic counter indicates that between 12,000 and 14,000 cars come onto Tybee Island. Unlike large communities up and down the coast. Savannah and Chatham County has only one accessible beach. Just as an example Jacksonville, Florida residents and residents of the county it is located in, Duval County, have the following accessible beaches to choose from: Fernandina Beach, Little Talbot Island Park, Hannah State Park, Amelia Island, Huguenot State Park, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach, and Vilano Beach. Savannah and Chatham County has one, Tybee Island. Consequently our island is inundated with visitors from our own county. People who have a higher quality of life because they have access to a public beach. It should be noted that Tybee is a completely public beach with access points at the end of every single block on the island. Hilton Head by contrast has very few access points or places to park and consequently cannot be considered a fully, publicly accessible beach.

Mayor Buelterman said, our City funds all of the M&O costs associated with the beach, this includes life guards, annual contributions to our beach renourishment fund, the maintenance of dune crossovers, cleaning the beach, removing trash from trash receptacles, providing handicap access to -- to the high tide line, extra police officers to ensure the safety of those who visit, and many other associated costs. Add these all up, and we spend over \$3.5 million annually providing services for all those who visit our beach. This may sound like a small matter to a county with such a large budget, but much of the costs associated with the beach are literally life saving. The City pays approximately \$400,000 annually for our life guards. Tybee has conditions that contribute -- contribute to very strong rip currents. As a result, last year alone our guards actually rescued almost 500 people out of the water.

Mayor Buelterman said, we also help fund a portion of these costs through charging for parking. For most parking spaces on Tybee we charge \$1.50 an hour. What this means is that a family of four can spend two hours on the beach for less than the cost of a happy meal. But understand that we only have 2200 public parking spaces on the island. If we look at say the Saturday of this passed Memorial Day weekend, we had 14,039 cars come on to Tybee. Even if we assume that every single person that owns a car on Tybee left the island and came back that same day, in fact if we consider that every single resident, even my one year old daughter drove a car off the island, we would then have 11,049 cars full of people that in all likelihood wound up at some point at our most popular attraction, the beach. 8,800 of these cars did not park in a public parking space and, therefore, did not contribute to defraying the cost of maintaining our beach. In fact the amount of funds we bring in from parking falls approximately \$750,000 short every year of paying for the cost that we associate with our beach. We make that up from the hotel/motel taxes I indicated earlier, and, of course, from our own property taxes. But what all this fails to consider are the capital costs associated with having a publicly accessible beach, the restrooms, the equipment needed to clean, guard and police the beach, not to mention the most significant cost of all, the sand on the beach itself. This is where we believe the SPLOST negotiations become relevant to this conversation.

Mayor Buelterman said, in the last two SPLOST negotiations Tybee was successful in arguing our case and was able to use additional SPLOST dollars to address the many capital needs of our small island. Our argument then is the same as now. SPLOST funds come in large part from visitors. Without a clean, safe, well-functioning Tybee Island with a wide, regularly renourished beach, tourism, and by extension SPLOST proceeds would be significantly reduced in our county. Calculating Tybee's share in the SPLOST based on the formula that was used for the LOST, that is by calculating the percentage of Tybee's population relative to the county as a whole would not allow for addressing the capital costs associated with the beach. We as a community, our own full-time residents, like the full-time residents in all of our county's municipalities and in the unincorporated area have several needs going forward, so what we are requesting is that the County recognize the unique role Tybee plays in our county by separating our request into two lists, one that includes the items needed by what any town of about 3,000 would need, fire and police equipment, recreational facility upgrades, road improvements, water line upgrades, drainage projects, etcetera. And that information is all included in the information I gave you earlier.

Mayor Buelterman said, the second list is for funds -- funds specifically for the beach, something we believe attracts tourists and serves as a county-wide resource. In addition to providing a much better experience for those who take day trips to our beach, such items we believe will lead to increased support county-wide for the SPLOST referendum. This list includes funds for a new, large-scale public bath house at the north beach parking lot. Glynn County recently built one with SPLOST funds for those who visit St. Simon's Island. We're also requesting funds for significant upgrades to the county-owned pier and pavilion. This includes major renovations of the restrooms at the pier. As elected officials, we find that there are a few issues that we receive a lot of complaints about. I can't tell you how often I get phone calls or emails about our out-dated restroom facilities. In the last 40 hour -- 48 hours alone I got two unsolicited emails from visitors upset about the state of our out-dated restroom at the north beach. We believe the improvement to the restrooms on Tybee would play a significant role in increasing the chance of the SPLOST passing county-wide.

Mayor Buelterman said, we'd also like to expand handicap accessibility project that we started a few years ago that will allow for more handicapped access points. Finally and most significantly, we're planning a beach renourishment in 2015. As many of you are aware in 2007 the United States Army Corps of Engineers indicated that about 78 percent of the erosion on Tybee is associated with the existence of man-made shipping channel due north of our island. Sand that would under normal conditions drift in a southerly direction onto our beach gets trapped in the 40-foot plus trench known as the Savannah River Shipping Channel. We all support the maintenance and deepening of this channel as it provides jobs and economic development for our region and

the entire southeast, but this comes at a cost. We've -- we are argued for decades for the state and federal government to address this on-going issue by providing a dedicated annual set aside of funds and replenishing Tybee with sand every seven years, but this has not happened. Therefore, we are all left dependent upon state and federal funds, which as we know are extremely unpredictable, especially at the federal level. Thanks to county, state, federal, SPLOST and city funds, we last renourished the beach successfully in the winter of 2008-2009 at a cost of about \$10.5 million. We're scheduled for another one in 2015. Without a renourished beach, Tybee's economy and by extension the tourism-based revenue generated in our county would take a massive hit. Study after study have shown that depletion of a beach leads to drastic reductions in tourism. The projected costs of the next renourishment could reach as high as \$17 million. I have correspondence from the Army Corps of Engineers that I handed out that gives you more detail as to the explanation for the higher costs. Tybee's using 2008 SPLOST and general fund revenue to fund approximately \$2 million of this project. We're asking the state for approximately \$5 million over the next two state budget cycles. That leaves \$10 million that we are counting on from the federal government, the same federal government that has a hard time passing budgets on an annual basis, so we're very concerned about whether or not we're going to get federal funds or not.

Mayor Buelterman said, what we're requesting is that the county set aside this amount in the upcoming SPLOST in case the federal government fails to deliver on its commitment. Should these funds be appropriated by the federal government, then much of that money would revert back to the county for county-wide use with a portion remaining in the fund as a down payment for the 2022 renourishment. We believe this is a responsible, forward-thinking proposal that will garner support from voters county-wide. That's our proposal, and Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry if I went over my ten-minute allotment.

Chairman Scott said, no problem.

Mayor Buelterman said, any questions?

Chairman Scott said, yes. How many -- how many votes do you think for SPLOST that we can get on Tybee?

Mayor Buelterman said, on Tybee?

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Mayor Buelterman said, I will work to get everybody to vote for the SPLOST, but I can't promise that.

Chairman Scott said, so you're -- you're saying 100 percent of the registered voters on Tybee will vote for it?

Mayor Buelterman said, it's not a promise, but I'll do my best.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter has a question for you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Mr. Mayor, you stated that the dredging causes the sand to actually wash away, and I was just wondering, 'cause it -- it -- and I'm sure that it does, but it -- it just looks like to me that a huge part of the sand disappears when it's piling up in these 40-foot sand dunes that's going on now. I was wondering if -- if Tybee or anybody's ever considered possibly doing something like they do in Daytona or other beaches where they -- they bring in the graters and the bulldozers early each morning and push the sand back and level it back out --

Mayor Buelterman said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- rather than, you know, the \$10 million bill at the end of a -- you know after a few years or whatever. If -- if -- is that something that may work there? I mean?

Mayor Buelterman said, well we have talked about that, but the -- the -- the reason that we are able to get federal funds -- it's -- it's not called beach renourishment, they actually call it shore protection. And what happened when Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey and Long Island and all those communities that had dunes and had a renourished beach received far less damage, therefore, there were fewer claims on FEMA flood insurance dollars from the federal government. So if we were to do that, we might run into some obstacles with -- with the federal government. And just on Tybee we -- we do everything we can to build up those dunes instead of take them down, and there are some areas on the island where there really aren't any dunes --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right.

Mayor Buelterman said, -- and we're very concerned about that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but like -- Mayor, and I -- I mean it with respect. You know I probably drive to your island more than --

Mayor Buelterman said, you're out there a lot.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm out there a lot. I love -- I love it. And -- but -- like the dunes right in the main beach area.

Mayor Buelterman said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they're huge, and that just seems to me if -- if y'all could somehow spread it, it would -- it would at least keep your main area nourished at this point. I mean, it just -- and watching the hurricanes on television, it appears to me if -- if the surge comes, there's really nothing that's going to protect property built right there on the beach. I mean --

Mayor Buelterman said, yeah, there's --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, something I just wish we would consider. It's -- Daytona Beach early every morning they're out there spreading the dirt back out and, you know, and I think, for whatever it's worth I think that would be something to do at least in the main beach areas. 'Cause I understand the turtles nest in that area, but I don't know -- I'm not a, you know --

Commissioner Brady said, are you talking about south end or north end?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm talking the main parking lot area --

Mayor Buelterman said, in front of Ocean Plaza probably.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- by the pier and everything. That whole area where both of their main parking lots are.

Commissioner Brady said, by the pier?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, by the pier. All that area. If it was -- if you utilized the bulldozers and all, and -- and each morning spread that out, I think we could keep -- keep a huge area of beach --

Mayor Buelterman said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- in that area just from what's building up on those dunes. I mean y'all have had to rebuild your over walks about three different times I've noticed to get on up over the dunes each --

Mayor Buelterman said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- you know within the last few years. So.

Mayor Buelterman said, well I appreciate that -- that thought, and we have considered that. That -- it would help a little bit we think, but because of the shipping channel our beach erodes pretty quickly and that would solve -- last time we put 1.2 million cubic yards on the beach in 2008-2009, so that would give us a little bit, but it wouldn't get us close to the amount that we would need to fully replenish the beach island-wide.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and -- and I agree, but -- but in some spots in that main area the dunes appear to be 30 feet --

Mayor Buelterman said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- tall, and -- and if that was spread out, that would go a long ways. But --

Mayor Buelterman said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- as before I support Tybee with the beach renourishment. I'll support that part again, but it would be nice to see if we can put some measures in place so it wouldn't --

Mayor Buelterman said, sure.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- cost maybe quite as much. Thank you.

Mayor Buelterman said, the dunes help with, we believe, flood insurance, which is becoming a massive issue on Tybee. We appreciate your time.

Chairman Scott said, any other questions?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Mayor Buelterman said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Mayor there's one -- one last thing. If -- in the absence of the passage of SPLOST, what would y'all do to -- or how would you go about funding some of the requests you've made in terms of the public safety requests? Would there be any funds out there outside of property taxes?

Mayor Buelterman said, grant funds from the feds potentially. Those seem to be drying up a little bit right now, but that -- that would be an option. We would rather not have to raise parking fees. We've tried to avoid doing that, but in the absence of that, I guess property taxes would be the mechanism to do that.

Chairman Scott said, thank you so much.

Mayor Buelterman said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, appreciate your presentation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

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## **TOWN OF VERNONBURG**

Chairman Scott said, Town of Vernonburg. Mr. Hungerpiller.

Mayor James Hungerpiller said, that's a hard act to follow I must say, but I did bring these papers, handwritten off of my pen. I couldn't get staff to do anything today.

Chairman Scott said, y'all got a huge staff, too.

[NOTE: Mayor Jones presented the Board with a list of requests.]

County Manager Abolt said, you just need to make sure Al [Bungard] gets one. Here Janice [Bocook.]

Mayor Hungerpiller said, all right. I'm Jimmy Hungerpiller with the Town of Vernonburg, and what you have in front of you is -- is our estimate of -- of projects and costs for the period of 2015 to 2020. I'll run through them very quickly for you. These numbers are estimates. I have no earthly idea what things will cost five years into the future, most likely more. Anyway, item number one, road resurfacing. Right now we have resurfaced both roads as a result of having completed our water line project which was about a \$350,000 project where we installed potable water, fire-hydrant lines, purchasing water from the City of Savannah. I do believe by five, six years out in the future, we'll need to resurface those roads again. There's a lot construction going on, properties are beginning to transact again, and the roads do take a beating. So that's number one.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, number two is public safety equipment and systems. Vernonburg is surrounded by a variety of -- of communities which have grown a lot over the years. If you look at Vernonburg from an aerial, you'll see that -- that essentially it's a -- a smallish, green area, and we've had a pretty significant spike in crime over the last year or two, and we have a -- a good working relationship with the Savannah Police Department, but I do think there are some things that we can do more proactively which we would need to talk to the City about. One of which is video wire or video install the whole Town so that we can monitor it remotely. And we've gotten some preliminary estimates on that. I think these numbers are accurate. They may be a little on the high side, but we may actually want to purchase more specific equipment, vehicular to supplement what -- what the City does or collaborate with the City for that.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, item number three, bury the power lines. You know apropos to what I mentioned about the -- the -- the canopy, Vernonburg is very, very, very vulnerable to weather events because of the tree canopy. A lot of power -- power is lost quite a lot, and by virtue of its location, when power is out on the southside, frankly, Vernonburg is -- is not first on the list, so it's not at all unusual for the Town to be without power for days. Some of us have generators, but nonetheless, it's -- it's a problem, so I think that -- that burying the power lines would actually be a proactive step which would be very much in the interest of -- of providing a service to the citizens. We could have almost put that in item number two but I did want to break it out so that you could see more clearly what -- what -- what we were thinking.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, then item number four is to install gas lines so that we would -- we would again be able to provide an alternate energy source in the event that we lost electricity. So I think that number is accurate as well. There's a chance that we could mitigate that through -- through usage from the power -- or the gas companies, but I'm not sure. So these numbers add up to about 275,000 to 300,000. Our request is 250,000 for that time period. We do have some unspent monies from SPLOST V, but we're not completely sure what the shortfall is going to be. We've spent about \$32,000. We have about \$50,000 remaining from V, and we were allocated 200,000, and I'm really not sure how much more we'll get. We may get -- get some more. I'm trying to determine what that number is. So -- anyway, that's what -- what I think we would -- we would prudently spend the --the money on, and that's our request. Any questions?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone has a question.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you. You reference the power line the -- and the gas line, wouldn't that be the responsibility of Georgia Power or the gas company?

Mayor Hungerpiller said, it's -- it's technically not to my knowledge not their responsibility to -- well, number -- number one with gas lines, I'll mention this first. They don't have to provide service. They can do it if there's a market, but there's not a market if there's no line, so we've -- we've been --

Commissioner Stone said, well, I mean, I'm just asking the question because I had a gas line run to my house when I moved out there, and --

Mayor Hungerpiller said, from the -- from the road to the house.

Commissioner Stone said, no, extending down the road.

Mayor Hungerpiller asked, yeah? Just your house?

Commissioner Stone said, well there were -- I don't know if any of the other neighbors were interested in tying in, but they were very happy to run gas down there and make us --

Mayor Hungerpiller said, yeah, I've talked to the -- this was probably six, eight years ago, I talked to the gas company, and they said depending on the amount of users, there could be a contribution to the funding. That's why I wasn't completely sure whether that \$25,000 is accurate but I did put it in there anticipating that --

Commissioner Stone said, but I guess my question would be if -- if the neighbors are interested in the gas because of power outages, I -- I would think that they would be interested in running that gas line, and I would certainly look at that before I would --

Mayor Hungerpiller said, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, -- spend any money on it.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, yeah, I think that's -- that's -- that's a good question, and I also think, you know, one of the reasons why I went somewhat below is I do think and mentioned it up front, I do think that there's a chance that that's not something that we would need to pay for, but I did want to put it on the list. Power lines -- power company -- the power companies loathe to bury lines because they like -- their road crews like to ride and look at them and see whether a squirrel has tripped a switch or what have you. I've talked to the power company before, and they said, you know, we don't really want to bury the lines, it's very expensive, so it's an item that I -- I would like for consideration to be given because I do think it would -- it would significantly improve the experience Vernonburg has in storm events. So.

Commissioner Stone said, well I think it would improve a lot of the area of Chatham County considering the tree canopy but --

Mayor Hungerpiller said, well if we have any left over, I'll -- I'd be happy to help Montgomery.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean, I'm just -- I'm making a general statement that I -- I would assume that that would be a responsibility of --

Mayor Hungerpiller said, oh, it's -- it's enormous.

Commissioner Stone said, -- of the utility companies.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, -- I mean, it is, and it would protect the tree canopy and -- and frankly it would be much less impactful on the right of way, so you've -- you've got basically --

Commissioner Stone said, well, and -- and the storms that we have with the tree canopy I would think it would be a savings to actually the power company because of the number of tree limbs.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, oh it would be. Long term it would be. A lot of newer communities require it actually.

Commissioner Stone said, right.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, I actually talked to Holmes Bell about it, and I said, Holmes what -- what would this cost and have you done it before, and he said, sure, some -- some of the developments we work with actually require lines to be buried. So I -- I would like to be able to do that --

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, but it's a very complex project, especially given our canopy and -- and -- and tree inventory.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, so. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, and I'm sure we can count on 100 percent of the votes on Vernonburg, can't we?

Mayor Hungerpiller said, damn right.

Chairman Scott said, all right. All 100 -- all 134 of them?

County Engineer Al Bungard said, all 100 -- yeah.

Mayor Hungerpiller said, and -- and everybody I know that's not in Vernonburg.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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### **SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Scott said, we don't have a municipality left. I think we've heard from everybody. We do have the president of SEDA here. And it's sort of an unusual request, but I think he wants to make a pitch for some SPLOST dollars himself.

Mr. Trip Tollison said, is that a quasi invitation to come forward?

Chairman Scott said, oh, yes.

Mr. Tollison said, good afternoon. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission, it's good to be here. My favorite County Manager. I'm admiring your shirt today. There's a lot of flare out there.

County Manager Russ Abolt said, I have a tie on too, sir.

Mr. Tollison said, I -- I see the tie. My tie -- we had a prospect out on the land out at the Newton track today, so we try not to wear --

County Manager Abolt said, you want to borrow mine?

Mr. Tollison said, I -- I can borrow your tie next time. Appreciate you pointing that out. I also noticed the different Mayors in the back, thank you for allowing me to be here. You know, I wanted to come forward to make a quick case. I know that I -- I'm -- I think I might be the last presenter. In the eight months that I've been over at SEDA, what I've learned are there are three major components that keep communities competitive when it comes to luring in companies: prospects, jobs, investment. The first two I would say priorities are always the competitive work force and then all -- you know, the -- to make sure that the second one would be the infrastructure, access to interstate rail, more or less a site development piece, and the third is what I call the incentives. What gets you to the goal line. What is that extra push? And what I've learned again just going over to SEDA is that we are not competitive at all when it comes to getting to the goal line, and you're probably wondering what that means. Well, Dick Knowlton, and folks at SEDA many years ago took a big gamble and created the Crossroads Industrial Park, and that was a big, big thing at the time. It was a huge undertaking and it paid enormous dividends for the community. It obviously helped GBA lure Home Depot, Target, and all these big box retailers and it turned out to be a phenomenal success. We are completely out of land now at Crossroads. We have one site left, site eight, that's reserved for this prospect that we hope to announce pretty soon. But we still market it by the way because there's no such, you know, you can't take the guarantee until it's signed.

Mr. Tollison said, so what does that -- where does that leave Chatham County in the world of being competitive? Well what I also -- what I've learned is what other communities in the State of Georgia are doing and -- and I give credit to Laurens County for really starting this, and I will have all this in writing, and I will submit to y'all how this works legally in the State of Georgia is that various counties are using SPLOST funds to purchase land for economic development period. What does that mean? That is whether it's creating an industrial park, like a Crossroads Phase Two or holding a chunk of funds that would go to the Development Authorities simply entitled only when you transfer the property to the Development Authority. What that would do is provide a pool of money that we would apply to the prospect. We -- we had -- we have had seven prospects over the last three months and it's down to Savannah, Chatham County and two other communities in the southeast, and I can tell you one in particular that we met with again last week, we're not going to win because we -- we just can't offer them free land. Now we can offer them -- we can write a check for that land, which we are somewhat prepared to do and ask for the state to participate, and the state has gotten much better at doing that, and I think that we're going to be able to work something out hopefully so we can do that. But point being, with our limited funds, we're not going to be able to do that every prospect that we get close, you know, on the second yard line, to get to the goal line. So in seeing what other communities in Georgia have been doing and using SPLOST funds to buy land, and what I don't know are the legal, how that works, if the counties hold the money and the Development Authorities go to the county and ask that that money be transferred every case or if it's -- those are the pieces that I -- that I -- that we're researching right now that I would submit to the County Manager and to the Attorney as we get -- as we wrap that phase up.

Mr. Tollison said, I think that a number to discuss to get Chatham County in the competitive realm would be 35 million. That's probably sticker shock, but when you're looking at, you know, we estimate that an acre that's fully entitled as an industrial site in Chatham County to be anywhere from \$70,000 to \$90,000 an acre. You're talking about big money. And then when you apply the -- the money that is needed for site development and infrastructure, roads, it -- it gets even higher on top of that. We do have land that exists. We do have fully entitled industrial land. The problem is that it -- the -- the private developers are holding it, and that's -- I shouldn't say that's a problem, they're obviously trying to make as much money as possible as dictated by the free market, but we don't get to control our destiny. We actually would put the prospect with the developer, and they would try to work something out, and again we would play ball until our funds would run out, but after that, we're completely and no longer competitive. So again, I'm just, you know, it's kind of like stealing somebody else's model. We know that this is working in Laurens County, Houston County, and other counties throughout the state, and we're trying to apply that here.

Mr. Tollison said, so, and I -- I will -- I apologize, we weren't able to finish our research in time, but I will have that to you as soon as possible in writing. Any questions? Yes, ma'am.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady has a question.

Commissioner Brady said, you mentioned Laurens County and Houston County. Do you have any information on counties that are similar in size and land as far as Chatham County?

Mr. Tollison said, Muscogee County has funding in place from their SPLOST. I just don't know if it's used for land acquisition or only for roads and infrastructure. That -- those comparisons we will have for you once we finish this -- this process. This was -- going county by county is -- is rather difficult, but we're -- we are focused on Augusta, Columbus, Macon, and probably Brunswick, Glynn County.

Commissioner Brady said, well, and I'd like to see information showing counties that are similar in size and land mass to Chatham County, and you said you're going to bring in Muscogee and let us know if it's land acquisition.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah, we'll -- I'll -- I'll let you know what -- and again, their -- their SPLOST funds for example not to bring up the T-SPLOST, but in Columbus, Muscogee, they passed their T-SPLOST and there was language in there for economic development, roads and infrastructure, which is a different animal than what we're talking about today, but I have to break that down, which I -- I will get for you.

Commissioner Brady said, and -- and my last question will be, so we can assume if we put \$35 million on this list that SEDA's going to help the county get the SPLOST passed, right?

Mr. Tollison said, well I -- our board --

Commissioner Brady said, sorry.

Mr. Tollison said, no, our board, I'm sure will be receptive to -- we're different than the Chamber, and we're not able to engage as an organization politically, but as it relates to each and -- our individual board members, we'll definitely have those conversations. But we cannot apply any staff or funds to go towards marketing any kind of campaign. That will have to go through the Chamber. Any other questions?

Chairman Scott said, well, just -- just for a point of clarification, what you're really asking for is that we take part of the SPLOST money and invest it as seed money to attract more jobs and more taxes for the county.

Mr. Tollison said, exactly correct.

Chairman Scott said, I thought that's what you said. Any other? Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you very much. In the counties that you mentioned, Laurens County and what was the other county that was the model?

Mr. Tollison said, Houston.

Commissioner Center said, Houston? Houston.

Mr. Tollison said, Laurens, I think Floyd is doing it. I -- I -- we're almost done with that list which I will get to you.

Commissioner Center said, and when they -- if I understand it, you said they're -- they're buying land and using that land as inducement?

Mr. Tollison said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, and do they get in return, do they get a contract that the company will stay there for X number of years?

Mr. Tollison said, yes. In Georgia, which was not the rule of thumb for many years, starting about 10 -- eight to ten years ago, what we call clawback provisions are now in place so that if a company commits, they sign legal documents, and if they don't fulfill their job requirements or if something happens and they revert the land back over to the Development Authority and pay back whatever cash incentive that was applied. Yes. We would definitely do that here. We are working on -- we hope to have an announcement in two weeks, where we're actually -- SEDA's going to make a cash incentive and -- with clawback provisions and this will be the first time SEDA's done that in -- in a while. But I'm a big believer in the clawback provisions. I think you absolutely have to have that happen.

Commissioner Center said, and how long do they -- are they required in these counties? Do you know?

Mr. Tollison said, most cases, depending on the level of jobs, you do it based on if you -- if you have a --

Chairman Scott said, pay back period?

Mr. Tollison said, I'm sorry?

Chairman Scott said, pay back period.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah. If it -- it all based on the jobs. If you hire 50 jobs in the first two years and they're there for five years, usually -- it's usually a five to ten year process. It's kind of a complicated schedule, but yes, it exists, and we would apply that here.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions? And -- and we invited Trip [Tollison] here because we really wanted to -- when we had all the Mayors from all the cities and towns present to hear that -- that we have an unusual request for a portion of the SPLOST funds, and that is to use it for as I stated seed money to generate jobs. Now that doesn't necessarily mean there will be jobs in the City of Savannah, there may not be jobs in Pooler, but there may be jobs in Port Wentworth, Garden City, or the unincorporated area of the county, but we're talking about creating jobs in Chatham County. And when we get the list together, I hope that you all would at least support the concept of what SEDA's requesting even if you cannot agree on -- on the amount that they are requesting. Trip, thank you.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

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Chairman Scott said, well we're -- we're still 30 minutes ahead of schedule and that's -- I guess that's good, and -- Mr. Manager you have anything for us?

County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. I appreciate the brevity. Mr. Bungard and staff and I will work with the staffs of the different jurisdictions to come back with a complete list and because of the Board's leadership, and from the schedule given you a few weeks ago, we are well ahead of schedule leading toward the possible vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Center said, let me ask a question, what -- what do we have on Thursday at 9:00 o'clock and 6:00 o'clock? Is that a public?

Commissioner Brady said, public budget hearings.

Chairman Scott said, public budget hearing.

Commissioner Brady said, but I thought it was 9:30.

Commissioner Center said, 9:30 and 6:00 o'clock?

Commissioner Brady said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, yes, and that's on Thursday. Okay? All right. Any

Commissioner Center said, thank you very much.

Chairman Scott said, -- does anybody from -- representing any of the cities or towns have anything else to add? If not I - I appreciate your participation, and I will now call the meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF JUNE, 2013.

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ALBERT J. SCOTT, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY,  
GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION