

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 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 9:37 a.m. on Friday, August 9, 2013.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Scott said, good morning and welcome to everyone. We're going to deviate just a little bit from the instructions. After our devotional -- when the devotional leader come up, you may be seated, and I'll ask that when our devotional leader indicate it's time for prayer if you would restand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance which will be led by our Vice Chair Dr. Thomas. It's a great deal of pleasure to welcome and to hear from this morning Reverend Thurmond DaHenri -- well really Reverend DaHenri Thurmond, Sr. who is the senior pastor at St. Paul CME Church. That's one of the largest congregations in our community. If you've not had a chance to participate in their service, you should stop by some time on the corner of Barnard and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. Between 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup>, pastor? At this time it's a great deal of pleasure and honor to welcome here this morning Reverend Thurmond.

Reverend DaHenri Thurmond, Sr. said, thank you so much. Good morning to Chairman Scott and the Board of Commissioners and all that are gathered in this place. Let me say that I am sincerely humbled and honored to have this opportunity to address you this day as you continue the important work of creating public policy, addressing community concerns, preparing for future growth, and unifying this diverse population we call Chatham County. I want to thank each of you for your willingness to serve and sacrifice, and I want to encourage you to continue to seek the greater good for all those who experience this wonderful place in which we worship, work, live and play. I'm reminded of a story I read recently of a young lady who was walking passed a construction site one day, and she noticed three brick layers. She stopped at the first and asked, what are you doing? Without looking he quickly replied, can't you see I'm laying bricks. She moved on to the second brick layer and asked him, well what are you doing? He paused and politely responded, I'm making a living for my family. She ambled on to the third brick layer and asked him, what are you doing? And immediately his head popped up, a big smile came on his face, and he said we are building a cathedral. The third brick layer saw not only the vision that a greater good would be derived from his labor, but he also understood that it was in unity with his co-laborers that a lasting impact would be created. It is my prayer that as you do the hard work of laying bricks of public policy and procedure, you will also recognize that you are building the foundation for future generations to experience all the wonderful characteristics of this place in which we live.

Reverend Thurmond said, Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, the former president of Morehouse College, a great leader of men and a molder of minds is known to often quote, I only have just a minute, only sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, can't refuse it, didn't seek it, didn't choose it, but it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it, give account if I abuse it, just a tiny little minute, but all eternity is wrapped up in it. The Psalmist teaches us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Would you pray with me?

Reverend Thurmond gave the invocation as follows:

Oh God our creator and our sustainer, we honor you this morning for your grace and your mercy, and we thank you for the gift of another beautiful day. Now, oh Lord, in the precious name of Jesus, grant special wisdom to these Commissioners as they govern. Grant compassion to them as they make decisions. Give protection to them as they sacrifice themselves, and instill hope in them as they lay the foundations for future generations. Finally, all wise God, we ask that you would grant safety, peace and unity to not only this community but communities all around the world. In the magnificent name of Jesus I do pray. Amen.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Thomas led all in the Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United States of America.

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Scott said, the Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present:                 Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
                              Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
                              Helen L. Stone, Chairman Pro Tem, District One  
                              James J. Holmes, District Two  
                              Tony Center, District Three  
                              Patrick K. Farrell, District Four  
                              Yusef K. Shabazz, District Five  
                              Lori L. Brady, District Six  
                              Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

Also present:           R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
                              R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
                              Susie Rohlfs, Temporary County Clerk

Clerk said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Vice Chair Thomas, do we have any members of the Youth Commission here today?

Commissioner Thomas said, not today.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS****1. PRESENTATION ON OPERATION NEW HOPE, THE INMATE ANIMAL TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE DETENTION CENTER IN COOPERATION WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY AND ANIMAL CONTROL.**

Chairman Scott said, the first item on page 2 is a presentation on Operation New Hope. This is the inmate animal training program at the detention center in cooperation with the Humane Society and Animal Control. At this time I welcome Sheriff Al St. Lawrence.

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, thank you very much Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Commission. You know I operate twelve programs in that jail, more than any other Sheriff's department has in their facilities. I thought this was really unique and deserved recognition. That's the reason we're here this morning. I'd like to call up there Lieutenant Brooks and the ladies from the Humane Society, as well as Chief Lyons, Roy Harris. Chief Lyons is new in -- income -- he's the new president of Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. We competed with three, and we didn't think we had a chance because they've never awarded to the Sheriff's department. It's usually awarded to a -- a police department so to speak. We became one of the three finalists, and on the night that the finalists was -- were there, and they named the winner, it was Operation New Hope. It is very truly an innovative program. I can't tell you all the reasons why, but it has the lowest Recidivism rate

of any program we have in that jail. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Chief Harris and Lieutenant Brooks. We'll show you a short presentation of what we did before the Chiefs' Association. Bear in mind, the Sheriff's department won it. First time ever. We competed against Dan Flynn from Marietta, who used to be chief here. We competed against the Alpharetta police department. We had the best program.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Roy Harris said, thank you, Sheriff. Before we start, I'd like to ask Chief Lyons, who is the newly sworn in president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, fortunately our own Garden City Chief of Police, to step forward and say a few words about the program.

Chief David Lyons said, thank you Chief. Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

Commissioner Center said, good morning.

Chief Lyons said, it's my pleasure to be here this morning representing the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, who each year present the Curtis McClung Motorola Award for Excellence, and this year -- the Sheriff mentioned that he competed against three departments. There was actually about nine departments to begin with who submitted programs for our consideration. The Chiefs' Association Board votes on the different programs and selects the program that they think is -- shows the most innovative use of police resources in the state, and the voting was unanimous to select the Chatham County Sheriff's Department program New Hope as this year's winner. Let me take just a couple of seconds to tell you about the award, and -- and who it's named after. Dr. Curtis McClung is a revered former police chief of the Columbus Police Department. Spent many years in the education and training fields. Was the first director of training for the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Was instrumental in starting the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College, and -- and just a special, sweet individual, and -- and sorely missed by most of the police chiefs throughout the State of Georgia, and several years ago the Chiefs Association saw fit to name this award for excellence after Dr. Curtis J. McClung, so since then it's been that -- that award. And it truly selects programs in the state that -- that are excellent programs, hence the namesake, and this year's program, the New Hope, is -- is the epitome of that award, and as Sheriff St. Lawrence said, this is the first year that a Sheriff has ever won this award, and I think that speaks to our commitment to mend the relationship between the Georgia Sheriff's Association and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. So, it was -- it's a great program, and all of y'all can be proud of the Sheriff's department for putting this program together and the success that it's already showing. Thank you very much.

Chief Deputy Harris said, thank you Chief Lyons. In April a year ago Lieutenant Brooks and Ms. Gwen Freeman came forth with an idea to develop this program, and when Lieutenant Brooks first -- first came in to see the Sheriff and myself about it and was talking about putting dogs actually in cells with inmates, you can imagine we had some reservations about that. But he did his research on it and looked around the country, and we found there's only one other sheriff's office in Georgia currently that has such a program, that's Gwinnett County Sheriff's office. It was very successful, and he looked at some more, and he modeled ours after that, and what they were showing in their programs was the Recidivism rate of the inmates involved in the program was very low. The other good news was these dogs came from death row at the Humane Society and our Animal Control. These were dogs that were not adoptable for various reasons, and they take these dogs and -- and train them, and they're -- they will tell you the success rate we have had. So actually we're saving lives, human lives and dog lives. So it -- it is a great program, and when you see the video, it's a very touching video. But the Sheriff now wants to double the size of the program, and as we work in unit five, that's one of the things we're going to be able to do is -- is actually double the number of beds and cells available so we can save more dogs and more inmates. And again, this is a -- zero tax dollars involved in this program.

Chief Deputy Harris said, every week we get people calling and saying can we donate to this program? How -- how do we do that? And -- and the public can. We have a checking account set up for it under Operation New Hope. I got an email yesterday from the Motorola rep that was involved in this thing saying how impressed he was with the program, and he wanted to send us a personal check. Along with this award came a -- a check from the Chiefs' Association for \$1,000 that goes right back into the program to help this. So it's a fantastic program. With that I'm going to turn it over to Lieutenant Brooks and let him take off with it.

Lieutenant Robert Brooks said, good morning everyone.

Chairman Scott said, good morning.

Lieutenant Brooks said, like the Chief said, I'm Lieutenant Brooks. I'd just like to touch on a moment of how we got started with this. My wife, who used to go out to the Animal Control, she used to take pictures of the dogs, write stories about them, post them, and get them out on the internet so that people would find out about

the animals there, and then she said, you know, you need to create one of those inmate jail programs where we take the dogs to the jail. I was like, that will never fly in Chatham County. There's no way we can ever do something like that. So I did my research, put some ideas together, got with the Humane Society to see if they would want to be part of it. They instantly signed on. I went to the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy and -- expecting them to give me an argument. It's kind of like -- I always use the analogy when you have a broken lamp, and you take it to Wal-Mart and you try to return it to customer service, you got to ask, why is it broke, what happened to it, you look for a big argument. Well the Sheriff said let's give it a try. Is it -- you know, if we try it and it works, then everybody wins. If we -- if it doesn't work, at least we say we tried. So we put it together, and then over the past year, it has really grown, has really been successful. I have a real short PowerPoint I want to show you.

Chairman Scott said, and then before you -- before you get start would you please introduce the members of the Humane Society --

Lieutenant Brooks said, sure.

Chairman Scott said, -- that are here with you, please?

Lieutenant Brooks said, this is Ms. Gwen Freeman, she's the assistant director of operations.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Lieutenant Brooks said, and Ms. Lynn Gensamer, who is the director of operations.

Ms. Lynn Gensamer said, executive director.

Lieutenant Brooks said, the executive director.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Lieutenant Brooks said, all right. Operation New Hope. We kind of came up with the idea because it is a new operation, and I was hoping it would work, so. Chatham County, we're in a partnership with the Humane Society for Greater Savannah. We place unadoptable dogs with inmates in our jail, and inmate sponsored animal care programs encourage the development of positive goals and provides a sense of achievement for the inmate participants. I can tell you that it -- it does that. The inmates get really emotionally attached to the animals. You know a lot of these dogs and the inmates come from similar backgrounds, broken homes, not that I'm a -- trying to be an advocate for the inmates, but they do come from broken homes, a lot of homeless people living on the streets. Same with the dogs. They come from similar backgrounds, and a dog doesn't care why an inmate's in jail, and a lot of things around an inmate are negative. The public perception of an inmate is negative, the courts can be negative, the jail itself is negative. Here it is the opportunity for the inmate to take that -- all that negativity and turn it into something positive and give back to the community. That dog doesn't care why they're in jail, what they did to get in jail, they just want to be petted and loved.

Ms. Gwen Freeman said, as the current cell dog partner, the Humane Society pays for everything and absorbs all costs. We provide the canine training, and we provide all of the regular and emergency veterinary -- veterinary care, as well as all the supplies, like leashes, collars, dog treats and dog food. So, it doesn't use any tax dollars, however, the Humane Society does thrive off of private donations. Chatham County Corrections actually becomes the foster home, not the individual inmate, and the dogs stay there for four weeks with the inmate in their cell and are trained for the Canine Good Citizen Test.

Lieutenant Brooks said, the mission of Operation New Hope is that we hope to lower the euthanasia rates for Chatham County animals. We want to lower Recidivism and the cost to the tax payer, lower the cost for animal control, provide a well dog -- a well-trained dog for adoption, and provide a more productive member of society. The benefits to the correctional staff, it adds a successful and vocational -- a successful, vocational program. I can tell you that it does -- it is a huge morale booster for the officers in the -- at the jail. It's a very stressful situation. We're working around a large number of inmates all the time. It's very stressful. Instead of sitting out in the parking lot and eating an unhealthy hamburger that they got from McDonald's, they go down to the animal area, down there where we have the dogs, and they pet the dogs, and it really, you know, it just -- boosts

their morale. Inmates cooperation. When the officers go down there, hey, how's your dog doing? What's up with your dog? Tell me your story about your dog? Now we've got communication flowing between the inmate and the officer, and it opens up the lines of communication. Since April of last year and April of this year, we had zero disciplinary problems in the canine area. Zero. We had zero grievances filed in the canine area, and we have -- have not failed a single health inspection or inspection by the jail staff at all. It was probably one of the cleanest areas that you would go into in the jail back there. You would never know that there are six dogs living in a jail cell back there.

Lieutenant Brooks said, it promotes an institutional environment of less tension and violence while improving communication between staff and the inmates. The benefits for the inmates, they learn to -- we tell them if you come into this program, you're coming in for the dog. It's not about you, but in reality it is. You know, we want you to sacrifice something. Most of the time with an inmate, it's all about me, what you going to do for me? What can you do for me? Well in this program, we try to reverse that. It's what you can do for this animal, and if you get into this program and you violate the rules and you get kicked out of the program, not only are you kicked out but we're going to kick your dog out too. The dog goes back to the Humane Society, and theoretically goes back onto death row, and you would be surprised the huge impact that little statement has because in a year, I've had not a single violation at all. And it provides job skills, 'cause we teach them everything. We teach them how to clip it's nails, clean it's ears, brush it, comb it, trim it, how to tell if it's sick, and we obedience train.

Lieutenant Brooks said, there's a thing called the Link, and what this is, the Link is domestic violence. If you -- at some point in time, an inmate or a person who commits the act of animal cruelty, as they grow up, if we could identify this at a younger age, then the less likely -- if we can interrupt that, there will be less likely the chance of them committing domestic violence in the future. Seventy percent of animal abusers were have found to have been involved in other crimes. So we teach the inmates there at the jail, since I got a captive audience so to speak about humane education, about domestic violence, and how animal abuse can lead to other crimes.

Ms. Freeman said, this report is from our first year. The three major reasons why we have to euthanize dogs is for fearful behavior, heart worm infection, and high arousal, which means that the dog has a very low threshold to environmental stimulae, and since 2011 -- between 2011 and 2012 that rate has decreased dramatically because we do put these dogs into the program for extra care and behavior training.

Lieutenant Brooks said, and just to add on something to that, the six dogs that come to the jail, frees up six more spaces at the Humane Society. So the six that we're saving actually doubles into twelve dogs.

Ms. Freeman said, so we also use the program for rehabilitation. Jing Jing came into the shelter looking like her before picture, and although she didn't have any major medical or behavior problems, she -- her chances of being adopted looking the way she did was very low, which means she would have taken up a cage from a more adoptable dog as well, so living with her inmate handler for 24 hours a day for four weeks, she was actually provided the care that she needed to come out looking like she did in the after photo.

Lieutenant Brooks said, all right. I just want to add something here. The next photo is a little shocking, so I don't want you to -- I want to -- I don't want nobody falling out.

Ms. Freeman said, so this was Charlie. He had clearly been severely neglected and a ton of medical problems that he had to overcome, so since we put him into the program, he was able to rehabilitate and also having him there and being so ill, we couldn't tell what kind of temperament he had, so as soon as he was well enough he went into regular training just like the other dogs. Also being a pit bull, us as a rescue organization really has to be careful. If we do choose to put pit bulls back into the community, we have to make sure that they are ambassadors for the breed. So he was able to get the training he needed to become a well socialized animal for the community.

Lieutenant Brooks said, as you can see this is inmate Lance Bazemore. If you -- that's him on the left when he got out of jail, and that's what he looked like when he was in jail working with the dog program. He was the first inmate to get out of jail and go and adopt a dog. We've had several inmates who've gotten out of jail and go now and volunteer their time at the Humane Society. I believe the Humane Society even has one gentleman that got a job there and is working there now.

Ms. Freeman said, so in the past year our program has actually gained respect from outside of our community rescue organizations, and Asheville Humane Society located in North Carolina reached out to us to help this dog Louie. He had been in their sheltering system for over eight months, which is a very long time for an animal to be at a shelter, and he had some behavior issues, and he was a very challenging dog to train, but he did

actually graduate and then went back to Asheville Humane Society and was adopted two weeks after. We've also recently paired up with the Wolf Pack, which trains service dogs for returning military, and Stu was our very first dog, but so far we've sent six dogs to further training for -- to become therapy dogs for soldiers with PTSD, and the -- the training that we can provide in just four weeks drastically speeds up the process for them, and only costs them the price of an adoption fee.

Lieutenant Brooks said, currently we have one dog in -- that's in the program right now that we're training for an eight-year-old girl who has autism. She came -- her -- her and her family came all the way from Jacksonville, Florida up here to pick a dog from our Humane Society to go into the program so that she would have a service dog. Community engagement. We took one day, we went out to Bloomingdale Elementary. All the grades, first through the third grade brought in dog food and doggie treats and dog bowls and all that stuff for us, and all the fourth graders gave up one dollar so they could wear blue jeans that day, and we took the dogs out and that gave us the opportunity to talk to them about humane education, about the importance of taking care of your pet and how to take care of it and things like that. The picture on the -- the right there is the Savannah Tech police academy. Every class they take up a big donation and they bring it out to the jail and they give it to us. And here's a picture of graduation day. And then here's the real results. The community involvement has just been tremendous. We have people like the Chief said, we have people coming by dropping off dog food for us at the -- in the front lobby; dog crates. I was walking across the parking lot one day and a lady pulls up and says are you Lieutenant Brooks, and I said, yes. She opens her trunk, and she had a brand new \$150 crate that she gave me right there in the parking lot. So the community involvement in this is very tremendous. And we, like the Chief said, we don't spend any tax dollars at all on this, and anything that we get, we get through donations. I have a real short video.

[NOTE: Short video presentation was given.]

Lieutenant Brooks said, I just forgot to mention one thing. We've had 35 inmates in one year go through the program, and of those 35 inmates, we've only had four return to jail, so that's -- gives us about a 93 percent success rate.

Ms. Freeman said, and as far as the dogs go, we've had 93 successful adoptions, and after this class, 106 dogs will have gone through the program successfully.

Commissioner Thomas said, very good. Very good.

Chairman Scott said, I think there -- I think there may be a question or two about the program. Commissioner Center, Third District.

Commissioner Center said, good morning. Fantastic program, and first let me congratulate Chief Lyons, also part of the Third District on your election to the state -- state presidency, that's fantastic. Great program. What a great way to start the morning. How do you select the inmates that are going to participate in this program?

Lieutenant Brooks said, that's a very good question. What we use is our classification specialists go through and we pick the minimum security inmate, the -- the person who has a child support -- in jail for child support, DUI, shoplifting, things like that, the misdemeanors. So -- and that's one other thing, most of your animal care programs that you see on television that are in prisons and stuff like that, well those guys, they go through a program like -- such as this, it may be a year or two before they get out of jail, I mean, out of prison. What's unique about the Sheriff's department is -- is that we put them right through this training and they hit the streets immediately. So it's immediate impact. They can use the skills that we give them now instantly when they get out on the -- get out of jail and try to find a job or something like that. So we use minimum security inmates.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, fantastic program. I'm a huge animal lover, but I do have one question, why only -- I think you said six dogs at a time?

Lieutenant Brooks said, yes, ma'am. We don't have room for anymore. If there was a place that we could put them, I'm -- I'm sure the Sheriff would do that, but we only have six cells available, and so we're maxing that out.

Commissioner Brady said, in that big old jail, we only have six cells available for dogs?

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we plan on doubling the size.

Commissioner Brady said, all right. Then we need to see 12 dogs at a time, Sheriff. How about that?

Lieutenant Brooks said, well, it's kind of unique to where we're at because we need access to the outside.

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

Lieutenant Brooks said, and so the area that we're -- that we're at right now, there's an exit door right there by -- by where the cells are. So that's why we selected that area.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you. Great job.

Lieutenant Brooks said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a wonderful program, and if that video didn't bring tears to your eyes, I don't know what does. Do you all use cats at all?

Lieutenant Brooks said, no, ma'am.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean, I just didn't know if they were -- we have such an abundance of cats, especially in the summertime, if they could be put in a carrier and taken out there and not -- and maybe they won't adapt as well, but it's just a thought, 'cause I -- I hate -- I used to hate to read about the numbers of cats that were euthanized in the summer months.

Lieutenant Brooks said, I wish there was a way that we could save -- do something for every kind of animal out there, but just logistically it's impossible.

Commissioner Stone said, I -- I understand. I -- I'm -- I'm like Commissioner Brady, let's double up with the dogs. I think it's fabulous, and the fact that these animals are getting homes, but I just was thinking about the kitty cats too.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, we'll double up, and it won't cost us a dime.

Commissioner Stone said, excellent.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we've got enough donated stuff to -- I -- I think -- one of the biggest things I've seen is that they learn to care for somebody by -- besides themselves, you know.

Lieutenant Brooks said, all right. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner -- Commissioner Shabazz from the Fifth District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I want to know exactly -- and thank -- thank you for your presentation. It was nice, and I think it's a good program, but I want to know how does it help with the Recidivism rate?

Lieutenant Brooks said, how does it help with the Recidivism rate?

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes.

Lieutenant Brooks said, well, I think it helps because we're teaching responsibility. One of the things that -- that's so unique about the program is is that I oversee it but that -- the inmates, they feed them, they water them, they change their bandages, they walk them, they clean up after them, and it really teaches them some responsibility. You know I always tell people, you know, you have a lot of people -- well we had an inmate once that was in on child support, and he -- he wrote -- we make them write -- keep a journal, and he wrote in his journal how this program had affected him because now he realized how much he neglected his child. So, and that -- did he mean it? I don't know, but he wrote it -- he wrote that down, and at the moment in time, that made a huge impact on me. So they're learning some responsibilities. They're learning that, hey, you can't take your child to the Humane Society and drop it off. You have to -- you have to stand up for yourself. You have to stand

up for this animal, and if they get kicked out of the program, their dog is kicked out of the program. So they got to be in it not for themselves but for some -- something else.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chairman? One question -- quick question, did you win some brownie points with your wife for doing all that?

Lieutenant Brooks (nodded head affirmatively.)

Commissioner Kicklighter said, good job.

Lieutenant Brooks said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I just want to --

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to say thank you. Very well done. In addition to them having the opportunity to work with these animals, they have to also develop a sense of compassion and values, and I think along with the other one that you mentioned, those three things together certainly will help make a difference in the lives, not only with animals, but with human beings as well. So just -- I just want to say congratulations.

Lieutenant Brooks said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, well done.

Lieutenant Brooks said, I, you know, it's funny that you mentioned that because I -- I tell some of the people when I do these presentations we teach -- like the Sheriff said, we have 12 different programs, and we teach them job skills, we teach them computer skills, we teach them how to do job interviews, a GED program, drug and alcohol, but there -- this is -- program's unique because not only are we teaching them responsibility, but we teach them how to love something.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's exactly right.

Lieutenant Brooks said, how to build a bond, how to build an emotional bond to something. A lot of times these guys, this is the first loving experience that they encounter. So graduation day is not a happy day. You would be surprised at the crying going on. So.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I reiterate what's been said, excellent program, and -- and I'm behind you 100 percent. If -- if you want to figure out how to do more with a smaller space, I believe there's a lady named Diane Abolt that engage -- engaged this man name Russ Abolt in a New Hope program, home-based, and I understand he's got quite a lot of experience in -- in -- in this field, so if you needed to -- if you needed to move the -- move the numbers up, I'm sure he could give you some pointers. And my last --

County Manager Russ Abolt said, thank you, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, and my last comment was that was pretty clever how you got a picture of my son in your program. Thank you.

Chief Deputy Harris said, one thing we're doing to address that is we rehabed unit five, where this program's located. We have identified double the amount of cells on the other side of the building, which will also give us access to the grass area where they have to train the dogs. In there we're going to add two female cells. Prior to this we've never had any female inmates involved in the program, but we want to add that. The same with the work-release program. We've not had female inmates into that, so as we do these build outs, we will be able to -- to add that benefit to it.

[NOTE: Sheriff St. Lawrence's phone rings twice.]

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the Sheriff's trying to play the Bulldog song there.

Commissioner Brady said, I know. Go Dawgs.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think y'all should march out with that playing.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Commissioner --

Lieutenant Brooks said, any other questions?

Chairman Scott said, yes. Commissioner Center has a --

Commissioner Center said, and I'm sorry I didn't cover this the first time around.

Chairman Scott said, -- follow up.

Commissioner Center said, one, I want to publicly acknowledge and -- and applaud the Humane Society. We hear about you all the time, to actually see you in action was a terrific experience. And Sheriff, and officer -- I'm sorry, I forgotten your name.

Chief Deputy Harris said, Brooks. Lieutenant Brooks.

Commissioner Center said, Lieutenant Brooks. You start out by telling us it's a negative atmosphere that y'all have to work in, and many, many, many times the Sheriff will tell you the comments about what y'all do are negative. Sheriff, I want to congratulate you and Lieutenant Brooks and your staff for having people like this in your program, but even though you got the idea from your wife, that you came up and generated this. You're a positive influence and a positive example of who we have working for the Sheriff of Chatham County, and I'm very proud we have people like you on our payroll. Thank you.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I want to tell you that when he first came to me with the idea, I told the Chief, I said, I think he's lost it. But it works.

Chairman Scott said, thank you all.

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## **2. RECOGNITION OF JULIE WALET ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT.**

Chairman Scott said, the next item is -- is a recognition of both a happy and to some extent sad occasion, but we have a recognition of a long-term employee who is about to retire, and -- and we have with us our Clerk of Superior Court, Dan Massey, who will come up and say something about the person who's about to retire, and then the Clerk and I are going to present her a proclamation.

Superior Court Clerk Dan Massey said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission it's a pleasure to be here this morning. In this great land of opportunity, we have many rights that are bestowed upon us. One of those rights that is most precious to us is the right to own and enjoy property within our country. That doesn't go without a deep commitment by local employees, real estate specialists. Julie Walet is a real estate specialist in my office. The real estate specialists ensure on a daily basis that the clouds on ownership of property do not occur, that your rights for ownership are protected. They are the first line of defense on those persons who would file non-conforming liens against elected officials and appointed officials on a government level, on county, state and -- and federal government. Those people that would do all of the public servants a harm for no reason. They are out first line of defense according to the FBI. So the real estate specialist in each county of this state serve very, very important roles. Not one that is widely publicized, not one that is widely recognized, but nevertheless, one that we cannot do without. Julie Walet has played that role, or done that role for the last 26 years, and she's done an exemplary job in doing so. She is the person that the surveyors come to annually and say these are the changes in the new laws. We need to get together and talk about this and see how it's going to impact how we do our jobs. As the westside was sprawling out around Pooler and Port Wentworth, it was she that was looking at all the maps and plats that were going into our system so that land could be developed by the developers out there. It was she that looked at those maps and plats, made sure that they conformed to state law, and -- so that future generations would not have to worry about the ownership of that property. It was she that dealt with the folks from SCAD when they started a historic preservation program. She would teach the -- the class in -- in how to do the research for historic preservation in Chatham County. It was she that authors would come to when they were doing research about the history of Savannah, and the impact

that certain things had made. It was she that they would come to for that history lesson. So we -- when Julie retires next Friday, it will leave a huge hole in my office. One that undoubtedly it will take two or three of us to fill, but nevertheless, she will go on to other things. She's not one to retire and go home and sit in the rocker and just bide her time. She's one who will volunteer and continue to contribute to our community. So, like you say, Mr. Chairman, it's a happy time, it's also a sad time, but it's a time well deserved for her 26 years of exemplary experience.

Chairman Scott said, Julie, I just -- I just wanted to prepare for you on behalf of the entire County Commission and to just recognize you, and it says here that you began your employment with Chatham County on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1987 with the Superior Court Clerk's office as a data entry clerk. She next trained as a back up clerk for the lien desk, which eventually became a permanent position, and now holds the title of real estate specialist. It's not often that somebody creates a job, train and then become the permanent employee.

Chairman Scott presented the proclamation as follows:



**WHEREAS**, Chatham County is privileged to have employees of high caliber that take great pride in their duties and responsibilities, and in that regard, we commend Julie Walet; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Walet began her employment with Chatham County on August 17, 1987 with the Superior Court Clerks' Office as a data entry clerk. She next trained as back up clerk for the Lien desk which eventually became a permanent position and now holds the title of Real Estate Specialist.; and

**WHEREAS**, her dedication and knowledge provided her many opportunities such as when SCAD opened up a new field of study, Historic Preservation, many of their students would come to do research dating back to the 1700's. Mrs. Walet was asked to work with the students which soon evolved into a training class held 4 times a year. Each class consisted of approximately 10 students. Mrs. Walet also assisted in creating a training manual for the students. At the end of the class each student was able to complete class research projects with very little assistance from the Superior Court Clerk's Record Room staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Walet has also held training classes for the Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia. She has prepared presentations for the Genealogy Society and has been asked back several times over the years. One of Julies most fulfilling opportunities was doing research for the John Gresham film, *The Ginger Bread Man*. You will also find her name in the acknowledgments section of a number of books on Savannah, most recently, *Savannah The Immortal City*.

**WHEREAS**, she took great pride in her duties and was a valuable member of the Superior Court Clerks' Office. She always kept a positive attitude and a smile.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert J. Scott, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

**JULIE WALET**

upon her retirement and express sincere appreciation for more than twenty-six years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 9th day of August, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail F. Gordon, Administrative  
Assistant to the Chairman

Chairman Scott said, I won't read the entire thing, but upon her retirement and express sincere appreciation for more than twenty-six years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement. I want to present this to you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, just something to let you know that Chatham County appreciate your over a quarter of a century of service -- service.

Ms. Julie Walet said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Ms. Walet said, well I appreciate having the opportunity.

Chairman Scott said, feel free to.

Ms. Walet said, thank you. I appreciate having the opportunity work for Chatham County. I've made many wonderful friends, met a lot of business people, helped a lot of special people, and if there was anything that I continually tried to pass on to a new employee is two rules, remember one thing, we're here to serve the people. We're not here to just give them a flippant answer and say go over there. We're here to serve them and to help them. When they come into the clerk's office, it's a large library. They're very hesitant of coming in. It overwhelms them very quickly, but a smile on your face and a sincere effort to help somebody goes a long way. The other thing that I always tell a staff member is remember whoever comes in this office is loved by somebody. It's very important that you treat them the way you'd want your loved ones to be treated. It doesn't matter what they look like. It doesn't matter what their education is. They are a citizen of Chatham County, and you work for them, and always remember to treat them the way you would want to be treated. Thank you.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you Dan, Mr. Chairman. I -- it's an honor for me to make the presentation. I would want to tell you all that what this woman has just said in a few moments embodies the -- the mission of all county employees. For what she said and what she testified to, I want to say, thank you so much.

Ms. Walet said, thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, thank you so much and best wishes.

Ms. Walet said, thank you.

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## **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Scott said, we did have in the audience the Chief Judge of Recorder's Court, Ms. Cox, but I think she left. I think perhaps she came to be prayed for and -- and -- and had to leave afterwards. But I also wanted to acknowledge that we have a member of the School Board in the audience, Dr. Hoskins. She represents the Second District. Dr. Hoskins.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, it's good to have you here. At the last meeting we were debating those tax increases, and you missed that debate, but I guess you came for a happier moment.

Dr. Hoskins said, I did.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Anyway, it's good to have you with us.

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## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

None.

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## **VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS**

### **1. CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDBREAKING (Commissioner Thomas)**

Chairman Scott said, we will now move to Commissioner's Items, and first Dr. Priscilla Thomas from the Eighth District has an announcement concerning a ground-breaking. Dr. Thomas.

Dr. Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would like to announce that the groundbreaking for the Cloverdale Community Center will take place on Wednesday, August the 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This will be I believe directly behind the Butler Elementary School, and I am certainly happy that it -- this is forthcoming because I thought at one time I probably would be gone before this was done, but due to the hard work of Mr. Gregori Anderson and others, and the community leaders, this is now coming to fruition, and I would like to invite the Commissioners and all of the citizens of the Cloverdale area to be present. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, you're welcome.

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### **2. PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE IN THE ISLAND AREA (Commissioner Farrell).**

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell stepped out, but the next item -- let's -- let's go to number three if you would.

[NOTE: Commissioner's Item number 3 was heard at this time prior to Commissioner Item number 2.]

Chairman Scott said, and at this time we really wanted to recognize Commissioner Farrell from the Fourth District, and he has invited members of the County staff to come up and to update us, but at this time I'm going to recognize Commissioner Farrell for some comments.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. As everyone's probably aware, we've had a -- a very wet summer which promoted a lot of growth in the -- in everything, whether you're -- mostly grass in the county right of way, and has created some problems and has concentrated some trash in certain areas that I'm quite concerned about, and I -- I would like to ask Mr. Drewry to perhaps come up and -- and -- and tell us, you know, what -- what programs we have, especially on the islands, which is the unincorporated area, but, you know, I'm sure the same policy is for all the unincorporated area. Explain the scope of work that you're expected to take care of as far as all the unincorporated area, and what -- what programs are in place to address some of the trash concentrations. As you well know, when it rains a lot, a lot of flotsam tends to -- to congregate in the bottom of ditches when the water quits flowing, and it is very unsightly as -- so, if you could kind of tell us what's -- what -- what you're seeing out there and what steps are being taken to address those issues.

Public Works Director Robert Drewry said, thank you. Good morning. Robert Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services. Specifically addressing the road maintenance section and the stormwater maintenance section in Public Works. This -- these two sections particularly have been hit the hardest as Commissioner

Farrell had mentioned with a significant amount of rain we've had. You can almost literally mow the rides -- the road sides and -- and right of ways and after the mower passes you can see the stalks of mahaya grass coming up behind it growing just as quickly as you can mow. Couple that with the challenging rains is a lot of drainage problems, a lot of drainage issues out there. When trash flows downstream it clogs up pipes. It clogs up ditches -- ditches. It just created a lot of hardships for the department in general, and it moves you more from a proactive program into a reactive program, and as I mentioned many times before in the last couple of years, we've been under a hiring freeze from the SSD budget, which has now since been lifted, but the hiring freeze has -- has certainly crippled those two sections primarily.

Mr. Drewry said, when you have 30 percent vacancy rate, you know, it'd kind of hard to be flexible. You -- you have to be a little bit more rigid, and -- and it just made times a lot -- difficult for the employees of Public Works, and I do want to say publicly to the employees of Public Works, they've done a masterful job. Despite the hardships they've worked very hard, and -- and they've been flexible. Oftentimes they've worked out of -- out of class of their -- of their class and pay grades to get the job done, and -- I recognize that, and I know that it has not been easy, but to move forward, I am optimistic because the hiring freeze as I indicated has been lifted. I'm working very hard to fill many of those vacancies as quickly as I can. I still am going to have ten positions that are going to be frozen completely at least for this budget year, but it's -- it's a step in the right direction. It's going from two mowing crews, roadside mowing crews to mow 300 miles, I'm going to be starting a third mowing crew next week, which will certainly ease a lot of the burdens on the roadsides. So in a nutshell that's -- I hopefully addressed what you would like me to address.

Commissioner Farrell said, well a couple of things also. There are some roads on the islands that are state roads, is that right?

Mr. Drewry said, that's correct. Primarily U.S. Highway 80 that runs out towards Tybee is -- is a state route. We do have maintenance responsibilities in the median for a large portion of that.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay, but on the -- either side of the right of ways that's a state responsibility.

Mr. Drewry said, state route, and they have their own frequency in service delivery.

Commissioner Farrell said, right. Okay. Now, I -- I do want to share a story. When some of the residents in -- of River Oaks called a while back, we had a severe -- severe drainage situation where the -- all the rain had accumulated and a lot of debris in some of the pipes going underground for the drainage and was backing up and causing a potential home flooding and such, and it was very unsightly in their yards and driveways, and I wanted to share the story with -- with everyone about how I worked with Public Works, and how they took multiple trips out to there and they finally -- well -- well explain your steps that you took at River Oaks to -- to -- to solve that immediate problem.

Mr. Drewry said, I certainly will. River Oaks had a situation where, as Commissioner Farrell mentioned, the pipes were just completely blocked. It's a very heavy tree canopy area, residential area. The debris that ends up in the curbing gutter, ends up in the storm drain system, and it blocked a pipe virtually completely. We've -- went out there. It's a little bit unique in that the design of that situation there's a belly in the middle of the street that actually holds water -- was holding the water, and unbeknownst to the -- couple of staff members, they couldn't figure out the drainage system because it was completely submerged under water. Didn't know where the pipes went. We resolved that immediately as soon as we found out, but downstream, there's an outfall pipe, I think it's a 36-inch diameter pipe, it -- it discharges directly into the marsh. It was tight packed. It -- it was a -- a mesh of pine straw and trash and leaves at the end of it. You could barely see the top of the pipe, and staff estimated that pipe was blocked approximately 100 feet up from that point, all the way to the marsh. It was a severe blockage. We were able to break that free, and water came out like you just busted the Hoover Dam. It was unbelievable, and the pipe was flushed clean at that point. A lot of pressure was built up into that pipe. But that's -- that's an example where, you know, you have a blockage you have to address it immediately, and you pull in staff from somewhere to do that.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. All right. So -- so it sounds like that you've -- you've kind of -- we've kind of come to the perfect storm time in where the economic downturn created less and less positions, we were accustomed to drought conditions for the last several years, it started raining in 2013, stuff started backing up and building up, and here we are today with a lot of grass growing and -- and -- and some trash problems. So, I -- I like the idea that you're taking steps to -- to address these issues. I like the quick response you had to River Oaks, and if there are other hot spots that need direction attention, you know, I encourage the public to -- to reach out directly to Public Works or -- or -- or myself, and we'll see what we can do to expedite straightening out the immediate problems. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we -- I want to recognize the County Manager for some comments, --

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Center from the Third District had a question.

County Manager Abolt said, this -- this discussion that centers around what I would like to present to you officially, which I have already given you in writing, an anecdote to the integrity of an employee under stress. Mr. Drewry and Commissioner Farrell have hit it on the head relative to not enough folks to do a job that should be done -- done. There was an employee that was approached by a citizen telling him thank you for the job that he did and wishing to give the employee money. The employee said, no. A short while thereafter, and I'm not sure the exact circumstances, but \$20 appeared for that employee. That employee could have very easily taken the money. The employee turned it in to his supervisor. Mr. Drewry has written it up, which I sent to you, with a special thank you to the employee and that \$20 will be donated to a charity of choice of the employee, but that shows you people under stress doing exactly Commissioner Farrell and Mr. Drewry said, know what the right thing to do is.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, before I make my comments, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady, Commissioner Shabazz in that order.

Commissioner Center said, would you ask, are there any members of the public, 'cause I notice there were letters in the paper and pictures. Any members of the public here on this particular issue? Do you know? Could we ask? All right.

Chairman Scott said, we'll -- we'll -- we'll check on that.

Commissioner Center said, well, and I, you know, I saw the -- the photographs in the newspaper and the photographs that were mailed to us individually, which were more than that, and it was a very ugly, unsightly, stagnated canal, and I -- and I -- and I read the -- the letters in the paper. Let me say first that in the short time I've worked with these Commissioners I find each one, regardless of our difference in philosophy very, very reactive to citizen concerns and complaints. And I know I try to have breakfast with Commissioner Farrell almost before every meeting. We don't, and it's amazing how each constituent comes up to him at breakfast and knows him personally, and expresses an individual concern. He seems to know the details of the concern and talks with them about it. He and I don't agree on the response all the time, but I know that he's very much involved with his constituents. If he knew them all personally, he'd talk to them all personally. So I found some of the criticism I read in the paper unfair when they said where's Commissioner Farrell because I see him there with his constituents working on their problems, as you've noticed today in putting this on the Commissioner's Items.

Commissioner Center said, also, I know I -- was it last week or a couple of weeks ago, I attended the Mayor of Savannah's forum on crime in the community and I listened to other problems in the community, and I find the trash and debris a little bit of a similar circumstance. Those grass cuttings and those leaves and the pine straw and the trash come from somewhere, and they come from the citizens. So county government, as state government and city government, can only do so much, and while it's I -- I accept our responsibility, especially look -- when it looks like an area that needs HAZMAT control to clean up that the county will clean it up, even with the limited resources, we'll get to it. But like every other aspect and problem in this community it comes down to citizen involvement, and I know people from Pooler are not driving over to Wilmington Island to dump their trash. That trash comes from somewhere and most of it from the residents of Wilmington Island. So I'm picking on them. Each of us has to acknowledge personal responsibility on ourselves to keep our communities clean, as well as safe from crime. This is very, very minor crime if -- in some way because it might violate an ordinance. But where we put our trash and throw our trash and taking personal recognition on how we handle our own personal environment I think will also go along way in keeping these areas cleaner, and I think the citizens need to recognize their responsibility too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I think Mr. Drewry, you know, said what the county's doing, I -- as far as trying to get everything cleaned up. There are schedules. We -- we contract on -- on major maintenance on these canals, and I agree with Commissioner Center that -- that we all have to take some

responsibility. There's a lot of neighborhood organizations that would go out and clean up and -- and that would be their volunteer time. I do want to make an observation, and I've mentioned this before. I don't know that I've done it publicly, but I understand the budget situation, lack of staff members, and I've offered this up as far as misdemeanor inmates, not felony inmates, but misdemeanor inmates, child support inmates, those type of inmates and have them out there working some of our canals and -- and -- and areas cutting them. I -- I think that would be perfect. We could get with the -- the various judges as far as sentencing them to community service and their community service could be with -- with County Public Works. That's just another suggestion, and then another suggestion I have in reference to the piped canals if you will, where you have an open canal but then you have to go under a roadway, do we put like a screening system on the front of those canals like you see in a -- in a new development where the contractors are putting up like a -- a -- a boom kind of thing to keep debris from going into the sewer lines? Do you know what I'm talking about? It wouldn't be that but it would be like a screening for the piped canals.

Mr. Drewry said, in years passed they used to put screens and -- and essentially it was chicken wire.

Commissioner Brady said, uh-huh.

Mr. Drewry said, you know, 25 years ago, 30 years ago, but that started collecting all the little minute pieces, and once that starts collecting the minute pieces then -- then it just builds from there and then you're -- you're doing nothing but cleaning screens when you really truthfully want some of that stuff to flush downstream. It's the bigger items when the tree falls across or the limbs are thrown in there or -- that -- that really cause immediate the block, and, of course, beaver. We do have beaver problems in the county too, but those screens turned out to be more of a maintenance issue than they were, and they were actually counter productive to the flow of stormwater than they were actually protecting the environment.

Commissioner Brady said, but -- but the bottom line is is if we were in a serious situation as we were in River Oaks that our county crews would go out there and -- and -- and deal with it.

County Manager Abolt said, just like we did at Henderson.

Commissioner Brady said, I know, exactly. We had beavers over there in Henderson.

Mr. Drewry said, and I do want to mention your first comment earlier, you had mentioned the court-appointed community service workers. We do use court-appointed community service workers. I think we logged over about 25,000 hours -- man hours last year. We use them primarily picking up trash on -- on weekends and occasionally we'll have crews going out during the middle of the week. It's an unskilled labor force. You -- you schedule eight to come, three will show up, and you go pick up trash, and that's essentially what we do with community service workers. We do keep one around the yard just to keep mowing and trimming around our own facility, but we do a lot of work with community service workers, and they have to be directly supervised. You just can't leave them out there and walk away.

Commissioner Brady said, I understand, and -- but you mentioned the fact that they're unskilled laborers, I think that's also an opportunity to try to teach them a skill, and I have spoken with Sheriff Al St. Lawrence in reference to this, and -- and he said absolutely as far as, you know, anything he can do, but only misdemeanor offenders, not felony offenders.

Mr. Drewry said, that's right.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Mr. Drewry said, sure.

Chairman Scott said, be -- be -- before you leave, I -- we've got Commissioner Shabazz and Commissioner Stone may have a follow-up question for you, Mr. Drewry.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Good morning, Mr. Drewry. Recently I was at the Lamarville Neighborhood Improvement Association meeting. They had their national night out and there were several complaints that they had out at that area. One was the cutting of the grass along the Liberty City -- Liberty Parkway as it goes over the viaduct, and the -- and the grass has grown up beyond the fence and a lot of the vines are on the fence, and in the back of Lamarville, there's a canal back there that needs cleaning, and -- and in the back of the Beaver -- I think it's Mills Run.

Mr. Drewry said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, there's a canal that runs back there also. It's -- it's adjacent properties. I want to know what -- what -- what -- what measures we have to take to get that done?

Mr. Drewry said, well I can't -- excuse me, I can't specifically speak for the canal maintenance program because it's on a very rigid schedule. We have 130 miles of canals that we have to maintain and there's a very rigid schedule, so I can't particularly speak to those because I don't know them by heart what the schedules are, but the Mills Run Canal being one of them.

Chairman Scott said, but you can communicate that to him later.

Mr. Drewry said, yeah. Absolutely. I can -- certainly can do that. Specific areas like -- any time -- let me put it this way, any time a resident does see a need for a work request, we're easily accommodating. We have somebody obviously on the phones from 8:00 to 5:00 or 7:00 to 5:00 every day of the week, but they can also go online. We have a -- a service request online that they can just simply type in a few things and it automatically shoots us a service request.

Commissioner Shabazz said, a lot of times these are elders. They --

Mr. Drewry said, yeah. Okay. We're certainly accommodating.

Commissioner Shabazz said, they know how to get me on the line.

Mr. Drewry said, any -- any -- any work request out there, though we're very accommodating.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. Right.

Mr. Drewry said, we -- we manage over -- so far this year, and this is August, early August, we've -- we've managed over 2700 work orders. So, you know, it's just a --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. One of the reasons why one of the elders were very frightened because they said they saw some snakes --

Mr. Drewry said, yeah.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- coming from that area, and they live right on the back edge of the canal.

Mr. Drewry said, yeah. We'll certainly address it.

County Manager Abolt said, we will respond and I know Mr. Majors has -- has got me on speed dial.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, we'll take care of them if they let us know.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Okay. Okay.

County Manager Abolt said, I'll have Robert check it out.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, and I'll also let you know the moment -- or the maintenance schedule of the canal.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to see if we could utilize more of our inmates that are in there for minor offenses and are not a threat, public safety threat. But for them to be sitting there in an air conditioned building, watching television when there really is a lot of work that's needed in this county, it seems like we could put more of them to work than we currently are. Also, it's -- it really is sad that

we live in a society where people feel the need to throw their trash and their cigarette butts and their garbage out of their car along these roadways and expect somebody else to pick it up, and I concur with Commissioner Center that that's just -- there's no way we can police that. There's no way we can keep up with it. It's just a sad -- a very sad fact of life, and I also wanted to comment that Public Works does all they can do. I had a situation, my next door neighbor, and not too long ago at my house, a huge tree limb fell, and the equipment that has to come out once these limbs of significant size are put on the side of the road, it -- it takes a while. It's very time-consuming. It requires expensive equipment. It -- it requires people that know what they're doing to use these things that look like a claw to pick it up and put it in the back of the truck and haul it off, and it has to be taken somewhere, and it's -- it's a fact that the Public Works budget has taken a huge hit with the rising cost of the -- in this police merger. So I -- I -- I concur with everything that's being said, and I too have found Commissioner Farrell to be extremely responsive to his constituents. I think this has just been an unusual summer, and I'm not unhappy to see all the rain. I think we've been in a drought for a while, but with the rain has come some consequences. So I appreciate you bringing this to the forefront on the agenda, Commissioner Farrell, and I -- and I hope that the citizens can work with us and understand that this is not something that -- that we -- this is a tremendous task, and it's not something that can be easily taken care of over night. We just have to do the best we can, and I really wish that people would choose to not throw their litter and garbage out of their cars or along our roadways. This is a beautiful community. We're very fortunate to live here, and it's just a shame that some people do what they do. So, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter from the Seventh District.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to just say that I agree with Commissioner Stone. I really feel sorry for Robert [Drewry] at times because I believe that with the resources that he actually has that he's doing the very best job possible. What we're asking of him to me would be no different than us asking him to trim the hedges in all the squares out here and giving him a pair of scissors. I mean we've got a lot of area out there, and he has very few resources, and the -- elephant in the room which is the cause of this problem is what Commissioner Stone said, percentage of the SSD budget, what over -- what -- what's the percentage of the SSD budget that goes to the police -- this flawed police merger?

County Manager Abolt said, better than 50 percent.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. So -- so you know people that's upset in the unincorporated areas, I don't blame you. You - you should be upset. I mean, it -- it's not something that -- really I don't believe anybody up here caused and everybody up here's focused on correcting, I -- I believe, but until we correct the problem, the cause of the problem which is this flawed merger, this agreement that we have, we're going to continue to pay in excess of 50 percent to fund this police department which is way too expensive for you out there and -- and other things suffer, like Public Works, and it's -- it's a sad shame, but hopefully that -- like I said, I believe this group's committed to looking at it and getting everything in line like it should be, and I -- I agree Commissioner Farrell encourages staff to do everything possible with the resources that we have, and again Robert responds quickly when called. Russ [Abolt] always responds quickly, and with the resources that are out there right now, y'all do a great job with it, but, unfortunately, the public has a right to be very angry because Commissions of the passed really voted something in that eats up all of the tax dollars for the unincorporated area. So, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. If there's no further comments from members of the Commission, is there anybody in the audience wanted to address this subject? Okay. Thank you all.

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### **3. NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH AWARD FROM NACo (Commissioner Thomas)**

Chairman Scott said, and --

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Chairman Scott said, Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I'm going to go down to the --

Chairman Scott said, okay. Commissioner Pro Tem you want to join us?

Commissioner Stone said, sure.

Commissioner Thomas said, as many of you who are aware that each year counties celebrate National County Government Month. At the beginning of the celebration, it was National County Government Week, however, we have been working with this project from day one. I am so ecstatic at this time that on July the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, I had the privilege of going to Fort Worth, Texas to receive the award for Chatham County coming in second nationwide for suburban counties for National County Government Month. [Applause.] And I think that this is a well-deserved award, Mr. Chairman. We have been working with this for so long. I would like to thank Mr. Abolt. I would also like to thank Mayor Pro Tem Van Johnson and the Chatham County Youth Commission. They were there to support me in receiving this award for Chatham County, and I would like to read it first, and then I will present it to the Chairman and Chair Pro Tem.

Commissioner Thomas read the award as follows:

National Association of Counties is proud to present Chatham County, Georgia with the Second Place, 2013 National County Government Month Award. Chatham County's smart justice expo, teen maze event presented educational and creative methods for increasing public awareness of county programs and services while incorporating this year's National County Government month theme, Smart Justice, Creating Safer Communities.

July the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Chris Rodgers, NACo President  
Commissioner from Douglas County, Nebraska

Matthew D. Chase, Executive Director  
National Association of Counties

Commissioner Thomas said, it is my privilege to present this to you, Mr. Chairman, and to Chairman Pro Tem. Congratulations.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Thank you. I really appreciate all the work that Dr. Thomas puts into this program, and -- and Commissioner Stone volunteered to -- to assist her, but this program represents just an example of the quality of employees that work for the county, and what I'm going to do now is call the County Manager up and pass this award on to him on behalf of all the county employees, and I hope that he will find an appropriate place to display it so it may be seen by all when they're here in this facility.

County Manager Abolt said, on behalf of the county employees that respond so well with just not dedication but with love to Dr. Thomas and to you all I want to say thank you. This has just not been for one year as Dr. Thomas will tell you. We've done this repeatedly, and we celebrate the opportunity to serve the people of Chatham County and because of you all that make it possible. Thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, I think this award -- award clearly demonstrates team work and being out there and being involved in this I saw it first hand, but what was really important was seeing the children and seeing the children learn about county government, seeing them learn about smart justice. Judge Stone came out and gave a presentation. They had a lot of activities going on, and I think the more we can engage our youth in our local government, the better informed they will be, and the better citizens they'll be, so thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

[NOTE: Commissioner's Item Number 2 was heard at this time.]

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## VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

Chairman Scott said, we don't have any items on the table.

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## IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: 1) IN THE GENERAL FUND M&O: (a) transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Special Appropriations for All Walks of Life (AWOL), and (b) appropriate \$9,500 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to the Emergency Management Department; 2) increase revenues and expenditures in the Restricted Court Fees Fund \$135,000; 3) IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND: (a) increase revenues and expenditures \$194,750 for a grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for Superior Court, and (b) accept the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant and increase revenues and expenditures \$432,435; 4) IN THE CONFISCATED FUNDS: (a) appropriate \$24,623 for the Counter Narcotics Team and (b) transfer \$895 from CNT Contingency to the District Attorney's Contingency; 5) amend the WATER AND SEWER FUND to appropriate \$159,016 net assets for contractual services; and 6) transfer \$200,000 from the Jail Facility Expansion Construction project to the Law Enforcement Training Facility in the Sales Tax V Fund.**

Chairman Scott said, now we will go to Individual Items -- items for Individual Action calendar which is on page five of your agenda, and this is to request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers in General Fund M&O transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Special Appropriations for All Walks of Life, and (b) appropriate \$9,500 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to the Emergency Management Department; increase revenue and expenditures in the Restricted Court Fees Fund \$135,000; in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures by \$194,750 for a grant from the Department of Behavioral and Health Development Disabilities for Superior Court, and accept the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant and increase revenues and expenditures \$432,435; in the Confiscated Fund appropriate \$24,623 for the Counter Narcotics Team and transfer \$895 from CNT Contingency to the District Attorney's Contingency; amend the Water and Sewer Fund to appropriate \$159,016 net assets for contractual service; and transfer \$200,000 from the Jail Facility Expansion Construction project to the Law Enforcement Facility in the Sales Tax V Fund. Hearing the items for individual action, is there a motion?

Commissioner Stone said, I make a motion, Mr. Chairman, for approval.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the General Fund M&O: (a) transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Special Appropriations for All Walks of Life (AWOL), and (b) appropriate \$9,500 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to the Emergency Management

Department; 2) increase revenues and expenditures in the Restricted Court Fees Fund \$135,000; 3) in the Multiple Grant Fund: (a) increase revenues and expenditures \$194,750 for a grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for Superior Court, and (b) accept the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant and increase revenues and expenditures \$432,435; 4) in the Confiscated Funds: (a) appropriate \$24,623 for the Counter Narcotics Team and (b) transfer \$895 from CNT Contingency to the District Attorney's Contingency; 5) amend the Water and Sewer Fund to appropriate \$159,016 net assets for contractual services; and 6) transfer \$200,000 from the Jail Facility Expansion Construction project to the Law Enforcement Training Facility in the Sales Tax V Fund. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1****AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Linda Cramer, Assistant County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the General Fund M&O: (a) transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Special Appropriations for All Walks of Life (AWOL), and (b) appropriate \$9,500 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to the Emergency Management Department; 2) increase revenues and expenditures in the Restricted Court Fees Fund \$135,000; 3) in the Multiple Grant Fund: (a) increase revenues and expenditures \$194,750 for a grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for Superior Court, and (b) accept the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant and increase revenues and expenditures \$432,435; 4) in the Confiscated Funds: (a) appropriate \$24,623 for the Counter Narcotics Team and (b) transfer \$895 from CNT Contingency to the District Attorney's Contingency; 5) amend the Water and Sewer Fund to appropriate \$159,016 net assets for contractual services; and 6) transfer \$200,000 from the Jail Facility Expansion Construction project to the Law Enforcement Training Facility in the Sales Tax V Fund.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. All Walks of Life (AWOL) has submitted a request for funds in fiscal year 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding between the County and AWOL is located on the action calendar for Board approval. A transfer from General Fund M&O Contingency is requested.
2. The CEMA Director has requested an appropriation of \$9,500 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to outfit a vehicle with emergency lights, sirens, decals and a command cabinet. Correspondence and a resolution are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
3. The adopted budget for the Restricted Court Fees special revenues fund omitted revenue projecting for the State Court DUI Court, Juvenile Court Supervision Fees, and the 50% Drug Surcharge fees. A resolution to amend the budget for these restricted fees is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file). The amendments total \$135,000.
4. The Counter Narcotics Team director has requested an appropriation of \$24,623 of confiscated funds for training and equipment. A staff report is attached. A court order to transfer ten percent of the value of a seized vehicle to the District Attorney has been issued. Transferring \$895 from the CNT contingency account to the District Attorney Account in the Confiscated Funds will move the cash. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
5. Superior Court has received a \$194,750 grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Multiple Grant fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

6. Juvenile Court has received a \$432,435 grant from the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Funding Committee/Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Multiple Grant fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
7. The Director of Public Works and Park Services is requesting an appropriation of \$159,016 in the Water and Sewer fund for contractual services. A staff report is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
8. The County Engineer has requested an amendment to the Sales Tax Fund V current year cash flow budget. A transfer from the Jail Facility Expansion Construction project to the Law Enforcement Training Facility is requested. Correspondence is attached. Based on discussions with the Sheriff, it is estimated that funds of \$2 million can be repurposed from the Jail Facility Expansion project.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the General Fund M&O and Confiscated Funds for the transfers. The budget amendments will establish funding in the General Fund M&O, Restricted Court Fees, Multiple Grant and Water and Sewer funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the following:

**GENERAL FUND M&O**

- a) A \$50,000 contingency transfer for All Walks of Life (AWOL).
- b) Appropriate \$9,500 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to the Emergency Management department.

**RESTRICTED COURT FEES FUND**

Increase revenues and expenditures \$135,000 for State Court DUI Court, Juvenile Court Supervision Fees and the 50% Surcharge Fees.

**MULTIPLE GRANT FUND**

- a) Increase revenues and expenditures for a \$194,750 grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities.
- b) Increase revenues and expenditures for a \$432,435 grant from the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Funding Committee/Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

**CONFISCATED FUNDS FUND**

- a) Appropriate \$24,623 to CNT for training and equipment.
- b) Transfer \$895 from CNT contingency to District Attorney contingency.

**WATER AND SEWER FUND**

Appropriate \$149,016 net assets for contractual services.

**SALES TAX V FUND**

Transfer \$200,000 from the Jail Facility Expansion Construction Project to the Law Enforcement Training Facility.

2. Amend or deny the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law grants the Board authority to amend the budget during the year as it deems necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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**PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Chairman Scott said, before we move on to the Action Calendar, I wanted to acknowledge that Commissioner Holmes from the Second District also attended National Conference of County Commissioners, and he also participated in the acceptance of the award for County Employee Week and Month, and I want to thank him for that. I failed to acknowledge him when I was in the well.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, Commissioner Holmes.

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Scott said, now the Action Calendar. Everybody had a chance to review it. We didn't have anything to be pulled off and voted on separately, so I would entertain a motion at this time for approval of the Action Calendar.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Brady said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Brady said, did somebody already make the motion?

Commissioner Shabazz said, I seconded.

Commissioner Brady said, seconded?

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. It's been properly moved and second. Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made to approve the Action Calendar, Items 1 through and under Item 6, Items A through K. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

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

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- 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 26, 2013, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 26, 2013, as mailed. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 18, 2013 THROUGH JULY 31, 2013.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period July 4, 2013 through July 31, 2013, in the amount of \$10,167,210. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

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**3. REQUEST BOARD ACCEPT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE INCENTIVE GRANT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made for acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**

**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Adam Kennedy, Juvenile Court Administrator

**ISSUE:**

To have the Board of Commissioners accept the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Funding Committee/Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has awarded \$432,435 to the Juvenile Court.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

The \$432,435 from the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant will be used to provide additional programming to juvenile offenders and their families. The programs will be an alternative to the use of secure detention.

**FUNDING:**

No Chatham County funds are needed for this project.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To have the Board of Commissioners accept the funds from the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant for the purpose of enhancing the services of the Juvenile Court.

2. For the Board of Commissioners to refuse to accept the funds from the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant.
3. These funds were not originally budgeted in our current fiscal year budget.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to accept grant funding which does not require county matching funds to provide/upgrade necessary services without cost to the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To accept Alternative 1.

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#### **4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INC. (AWOL)**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made for Board approval of A Memorandum of Understanding with All Walks of Life, Inc. (AWOL). Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4**

**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Linda Cramer, Assistant County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To request Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with All Walks of Life, Inc. (AWOL).

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. All Walks of Life, Inc. (AWOL) has submitted a request for funding in fiscal year 2014. The request is for \$50,000.00
2. The adopted FY2014 budget did not include funding for this purpose. A request to transfer General Fund M&O contingency funds appears in a separate staff report.
3. The County Attorney has reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding with All Walks of Life, Inc. (AWOL) which is attached and submitted for Board approval.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the General Fund M&O - Special Appropriations (1009975-57.30001) pending Board approval of the contingency transfer.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.
2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Approval is consistent with Board action requiring a contract or Memorandum of Understanding with agencies providing services.



1. Provide Arts & Technology vocational training to a minimum of 80 out of 100 registered youth; thus preparing them for entry into local job market as entry level technicians by June 30, 2014.
2. A minimum of 80% out of 100 enrolled youth will complete the program with no new or repeat referrals to juvenile court by June 30, 2014.
3. You will experience a minimum of a 75% increase in knowledge and hands on skills as determined through pre/post testing and evaluation by June 30, 2014.
4. Document that a minimum of 80% out of 100 enrolled youth maintain satisfactory performance in school and/or GED/technical job training programs by June 30, 2014.
5. Provide conflict resolution training to a minimum of 80% of enrolled youth by June 30, 2014.
6. Provide a minimum of 1 professional hands on community production internship experience working with industry professionals to 80% of enrolled youth by June 30, 2014.
7. Provide such records, including but not limited to financial and programmatic activity reports as County staff require to assess effectiveness and compliance with this Memorandum of Understanding; Provide a mid-year report directly to Chatham County Chairman to assess program outcome specific progress no later than January 1, 2014.
8. By the end of programming, youth will demonstrate a 75% increase in knowledge as determined through pre/post testing;
9. Acknowledge the support of the Chatham County Commission in their advertisements and marketing initiatives; and
10. Document that a minimum of 6 (six) court referred youth have been able to avoid repeat court referrals and incarceration through their participation in the program. (Estimated cost savings to Chatham County = \$381,000.)

## **SECTION 2.**

The County, for and in consideration of the delivery of the above-described services agrees more particularly as follows:

1. Provide \$50,000 in funding for operating costs;
2. Promote the AWOL Youth IT Training program to key stakeholders and the community at-large;
3. Provide Commissioner and staff representatives to attend periodic events designed to bolster the self-esteem of graduating youth; and
4. Encourage the Chatham County Juvenile Court to refer those youth already involved in the juvenile justice system to the program in an effort to deter juvenile crime activity.

## **SECTION 3. Terms of Memorandum of Understanding**

AWOL agrees that the subject appropriation by the County shall be used only for the purposes outlined within the Memorandum of Understanding. AWOL agrees to maintain in accordance with generally acceptable accounting principles, records of all expenditures pertaining to funds granted under this Memorandum of Understanding and shall allow County auditors complete access for purposes of verifying the appropriate expenditure of funds within the meaning of services to be provided.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect for a period of one year unless amended or terminated by the County or AWOL upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

**AWOL ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INC.**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVENA JORDAN  
Executive Director

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ALBERT J. SCOTT, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
JANICE E. BOCOOK  
Clerk of Commission

[SEAL]

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. Jonathan Hart  
County Attorney

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ASK FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN RELIABLE, ONGOING SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR LAND CONSERVATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made for Board approval to ask for technical advice and assistance from The Trust for Public Land in connection with efforts to develop and sustain reliable, ongoing sources of funding for land conservation and other purposes. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director

**ISSUE:**  
A request for technical advice and assistance from The Trust for Public Land in connection with efforts to develop and sustain reliable, ongoing sources of funding for land conservation and other purposes.

**BACKGROUND:**  
The Chatham County Resource Protection Commission (CCRPC) was established through ordinance by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in 2008 in order to establish a uniform procedure to provide for the protection in perpetuity for the use of areas with significant natural, historic, cultural or aesthetic interest or value and for the use of areas which protect current or future sources of potable water in Chatham County.

Subsequently, the CCRPC adopted a Site Acquisition Policy and Site Ranking Criteria Policy which details 14 criteria by which to evaluate each nominated property.

The Chatham County Resource Protection Database was created which includes properties previously identified for their natural and historic significance, and properties that have been recently nominated by the public.

Over 900 acres of property has been conserved through this program including the Whitemarsh Preserve, Blue Sky Preserve, Pennyworth Island Preserve, and the Great Ogeechee Lakes Preserve. Funding for the conservation of these properties has come primarily from the SPLOST greenspace fund and grants. The SPLOST greenspace fund has been depleted at this point.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Will Abberger of The Trust for Public Land gave a presentation to the CCRPC at their July 24, 2013 meeting outlining different funding opportunities other communities have utilized to fund conservation efforts, including SPLOST.
2. Through a grant from the Turner Foundation, The Trust for Public Land is able to offer technical advice and assistance to communities interested in funding conservation efforts. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, Chatham County would need to formally request the technical assistance. There is no cost to the County for the assistance. A draft letter is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
3. On July 24, 2013, the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners the request for technical assistance.

**FUNDING:**

No funding is required. The technical assistance is provided at no cost to Chatham County by The Trust for Public Land through a grant from the Turner Foundation.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The purpose and intent of the Chatham County Resource Protection Ordinance is to establish a uniform procedure to provide for the protection in perpetuity for the use of areas with significant natural, historic, cultural, or aesthetic interest or value and for the use of areas which protect current or future sources of potable water. Understanding and exploring potential funding opportunities will aid in ensuring that the natural, historic, cultural, and aesthetic values of each property are perpetually preserved and maintained.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Chatham County Resource Protection Commission recommends to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to request technical advice and assistance from The Trust for Public Land in connection with efforts to develop and sustain reliable, ongoing sources of funding for land conservation, at no cost to Chatham County.

**ALL DISTRICTS**

**PREPARED BY:** Ellen I. Harris  
 Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation  
 August 1, 2013

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made for approval to award bids as follows: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.) Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DEPT.</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
A. Professional services contract for sewer pipe inflow and infiltration inspection for Public Works and Park Services	Public Works and Park Services	Veolia Water North America-South, LLC	\$159,016	Water and Sewer Fund (Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)
B. 38 plastic chairs and 11 sections of beam seating for the main entrance lobby and courts in Building C2 for the CCDC Expansion	Detention Center	Correctional Technologies, Inc. (d/b/a Cortech, USA)	\$12,269	CIP - Detention Center Expansion SPLOST project
C. Annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide door mat rental services for various department of Chatham County	Facilities Maintenance	Aramark Uniform Services	\$11,050	Various Departments
D. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract to add additional fire extinguishers for the Pete Liakakis Government Building and for 36 Mosquito Control vehicles	Facilities Maintenance	Pye Barker Fire and Safety, Inc.	\$201 per year	Various Departments
E. Change Order No. 12 to the contract to add monthly pest control services at the Pete Liakakis Building	Facilities Maintenance	Cox Termite & Pest Control	\$980	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance
F. Engineering services contract for the Cottonvale Road Drainage Improvements project	Engineering	Kern & Co., LLC	\$11,750	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Cottonvale Drainage
G. Relocate trailers at Firing Range and Training Facility	Sheriff's Department	Doray Builders, Inc.	\$13,300	SPLOST (2008-2014) - Law Enforcement Training Facility (Pending Budget Transfer)
H. Sitework and foundation preparation for modular building Firing Range and Training Facility	Sheriff's Department	Clifton Construction, Inc. (WBE)	\$80,966	SPLOST (2008-2014) - Law Enforcement Training Facility (Pending Budget Transfer)
I. Installation of carpet and tile at the Chatham County Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center	Facilities Maintenance	Culver Rug Company, Inc.	\$21,300	General Fund/M&O - Weightlifting Center

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
J. Amendment to construction management at risk contract for guaranteed maximum price for two libraries	Special Projects	J.E. Dunn Construction Company d/b/a R.J. Griffin and Company	\$8,600,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Garden City and Islands Libraries

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6 A thru K**  
**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

**FROM: MICHAEL A. KAIGLER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER/  
 DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS**

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$159,016 professional services contract for sewer pipe inflow and infiltration inspection with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC, for Public Works and Park Services.

**BACKGROUND:** For some time, Public Works and Park Services has seen the cost of sewage treatment continue to rise. It was determined that the system must be experiencing possible flows from storm, ground water or other sources.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The County pays the City of Savannah to process and treat the sanitary sewer liquid and solids from our customer base. There have been increases in the rate from Savannah, but there have also been increases in flow even though the customer base has remained stable.
2. The age of the systems are varied, oldest system, Nancy Place, is believed to have been built starting in 1948, Central Avenue, Salcedo and Hopecrest in 1955. In addition to those systems just mentioned, Galebreak, Winterberry, Shefttall, Wylly Island, Causton Bluff and Runaway Point are included in the solicitation for inspection.
3. Considering the age of the systems in general and no camera inspection for an entire system, it is prudent to perform a complete inspection looking for damaged components that might be allowing inflow, infiltration or identifying illicit connections.
4. If damages to components are found the Department will pursue repairs to stop the inflow or infiltration of storm or ground water into the system. If we find illicit discharge the Department will take steps to stop the discharge or incorporate the residence into our customer base. The final outcome of this effort is to reduce payment to the City of Savannah for processing sewer waste, repair any defects found in the system and resolve any other issues that may be discovered.
5. A solicitation was issued and six (6) firms submitted bids to conduct the inspection. Bid responses are as follows:

Veolia Water North America-South, LLC Alphretta, GA	\$159,016
Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. Patterson, GA	\$185,980

Hydrostructures, P.A. Pittsboro, NC	\$223,978
Thomas & Hutton Savannah, GA	\$231,925
Woolpert, Inc. Atlanta, GA	\$244,752
Video Industrial Inc. Birmingham, AL	\$259,223

6. References for Veolia Water North America-South, LLC, were contacted and those that responded indicated the firm was professional, expeditious and reliable.

**FUNDING:** Water and Sewer Fund (Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)  
(5054400 - 52.39001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$159,016 professional services contract for sewer pipe inflow and infiltration inspection with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC, for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$12,269 purchase of 38 plastic chairs and 11 sections of beam seating for the main entrance lobby and courts in Building C2 from Correctional Technologies, Inc. (d/b/a Cortech, USA) of Willowbrook, IL, for the CCDC Expansion. Price includes manufacture, delivery, assembly and installation of beam seating.

**BACKGROUND:** The CCDC needs to purchase seating for the entrance lobby and courts area of Building C2 of the new facility.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Existing plastic chairs are being re-used in other locations of the CCDC facility so new plastic chairs are needed for courts and Attorney/Client Meeting Rooms.
2. New beam seating is required at the entrance lobby and court viewing areas.
3. The unit cost of \$33.50 for the 38 plastic chairs for Building C2 was based on the previous low bid unit price and contract award to Cortech, USA for identical chairs that were purchased for Buildings H and J. Total cost for 38 plastic razorback, armless chairs was \$1,273.
4. Staff solicited bids from the two manufacturers of beam seating who previously submitted bids for a similar product that was purchased for Building L. Norix, Group, Inc., and Cortech, USA submitted bids and Cortech, USA was the low bidder for the beam seating sections:

Norix Group, Inc.	\$12,438
Cortech, USA	\$10,996

- Staff believes the costs from Cortech, USA to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** CIP - Detention Center Expansion SPLOST project  
(3803355 - 54.25001 - 38060407)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- Board approval of the \$12,269 purchase of 38 Plastic Chairs and 11 Sections of Beam Seating for the Main Entrance Lobby and Courts in Building C2 from Correctional Technologies, Inc. (d/b/a Cortech, USA) of Willowbrook, IL for the CCDC Expansion. Price includes manufacture, delivery, assembly and installation of beam seating.
- Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of furniture necessary to the operation of the Chatham County Detention Center.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

**ITEM C**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an \$11,050 annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Aramark Uniform Services to provide door mat rental services for various department of Chatham County.

**BACKGROUND:** Door mats are required for safety at County building entrances.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- A solicitation for bids was publicly advertised and bids submitted were reviewed on July 18, 2013.
- Two (2) firms submitted bids for Door Mat Renal Services. The firms are as follows:

Aramark Uniform Services	\$11,050
Burbank, CA	
*	
Rental Uniform Service	\$19,453
N. Charleston, SC	

\*WBE

- Aramark pricing is as follows:

Mat Size	Quantity	Price
2' x 3'	1	\$ 1.00 per wk/ \$52 per yr
3' x 4'	30	\$30 per wk/\$1,560 per yr
3' x 5'	5	\$5 per wk/\$260 per yr
3' x 5' Scraper	10	\$10 per wk/\$520 per yr
3' x 10'	30	\$75 per wk/\$3,900 per yr
3x14'	1	\$4.50 per wk/\$234 per yr
3x15'	1	\$5 per wk/\$260 per yr
4x6'	41	\$82 per wk/\$4,264 per yr

- Staff believes the total cost of \$11,050 annually for door mat rental services to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** Various Departments

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an \$11,050 annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Aramark Uniform Services to provide door mat rental services for various department of Chatham County.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award annual contracts to the lowest responsive responsible local vendors when in the best interest of the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 READ DEHAVEN

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to issue a \$201 Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract with Pye Barker Fire and Safety, Inc., to add additional fire extinguishers for the Pete Liakakis Government Building and for 36 Mosquito Control vehicles.

**BACKGROUND:** On May 24, 2013, the Board approved the contract to Pye Barker to provide Fire Extinguisher services in various County facilities.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. All fire extinguishers require an annual inspection, hydrostatic testing, recharging and six (6) year service and maintenance as required by National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA).
2. It was discovered during the initial inspection by Pye Barker that the (36) vehicle fire extinguishers at Mosquito Control were not part of the contract and they needed to be added. The additional cost as quoted by Pye Barker to include the vehicle fire extinguishers in the contract is \$157.50 annually. Also during the inspection of the Pete Liakakis Building, one (1) 10LB CO2 fire extinguishers on the roof was discovered not to be part of the contract. The additional cost to add this fire extinguisher is \$43.50 annually. The total for both additions is \$201 annually.
3. Staff reviewed the quotes from Pye Barker and staff believes their quote to be fair and reasonable. All other terms and conditions of the contract is to remain the same.
4. Contract History is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (5-24-13)	\$19,408/Year
Change Order No. 1 (Pending)	\$ 201/Year
	\$19,609/Year

**FUNDING:** Various County Departments

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to issue a \$201 Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract with Pye Barker Fire and Safety, Inc., to add additional fire extinguishers for the Pete Liakakis Government Building and for 36 Mosquito Control vehicles.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to issue change orders to essential service contracts to recognize changes in scope of services.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 READ DEHAVEN

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to issue a \$980 Change Order No. 12 to the contract with Cox Termite & Pest Control, to add monthly pest control services at the Pete Liakakis Building, 222 Oglethorpe Avenue.

**BACKGROUND:** On November 21, 2008, the Board approved an annual contract for pest control services at various departments and agencies of Chatham County to Cox Termite and Pest Control, Inc.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The newly renovated Pete Liakakis Building will require monthly pest control service to maintain a healthy and pest free environment.
2. Cox Termite & Pest Control quoted staff a monthly fee of \$245 for to provide service at the Pete Liakakis Building. Staff believes the cost provided to be fair and reasonable.
3. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (11-21-08)	\$18,740/Year
Change Order No. 1 (01-16-09)	\$ 300/Year
Change Order No. 2 (03-13-09)	\$ 540/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 3 (03-27-09)	\$ (180)/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 4 (09-11-09)	\$ (300)/Year
Additive Change Order No. 4 (09-11-09)	\$ 540/Year
Change Order No. 5 (05-14-10)	\$ 660/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 6 (10-22-10)	\$ (300)/Year
Additive Change Order No. 6 (10-22-10)	\$ 1,800/Year
Change Order No. 7 (04-29-11)	\$ 500/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 8 (09-21-12)	\$ (180)/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 9 (10-19-12)	\$ (600)/Year
Additive Change Order No. 9 (10-19-12)	\$ 1,620/Year
Change Order No. 10 (1-25-13)	\$ (200) 10 months left on contract
Change Order No. 11 (3-22-13)	\$ (360) 8 months left on contract
Change Order No. 12 (pending)	\$ 980 4 months left on contract
Revised Contract Amount	\$23,560/Year

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance  
 (1001565 - 52.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to issue a \$980 Change Order No. 12 to the contract with Cox Termite & Pest Control, to add monthly pest control services at the Pete Liakakis Building, 222 Oglethorpe Avenue.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to issue Change Orders to essential service contracts to recognize changes in scope of services.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 MELVA SHARPE

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a \$11,750 sole source engineering services contract to Kern & Co., LLC, for the Cottonvale Road Drainage Improvements project.

**BACKGROUND:** In August, 2011, the County contracted Kern-Coleman & Co., LLC, to prepare a preliminary design of an outfall improvement for Cottonvale Road to relieve flooding issues and provide maintenance access.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Kern-Coleman & Co., LLC, changed the firm name to Kern & Co., LLC. Kern & Co., LLC, remains the Engineer of Record for this project.
2. The project, located between Cottonvale Road and Cottonvale Canal within unincorporated Chatham County, removes three existing undersized pipes and replaces an undersized pipe within the storm system increasing the capacity of the system to the canal.
3. Kern-Coleman & Co., LLC, finished a preliminary design to improve the pipe system. Final construction plans and permitting must be complete in order to release the project to bid.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (1998-2003) - Cottonvale Drainage  
(3234250 - 52.12003 - 32380583)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award a \$11,750 sole source engineering services contract to Kern & Co., LLC, for the Cottonvale Road Drainage Improvements project.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award sole source engineering services contracts when it is the best interest of the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM G**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$13,300 sole source contract to Doray Builders, Inc., for the removal and storage of existing trailers from the Sheriff's Department Firing Range and Training Facility.

**BACKGROUND:** In order to place the modular buildings on the Range and Training Facility site, the existing trailers need to be removed.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Doray Builders, Inc., is the original company that moved the modular buildings from the Marine Corp Air Station, Beaufort, SC to the Sheriff's Complex. The modular buildings to be placed were awarded free of charge.
2. Staff requested pricing from Doray Builders, Inc., for the removal and storage of the existing trailers and believes their price to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2008-2014) - Law Enforcement Training Facility  
(3244980 - 32460747 - 54.13011) (Pending Budget Transfer)

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve sole-source contracts necessary for progression of construction projects.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$13,300 sole-source contract to Doray Builders, Inc., for the removal and storage of existing trailers from the Sheriff's Department Range and Training Facility.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

**ITEM H**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$80,966 contract with Clifton Construction, Inc. (WBE) for site work in preparation of modular building placement at the Sheriff's Department Firing Range and Training Facility.

**BACKGROUND:** One (1) of the buildings received from the Marshal's Service through the Marine Corps, will be placed on the site of the old training facility. Before doing so, fill dirt must be brought in and site preparation work must be done to ready the site.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Bids were solicited and opened on July 9, 2013. Responses are as follows:

*	Clifton Construction, Inc. Garden City, GA	\$80,966
	A.D. Williams Construction Company, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$84,000
*	Southbend Company, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$86,400
	Savannah Paving Company, Inc. Ellabell, GA	\$91,260
**	Sandhill A.L.S. Construction, Inc. Port Wentworth, GA	\$125,865

\*WBE

\*\*MBE

2. Staff believes the bid provided by Clifton Construction, Inc., to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2008-2014) - Law Enforcement Training Facility  
(3244980 - 54.13011 - 32460747) (Pending Budget Transfer)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$80,966 contract with Clifton Construction, Inc. (WBE) for site work in preparation of modular building placement at the Sheriff's Department Firing Range.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of \$21,300 purchase order to Culver Rug Company, Inc., for the installation of carpet and tile at the Chatham County Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center.

**BACKGROUND:** The carpet in the office areas of the Weightlifting Center is more than 10 years old and showing signs of wear. Staff requested to add tile flooring due to the constant peeling and re-application of paint to the floor. The tile will eliminate the need to constantly paint flooring, which has proven not to be durable and will additionally enhance the overall look of the Weightlifting Center.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Request for Bids were publicly advertised, a pre-bid was conducted and bids were opened on July 29, 2013. There were two vendors to submit bids. Bid results are as follows:

*	United Grounds Maintenance Services, Inc. Glennville, GA	\$21,300
	Culver Rug Company, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$24,970

\*WBE

2. On 27 March 1998, the Board approved a "local preference" policy which, when a firm from outside Chatham County submits the "low bid", the policy allows the lowest local vendor to match the low bid. If the local firm does match the low bid, the local firm is awarded the purchase. As indicated below, a non-Chatham County firm offered the low bid. The Chatham County firm was asked if they would match the outside firm's bid. Culver Rug Company, Inc., has agreed to match the low bid.
3. Staff believes the price to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Weightlifting Center  
(1006130 - 54.13001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of \$21,300 purchase order to Culver Rug Company, Inc., for the installation of carpet and tile at the Chatham County Howard Cohen Weightlifting Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the local company if that company agrees to match the non-local bidders price.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MELVA SHARPE

**ITEM J**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$8,600,000 Amendment No. 1 to Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) contract for two (2) new libraries with J.E. Dunn Construction Company d/b/a R.J. Griffin and Company to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price and finalized scope of services.

**BACKGROUND:** On June 10, 2011, the Board of Commissioners approved a Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) contract to R. J. Griffin and Company, for the new Garden City and Islands Branch Libraries.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Since approval of the CMR contract J.E. Dunn Construction Company has been involved with the Consultant for this project, Greenline Architecture, to provide pre-construction services as part the contract.
2. The pre-construction services involved attending regular meetings and making recommendations on site use and improvements and the selection of materials, buildings systems and equipment.
3. As part of computing the Guaranteed Maximum Price, J.E. Dunn Construction Company developed trade packages and released bid packages for subcontractor work, supplies and materials to maximize local and M/WBE participation. Based upon bids received to date and procurement occurring as projected, local participation is anticipated to be 90 percent and M/WBE combined participation to be 40 percent.
4. The design phase of this project is near to completion and J.E. Dunn Construction Company has submitted the Guaranteed Maximum Price and final scope of work.
5. The Guaranteed Maximum Price includes the total construction cost along with the construction phase management for both libraries. See attached for pages 12 - 15 for breakdown of cost.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003-2008) - Garden City and Island Libraries  
(3234980-54.14311-32360217)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$8,600,000 Amendment No. 1 to Construction Manager at Risk contract for two (2) new libraries with J.E. Dunn Construction Company d/b/a R.J. Griffin and Company to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price and finalized scope of services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to issue Amendments to reflect changes in the scope of work.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
PURCHASING AGENT

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**XI. FIRST READINGS**

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

**1. ADOPTION OF THE 2013 CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE.**

Chairman Scott said, we are now on page nine in terms of First Readers. We have one First Reader, and that's the Adoption of the 2013 Chatham County Revenue Ordinance.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

- 1. AMENDMENT TO THE REVENUE ORDINANCE TO REFLECT THE NEW PERMIT CONSTRUCTION VALUATION SQUARE FOOTAGE ASSESSMENT RATE FOR RESIDENTIAL CARPORTS, DETACHED GARAGES AND OTHER ACCESSORY STRUCTURES THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING OR HEATING OR AIR-CONDITIONING.**

Chairman Scott said, I'm going to move to Second Readers, which is on page 10. The first is to Amend the Revenue Ordinance to reflect a new permit construction valuation square footage assessment rate for residential carports, detached garage and other accessory structures that do not contain electrical, plumbing, heating or air-conditioning.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, we have a second. Discussion? We do need an explanation?

Commissioner Farrell said, I think for the public we should --

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- have a brief explanation.

Chairman Scott said, for the purpose of the public.

Building Safety and Regulatory Services Director Gregori Anderson said, good morning.

Chairman Scott said, good morning.

Members of the Commission collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Anderson said, Gregori Anderson, Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services. What's before you is a proposed amendment to recognize us being a little bit out of step with the -- the current rates for permit fees for residential garages. This is an attempt for us to -- to look at what the -- what the code requires in terms of -- of permitting for residential -- residential garages and what the community and the national trend is for the valuation of those permits. So we've recognized through -- through a request of the public that staff went in and did some evaluation, and what's before you is the result of that evaluation. Residential garages instead of being assessed \$80 a square foot will be currently assessed under this amendment at \$40 a square foot, which we feel is fair. We feel is reflective of -- of the -- not only the community but also the national average.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Commissioner Farrell and Commissioner Center has questions. In that order.

Commissioner Farrell said, are these structures permanently attached to the earth or are we talking about anything that passes for a garage? I'm referring --

Mr. Anderson said, we're talking about --

Commissioner Farrell said, I'm kind of referring to you see a lot of people on the side of the road in business areas sell these quickly installed look like kind of temporary metal carports.

Mr. Anderson said, what we're talking about is strictly garages and the typical definition of garages. Would not apply to utility sheds or anything of that nature based on the -- the text that -- that we're asking you to consider this morning. So we're talking about something that -- that requires a permit, something that would be

permanent, built on the ground requiring a foundation and meeting other requirements of the codes and the ordinances.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, primarily we're getting some carports where, you know, it's pretty hard to justify charging them for construction for a house prices for something you're basically putting a roof on with supports.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Mr. Anderson said, and this provision also, as you read in the text would -- would apply to those carports and -- and garages that don't have plumbing in it or electricity. So we feel that under the circumstances that this will be a fair assessment of -- of that -- of that fee rate.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson said, good morning, sir.

Commissioner Center said, and let me point out also this is another example of the county being responsive to citizen concerns, 'cause I believe this came up in letters a couple of months ago with some citizens who asked for this particular change.

Mr. Anderson said, that's correct.

Commissioner Center said, so I -- I want to point out again that staff and the County Manager have responded to citizen concerns. I want you to explain it to me. I see two changes here. We're changing the \$80 per square footage assessment from 80 to \$40, and also a \$6 per \$1,000 value from \$6 to \$2?

Mr. Anderson said, no. The \$6 per \$1,000 is the fee rate currently. That is not changing. What we're changing is the valuation of the construction from \$80 to \$40. So what you pay for the -- for the permit in terms of \$6 per 1,000, remains in place. We're not proposing any changes to that. What we're proposing is how we calculate the value of that -- of that development, of that construction, and based on our proposal we're advocating changing from \$80 a square foot to \$40 a square foot based on what the County Attorney has said.

Commissioner Center said, so we're halving the price.

Mr. Anderson said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, okay. And that's what I didn't understand this one the \$6 and \$2 per 1,000. Can you explain that?

Mr. Anderson said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, to -- to someone who's slow in understanding, please.

Mr. Anderson said, I understand, sir. I understand. The \$6 value is what you would pay for the permit. We found over years that as people come and apply for permits, we go through the planning review process, and process the permit and people sometimes abandon projects for whatever reason either through financial feasibility or whatever the case may be. So what we've indicate -- what we've implemented over the years is a plan review fee that's paid up front, and that's what the \$2 per 1,000 represents. So if someone comes and applies for a construction permit, they pay that 2,000 -- \$2 per 1,000 up front as part of a filing fee. That covers the planning review cost, it covers the administrative cost. So even if that permit is never issued, then we've paid for that -- that service has been paid for. When people come to pick up the permit, the balance of that \$6, which is \$4 1,000 is paid completing the -- the transaction.

Commissioner Center said, thank you very much.

Mr. Anderson said, you're welcome, sir.

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner Shabazz and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Shabazz said, the metal garage -- not garages but carports that they sell, maybe out on 17, some place out on 17, don't they have to have a -- a concrete foundation, a slab?

Mr. Anderson said, indeed, yes they do.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and they anchor it to the ground, isn't that right?

Mr. Anderson said, that's correct.

Commissioner Shabazz said, so it requires a permit for that?

Mr. Anderson said, yes, indeed, it does.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Okay. So it applies to that also?

Mr. Anderson said, that's correct.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. That's what I wanted.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter from the Seventh District.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you Chairman. Bottom line is it's a permit fee reduction, correct?

Mr. Anderson said, that's correct, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I don't think we'll hear any arguments out there. Having said that, I will adhere to the Chairman's request and amend my motion to state that -- I make a motion that we place this on the calendar and adopt it.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second the -- that this item be placed on the calendar and adopted. Hearing the motion. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Item 1 is adopted. I -- I was about to call in maintenance because I thought the Commissioner's from the Seventh District light was stuck on red, but I see that it does turn green.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the item, Amendment to the Revenue Ordinance to reflect a new permit construction valuation square footage assessment rate for residential carports, detached garages and other accessory structures that do not contain electrical, plumbing or heating or air-conditioning, be moved to the calendar and adopted. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-1~~**

**AGENDA DATE: ~~July 26, 2013~~**

**AGENDA ITEM: **XII-1****

**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Gregori S. Anderson, Director, Building Safety & Regulatory Services

**ISSUE:**

To amend the revenue ordinance to reflect the new permit construction valuation square footage assessment rate for residential carports, detached garages and other accessory structures that do not contain electrical, plumbing or heating or air-conditioning.

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently residential carports, detached garages and other accessory structures are assessed at eighty dollars (\$80.00) per square foot for construction valuation.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Research conducted of area jurisdictions revealed that the eighty dollar (\$80.00) per square footage assessment for the construction valuation exceeds the local average.
2. The International Code Council (ICC) which develops the Georgia State Codes has developed a building evaluation data sheet that establishes square footage construction costs for all building use groups based on the type of construction. The building valuation data sheet considers national total annual construction cost accumulated over twelve (12) months. Modifiers are also considered to reflect the construction cost and valuation for the selected region.
3. The County Attorney has reviewed and approved the amendment for legal content.

**FUNDING:**

Not applicable.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approved proposed amendments to the revenue ordinance.
2. Provide direction to staff.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Review of the current construction valuation for residential carports and other accessory structures revealed a rate that exceeded both regional and national averages. The proposed amendment will establish a construction valuation rate for residential carports, detached garages and accessory structures without electrical, plumbing or heating and air-conditioning that reflects the local, regional and national average.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Alternative #1, amendments to the revenue ordinance.

STATE OF GEORGIA     )  
   )  
 CHATHAM COUNTY     )

AMENDMENT TO THE REVENUE ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY

Be it ordained by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners as follows:

Article T, Section 1 is amended by adding a section entitled "Residential Utility/Miscellaneous Construction" and renumbering the section to read as follows:

**ADD:**

3. Residential Utility/Miscellaneous Construction: Six dollars (\$6.00) fee per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of construction value, with a minimum permit fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00). Construction value is calculated by multiplying the square footage by forty dollars (\$40.00). This permit category includes detached residential garages, accessory structures and carports without electricity, plumbing or heating and air conditioning.

**RENUMBER:**

4. The residential and commercial plan review fee of two dollars (\$2.00) per thousand will be collected up front and the remainder permit and inspection fee will be collected when the permit is issued. This is a non-refundable fee and is considered part of the permit fee.

Adopted and approved, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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ALBERT J. SCOTT, CHAIRMAN  
Chatham County Commission

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JANICE BOCOOK, CLERK  
Chatham County Commission

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- 2. THE PETITIONER, SHOSHANNA WALKER IS REQUESTING TO REZONE PROPERTY AT 2225 NORWOOD AVENUE AND 2123 RIDGEWOOD ROAD FROM AN R-1/EO CLASSIFICATION TO A B-N/EO CLASSIFICATION. THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS DENIAL OF THE REQUEST TO REZONE THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 2123 RIDGEWOOD ROAD FROM AN R-1/EO CLASSIFICATION TO A B-N/EO CLASSIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST TO REZONE THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 2225 NORWOOD AVENUE FROM AN R-1/EO CLASSIFICATION TO A B-N/EO CLASSIFICATION. MPC FILE NO. Z-130605-00042-1 [DISTRICT 1.]**

Chairman Scott said, okay. Item 2, the petitioner, Shoshanna Walker is requesting to rezone property at 25 -- at 2225 Norwood Avenue and 2123 Ridgewood Road from R-1 to EO classification and to a B-N/EO classification. The Planning Commission has recommended denial of the request to the zoning the property at 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from an R-1 to EO classification and to B-N/EO classification and approval of the request to rezone the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification, and I will recognize a representative from our Planning Commission to explain this request.

Mr. Marcus Lotson said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Marcus Lotson, Metropolitan Planning Commission. In -- indeed items two and three on your agenda are associated, and in this case the petitioner, Ms. Walker, is requesting to rezone the properties that you mentioned that are located at the northeast corner of Norwood Avenue and Ridgewood Road. You probably know those properties as the former Southside Fire Department. There are two parcels at that location. The Fire Department fronts onto Norwood and the -- the Ridgewood Road property is immediately behind that. The property immediately behind that is undeveloped and vacant, and is further into the neighborhood. Based on that reason and in working with the petitioner, the MPC has recommended to do two things essentially, to rezone the Fire Department property to the B-N classification so that the petitioner can establish her business at that site and to maintain the current zoning on the vacant property as it won't -- will not be used for commercial reasons. Additionally, they -- the MPC is recommending that the Future Land Use Map designation for the Norwood Avenue property, the fire station, be changed from civic/institutional to commercial/neighborhood to accommodate that use and that the Ridgewood Avenue property be changed. I -- I have its Future Land Use designation change from the existing designation of civic/institutional to suburban/single family residential.

Chairman Scott said, any questions? Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, is the petitioner present?

Mr. Lotson said, yes, she is present.

Ms. Shoshanna Walker said, good morning.

Commissioner Stone said, I just -- I just was curious if you all were okay with the alternative that's being proposed.

Chairman Scott said, please -- please introduce yourself and also, if you would provide us your address.

Ms. Walker said, my home address? My name is Shoshanna Walker. I'm the owner of Indian River Soap, doing business as Nourish, and my home address is 103 Brannen Drive.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Ms. Walker said, Savannah, Georgia 31410.

Chairman Scott said, I -- I just request that so the Commissioners here will know who -- that -- who represents you. That's all. Go ahead.

Ms. Walker said, yes. We are fine with the rezoning of the Norwood address because that's the property that we would actually be using for our retail store.

Commissioner Stone said, but I guess my question is the original request was denied and there's an alternative being proposed and you're -- you're comfortable with the alternative?

Ms. Walker said, we are comfortable with that. The reason we requested both properties is because they're -- Southside Fire Department is selling it as one parcel, so we were buying that one parcel, and we're fine with them splitting it up.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, I have the -- I have the Commissioner from -- do you have a question of Ms. Walker or are you?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I -- no, sir. I was going to make a motion, but --

Chairman Scott said, I want -- I want to see if there's any question of Ms. Walker before we -- we got Commissioner Shabazz and Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Shabazz said, this property -- good morning.

Ms. Walker said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz asked, this property is -- that you're trying to get rezoned, what -- what is it? Is it commercial? Is it commercial property? It's zoned for what right now?

Ms. Walker said, right now the zoning is -- do you want to answer that.

Chairman Scott said, expert staff can speak to that.

Mr. Lotson said, sir, I can speak to that. Commissioner Shabazz, the property is currently zoned, R-1 which is a one family residential zoning. However, because it's been used as a fire department, fire departments are allowed in all zoning classifications so that has not been a factor. That's the purpose of the rezoning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, so is it a residential -- the property's residential right now?

Chairman Scott said, no.

Mr. Lotson said, no. It's currently or was most recently the Southside Fire Department, and -- and their building on site.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. So what -- what is she proposing to go on this -- on this property?

Mr. Lotson said, you want to answer that?

Ms. Walker said, okay. So our business is we make by hand natural bath products, so this is going to serve as a retail -- another retail store in Savannah, and then we're going to also make the products at that location. So we're just going to be on the backside of Piggly Wiggly surrounded by all that development that's happening in Sandfly as just another retail establishment.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. So -- so is it a residential area or what? I'm -- I'm not really sure where it's at.

Chairman Scott said, it's -- it's adjacent to a residential area. A residential area is sort of across the street and if -- if you're familiar where the Southside Fire Department used to be located.

Mr. Lotson said, the -- the property that Ms. Walker will be using fronts onto Norwood Avenue. That area is more so commercial. The properties behind that as you go down Ridgewood Road is -- is more residential, which is why we --

Chairman Scott said, when you describe it, it's not -- it's kind of across from it or behind it or however you want to describe it.

Mr. Lotson said, right.

Commissioner Shabazz said, will this cause any problems with the residents out there?

Mr. Lotson said, no, I don't believe it will. We've had substantial meetings prior to this item coming before you, and we have had no complaints from the neighborhood. It's been a fire department there at that location for a number of years, so it's essentially a conversion from a fire department to Ms. Walker's business.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Do the -- your -- your -- your agency, does it give a recommendation to approve this?

Mr. Lotson said, we do recommend that this be approved.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, as -- as stated. As -- as I stated.

Mr. Lotson said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Commissioner.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, are you ready for a motion?

Chairman Scott said, no.

Commissioner Center said, I have a question.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, you have the Nourish on Broughton Street?

Ms. Walker said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, and you're going to put another Nourish out there?

Ms. Walker said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, okay. For those of you who do not know, maybe you can put one of those Nourish's next to these fowl smelling canals on Wilmington Island, 'cause you have a wonderful aromas coming out of your store. Good luck out there.

Ms. Walker said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, did you have a question?

Commissioner Stone said, I just want to make a comment --

Chairman Scott said, go ahead.

Commissioner Stone said, -- that this is an unusual area in that there is a lot of mixed uses from commercial to residential. Autobahn is out there right next to I believe to the fire station. There are a couple of retail businesses, so this is not -- I just don't want anybody to think that this is a strictly residential area. The Piggly Wiggly Shopping Center is right across the street. So that's why I asked if -- if you had any question -- any concerns about what was currently being proposed even though it's not originally -- it's not what you originally asked for. So I certainly see the need for this. It -- it will never be residential. So if -- you know, if you're going to make the motion, I'd second it.

Chairman Scott said, is there -- is there anyone else in the audience who wants to speak to this before I entertain a motion? Hearing none. I -- I might also add that this was publicized and you had a hearing.

Mr. Lotson said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, folk from the community was invited to come forth and participate, and they've had an opportunity to have their input, and I just wanted to make certain that there wasn't anybody here who was opposed to it. So I wanted to afford them an opportunity to speak. I -- I do not hear of any, so at this time I'm going to recognize Commissioner Kicklighter from the Seventh District for the purpose of making a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the fact that I believe that people will pull out of there slower than they currently pull out of the fire department and everybody's happy with this, I will make a motion that we place on the calendar and adopt the MPC's recommendation.

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second that item 2 under Second Readers be placed on the calendar and adopted. Hearing the motion. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Item 2 is adopted.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to add to the calendar and adopt item 2, the petitioner, Shoshanna Walker's request to rezone property at 2225 Norwood Avenue and 2123 Ridgewood Road from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification. The Board denies the request to rezone the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Road from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification and approves the request to rezone the property identified as 225 Norwood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification. Commissioners Farrell, Stone and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-2~~**

**AGENDA DATE: ~~July 26, 2013~~**

**AGENDA ITEM: *XII-2***

**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**



## **CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH** **METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

110 EAST STATE STREET PO BOX 8246 SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31412-8246 PHONE 912-651-1440 FACSIMILE 912-651-1480

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

**FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

The petitioner, Shoshanna Walker is requesting to rezone property at 2225 Norwood Avenue and 2123 Ridgewood Road from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification. The Planning Commission recommends Denial of the request to rezone the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification; and Approval of the request to rezone the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification. File No. Z-130605-00042-1

**ISSUE:**

At issue is a request to rezone 1.63 acres of land located at the northeast corner of Norwood Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue from the existing R-1/EO (Single Family Residential/Environmental Overlay) classification to a B-N/EO (Neighborhood Business/Environmental Overlay) classification.

**BACKGROUND:**

The subject properties, located at 2225 Norwood Avenue and 2123 Ridgewood Avenue, were most recently the headquarters for the Southside Fire Department. Southside Fire Department has relocated their headquarters and the facility on Norwood Avenue is presently vacant. Based on these findings, the owner is desirous of selling the subject properties.

The subject site consists of two separate properties. The property on Norwood Avenue is improved and the property on Ridgewood Avenue is undeveloped. The improvements on the Norwood Avenue site have been used by Southside Fire Department as an administrative office. Also, the site was the dispatch call center, an EMS substation and training facility, and a maintenance and repair facility for Southside Fire Department vehicles.

The applicant/potential purchaser is desirous of converting the existing improvements on the subject site to accommodate her business, Nourish - Natural Bath Products.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. **Public Notice:** As required by the City of Savannah Zoning Ordinance, all property owners within 200 feet of the subject property were sent notices of the proposed rezoning and a sign was posted on the site. Also, notices were mailed to Herbert Kemp, President of the Sandfly Betterment Association and to Attorney Dana Braun, contact person for the Harrock Hall neighborhood.
2. **Site:** The site along Norwood Avenue is approximately 1.05 acres in size and is presently occupied by a one-story non-residential structure approximately 5,450 square feet in size, a detached metal garage approximately 2,100 square feet in size, and a cellular phone tower. The undeveloped site along Ridgewood Avenue is approximately 0.58 acres in size.
3. **Zoning History:** The subject site was initially zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential) when zoning was adopted by Chatham County in 1962. The site was rezoned from an R-1 zoning classification to its present R-1/EO classification in conjunction with the adoption of the Southeast Chatham County Community Plan on April 11, 2003 (MPC File Number Z-030128-87600-1). There have not been any other rezonings within the immediate vicinity within the last 25 years with the exception of 2235-A Norwood Avenue from P-DN to R-1 on October 6, 1995 (MPC File Number Z-95-10987-1) and 2109 Norwood Avenue from N-B to P-B-C on December 18, 1990 (MPC File Number Z-90-9537-C).
4. **Existing Land Use Pattern:** The subject site is located within an area that consists of primarily residential uses with the exception of the fire department facilities on the subject site, a cabinet company at 2235 Norwood Avenue (former Byrd's Cooke site), and commercial uses on both sides of Norwood Avenue near Skidaway Road.

The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Zoning</u>
North	Single Family Residential	R-1/EO
	Undeveloped Parcel	R-1/EO

South	Ridgewood Avenue	
	Undeveloped Parcel	R-1/TC [1]
	Single Family Residential	R-1/TC
	Single Family Residential	R-1/EO
East	Undeveloped Parcel	R-1/EO
	Unopened 40 Foot Road R/W	
West	Single Family Residential	R-1/EO
	Norwood Avenue	
	Shopping Center	P-B-N/TC [2]

[1] R-1/TC - Single Family Residential/Town Center

[2] P-B-N/TC Planned Neighborhood Business/Town Center

5. **Existing R-1/EO Zoning District:**

- a. **Intent of the R-1 District:** The purpose of this district shall be to create an environment in which one-family dwellings, and certain non-dwelling uses, are permitted in order to promote stability and character of low-density residential development with adequate open space. A maximum density of five dwelling units per acre of net residential land area shall be permitted in this district.
- b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the R-1 district appear in the attached chart (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
- c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the R-1 district appear in the attached table (Table 1) (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
- d. **EO (Environmental Overlay):** The uses permitted in the EO overlay district shall be the same as the uses permitted in the underlying districts.

6. **Proposed B-N/EO Zoning District:**

- a. **Intent of the BN District:** The purpose of this district is to provide convenient shopping facilities consisting of convenience goods and personal services in neighborhood market areas from three thousand to five thousand people.
- b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the BN district appear in the attached chart (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
- c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the BN district appear in the attached table (Table 1) (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
- d. **EO (Environmental Overlay):** The uses permitted in the EO overlay district shall be the same as the uses permitted in the underlying districts.

7. The Chatham County-Savannah Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property as Civic Institutional. Approval of the requested zoning map amendment would not be consistent with the Future Land Use Map.

8. **Public Services and Facilities:** The property is served by the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, City of Savannah fire protection, the Savannah sewer system, and by the Chatham County water system.

9. **Chatham Area Transit:** The property is also served by the Chatham Area Transit System, route number 31, Skidaway/Sandfly/Oglethorpe Mall. The nearest bus stop is located at Skidaway Road and Norwood Avenue.

10. **Transportation Network:** The property is accessed by Norwood Road, an existing paved public street with a 60 right-of-way. Norwood Avenue is classified as a secondary arterial roadway. The 2011 Average Daily Traffic count for Norwood Avenue between Skidaway Road and LaRoche Avenue with 4,630 vehicles. The property is also accessed by Central Avenue, an existing unpaved public street with a varied right-of-way width. Central Avenue is a semi-open street classified as a minor street and there are no existing traffic counts. The requested rezoning, if approved, would not significantly change or adversely impact the traffic pattern on Norwood Avenue. However, the traffic pattern on Central Avenue could be adversely impacted if the site identified as 2123 Ridgewood Road is rezoned.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

1. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would create traffic volumes, noise level, odor, airborne particulate matter, visual blight, reduce light or increased density of development that would adversely impact the livability or quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood?

Yes                      No        X   (Norwood Avenue)  
 Yes        X        No      (Ridgewood Avenue)

2. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would adversely impact adjacent and nearby properties by rendering such properties less desirable and therefore less marketable for the type of development permitted under the current zoning?

Yes                      No        X   (Norwood Avenue)  
 Yes        X        No      (Ridgewood Avenue)

3. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate a type or mix of vehicular traffic on a street or highway that is incompatible with the type of land use development along such street or highway?

Yes                      No        X   (Norwood Avenue)  
 Yes        X        No      (Ridgewood Avenue)

4. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate greater traffic volumes at vehicular access points and cross streets than is generated by uses permitted under the current zoning district to the detriment of maintaining acceptable or current volume capacity (V/C) ratio for the streets that provide vehicular access to the proposed zoning district and adjacent and nearby properties.

Yes                      No        X  

5. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would require a greater level of public services such as drainage facilities, utilities, or safety services above that required for uses permitted under the current zoning district such that the provision of these services will create financial burden to the public?

Yes                      No        X  

6. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would adversely impact the improvement or development of adjacent and nearby properties in accordance with existing zoning regulations and development controls deemed necessary to maintain the stability and livability of the surrounding neighborhood?

Yes                      No        X   (Norwood Avenue)  
 Yes        X        No      (Ridgewood Avenue)

7. Will the proposed zoning district permit development that is inconsistent with the comprehensive land use plan?

Yes                      No        X

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the petitioner's request to rezone the subject site from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification.
2. Deny the petitioner's request.
3. Approve an alternative recommendation.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The subject site is identified as Civic Institutional on the Chatham County Savannah Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map based on the assumption that the Southside Fire Department facility including the headquarters would remain at the subject site for an indefinite period of time. Because the parcel along Norwood Avenue has significant improvements, it is unlikely that the improvements could be adapted to accommodate a low density residential use. The use directly across Norwood Avenue from the subject site is a retail shopping center which further affects the site in terms of a use other than non-residential uses.

The re-use of the existing facilities located at 2225 Norwood Avenue could be implemented without further impacting the surrounding residential uses provided the uses of no greater in intensity than the previous uses. However, the vacant parcel south of the developed site more directly impacts the single family residences in close proximity to the subject site. Because of this, the vacant parcel should not be rezoned or developed with a non-residential use.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Planning Commission recommends **Denial** of the request to rezone the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification; and **Approval** of the request to rezone the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification.

PREPARED BY: Gary Plumbley, Director  
Development Services

JUNE 25, 2013

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

*"Planning the Future – Respecting the Past"*

----- M E M O R A N D U M -----

DATE: JUNE 25, 2013

TO: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION

FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MPC RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**

Shoshanna Walker, Petitioner  
2225 Norwood Avenue & 2123 Ridgewood Avenue  
File No. Z-130605-00042-1

**MPC ACTION:**

**Denial** of the request to rezone the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification; and **Approval** of the request to rezone the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification

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**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Denial** of the request to rezone the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification; and **Approval** of the request to rezone the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from an R-1/EO classification to a B-N/EO classification

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 8 + Chairman

Adam Ragsdale, Chairman  
Ellis Cook, Secretary  
Stephen Lufburrow  
Lacy Manigault  
Joseph Welch

Shedrick Coleman, Vice Chairman  
James Blackburn, Jr.  
Timothy Mackey  
Murray Marshall

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

**\*ABSENT OR**  
**\*\*FAILING TO VOTE**

Adam Ragsdale  
Shedrick Coleman  
Ellis Cook  
James Blackburn, Jr.  
Stephen Lufburrow  
Lacy Manigault  
Murray Marshall  
Joseph Welch  
Timothy Mackey

None

\*Russ Abolt  
\*Tanya Milton  
\*Susan Myers  
\*Ben Farmer  
\*Stephanie Cutter

**FOR APPROVAL:**   9  

**FOR DENIAL:**   0  

**ABSTAINING:**   0  

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
Executive Director

=====

3. THE PETITIONER IS REQUESTING THAT THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY (2225 NORWOOD AVENUE AND 2123 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE) BE CHANGED FROM CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL TO COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS DENIAL OF THE REQUEST OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE TRI-CENTENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO CHANGE THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 2123 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE (PIN 1-0377-12-002) FROM CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL TO COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATE CATEGORY OF RESIDENTIAL - SUBURBAN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. STAFF FURTHER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTING TO CHANGE THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY OF

**THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 2225 NORWOOD AVENUE (PIN 1-0377-11-002B) FROM CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL TO COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-130610-00043-1  
[DISTRICT 1.]**

Chairman Scott said, item three on the agenda. The petitioner is requesting that future land use of category for the subject property at 2225 Norwood Avenue and 2123 Ridgewood Avenue be changed from civic/institutional to commercial neighborhood. The Planning Commission recommends denial of the request and amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map to change the Future Land Use category of the property identified at 2123 Ridgewood, PIN 1-0377-12-002 from civic/institutional to commercial neighborhood and approve of an alternative category of residential-suburban single family residence. Staff further recommends approval of the request to change the Future Land Use category of the property identified at 2225 Norwood Avenue, PIN 1-0377-11-002B from civic/institutional to commercial neighborhood. This is on MPC File Number Z as in zebra -130610-00043-1, District 1.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, before I entertain a motion, I recognize staff from the MPC for further explanation.

Mr. Lotson said, yes, sir, this is a -- essentially a -- necessary in conjunction with the rezoning to change the Future Land Use designation of the Norwood property to accommodate a business and to maintain -- or to revert the rear property back to residential in terms of a land use designation.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Anybody have a question of staff? Hearing none, thank you so much.

Mr. Lotson said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, I will now entertain a motion.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I make a motion to approve the MPC staff recommendation.

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Scott said, that's not a -- a proper motion.

Commissioner Center said, put it on the calendar and approve.

Commissioner Stone said, to put it -- I'm sorry, then --

Chairman Scott said, I would -- I would entertain a motion to place on the calendar and --

County Attorney Hart said, motion to adopt item 3 as stated.

Commissioner Stone said, excuse me.

County Attorney Hart said, the motion to adopt item 3 --

Commissioner Stone said, right.

County Attorney Hart said, -- as stated in the staff report would be a good motion.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. As -- as stated.

Chairman Scott said, yeah, and -- first I want a motion to place on the calendar and adopt the recommendation in the staff report.

Commissioner Stone said, okay, then I make a motion to place it on the calendar and adopt the staff report.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion is adopted.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to add to the calendar and adopt item 3, denial of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use map to change the Future Land Use category of the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue (PIN 1-0377-12-002) from civic/institutional to commercial neighborhood and approval of an alternate category of residential - suburban single family residential and approval of the request to change the Future Land Use category of the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue (PIN 1-0377-11-002B) from civic/institutional to commercial neighborhood. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-3~~**

**AGENDA DATE: ~~July 26, 2013~~**

**AGENDA ITEM: **XII-3****

**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

110 EAST STATE STREET PO BOX 8246 SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31412-8246 PHONE 912-651-1440 FACSIMILE 912-651-1480

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

**FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

The petitioner is requesting that the Future Land Use Category for the subject property (2225 Norwood Avenue and 2123 Ridgewood Avenue) be changed from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood.

**The Planning Commission recommends denial** of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue (PIN 1-0377-12-002) from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood and **approval** of an alternate category of Residential - Suburban Single Family Residential. Staff further recommends **approval** of the request to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue (PIN 1-0377-11-002B) from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood.

**File No. Z-130610-00043-1**

The subject property is presently two separate parcels. The parcel along Norwood Avenue was formerly used as the headquarters for a privately owned fire department. Also, the development was the dispatch call center, and EMS substation and training facility, and a maintenance and repair facility for Southside Fire Department vehicles. The parcel along Ridgewood Avenue is undeveloped and is separated from the Norwood parcel by an unopened road right-of-way. For this reason, staff is recommending an alternate Future Land Use category of Residential-Suburban Single Family be approved.

1. **Describe how the proposed amendment is consistent with the overall intent of the Comprehensive Plan.** The following are the policies for future development as listed in the Comprehensive Plan. With each is a statement as to how the proposed future land use change does or does not comply with the policy.

**Proposed Development Category (Land Use):** Commercial-Neighborhood for the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue and Residential-Suburban Single-Family for the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue.

- a. **Appropriate Land Uses:**

Commercial-Neighborhood -- Strip business districts that are within or adjacent to predominately residential areas. Commercial neighborhood areas should blend auto-oriented development characteristics with characteristics of pedestrian-friendly developments.

Residential-Suburban Single-Family -- Areas that are reserved for uniform single family detached residential dwellings.

**b. Characteristics to Encourage:**

Commercial Neighborhood -- Development to be at a scale and intensity that is compatible with adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Residential - Suburban Single Family -- The integration of development into surrounding areas through a grid road system or other multiple access design to promote connectivity and reduce traffic congestion.

The parcel at 2123 Ridgewood Avenue is undeveloped and is separated from the developed parcel by an unopened road right-of-way. The vacant parcel should be developed as a residential use consistent with the adjacent residential properties.

**c. Characteristics to Discourage:**

Commercial Neighborhood -- Intensive forms of commercial development which are not compatible with adjacent residential uses.

Residential -- Suburban Single Family -- Non-residential uses within these areas with the exception of certain compatible institutional uses such as schools and churches.

**Discussion Number 1**

The development of a use which would not be in keeping with the existing character of the immediate area should be discouraged. The proposed adaption of the existing facilities at 2225 Norwood Avenue to accommodate a small retail facility, office, training, and limited manufacturing would not impact the adjacent residential uses more than the existing non-residential uses.

However, developing the vacant lot located at 2123 Ridgewood Avenue in accordance with either the existing Civic/Institutional or proposed Commercial-Neighborhood land use category could be detrimental to the adjoining properties. A more appropriate land use category would be Residential-Suburban Single-Family.

**2. What specific goals and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan will the proposed amendment address?**

Section 5.2 Land Use

Goal G: Reduce automobile dependence and associated congestion and pollution by providing a broad range of land development options.

Strategy b: Require or incentivize efficient vehicular access and road linkages for and between new developments.

Section 5.3 Economic Development

Goal A: Foster a positive environment that provides opportunities for all businesses.

Goal G: Work toward becoming a community with economically vibrant safe neighborhoods and commercial centers.

Strategy: Identify buildings that were designed for commercial use and ensure that the zoning does not prohibit commercial activity that is compatible with the surrounding uses.

**Discussion Number 2**

Incorporating both economic growth and compatible development in an existing neighborhood are key to maintaining the long term viability of the general area in accordance with the desires and goals of the community.

**3. Will the amendment alter the land use pattern in the surrounding area? How?**

The proposed Commercial-Neighborhood future land use category for the site along Norwood Avenue will alter the land use pattern in the immediate surrounding area because the current category does not include retail.

The proposed Commercial-Neighborhood future land use category, as proposed by the petitioner, for the site along Ridgewood Avenue will alter the land use pattern in the immediate surrounding area because the property is vacant and surrounded on 3 sides by single-family detached development. The Residential-Suburban Single Family future land use category proposed by staff is more compatible with the developed character of the area than the category proposed by the petitioner and even the existing Civic/Institutional category.

**Discussion Number 3**

The limited size of the proposed retail operation and its close proximity to an existing retail center will minimize any negative impact to the surrounding area. Changing the land use category of the vacant parcel along Ridgewood Avenue to the category proposed by staff will promote single family residential development consistent with the adjacent residential properties.

**4. How does the amendment benefit the entire community?**

**Discussion Number 4**

The amendment of the land use category for the property along Norwood Avenue to Commercial-Neighborhood benefits the entire community by allowing existing improvements on a site to be adapted to uses that will aid in the economic viability of the general area.

Staff believes the land use category for the vacant site at 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from Civic/Institutional to Residential-Suburban Single Family encourages the development of uses consistent with the predominately residential area.

**5. If the amendment requires a greater expenditure of public funds for improvements to roads and utilities how will the public benefit directly from such expenditures?**

Not applicable.

**6. How will the amendment contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment?**

Not applicable.

**7. How will the amendment contribute to the preservation and enhancement of historic and cultural resources?**

There are no known historic or cultural resources onsite.

**8. How will the amendment contribute to the economic development of the community?**

**Discussion Number 8**

The amendment of the land use category of the site along Norwood Avenue to Commercial-Neighborhood will enhance the economic viability of the community by eliminating a vacant non-productive development and creating uses that will enhance the area as well as provide potential employment opportunities.

The amendment of the land use category of the vacant site along Ridgewood Avenue to Residential-Suburban Single-Family will provide housing opportunities to enhance and complement the existing residential area.

9. How will the amendment contribute to the health and safety of the community?

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning Commission recommends **denial** of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue (PIN 1-0377-12-002) from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood and **approval** of an alternate category of Residential - Suburban Single Family Residential. Staff further recommends **approval** of the request to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue (PIN 1-0377011-002B) from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood.

PREPARED BY: Gary Plumbley, Director  
Development Services

JUNE 25, 2013

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

*"Planning the Future – Respecting the Past"*

----- M E M O R A N D U M -----

DATE: JUNE 25, 2013  
TO: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION  
FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
SUBJECT: MPC RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**

Shoshanna Walker, Petitioner  
2225 Norwood Avenue & 2123 Ridgewood Avenue  
File No. Z-130605-00042-1

**MPC ACTION:**

**Denial** of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from Civic/institutional to Commercial Neighborhood and **approval** of an alternate category of Residential Suburban Single Family Residential and further recommendation of **approval** of the request to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Denial** of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2123 Ridgewood Avenue from Civic/institutional to Commercial Neighborhood and **approval** of an alternate category of Residential Suburban Single Family Residential and further recommendation of

approval of the request to change the future land use category of the property identified as 2225 Norwood Avenue from Civic/Institutional to Commercial Neighborhood

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 8 + Chairman

Adam Ragsdale, Chairman  
Ellis Cook, Secretary  
James Blackburn, Jr.  
Timothy Mackey

Shedrick Coleman, Vice Chairman  
Lacy Manigault, Treasurer  
Stephen Lufburrow  
Joseph Welch

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

**\*ABSENT OR FAILING TO VOTE**

Adam Ragsdale  
Shedrick Coleman  
Ellis Cook  
James Blackburn, Jr.  
Stephen Lufburrow  
Lacy Manigault  
Murray Marshall  
Joseph Welch  
Timothy Mackey

None

\*Russ Abolt  
\*Tanya Milton  
\*Susan Myers  
\*Ben Farmer  
\*Stephanie Cutter

**FOR APPROVAL:** 9

**FOR DENIAL:** 0

**ABSTAINING:** 0

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
Executive Director

=====

**4. A REVISED ORDINANCE REGULATING THE DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF CHATHAM COUNTY (AMEND AND REPEAL SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 21, ENTITLED "HEALTH, SAFETY AND SANITATION," ARTICLE II, §§ 21-203, 21-204 AND 21-205).**

Chairman Scott said, and the Second Reader, Item 4, a revised ordinance regulating the discharge of weapons in the unincorporated area of Chatham County. Amend and repeal section of Chapter 21 entitled Health and Safety and Sanitation, Article II, 21-203, 21-204, and 21-205. At this time I will recognize the Commissioner from the Seventh District, Commissioner Kicklighter and then from staff I will ask the County Attorney for further explanation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess all I can say about this thing is wow. My intent is nowhere near the legal ramifications I guess of changes that has to take place. The intent of this was very simple. I mean really simple, just not wanting someone to stand a few feet away from somebody's back door shooting a gun period. That's intent. Okay. Our very diligent attorney took a look at it -- at the ordinance, and we have many things in there that's so outdated that -- that can't be enforced, so rightfully he recommended striking areas about -- because there's federal and state laws that are, you know, makes those areas obsolete. Okay, that just kind of clouds -- clouds things right there, right off the bat. All I would like to change period out of this entire thing, the staff report inside our agenda, I am actually I believe holding a newer report that may have been created last night that -- that I got from --

County Attorney Hart said, yesterday morning.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yesterday morning, and it wasn't in my mail last night, so I got this from Commissioner Farrell a little while ago. But based off of the existing ordinance that we currently have, the only thing to keep it very simple that I'd like to change at this moment in time, leave it exactly like it is. I mean just everything in there. We can tackle getting rid of items that can't be enforced at a later date, is under the section

21-204 under number three, currently the ordinance allows no birdshot within 250 feet of a dwelling without owner's permission. Change that to read 300 feet. That's it. Under (b) under that same section for -- for amendment two to what it is now, amend to add -- amend (d) to read within an existing gun club or quail hunting facility so established and operating at the time of the amendment of this ordinance. Because of that one change from 250 feet to 300 feet, it's necessary, in my opinion to, not only add the word to protect the gun clubs and existing -- but also protect the current quail hunting facilities. Two simple changes. Every other thing stays exactly as is, and again, we can tackle it as -- to not be -- this is me not, you know, I'm not wanting to recreate the wheel, I just don't want somebody standing at someone's backdoor of their home shooting a gun. We can at another date and time if -- if there's other issues from other Commissioners that they want to make tougher, weaker, whatever, have at it. But right now, we can accomplish all of my intentions by simply changing it from 250 feet to 300 feet if they're sitting there with birdshot in their shotgun, and that's -- that's simply all I would ask at this time, and then if there's other parts that people want to try to make tougher or they want to be weaker, bring it on then, but mine's just a very simple request.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter, for a point of clarification, I -- I clearly understand what you're trying to accomplish, but when -- if we make the changes that you suggest, it will accomplish what you want, but it will also bring into question other issues, and -- and so if you don't want to approve what counsel is going to explain, we will probably need to recognize a motion or entertain a motion to postpone until the next meeting. And the reason I say that for instance, my -- my phone has been just jumping off the hook with text messages and emails concerning well if you just move it to 300 feet, you're going to take into a non-profit organization that have a quail hunting is within that 300 feet, so they could no longer have their quail hunt, and so --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's why I -- that was in my amendment. To --

Chairman Scott said, yeah. And so --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- to exclude --

Chairman Scott said, -- and so you have --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- make sure that's excluded, which I thought it was to start with.

Chairman Scott said, and so you have to have those exemptions and all that, and -- and I think that once -- once we hear from counsel, I think that -- that he's trying to accomplish what you're doing in a legal framework.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that -- that would be --

Chairman Scott said, what you're requesting.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that would be wonderful, Mr. Chairman. Again, I did not want to recreate the wheel.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. And --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I am fine with a denial at this point, and him bring it back at another time with that one little change and make it two by making sure that any current existing facilities have their -- maintain their right for the highest and best use, their hunting rights, and, you know, again, I can't even imagine what's in the health care bill, because this was the intent of one tiny change.

Commissioner Center said, Mr. -- Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, let's -- let's afford the County Attorney to explain --

County Attorney Hart said, sure.

Chairman Scott said, -- what he -- what he has laid out here.

County Attorney Hart said, all right. This -- Commissioner Kicklighter is right. He -- he started out with one change, and when we got back and looked at our old ordinance it -- it was three, or four, five pages long and a lot of the stuff in there was just outdated, antiquated and inconsistent with each other. So we started out trying to simplify it, but when we did that we said, well, gee, we need to think about enforcement for police officers if they have to enforce it because there's going to be complaint-driven enforcement. It's very difficult to go out

with the measuring tape every time somebody shoots something and -- and do that, but you got to have things that can be objective. So, we went back and looked, and we basically said you can't discharge a gun or a pistol. A weapon can only be discharged where it's expressly permitted in the zoning ordinance, and the reason for that is -- is there are provisions in the zoning ordinance that we need to recognize and not trump. Within an indoor shooting range, that really didn't provide a hazard, and we have had people apply twice to do the indoor shooting range, and then have decided to go elsewhere across the river and set it up over there, and then state law requires an authorized safety-controlled firing range or sports shooting range, and I wanted to take an exception to that because I didn't want to be inconsistent with state law. So we took an exception to that.

County Attorney Hart said, then we had concerns about the gun club that's been out in that location since Methuselah, and people have moved into that area, and if they complain about noise, to some extent, they're coming to the alleged nuisance, and I don't see that as a nuisance. So, we wanted to protect them, and then it came to our attention that Bethesda has a small quail hunting facility that's well within their property lines and very secure, so we decided to exempt both the existing gun club and both of the -- the quail hunting facility in that both of them are clearly outside the boundaries of -- of our most restrictive measure. At one point in time we had 1500 feet in our ordinance, and that was back when it was written when we were a very rural population in the unincorporated county, and after much discussion and talking around, we thought that 900 feet would be a good -- from a occupied dwelling would be a good rationale to place in the ordinance as to pistols and as to guns. Insofar as shotguns, you know, you can get into situations in which you got birdshots, you got something else and -- and so we figured 300 feet, which is about a football field. If one of you stood at the -- one end zone and the other one stood at the other and you shot right at each other, you probably couldn't do a lot of damage. You might sting through your clothes. So we felt that that was important, and then we've put some exceptions in there for somebody who is hunting with the parameters of the ordinance and shoots an animal, for example, and the -- the animal is wounded and moves, well we certainly want them to be able to track them and put the animal out of it's misery, so we made an exception to that.

County Attorney Hart said, so, that is basically all we're doing is trying to come up with out of this five pages that we had written, something that everybody could agree upon for the most part. Now you can play around with distances but the greater the distances you make, basically you're -- you're just shrinking the footprint of -- of discharge. Now there is one other provision that we put at the top part that says a person can use a weapon in self defense or any other purpose permitted under the Georgia law, and that -- that was just common sense. So that's kind of where we ended up with this thing. We'll do whatever you -- you -- you folks want to do. I think it protects the interest of -- of the people who have their concerns and expressed them to the Chairman, and I know Commissioner Farrell and myself, and at the same time I think it -- it gives us something as a measuring stick where we -- we're not in doubt whether we ought to enforce or not to enforce something.

Chairman Scott said, I have Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you. Question, Mr. Hart. If we table this for two weeks, since it's on a Second Reading, can we make amendments to it and then come back and vote on it or do we have to vote on it like it is?

County Attorney Hart said, well, if you table it, we can do whatever you -- you finally decide to do or we can vote on it as is or you can vote on it with instructions to me to change some -- some minor part, which we acknowledge on the record. This has been around the block with a whole lot of public comments, and I think we've tried to strike a balance here, you know, between people wanting to exercise their right to have a weapon on their property and within the confines of their property, and at the same time protecting, you know, the public right of ways and your next door neighbor, and at the same time providing for future uses that we think may potentially come up that are -- that are very regulated, and then those folks that have been in that business to kind of grandfather them in, and -- and both of those facilities, you know, the -- the gun club for example meets all the national standards and is a safe, safe, safe facility, and likewise for Bethesda. So I -- I really don't have any heartburn with that.

Commissioner Center said, also, can we accomplish all those goals that you listed with the exemptions and the -- and the footage requirements without making any change at all to Section 21-203?

County Attorney Hart said, I would not recommend that. 21-203 sets up a very cumbersome procedure for trying to regulate gun sales, which is probably not a lot -- permitted as written for anybody that has a -- a -- a gun permit, plus there's no way to regulate it. We're assigning duties to people who have no authority of enforcement, such as the Probate Court, and we're asking for people to file certificates, which quite simply they're not required as a matter of law, and I don't think they'll comply with it. So what we tried to do was stream line that language and if, you know, you've got federal legislation, you've got state legislation, and it's difficult

enough to try and interpret that, much less a -- a requirement of having to track guns down that you've sold and the waiting period on a bill of sale and having to get it signed off by this and get it licensed through the county when we don't even have a licensing procedure. So if you went out there and said, let me do this, everybody would look at each other and say we've never done one of these before. So it seemed to me like it made absolutely no sense to provide for regulations that we had no way of enforcing nor did we have anybody that could grant the permit for somebody asking. So that's why we deleted that.

Commissioner Center said, yeah. Yeah. I -- I understand that. You're -- you would not recommend it, but my question was, could we adopt all those space requirements and discharge requirements that you talked about without making any change to 21-203?

County Attorney Hart said, yes, you could.

Commissioner Center said, but you don't recommend it.

County Attorney Hart said, I -- I strongly do not recommend that.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, I -- I just have a question for Commissioner Kicklighter since you brought this forward. Has this -- has this been an issue? People firing weapons in the unincorporated area in the Seventh District?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's been brought to my attention that possibly a shot or two has been fired at a closer range than a resident was comfortable with, and again, no intent to reinvent the wheel, but here we go.

Commissioner Brady said, well, I mean, and -- and -- and that's, my concern, I mean, when you start -- you know, if -- if -- if it's an issue and people are out there just firing up the unincorporated area then sure, let's -- let's start looking at the ordinance, and I'm always supportive of my colleague here, 99 percent of the time, but I just, you know, I'm -- I'm having real issues I think, you know, we've -- we've allowed government and this is just my philosophy to -- to come into -- to our homes and tell us what we can and we cannot do, and when you start addressing, you know, what somebody's right to do on their property. I mean, obviously I don't want anybody, you know, walking out their back door and shooting up in the air or anything like that, but -- but I -- I don't see it as -- as an issue for the county to be addressing at this time, and -- that -- that -- that's just me.

Chairman Scott said, is there anyone in the audience who wanted to make any statements on this issue before I entertain a motion? Please state your name. If you represent an organization, please state the organization, and please give your address.

Mr. David Tribble said, okay. My name is David Tribble. I'm the President of Bethesda Academy, 9520 Ferguson Avenue here in Savannah. I simply wanted to be here to offer our -- our concerns regarding any changes to the ordinance that would affect our ability to have our quail preserve continue to operate. We are a privately funded school. We use our property, including our garden, our video production, our wildlife preserve, our maintenance department, weddings, conferences, and so on and do forth a lot of you have participated in that raises about \$330,000 of -- of scholarship money for our students to attend our school, and we have some very, very fine members of our preserve. Some of the most solid people in Chatham County who go to guided hunts. Every hunt is guided. We do everything by the book. We're insured. We've -- we've -- we've dotted all the I's and crossed all the T's, and so I just wanted to make sure that you were aware of that. That we certainly do not want to have our ability mitigated as we get ready for our hunting season, which is just around the corner. So, be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

County Attorney Hart said, for the record, this ordinance does -- it expressly exempts quail hunting facilities, and -- and -- and the whole reason that language is in there is for Bethesda.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. We -- we did make that exemption.

Mr. Tribble said, thank you. I just wanted to make sure I was on the record. That's all. No questions? Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Brady said, is that all they shoot? Is that all you shoot out there is quail?

Mr. Tribble said, well, we've tried to have a few tower shoots with pheasants. We haven't been able to pull that one off yet, but that's it.

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, I'd be glad to add pheasants.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, anything that flies would be sufficient.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, other than -- yeah.

County Attorney Hart said, except bald eagles.

Commissioner Brady said, other than --

Mr. Tribble said, we -- we are trying to also add some dove shoots in September, and --

Commissioner Stone said, put dove on the list.

Mr. Tribble said, -- with a 60-acre lake, there's going to be some opportunities for duck as well. We're starting to have a lot of duck migrate into our lake. Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Mr. Chair?

Chairman Scott said, if -- if there's no question of counsel, I'm going to reluctantly recognize the Commissioner from the Seventh District for the purpose of a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I just -- I want to state that the intent was to simply change it from 250 feet away from a dwelling to 300 feet. I would recommend that we work on this a little bit more before we approve anything, and I would ask the attorney in an effort to protect others like Bethesda that we might not know of right now, to add in the wording on (e) of the new paper I have, add in there, within an existing gun club or quail hunting facility, or a Georgia DNR sanctioned and permitted bird hunting enterprise.

County Attorney Hart said, well, I can add --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that will protect if there's another one out there that has been sanctioned.

Chairman Scott said, let's -- let's not dictate the language. Just give him an outline if you will.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I mean, do -- does it cover all bird --

County Attorney Hart said, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- if -- if -- if --

County Attorney Hart said, it covers the DNR --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if someone out there has a permitted Georgia DNR permit, are we covering them?

County Attorney Hart said, if you got a Georgia DNR permit, we can't go in and tell them they can't do what they got under a state permit.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

County Attorney Hart said, we can't trump a state permit. So.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, well, good, so then they were safe to start with as I thought.

County Attorney Hart said, I added this language out of an abundance of caution --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, to make sure. But -- but -- good. Okay. That's why I thought you were protected at first. So.

County Attorney Hart said, -- after discussing this with the president of the -- of -- of -- both organizations.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, see, Mr. Chairman, that's my former high school football coach out there, and he really intimidates me still, so, you know, I need -- I'm trying to get this thing right here. So. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make a motion to -- would -- would you like tabled for two weeks?

Commissioner Thomas said, no.

Chairman Scott said, to postpone until --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, to postpone until a later date.

Chairman Scott said, to postpone until the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

County Attorney Hart said, we can do that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and as stated by the Chairman, I make that motion.

Commissioner Center said, I second that.

Commissioner Farrell said, third.

Chairman Scott said, hearing the motion, properly second, any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Okay.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to postpone the item, a revised ordinance regulating the discharge of weapons in the unincorporated area of Chatham County. Amend and repeal section of Chapter 21 entitled Health and Safety and Sanitation, Article II, 21-203, 21-204, and 21-205, until the August 23, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shabazz was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-4~~**

**AGENDA DATE: ~~July 26, 2013~~**

**AGENDA ITEM: **XII-4****

**AGENDA DATE: **August 9, 2013****

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

#### **ISSUE:**

Approval of revised Ordinance on the Discharge of Weapons

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Request Board approval of a revised ordinance regulating the discharge of weapons in the unincorporated area of the county.

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

The attached proposed ordinance would eliminate the current regulation of the purchases of firearms as that activity is regulated by other governmental agencies to include both local and federal law



~~had reasonable cause to believe the applicant is unqualified to acquire such a weapon. A crime of violence, as used in this section, shall be taken to mean murder, manslaughter, rape, mayhem, kidnapping, burglary, robbery by force, aggravated assault, and aggravated battery.~~

~~5. This Section shall not be construed to apply to toy pistols, toy revolvers, or toy weapons of any kind, or antique souvenir weapons used only for display or decorative purposes.~~

~~6. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Section shall upon conviction before an appropriate court having jurisdiction thereof, be fined not less than one (\$1.00) dollar nor more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, or imprisoned for a term not exceeding thirty (30) days, either or both, in the discretion of the court trying such person. (#323a, 10/10/69)~~

Section 21-204 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following language is substituted in lieu thereof:

**§21-204 Discharge of Firearms or Explosives.** A person is guilty of a violation of this Ordinance when, without legal justification, he or she discharges the following firearms or explosives under the following circumstances:

~~1. Discharge of center fire rifles and pistols and shotguns with slugs within 1,500 feet of a dwelling without the permission of the inhabitant;~~

~~2. Discharge of rim fire rifles and pistols and shotguns with buckshot within 300 feet of a public highway, road or street, or within 1,000 feet of a dwelling without the permission of the inhabitant;~~

~~3. Discharge of shotguns with birdshot within 150 feet of a public highway, road or street, or within 250 feet of a dwelling without the permission of the inhabitant.~~

~~4. Nothing herein shall apply to nor be construed to apply to an authorized safely controlled firing range or other authorized activity. (Amended October 20, 1989)~~

§21-204 Discharge of Weapons.

Except as otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any explosive, pistol, handgun, gun, other weapon or instrument likely to produce injury or harm to property or persons, within in the unincorporated area of the count except:

- (A) where expressly permitted under the zoning ordinance;
- (B) within an indoor shooting range;
- (c) within an authorized, safety-controlled firing range or such other outdoor facility that has been deemed a sport shooting range under state law;
- (D) within an existing gun club so established and operating at the time of the amendment of this ordinance;
- (E) an owner of property, his guest or his invitees, who without charge or other payment to discharge upon owner's property a weapon such that the entirety of the event is within the boundaries of the owner's property and 900 feet away from all contiguous property lines and public or private right of ways.

Section 21-205 is hereby deleted in its entirety.

~~§21-205 Shooting Matches.~~

~~1. Except as otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to conduct any activity providing for the discharge of any explosive, pistol, gun or other weapon or instrument likely to produce injury, without a license. (11/20/81, Sec. 1) (Amended April 30, 1993)~~

~~2. Licenses issued pursuant to this Article shall be valid provided the following regulations are adhered to:~~

~~a. The shooting activity shall be held on an authorized, safely controlled firing range. (Amended April 30, 1993)~~

~~b. No alcohol shall be sold or consumed within fifty (50) feet of the area.~~

~~c. The shooting area cannot be located less than one hundred fifty (150) feet from the nearest public highway, street or residential dwelling or adjacent places of business.~~

~~d. Shooting activity shall not be performed except between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10 p.m. No such activity shall be performed on Sunday except at an approved gun club range which is supervised by representatives of a local, state, or national gun club. (Amended April 30, 1993)~~

~~e. The targets shall be placed in front of barriers capable of stopping the projectiles being fired at the target. The barrier shall extend from a point not less than three (3) feet higher than the top of the target's highest elevation and shall encompass the entire outer perimeter of the target area by at least a minimum of five (5) feet. (11/20/81, Sec. 2)~~

~~3. No such license shall be issued until the physical arrangements have been completed and approval has been given after actual inspection by the Chief of the Chatham County Police department who shall make or cause to be made an on-site inspection. (11/20/81, Sec. 3)~~

~~4. If any portion or section of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid, it shall not affect the remaining sections which shall be deemed valid. (11/20/81, Sec. 4)~~

~~5. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. (11/20/81, Sec. 5)~~

~~6. This Ordinance shall be deemed effective on the 20th day of November, 1981. (11/20/81, Sec. 6)~~

These amendments to Chapter 21, Article II, §§ 203, 204 and 205 of the Code of Chatham County were adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Janice Bocook  
Clerk of Commission

SEAL

=====

**XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairman Scott said, you have a number of informational items for you to review.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

=====

**2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (See Attached.)**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2**

**AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2013**

List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$9,999  
That Do Not Require Board Approval

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Water level transducer repairs to Pipemakers Canal sluice gate	Public Works and Park Services	Siemens Industry, Inc.	\$3,089	SSD-Public Works
HVAC compressor replacement	Detention Center	Boaen Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	\$2,695	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Purchase and installation of three (3) door sensor bars	I.C.S.	SFI Electronics, Inc.	\$3,052	2005 DSA Bond Fund-South Annex
Eight (8) road maintenance metal plates	Public Works and Park Services	Universal Steel Company	\$6,748	SSD-Public Works
Ten (10) conference room chairs	I.C.S.	Office Services	\$2,720	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Mailing of tag renewals for month of August	Tax Commissioner	World Marketing	\$7,374	General Fund/M&O -Tax Commissioner
25 pallets centipede sod	Detention Center	Greenblade Turf & Sod, Inc.	\$3,150	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Two (2) screens for yard waste tub grinder	Public Works and Park Services	Consolidated Disposal Systems, Inc.	\$3,060	Solid Waste Restricted
Exterior waterproof coating at Memorial Stadium	Public Works and Park Services	Industrial Technical Coatings, Inc.	\$7,860	CIP-Parks and Recreation
Mobile compactor repairs	Fleet Operations	Griffin Truck & Equipment, Inc.	\$4,156	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Advertisements for "Hurricane Preparedness"	Special Projects	WRHQ	\$3,500	General Fund/M & O - Public Information
Design and specifications for Frank Spencer Fishing Pier repairs	Public Works and Park Services	Thomas & Hutton Engineering Company	\$7,800	CIP-Parks and Recreation
240 yard waste tub grinder tips	Public Works and Park Services	Grinder Wear Parts, Inc.	\$3,012	Solid Waste Restricted
One (1) VoIP digital telephone system for Detention Center Expansion Project	I.C.S.	Mitel Business Systems, Inc.	\$2,724	CIP-Detention Center Expansion SPLOST project
Idler axle repair on excavator	Mosquito Control	Champion Machine, LLC	\$3,120	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Task chairs and folding tables for Detention Center Expansion Project	Detention Center	Mason's Inc.	\$9,935	CIP-Detention Center Expansion SPLOST project

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Six (6) trimmers, two (2) edgers, three (3) blowers and one (1) chainsaw	Public Works and Park Services	Andy's Lawn Machinery, Inc.	\$3,838	•Parks and Recreation •Reserve for Deductible

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Scott said, I -- we also need to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

County Manager Abolt said, personnel and litigation.

Commissioner Center said, so moved.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second we go into executive session to discuss only two things, legal and personnel matters. Personnel matters will include looking at a limited number of Board appointments. All in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Motion carries.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved to recess to executive session to discuss litigation and personnel. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Thomas did not vote; Commissioner Shabazz was not present for the vote.]

The Board recessed at approximately 11:44 a.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shabazz was not present for the vote.]

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- 2. APPOINTMENTS:  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Motion was made to approve the appointment of Laura Hegstrom to the Board of Assessors to fill the term of Natalie von Lowendfeldt, who resigned from the Board. The term expires June 27, 2016. The motion was seconded and carried in a 7 to 1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Brady,

Kicklighter and Thomas voting yes, and Commissioner Center voting no. [NOTE: Commissioner Shabazz was not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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**APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF AUGUST, 2013.**

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

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