

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015, 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 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2015.

Chairman Scott said, good morning and welcome. I'll ask at this time that y'all be seated. I will ask that once our devotional leader completes his message and indicate it's time for prayer, if you would re-stand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance. We'll be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by James Holmes of the 2nd District.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Scott said, at this time I will recognize the Commissioner from the 3rd District, Commissioner Tony Center, for the purpose of introducing our devotional leader for today.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I specifically asked for this honor because I play golf with Reverend Ben Martin. Let me tell you a little bit first about Wesley Monumental UMC, which is an historic congregation in downtown Savannah right on Calhoun Square. They average over 400 worshipers every Sunday. They have over 1100 members who live both within walking distance and the five-county area encompassing Georgia and South Carolina. This was Savannah's first Methodist Church. It was Wesley Chapel established in 1807. In 1862 Wesley Chapel was closed and it -- it -- it became known as the Trinity Church when it merged with the Trinity Church. In 1866 they established a city mission, and in 1868 Wesley Church was organized to replace the city mission. They began groundbreaking for the building they now have, which people come from around the world to view, in 1875. The cornerstone laying was August 10th of that year. That's my mother's birthday. Not 1875, but August 10th. However, because of financial woes during the period of reconstruction, that's civil war reconstruction, a catastrophe yellow fever epidemic broke out and work proceeded slowly, and it was finally dedicated on May 30 of 1890. It's been a strong member of our -- member of our community for a long, long time.

Commissioner Center said, and now personally about Reverend Ben Martin. He was appointed as senior pastor of Wesley Monumental in June of 2013. He has served for 25 years in the south Georgia conference and most recently as a district superintendent of the Statesboro district and senior Pastor of Springfield United Methodist Church. Before answering his call to vocational ministry, he worked for Georgia Power, so he has worked for our two highest powers. He grew up in Lyons, Georgia. He's a graduate of Mercer University with a BA in economics; Candler School of Theology; and the Erskine Theological Seminary. That's in Minnesota, in 1999. He's been married to Susan Carico Martin for 29 years. They have three daughters, Katie, Katie's husband, Sly Knight; Courtney, and Callie, and let me say this, Ben is an avid sports fan. He enjoys playing golf, cycling, reading, spending time with his family, and we love playing golf with him on the golf course. Everybody has so many nice things to say. Of course he keeps our -- for those of you that have played golf, you know, often you have to reach into words that you would not use in normal conversation to help your golf game, but when you play with Ben, you can't use those words. But he's a -- he's an interesting, intelligent, well-rounded, very liked person. It's a shame he's such a lousy golfer, but it's my honor to introduce Reverend Ben Martin.

Reverend Ben Martin said, Chairman Scott, thank you for the invitation. I'm thankful that you continue to do this. It seems a bit risky to turn preachers loose on a captive audience when you have work to do.

Chairman Scott said, it's just because I recognize we're in need of prayer.

Reverend Martin said, it's a bit nostalgic for me to come here. My grandmother worked in this building when I was a child. I would ride the Greyhound bus to Savannah. She would leave the courthouse and run down to the bus station and pick me up and bring me back here, and I haven't walked through those doors in many, many years. I would walk by here and think one day I'll walk through and remember her. I -- I think we never dreamed when we were here that I would one day be back in a downtown historic church as a pastor or be in this building where she spent many hours speaking to this group, but my guess is some of you who sit here and do this work never dreamed years ago you would end up in this place doing the work that you do.

Reverend Martin said, well, I want to share one verse of scripture with you from the 5th Chapter of Matthew's gospel. Jesus said, see, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Now, my guess is depending on who you ask in a gathering like this, there might be some debate on who are the wolves and who are the sheep, but in a job like you have where everyone wants something from you, and it is impossible to please everyone. Where criticism, I'm sure, flows far more freely

than does praise, I suspect it must feel many days like you are sheep among wolves. Jesus said in light of that, send out to all who believe to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. And it is ironic to me that wisdom seems to be an increasingly rare commodity in a world where knowledge is exploding. Information is no longer the main problem for leadership. Too much information might be the problem these days. You know the old saying he knows just enough to be dangerous. These days I think it might be more like we know more than enough to be dangerous. We know where to get knowledge, but do we know where to find wisdom anymore? Some of the wisest men I know and I've known through my life, never made it passed junior high school. Their's was not a wisdom borne of lots of knowledge given to them through education. Their's was a wisdom born of character, of faith and experience. Solomon wrote that the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge and fools despise wisdom and instruction. The Apostle Paul added to that that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. So being wise as serpents, I think means that there are some timeless, eternal truth that should govern all decision making, and there is a still, small voice that should be heeded, especially in the face of a lot of people that are shouting at you. But also he added, be innocent as doves. I think Jesus reminds us in saying that -- that motive is as important as action when you lead. And humility is an indispensable virtue for leadership. We are so easily self-deceived, and we are masters at convincing ourselves we are doing the right thing but often overlook the influence of our own pride or greed or lust or anger.

Reverend Martin said, there is a little prayer that I think everyone in leadership should pray. It was prayed by a man named David. A man who certainly discovered how power can easily blind you when you lose your way. It's found in the 139th Psalm. It's a bit of a paraphrase but pretty close. Search me oh God and know my heart. Test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any misguided way in me, and lead me in the way of your wisdom. So as you lead, I would pray and encourage you, be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Let us pray together.

Reverend Martin gave the invocation as follows:

Almighty and gracious God, the earth and everything in it belongs to you and you rule over all. You have entrusted responsibility to men and women to govern our life in your world. On this weekend when we remember those who have given their lives that we in your world might know freedom, hope, justice, and possibility. Help us to humbly accept the responsibility entrusted in us and gladly embrace the small sacrifices that leadership demand of us. Bless this County Commission. Give them wisdom and pure hearts to lead us well on your behalf. Amen.

Members of the Commission and Members of the audience collectively said, Amen.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Holmes said, on this day we're celebrating the weekend of Memorial, join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Holmes led all in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Chairman Scott presented Reverend Ben Martin with a Certificate of Appreciation for his devotion and invocation.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Commissioner Shabazz said, pastor? Go ahead.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, may I have some remarks before the Pastor leaves, please.

Chairman Scott said, pastor, you've got some folk want to engage you, so if you would go back to well, I would appreciate it.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to thank you for your words of wisdom.

Commissioner Holmes said, mike. Mike.

Commissioner Thomas said, it was very fitting. I'm sorry. Let me turn my mike on. Let me back up a little bit. I just want to thank you for your words of wisdom this morning. It reflects on our responsibility as leaders. You motivated me even more this morning because when I took my oath of office, I took it to mean that I must be

trustworthy. I must show leadership. And so the 139th Psalms sums it all up, and for you to have brought that to us this morning, I just want to thank you for doing so. Thank you.

Reverend Martin said, thank you. Glad to do it. Thank you for asking.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Shabazz from the 5th District has some comments.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning Pastor.

Reverend Martin said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I just want to let you know that your invocation is one of the best ones that we've had in my estimation. I just wanted to tell you thank you to you.

Reverend Martin said, thank you for your service.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Anybody else?

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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
 Yusuf K. Shabazz, District Five
 Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

Also Present: Lee Smith, County Manager
 R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
 Janice Bocook, County Clerk

Not Present: Lori L. Brady, District Six

Chairman Scott said, I recognize Commissioner Shabazz for the purpose of making a motion.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I make a motion that we excuse Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that we excuse Commissioner Brady who is under the weather. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shabazz moved to excuse Commissioner Brady from the Commission meeting. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Scott said, at this time I will recognize the Vice Chair, Commissioner from the 8th District, Commissioner Thomas, for the purpose of introducing the members of the Youth Commissioners who are present here today.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commissioners, we have several Youth Commissioners here this morning basically because some of them have not had an opportunity to participate, and this is at the end of the school year. We want to make sure that all of them had that opportunity. So we -- I will be introducing each and every one of them. There are some that are sitting out in the audience today.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, Tarnardjah Washington is a senior at Savannah Early College, and please excuse me if I don't pronounce your -- your name correctly. Cordell Woods, a junior at Benedictine Military School; Chance Jackson, a senior at Benedictine -- Benedictine Military School; Darel McGee, who is a junior at Woodville Tompkins; Malena Hall, senior, Beach High School; Caylen Johnson, junior, Savannah Arts Academy; Javetti Higgenbottom, a junior at Bethesda Academy; Ariel Bland, a junior at New Hampstead High School. Welcome and we are happy to have you here this morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, y'all might be at the last meeting, but y'all -- y'all made the best meeting. Trust me. You'll see before you leave, I'm sure.

Chairman Scott said, thank the members of the youth council who are here today.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOGNITION FOR BETHESDA FOR WINNING THE 2015 SCISA (SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION) REGION AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Chairman Scott said, next, at this time, I'm going to recognize the Commissioner from the 7th District, Commissioner Kicklighter, for the purpose of reading a proclamation-- a proclamation in recognition of Bethesda, and I think once you hear it, you will understand why, but, they are the independent school region AA state champions, and Commissioner.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am beyond honored to stand here today and to be able to do this. I don't know if the young men that won this championship realizes that they actually accomplished quite a bit more in my opinion than winning the state championship. They're serving as ambassadors, I guess, of sorts of showing this community exactly what the new Bethesda Academy is, and part of explaining that, I'm going to thank -- because without the support and the people in the audience, these people -- I'm going to ask first, the parents to please stand up real quick because without your support these kids could not have accomplished this. [Applause.]

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I do this because as said, without their support, they could not win a state championship, and I do this because we who grew up in Chatham County know Bethesda as an orphanage. It's not an orphanage. It is one of the finest private schools that we have in our area that educates young men in middle and high school, and they do an outstanding job there. Having said that, I'm going to move forward, and I will ask at this time the best principal anywhere around, Megan Kicklighter, my wife, to come up here. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like Coach Thompson to come up here; Coach All to come up here; Coach Turner come up here, and all you young men just come fill in right behind this here, please. I'm going to read the county proclamation. It says:

Commissioner Kicklighter said, read the proclamation as follows:



WHEREAS, Bethesda Academy, founded in 1740 by Rev. George Whitefield, is an all boy, college preparatory school that prepares young men for college and beyond and as they celebrate their 275th anniversary, they continue their mission to help instill a "Love of Learning, Love of God and a Strong Work Ethic" in their students; and

WHEREAS, Bethesda Academy has a strong commitment to athletics, offering a number of challenging sports programs for middle school and high school students and this year in February, the Bethesda Academy Varsity Basketball Team won the SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) Region AA State Championship in Sumter, South Carolina which was attended by Commissioner Dean Kicklighter (I hear that guy does a good job for the county); and

WHEREAS, this is the second State Championship Bethesda Academy has won; the first was the GISA (Georgia state basketball championship, which makes them the only basketball team to win state championships in two different states). They ended the season with an overall record of 26-4 and the region record of 12-0 which resulted in 3 players being selected All-region/ All State, 1 player being selected SCISA Region AA player of the year and Coach Thompson being selected Coach of the Year.

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

BETHESDA ACADEMY VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

for their impressive performance in winning the SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) Region AA State Championship and applaud Bethesda's Coach Clevan Thompson and Assistant Coach Shay All for their coaching skills and leadership making it possible for the team to achieve this high honor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 22nd day of May 2015.

Albert J. Scott, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Gail F. Gordon, Administrative
Assistant to the Chairman

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to say before I turn it over to this amazing principal standing over here to my left that two state championships, I believe -- I guess I'm forming this in a question. I believe y'all have won two in three years. Is that correct?

Coach Clevan Thompson said, four.

Mrs. Megan Kicklighter said, four -- 2012 and 2015.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, two -- okay. So two state championships in four years. This is really amazing when you consider the fact that when you combine the numbers of the kids in their middle school and high school, I believe the entire school has a population of like 100 and --

Mrs. Kicklighter said, seven.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, 107 students. So it's truly --

Mrs. Kicklighter said, 74 high schoolers.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, these -- these -- these young men, they're outstanding not only in this sport but football, track, and you name it. They're -- all these kids participate and they play it and they're good at it. Congratulations to y'all. I did have the honor to watch, and I was truly excited and y'all did an awesome job, and that goes from everything with the coaches right down to the kids, y'all did a wonderful job, and I'm proud to be able to present this proclamation.

Chairman Scott said, (inaudible.)

Mrs. Kicklighter said, thank you so much.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Thank you for being here.

Mrs. Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we also have proclamations for everyone here. It's not framed, but, we'll -- well, I'll just hand this to you, and you can hand it to them --

Mrs. Kicklighter said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- on the way out.

Mrs. Kicklighter said, absolutely.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but now I will turn it over to you where you can speak and talk about your coaches and kids.

Mrs. Kicklighter said, okay. Thank you. We'll just take a couple of minutes of your time. One thing I'm very, very impressed about, the young men standing behind me, this is our last day of school, and as you know, the last day of school, typically students just don't like to come, but everyone of my basketball players came today because they know of how important this was. So I thank you for acknowledging them today. Again, I would to -- of course the principal in me, the athletics is a fantastic part of what we do, and I am the ultimate fan, but I will tell you, I'm so proud of these guys behind me because of their academics as well. During -- there's five guys behind me that actually kept honor roll during basketball season, and you know how rigorous that can be. So, anyways, we just -- we'd like to thank you very much. I'm going to turn it over to -- I -- I -- I would like to reiterate what my husband said, the fan base is unbelievable, our school with our parents, and as you can see today, our parents came today because they value how important this is as much as coming to those games, so I do want to acknowledge them at this time. So thank you from me, but I'd like to turn it over to Coach Thompson for a couple of minutes so he can say his word of thanks. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, very good.

Coach Thompson said, god morning. On behalf of Bethesda, our basketball team, our parents, I'd just like to thank you guys for recognizing our accomplishment. You know, I wanted to say thanks to my underclassmen, especially to my seniors, you know, who -- you know, they -- they're on their way out, and this is a good way, you know to -- to end -- to end their senior year, you know, and we appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir.

Mrs. Kicklighter said, all right, one more thing. Let them flash their rings. Show them the rings. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, all right. Woo.

Chairman Scott said, also, I want to point out that our Assistant County Manager, Mike Kaigler, is on Bethesda's Board.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Mrs. Kicklighter said, a very important member of our Board.

Chairman Scott said, and Mike is over to my right, and -- and that's -- that's a volunteer effort on his part, and we really appreciate his service as well to Bethesda.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, at this time I'm going to recognize Commissioner Shabazz from the 5th District and our Vice Chair, Commissioner Thomas -- Dr. Thomas, from the 8th District, in that order.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Good --

Chairman Scott said, for comments.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning. Good morning. To Bethesda Academy, Bethesda School, and to Mrs. Kicklighter and the coaching staff, as well as the players, the parents, and everybody, I would like to just congratulate you. It's an honor to have you here before us, and in honoring you, we -- we really honor the best of ourselves. And for the young men, you set a precedence for what could be done in a -- in a positive light for other young men, just like yourselves, and we'd just like to thank you for your service and congratulations once again. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we --

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too want to say thank you and congratulations. I particularly would like to thank not just the principal, the coaches, but most importantly in any situation, if you have your parents involved, that makes a great difference, and so to the parents who are supporting these young people, I say thank you, keep up the good work, and to the young men, I've heard a lot this morning. I'm inspired. I'm excited. Not only because of your achievement on the basketball court, but I'm excited because, first of all I think someone mentioned -- I think Mr. Kicklighter -- Commissioner Kicklighter mentioned in the proclamation about the strong love of God in your life. Your commitment to learning academically, not just shooting the ball, and most of all your will to excel, and with those things I have no doubt in my mind that those of you who are leaving, you will continue to excel, as well as those who will remain that you will continue to excel. So good luck, keep up the good work, and we will continue to support you in every way that we can. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Kicklighter said, thank you very much. Thank you for your time.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to ask, we -- we do have the athletic director, Coach Turner, there. I just want to acknowledge he's -- he is the athletic director there.

Commissioner Thomas said, great.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and definitely, I thank the Chairman, 'cause all this does start at this top of this great Board there, so. I appreciate it. Thank you and congratulations. Awesome job. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, again, thank you for being here, and congratulations on your championship. And thanks to all the parents who took time from their schedule to be with the kids. Thank you so much for being here.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

Chairman Scott said, we do not have any Chairman items or Commissioner Items to discuss this morning.

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VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS

None.

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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, nor do we have any tabled or reconsidered items.

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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. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY FISCAL 2016 BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.

Chairman Scott said, therefore, we would move to page five on our agenda, and that's the public hearings, and I would say to the audience, ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is being held in compliance with State law relative -- relative to Chatham County proposed budget, the year 2016 budget. We will be discussing the total budget with all the various fund -- proposed fund budgets, and they are as follows: the general fund, special service district, confiscated access -- assets funds, the sheriff confiscated asset fund, restricted court fees, inmate welfare fund, streetlight -- lighting fund, emergency telephone fund, multiple grant funds, child support fund, hotel/motel tax fund, land disturbance activity fund, land bank authority, SPLOST I, SPLOST II, SPLOST III, SPLOST IV, SPLOST V, as well as SPLOST VI. We'll also be discussing capital improvement fund, the DSA revenue bond fund of 1999, the DSA revenue bond fund of 2005, debt service fund, water/sewer fund, solid waste fund, the CAT authority, parking garage fund, building safety fund, computer replacement fund, risk management fund, and group health insurance fund. All this information is available in the packet at the entrance, and there's a list being passed around for anyone who wish to sign up to participate in this hearing. And for convenience sake, we will start on the right hand side of the room, on my right hand side and then we'll move to anyone who want -- who wishes to speak on the left hand side. And I would ask if you could to restrict your marks to five minutes or less, and at this time, do we have anyone who wishes to address this hearing on any of the budget funds that I have outlined? Linda, do we have a list who's -- do we have anybody on the right? Okay. Okay. When you --

Ms. Amy Davis said, there is only one, Karen Jenkins, 220 East Taylor Street.

Chairman Scott said, yes. If you would, introduce yourself, and if you're representing a specific group, if you would also identify that group, we would appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Ms. Karen Jenkins said, sure. Thank you. Good morning. My name is Karen Jenkins. I'm the director of the Savannah Tree Foundation and a resident of Chatham County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this public hearing for the budget for the Chatham County for the next year. I represent an organization that has been working in Chatham County for more than 30 years to preserve, protect, and plant trees across our community. I'm going to make some general comments on the budget for funding for trees, tree maintenance, and greenspace across our community pulling from different parts of the budget as I had a chance to look through it in the last couple days. Last year our organization commissioned a study to look at the canopy -- the tree cover of our community from 2014. We know from that study, which I will be mailing all of you a hard copy in the next week, that we are losing trees across this community. It doesn't take a very scientific study to know that we are losing trees. Simply anyone can drive down 204, the intersection of Highway 17, drive out Pooler Parkway or go down to the southside to know that we are losing trees faster than we are replanting and growing trees.

Ms. Jenkins said, trees are so important for our health and for our economy and for the environment. From our study, we are going to be looking at five areas where we can focus our efforts to replant trees in this community and those areas are schools, parking lots, public health, environmental equity, and water resources. Particularly, the environmental equity and public health pertain to the great work that the Public Works department does for this county in preserving our trees and greenspace. How can we expect the next generation of kids to enjoy the great outdoors if they don't have great parks to go to? What Public Works does for our parks in Chatham County is exemplary, but they need more resources. I know they do a great job with what they have, and I don't envy your position of trying to work with a balanced budget. Every department, I'm sure, is asking for -- for more money, and they're expected to do more with less, but specifically, on page 69 there are 1740 more acres of greenspace. Thankfully this land has been preserved in several tracks called the Whitemarsh Preserve, Blue Sky, the Bumgardner [sic] Preserve, and the Westlake Reforestation area and the budget asks for \$40,000 to hire a manager to help manager this space. I did not see it recommended, but it is so important to have this property well-managed and maintained.

Ms. Jenkins said, additionally, I've been working with Tom Thomson at the Resource Protection Commission through the MPC, and I know that program has sort of lost its funding, and I ask that we not lose site of preserving greenspace and continuing to identify greenspace and continuing to identify greenspace and acquiring land into the future so that future generations can have greenspace here in Chatham County. Under new initiatives on page 91, there was a request for improved road maintenance, including state routes. I know last year while working on Whitefield Ave. and the Truman Phase V, there was a lot of, you know, finger pointing as to who was going to maintain, whether it was the county, whether it was the state, whether it was the contractor, and the bottom line is the poor kids trying to walk to Hesse Elementary School lost out. No one was maintaining that roadway and it looked terrible. While it's important to fund maintaining the medians, it is important to maintain the entire right of way. When we have a shoulder of a roadway, we want it to look nice. We want it to be representative of our community. We want it to have great trees to provide shade for those people who are walking or cycling on those roadways. So we need more maintenance than just the medians.

Ms. Jenkins said, again, I know it's a very difficult job you have in balancing this huge budget, but keep in mind that investing in trees in an investment that grows, and I'll end by making a suggestion that if it's possible, maybe there's a way we can use some of those budget funds in different areas of the budget like the \$45 million budget for the detention center to train some of those folks to engage in lawful and gainful employment. Taking care of trees is a green job. That job cannot be exported over seas. We need to train people to help take care of our trees. That's a lot of money over there, and also there is \$208,000 in the Chatham Apprentice Program. Let's train those apprentices to be good stewards of our trees. Thank you again for your time this morning, and I'll ask if you have any questions.

Chairman Scott said, anybody have any -- have any questions for clarification? Commissioner Holmes of the 2nd District.

Commissioner Holmes said, Ms. Jenkins, I contacted --

Chairman Scott said, and Commissioner Thomas our vice Chair from the 8th also has a question.

Commissioner Holmes said, contacted the tree department about a month ago, and if I'm not mistaken, Jenkins --

Ms. Jenkins said, I'm Karen Jenkins.

Commissioner Holmes said, oh, you -- you Karen Jenkins.

Ms. Jenkins said, but I'm not with the city's park and tree department. I'm with the Savannah Tree Foundation that's a 501(c)(3) non profit.

Commissioner Holmes said, and you all just did some tree planting on East Henry?

Ms. Jenkins said, no.

Commissioner Holmes said, you haven't? Okay.

Ms. Jenkins said, not to the best of my knowledge.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Thanks.

Ms. Jenkins said, the city I know has planted street trees along East Henry.

Commissioner Holmes said, they did.

Ms. Jenkins said, that would be the City of Savannah Park and Tree department.

Commissioner Holmes said, they did. Okay. So you didn't have anything to do with that?

Ms. Jenkins said, no. No, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Mm-hmm.

Commissioner Thomas said, my question is I guess -- thank you, similar, and I know that the City of Savannah, you know, they do quite a bit in certain parts of the city, but being the Savannah Tree Foundation, do you outreach more in the county or just one segment of the --

Ms. Jenkins said, no, we try to reach out to all nine governments within Chatham County, and anytime we plant trees, it's on public land in partnership with another organization that owns the land. So we planted trees along Whitefield Ave., at Truman Phase V in partnership with the Public Works Department and the contractor at that time. Long term, ultimately, Chatham County will take care of those trees. We've also planted, you know, to other non-profit organizations, like the West Broad Street YMCA, and some of the other county and city parks.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Yeah, the -- the reason for that question because I wanted to know whether, you know, you do cross-planting or checking of trees all across Chatham County and not within a certain area.

Ms. Jenkins said, no, we try to serve all of Chatham County.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Thank you so very much.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone, who's our pro tem from the 1st District has --

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mine is more of a statement than a question if that's permissible. Is that okay?

Chairman Scott said, go ahead.

Commissioner Stone said, Ms. Jenkins, thank you for all that you all do, and especially for what you've done out on Whitefield Avenue, and I've been out there, and you're correct, the mowing is a problem. I've talked with the County Manager, and I don't think he wants me out there mowing again, but I -- I -- I spent a day doing that, but I just -- I can't -- you -- you all coming out with your volunteers trying to enhance the neighborhood after the road was widened -- the roadway was widened, it made a huge difference to the neighbors and the neighborhood, and I'm very appreciative to the work that you all do at the Tree Foundation.

Ms. Jenkins said, thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, so thank you.

Chairman Scott said, then we have Commissioner Shabazz of the 5th District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning.

Ms. Jenkins said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I'd like to commend you for your service, the Tree Foundation, but my question is do you -- do you monitor trees or what -- what do you do?

Ms. Jenkins said, we advocate for trees, and we do that by educating people about trees, the importance of trees, how to plant trees through hands on tree planting activities throughout the community and trying to do some basic tree maintenance for young trees to help them get established.

Commissioner Shabazz said, what about trees that's on private property?

Ms. Jenkins said, those are the responsibility of the property owner.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right, but I'm saying, do you advocate for those as well?

Ms. Jenkins said, we do. We can educate the property owner about the value of their trees. We have a saying that's the right tree in the right place.

Commissioner Shabazz said, mm-hmm.

Ms. Jenkins said, and sometimes there's the wrong tree --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Ms. Jenkins said, -- on a private property place, and --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. Because a lot of -- a lot of the -- a lot of trees, especially there on MLK, they're -- they're old trees, and they're falling, you know. That's -- and they're falling on establishments, businesses, and houses, and sometime people, so do you have anything dealing with that?

Ms. Jenkins said, well, if it's the city trees, you can call 3-1-1 --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Ms. Jenkins said, -- and talk to someone at the city.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah, I know about the city.

Ms. Jenkins said, I know, but if it's private property, it is the private property owner's responsibility --

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Ms. Jenkins said, -- to manage their trees. Just like taking care of a house, the homeowner is responsible for house maintenance --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Ms. Jenkins said, the homeowner/property owner is responsible for tree maintenance.

Commissioner Shabazz said, but you don't have a problem with them cutting them down?

Ms. Jenkins said, there's no regulation, ordinance, rule in Savannah or Chatham County that prohibits a private property owner from removing a tree.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I'm talking -- about these trees I'm talking about is on the right of way.

Ms. Jenkins said, well then that's the city. If it's in the right of way for the City of Savannah, it's a city tree, and you need to talk to somebody at the city park and tree department.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Ms. Jenkins. Thank you so much for taking of your time to come make a presentation and participate in this hearing. We really appreciate it.

Commissioner Thomas said, great job.

Ms. Jenkins said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, this is -- represents the first of several hearings and budget workshops that we'll have. In fact, our June workshop will be an opportunity for folk to come and talk about the budget in further detail, and at this time hearing from -- or seeing no one else wishes to speak, I now declare this public hearing closed.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Amy J. Davis, Finance Director

ISSUE:

To hold a Public Hearing on the Chatham County fiscal year 2016 budget as required by State law.

BACKGROUND:

State law requires that Chatham County follow certain steps in its budget process prior to adopting an annual budget (O.C.G.A. Code Section 36-81-5). The County should provide its residents with information concerning the proposed budget and allow its citizens to be heard during a public budget hearing held at least one week prior to the adoption of a budget ordinance or resolution.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A Public Hearing was advertised on May 9, 2014 in the *Savannah Morning News* to be held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2015.
2. Copies of the proposed budget were made available to the public in the Finance Department, the Chatham County official website, and the main branch of the Live Oak Public Library on the date the proposed budget was presented to the Board of Commissioners, which was May, 8, 2014. Copies of the proposed budget are available at all branches of the Chatham County public libraries as well as on the Chatham County official website.
3. On a date at least one week before adoption, Chatham County is required to hold a public meeting. The budget adoption must be advertised at least one week in advance.
4. The budget adoption was advertised on May 13, 2015 in the *Savannah Morning News* for the Friday, June 26, 2015 budget adoption.
5. The budget for fiscal year 2016 covers the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

FUNDING:

No funding required.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires that an annual budget be adopted by the Board of Commissioners, after advertising the dates of a public hearing and budget adoption and allowing the public to appear and comment on the proposed budget in accordance with the Code Section below

Georgia Law 36-81-5.(f) “At least one week prior to the meeting of the governing authority at which adoption of the budget ordinance or resolution will be considered, the governing authority shall conduct a public hearing at which time any persons wishing to be heard on the budget may appear.”

Georgia Law 36-81-6(a) “On a date after the conclusion of the hearing required in subsection (f) of the Code Section 36-81-5, the governing authority shall adopt a budget ordinance or resolution making appropriations in such sums as the governing authority may deem sufficient, whether greater or less than the sums presented in the proposed budget. The budget ordinance or resolution shall be adopted at a public meeting which shall be advertised in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (e) of Code Section 36-81-5 at least one week prior to the meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Proceed with the public hearing on May 22, 2015 and adopt the FY 2016 budget on June 26, 2015.
2. Reschedule the hearing and adoption of the FY2016 budget and re-advertise within limits established by State law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of alternative 1.

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2. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: 1) IN THE GENERAL FUND M&O APPROPRIATE \$37,099 FUND BALANCE COMMITTED FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO THE CHATHAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATING BUDGET, 2) IN THE LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITY FUND: a) INCREASE RESTRICTED TREE REVENUES \$31,062, AND b) INCREASE EXPENDITURES \$31,062 FOR TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE, AND 3) IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FUND AMEND PROJECT BUDGETS AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM (ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL STAFF REPORT IN THE CLERK OF COMMISSION’S MEETING FILE).**

Chairman Scott said, items for Individual Action. These are budgetary items, and this is to request the approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: in the General Fund M&O transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Special Service -- to Special Appropriation for the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, increase revenue \$666,272 [sic] from property tax commission - State of Georgia, increase Transfer Out to CIP \$66,272; in Confiscated Revenue Fund appropriate five -- \$5,245 to the Counter Narcotics Team; and in the Capital Improvement, CIP Fund: transfer \$40,000 from the General Fund Contingency to the Weight Lifting

Center project, transfer \$13,000 from the General Fund Contingency to the Frank Downing Fishing Pier project, and (c) increase \$66,272 transferred in from General Fund M&O, and increase the expenditures by \$66,272 for the Satellite Tag Office project, increase revenues 120,000 transferred in from the Parking Garage fund, and increase the Judicial Center Elevator Replacement project by \$120,000; and in the Parking Garage Fund transfer \$120,000 from Repairs and Maintenance to Transfer Out to CIP. Hearing the request, is there a motion?

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that we approve the items as outlined. Hearing the motion is there any discussion? Any unreadiness? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request for the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the General Fund M&O (a) transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Special Appropriations for the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, (b) increase revenues \$66,272 from property tax commission - State of Georgia, (c) increase Transfer Out to CIP \$66,272; 2) in the Confiscated Revenue Fund appropriate \$5,245 to the Counter Narcotics Team; 3) in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund: (a) transfer \$40,000 from General Fund Contingency to the Weight Lifting Center project, (b) transfer \$13,000 from General Fund Contingency to the Frank Downing Fishing Pier project, (c) increase revenues \$66,272 Transfer in from General Fund M&O, d) increase expenditures \$66,2272 from the Satellite Tag Office project, (e) increase revenues \$120,000 Transfer in from the Parking Garage fund, (f) increase the Judicial Center Elevator Replacement project \$120,000; and 4) in the Parking Garage Fund transfer \$120,000 from Repairs and Maintenance to Transfer Out to CIP. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Amy Davis, Finance Director

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 the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, (b) increase revenues \$66,272 from property tax commission - State of Georgia, (c) increase Transfer Out to CIP \$66,272; 2) in the Confiscated Revenue Fund appropriate \$5,245 to the Counter Narcotics Team; 3) in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund: (a) transfer \$40,000 from General Fund Contingency to the Weight Lifting Center project, (b) transfer \$13,000 from General Fund Contingency to the Frank Downing Fishing Pier project, (c) increase revenues \$66,272 Transfer in from General Fund M&O, d) increase expenditures \$66,2272 from the Satellite Tag Office project, (e) increase revenues \$120,000 Transfer in from the Parking Garage fund, (f) increase the Judicial Center Elevator Replacement project \$120,000; and 4) in the Parking Garage Fund transfer \$120,000 from Repairs and Maintenance to Transfer Out to CIP.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1a. The Board of Commissioners approved a professional service contract with Vaughnette Goode-Walker to assume management of the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil rights Museum at its May 8, 2015 meeting. A \$50,000 contingency transfer is requested to fund the contract. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
- 1b. The Tax Commissioner has requested an amendment to the General Fund M&O budget to recognize \$66,272 additional revenue from the State of Georgia for Commissions from Property Tax. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
- 1c. The Tax Commissioner has requested the \$66,272 additional revenues be transferred to the Capital improvement Program (CIP) fund for the renovation and expansion of the satellite Tag Office located at 295 Police Memorial Drive. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
2. The Counter Narcotics Team Director has requested a \$5,245 appropriation from State confiscated funds to purchase a vehicle hauler/trailer. A staff report is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

FUNDING:

Funds are available in the General Fund M&O, the Capital Improvement Program Fund, the Confiscated Revenue Fund and the Parking Garage Fund. The budget amendment establishes funds in the General Fund M&O and the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- A) Transfer \$50,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum.
- B) Increase revenues \$66,272 Commission Property Tax - State of Georgia
- C) Increase Transfer Out to CIP \$66,272.

CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND

Appropriate \$5,245 to the Counter Narcotics Team for the purchase of a vehicle hauler/trailer.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND

- A) Transfer \$40,000 from General Fund Contingency to the Anderson Cohen Weight Lifting project.
- B) Transfer \$13,000 from General Fund Contingency to the Frank Downing Fishing Pier project.
- C) Increase Transfer in From General Fund M&O \$66,272
- D) Increase Transfer in From Parking Garage Fund \$120,000
- E) Increase the Satellite Tag Office project \$66,272
- F) Increase the Judicial Center Elevator Replacement project \$120,000

PARKING GARAGE FUND

Transfer \$120,000 from Repairs and Maintenance to Transfer Out to CIP.

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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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE 2015 SCMPD AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK.

Chairman Scott said, the next item on the agenda is to request the Board approval of the 2015 Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department agreement framework. This agreement set out to accomplish the following: one is to keep the two departments merged. Second is to transition to a two-year budget. Third is to provide a fixed fund for the next two years; and three transition the funding formula for the county to an evidence-based funding formula in year three. It's proposed as a ten-year agreement. This agreement will have to come back to the Commission once the framework have been completed -- once the framework have been adopted and the entire agreement is completed, and the legal staff and the management staff of the county and the city have an opportunity to fill in what's not currently outlined in the framework, this agreement will come back to the Commission once again for its vote up or down in its entirety where you will be able to see the full detail of the agreement at that time. The other thing that it does, it mandates that the two governments complete an agreement on the Recorder's Court within the next 60 days, and that too will come to you for a up or down vote as a separate agreement independent of the police merger agreement, but it was mandated in this framework, hopefully, and supported by both bodies, and this is to encourage both entities to reach an agreement on Recorder's Court within the next 60 days. That will come to you as a totally separate agreement for an opportunity at that time to vote it up or down. That's what we're trying to accomplish with this agreement, and I want to publicly thank the County Manager, as well as the City Manager for really coming to this framework agreement. There are portions of the agreement that -- that -- that I don't agree with. I think that the -- the county has given a lot, and I also think that the City has given a lot. I also think going forward that this have the potential of reducing the costs for the Special Service District, and for that I highly recommend that we support it, and at this time I'm going to recognize the County Manager for further comments.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. Thank you. I do want to thank Stephanie Cutter, City Manager, in working with us over the last, really eight, nine months, but also David Maxwell, finance director for City of Savannah and Linda Cramer. But a lot of staff have worked diligently on this, but I -- I would like to say that we have as a staff tried to keep in mind all of the citizens of the county, not just incorporated area, not just City of Savannah, but all, because we have all municipalities, and look at it as a community. This is not an easy issue. I guess this was the very first thing I faced a year ago almost -- a year ago last week. We have in this nine months hired

a chief, and I would like to say, I know Julie Tolbert, assistant chief is here. The chief had another engagement this morning, but he wanted to be here, but -- so he sends his apologies, but I will tell you, the chief is in contact with me daily, by text or by email. I will tell you I do believe that's a first. That's a good sign. I will also say this framework is about a relationship with the City of Savannah. That relationship, I'll -- I'll -- this is my opinion, was marred and has been marred for some time, but I will tell you, the relationship between myself and the staff over at the City of Savannah, with our staff and City of Savannah and directly with Stephanie Cutter has grown. Relationships take time; trust takes time; respect has to be earned and so does trust, and we're doing that with each other. Some of that, I think had been damaged, and we're trying to regain that. That has a lot to do with this agreement, and we tried to go in with that good faith to put together something that, I will tell you, first off, it is not perfect.

County Manager Smith said, this agreement will never be perfect no matter what we do because there is based on these negotiations, there was give and take on both sides. You know, you're saving over a million dollars for the -- each year, so about two, \$2.5 million over the next two years. You have a flat rate of payment for the next two years. I do believe that, and in working with this committee over the next twelve months with a consultant, that we can look at data. That is the thing, and I've talked to individual Commissioners over the last week, that's the thing that we lack, is data about what has occurred in the unincorporated area, as well as in the City of Savannah. We lack that data. We have an old 9-1-1 system that is in the process next year of being updated. We have to bring someone in. We have someone on staff, Mark Bucalo's going to be working with us and the consultant to look at the data. We in this framework, within 24 months, are recommending moving to a system, service -- and I -- I know this is going to be a -- a -- a term that we have sometimes at the table disagreed with but almost like a contract for service where we can measure what services we are receiving. That gives me a comfort level of what we're paying for, but we are looking to base it on usage, number of people, number of officers out in the community, call data. We would base it on that in 24 months. And I know some of us said, well, we're moving this thing 24 miles -- 24 months down the road, that's too long. This is not an easy process.

County Manager Smith said, for the chief, the chief is having, you know, we've had problems in the -- in Metro. We know that, so let's just admit it. We know it. They admit it, the City of Savannah, and now we're working on it. We've got a chief -- Julie Tolbert, you know, the one thing I was afraid of is that Julie at the -- is -- you know I came in with Julie on board, but I was really afraid she might leave, and she stayed on board. She stayed on board because we've got a good chief. That said a lot to me when some of the management staff stayed, but they've got a lot of work to do within that department. I will tell you, we got some great police officers. We've got some that need work. We can say the same thing about Team Chatham. So I'm real careful about throwing rocks because those rocks come right back to my glass house, so I'm very careful about that. Our goal is to make this community safer, and I believe this framework can do that, but it does it in a time period of two years where the data is gained. There's no perception. We can't say, we think. No, we need to say, we know. X officers in a neighborhood. I've talked to HOAs this week and said, guys, what do you want out in the unincorporated area? We'd like to see an officer x number of times a week or month. Terrific. We need to translate that to the chief and see what's appropriate.

County Manager Smith said, bringing in a third party consultant that understands law enforcement, industry standards and best practices. The chief wants to put those in place. Julie would agree. We need to instill best practices. They are starting to do that. Got a long ways to go. So it's not an easy process, but I believe it can work. Again, it's not perfect, but I do believe we can do this. I'm confident as Manager that working with the City of Savannah, I've seen a big change in that relationship in the last six months, in our communication, in the way that we talk with each other, and that trust takes time and will build, and we have to -- what is that old adage? The proof's in the pudding? Well, let's make the pudding and see if it tastes good, and if it doesn't you have the ability in 24 months to end it. This thing ends in 24 months, but you have the ability at the end of the 24 months to base it on performance and then move forward for eight more years, and then hopefully it would move on from there. So I'm confident about what we've done in this framework and thank the city for working with us, and we'd then entertain any questions from the Board, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. I also want to -- and -- and I know you mentioned her, but I want to really thank our Assistant City [sic] Manager, Linda Cramer. I refer to her as our lead negotiator, and -- and really, Linda has got over 20 some years of experience in -- in finances with both the city and the county, and I rely on Linda to tell me whether or not she thinks this is a fair agreement or not as it relates to the finances of it, and -- and Linda has concurred that it's -- it's a reasonable, fair agreement for the county, and I accept all the hard work that the staff put in, and I support the staff's recommendation again.

Commissioner Center said, you going to take questions now or are you waiting for a motion?

Chairman Scott said, oh, no, we're ready for questions.

Commissioner Center said, I have several questions. Thank you. Thank you --

Chairman Scott said, the Commissioner from the 3rd District, Commissioner Center..

Commissioner Center said, -- Mr. Chairman. And -- and I'll direct these also to the County Attorney if you need be or Linda [Cramer], and I agree with what the Chairman says as to finances it sounds like we've made some great movement, there -- but there's more than finances involved, and I have to tell you, I'm very torn about this. It's a very difficult decision. Let me preface that, by telling you my thoughts and then ask -- ask my questions.

I have a lot of friends in the audience who all approached me and fellow Commissioners to vote for it, vote against it. I have a lot of respect for these people. I know they give a lot to the community, and we all care about the community. But I too was educated in this community, and I paid attention to my history classes. We said the Pledge of Allegiance from kindergarten on, and I grew to believe in our democratic system of government. Everything philosophically tells me that we're being unfair to a segment of our population. On the other hand, we have a great City of Savannah, which I'm part a citizen, and we are partners with them, and we want to be partners with them and want our strong, vibrant city. But over anything, philosophically, the one group or community in this county that doesn't speak with a single voice, [unintelligible] voice, are the unincorporated area residents. Pat Farrell represents 100 percent unincorporated. He's almost like their Mayor, or -- or speaks for them, and so I hear a lot when he says it, but Garden City speaks through Garden City; Tybee through Tybee; Port Wentworth, Thunderbolt, Pooler, Bloomingdale, Vernonburg. The unincorporated area has no single voice to speak for it. We have nine votes up here. Not all of us represent unincorporated area or don't speak for them, so their representation is spread among people who have interests different than there's, and they -- and -- and it bothers me, and all these times we talked about this, we've never had a referendum to ask the unincorporated area, well, what do you want, and they don't speak with a single elected voice, and it bothers me that that's the only community that the City of Savannah has gone to and said, will you merge with us. They haven't gone to Garden City and said can we share a police department with you or with Pooler or Port Wentworth. They've gone to the only community that doesn't have that elected unified voice, and it bothers me that we're voting on them, and on, you know, we're elected to do it as a group, but I -- I -- I feel badly about that.

Commissioner Center said, as I spoke with the Chairman on some of my future wants, it would have been in my opinion better to have no unincorporated areas at all in Chatham County. Make every citizen elect -- they can either form their own new municipality or join with one near them, and -- and then take the county out of this equation, and then they would negotiate directly with the City of Savannah if they wanted to do business with them. So I feel badly about that. Secondly, I've asked questions. I want to ask. I don't see this agreement -- is this a definitive agreement? We are just voting on a framework, so in my mind, and correct me if I'm interpreting it incorrectly. All we are doing is giving you a little more guidance to go back to the city and negotiate the details or work out the details. I know over the year plus few weeks that you've been here, you've met with us -- in our pre-meetings we discussed it. You've met with us individually. You've met with us in workshops. You've heard from us here, and you get a pretty good feeling of what each of us individually --

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, wants or feels about the agreement, and as a consensus what we'll vote for. If we vote for this agreement today, could we still within the next 60 days when you bring a definitive written document say no and vote for that? And say -- and -- and turn that one down?

County Manager Smith said, yes. That's correct.

Commissioner Center said, so what happens -- if we vote yes today, what definitive step have we taken toward doing business with the City of Savannah but we could still say no? Could -- could you explain that to me?

County Manager Smith said, well --

Chairman Scott said, all right. Let -- let me have a crack at it first.

Commissioner Center said, okay. That's fine.

Chairman Scott said, I think -- I think what you're saying as an elected body is that you support the staff's recommendation and let's go forward, and we want to see what the total package will look like, but you are not just saying that as this body, you will have to also say that at the City Council level. And so, this will really be the first time that both bodies have worked or voted on a concept of what should be in the merger agreement. Not the details but the concept of what should be in the merger agreement.

Commissioner Center said, which -- which is the next closest thing to our meeting together basically.

Chairman Scott said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and talking to each other.

Chairman Scott said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, the Chairman is correct. That was -- that has been a -- to me and to the staff that has been an issue where we would bring, you know, every draft that we put together, we'd get so wrapped up into the details of a final agreement, but the problem was we weren't even agreeing on just the general ideas and thoughts on what we wanted. So I think Ms. Cutter and I both believe that once we -- and she and I met multiple times with David and Linda that if we put together a framework or an outline of what we were looking at and what may work based on what we were hearing from both sides, that you voted on a concept where we then could apply the details. Can you vote no? Sure you can. You can vote -- also, you have 24 months if this doesn't work. If we go through the data, and we find that there's no way the City of Savannah can service the

unincorporated area, you can vote to get out. So we have in our back pocket the ability to set up another police -- a police department. We can absolutely do that.

Commissioner Center said, or we can negotiate with other agencies --

County Manager Smith said, absolutely.

Commissioner Center said, -- I mean every time we do a contract, we look for bids.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. Absolutely.

Commissioner Center said, we hadn't asked Garden City can you police this area? We hadn't asked Pooler or Thunderbolt or Tybee could you do it.

County Manager Smith said, you're correct.

Commissioner Center said, all right.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Chairman Scott said, not -- not -- not totally correct.

County Manager Smith said, but --

Commissioner Center said, I -- I know I'm -- I know I'm reaching a little bit when I say that, Mr. Chairman.

County Manager Smith said, in concept, you're correct.

Chairman Scott said, but I'm -- but I'm saying I have had conversations with -- with the City of Pooler.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Chairman Scott said, in -- in --

County Manager Smith said, you know, so -- yeah.

Chairman Scott said, in -- in all fairness.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Center said, right. And -- and I know I'm reaching a little bit making a point, but, you know, we're talking about this Commission is tasked to police the unincorporated area. We have the entire county as our -- as -- as our goal to make things as the Chairman said earlier in the -- in pre-meeting, what's in the best interest of the entire county overrides everything we do.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, but legally and specifically, as an authority, we can only provide police services to the unincorporated area, and we are tasked immediately to provide those services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

County Manager Smith said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, okay. Normally, when we go out and do a contract, we look at different areas, but here, it is the party that we're doing business with that it feels like they're running -- their pushing the -- the -- the cart better -- you know, more than we are. It's not that we're searching out for someone to do business with. We seem almost captured doing business by them to do business with them, and I don't know if I'm explaining that correctly. But we get a sense sometimes, you know, that they don't -- they're not acting like the sales person who needs, you know, who wants our business. And also, the overlying thought for all of us is to reduce crime, make the community safer, and in all our conversations, are -- are there anything in this agreement that -- I mean this could be the answer of the police chief, that will reduce the amount of criminal incidents in the unincorporated area, in the city or in the county? I mean --

County Manager Smith said, well, you know you hear lots of arguments about, you know, do you reduce crime? I think you respond to it. But, through community policing, if you build community policing, you will see a reduction in crime. That means more coverage; more people. That means investing more in police services,

putting people out on the street, not just in the car, but out on the street, meeting people, meeting HOA presidents. We're having that conversation with the chief and with the City Manager. That has to happen.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and -- and you say that's interesting. I like hearing that from you, we all do, putting more people on the street.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, but when we started this negotiation and -- and -- boiled down to me two main points one was authority, I -- I -- I used the control, you didn't like that one.

County Manager Smith said, well, you know -- yeah.

Commissioner Center said, but, you know, control over -- over the leadership or -- and pricing, and you've done an excellent job, and I mean, I'm very happy with that. It -- we -- it's not 100 percent but it's much closer than we have been before, and to -- to what I wanted and it's very close, and I agree with the Chair, with Linda Cramer's assessment on pricing, but when you, our County Manager, says you want to put more policing on the street, and the city says, well, we disagree with you, or where are we going to put them, don't we lose all that in this proposed format?

County Manager Smith said, no, because if you go to a performance-based system -- now, the one thing we have not done, we have not had -- now the chief will meet in our staff meetings, but this agreement requires the city and the county, along with the chief, along with the consultant to sit down monthly. Well, I have the ability now with the chief we meet weekly, but we'll have a monthly meeting where we'll look at what is the demand needed for the unincorporated area? How many officers do we need? What -- and I'm not talking just in two years, I'm talking the first day of this agreement.

Commissioner Center said, but you feel comfortable, knowing, you as County Manager will have the input to be able to direct and have a response to your direction that we need more policemen in this area --

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, -- at this time, and they will respond?

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, 'cause it's not written in the agreement that way.

County Manager Smith said, yes. But what has to happen then is, and this is why this is important that City Council react to this framework. They have to understand that they have an investment, you know -- and you made a good point, we as a county by law are only responsible for the unincorporated area period for police service. The city and the City of Savannah, they have to adequately service the City of Savannah. Julie Tolbert's here, she can tell you, they have openings right now. They are looking at how can they better retain and recruit? If they don't -- if they have officers that are not great how do they bring in better officers? How do they re-train them and upgrade what they're doing? So I feel confident in working with the chief that we're going to get a better grade of police officers. We're going to be able to retain, but also, they're going to be able -- they're listening to us because I need to hear, and I had a conversation -- I think it was Commissioner Stone yesterday, we talked about, you know, we need more service. You know, Pat Farrell earlier this week, we've talked. We need to get officers out in the unincorporated area. How many? So that's part of the discussion. What is reasonable? What is recommended? Because even if we build our own police department, how many officers do we want on the street? What do we want them to do? I'm going to ask the same questions of myself. Now, ultimately, the merger, as I understand it, in spirit was meant to reduce costs. Now, our costs have doubled.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, tripled.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Center said, tripled, yeah.

County Manager Smith said, they -- they went from what 4 million --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, 4 million to over 16 million.

County Manager Smith said, yes. Yes.

Commissioner Center said, well, yeah, the -- the unincorporated has gone up twice while -- with -- and the city's gone up 25 percent.

County Manager Smith said, yes. Yes. And -- and -- and that's a good point, so what we have to ask ourselves is why? Is the cost reasonable? At this point in time what am I paying for? Well, that's what the consultant's going to be brought in for to help us because Linda [Cramer] and I will both tell you, we're not -- we feel like

we're police experts but we're not. You know, we've just dealt with the surface. We need to look at best practices in this country of good departments and how they service areas, but also, let's go out and ask citizens, what do you want? And in this next year, go out on the street and ask as citizens what do you want in your areas. We need to go meet with HOAs. That's great. Let's go do that, and you know what I'm hearing when they call, we just want some patrols in the area. We want to know who the officers are. You know, I saw some nods. That's community policing. If I had my own police department, I would demand it. It would happen. Well we have to demand it of this contract. And we can do that. I feel confident with the chief we have, the assistant chief, and Stephanie Cutter, with what I'm seeing, and if the city will vote for it, we can do that.

Commissioner Center said, I'm going to tell you what, two of the best things the city have going for it are Julie Tolbert and -- and Chief Lumpkin.

County Manager Smith said, amen.

Commissioner Center said, okay. And they've heard me say that over and over, but let me ask, it says we're going to have a two-year phase in formula.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, if we don't have that formula, we're right back where we are now?

County Manager Smith said, you're out. At the end of two years you're out. If you don't have it, it terminates. You're out.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and -- and that brings another --

Chairman Scott said, if you don't agree to it, you're out. Okay.

County Manager Smith said, you're out. Correct.

Commissioner Center said, okay. But, and -- and maybe I --

County Manager Smith said, we would have to look at other alternatives, and one of those would be your own police department.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and this may be -- the County Attorney might have to answer this part. I want to ask you this, we -- I read the whole history of these agreements. I've got them in the folders behind me.

County Manager Smith said, oh yeah, we -- stacks here. I'll give you some more stacks.

Commissioner Center said, you know, I -- I've read every one. I read the file back and forth that we've had during the two years I've been on this Commission, and it was my understanding, my feeling, and again, could be incorrect that when this merger first went together it was to be a merger. Now, I know why I think it was put together, it was to dilute the crime numbers, but whatever the reason was, it was supposed to be a merger, a joint police department governed by two governing bodies. We are going back and forth that -- over three Commissions, three Chairs, three Councils, three Mayors, two County Managers, three City Managers, we've lost that concept, and the city has argued that if we want to form our own police department now, we have to go out and get a referendum. We disagree on the law but until a judge rules, it doesn't matter what that disagreement is. This moves us more and more closer to a hiring police services. So if we were to -- to vote for this and then sign an agreement with the city, and in two years it didn't work out, how can we form a police department, if we don't have -- if we no longer have one. I mean, right now I believe we have a police department. With the SCMPD has Chatham in it's name. It is a joint police department. No matter how it's being run and how we disagree over control, on paper and in thought it is a merged police department. When I read this document, it moves us away from that and makes the city's argument stronger so that if we sign this we're locked into it because we can't get out without a referendum. What's your opinion on that?

County Attorney Hart said, I don't necessarily agree with you. I think this document probably gives you more control than you ever had under the other agreement. I don't believe the other agreement we gave up the right to have a police force, we just provided police services in a different format, and I can give you about 16 million reasons for that every year. So we still have the cars in our name, and -- and we still have people that are on our list --

Commissioner Center said, will the city agree with this position and put that in writing?

County Attorney Hart said, I -- I don't know that they will or won't.

Chairman Scott said, they don't have any choice. All -- every time you purchase anything for the police department, that -- it's actually titled to the Chatham County Commission, and I sign off on all that stuff.

Commissioner Center said, no, I understand that, but --

Chairman Scott said, you don't -- you don't lose your identity.

County Attorney Hart said, well, you -- you got to also remember this is going to be an intergovernmental agreement. You got to remember that that last agreement was an intergovernmental agreement, and under the constitution you can only have an agreement for 40 years -- 40 or 50 years, I can't remember which, so you can't keep -- you know, you would have had to do something anyway under the old or new. Eventually it would have gone out.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and that bolsters my reason for agreeing with your argument, but it would be nice when we get to the details if the city would acknowledge that in some whereas paragraph --

County Attorney Hart said, well --

Commissioner Center said, just to make it even stronger. You know, I mean, it may be like putting a -- a sign in the parking lot, we're not responsible for something that happens to your car. The sign's up, it -- it's nicer to have it than not have it. I'm going to be very quick. 'Cause I -- I know others have more questions, but my pet peeve and that's item 10(d).

Chairman Scott said, 10 what?

Commissioner Center said, 10(d).

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Center said, the pages aren't numbered but it's item 10(d), and let me back up, in item 10 it's -- the last sentence of the first paragraph, in relation to the City Manager's points from the December 2014 version, and I spoke with you earlier, I have an October 2014 version, and y'all just handed me one that's undated, so I really don't know what the December 2014 version is, so I can't look at those three points. I don't mind the county agreeing to fund the felony prosecution costs, 'cause the city could force that on us anyway just by how the police send their cases, but (d), this goes back to a point that -- that I made earlier, earlier, earlier, earlier. Right now if there is a vacancy on Recorder's Court, that's only if there is a vacancy, that vacancy is filled by a majority vote of the County Commission and a majority vote of the City Council. And the earlier proposal said exactly what this does, that there would be a committee of the City Manager, County Manager, Mayor, Chairman and Chief Judge of Superior Court to name someone for us to confirm, and I told you earlier on, I would not go for that. Right now the Commissions have that power of appointment. We're giving something up, but we're giving it up to two non-elected officials. In theory, you could have a new County Manager or City Manager come on who don't even know the community yet be in that position, and I don't know why the Superior Court Judge was in it, but that -- that is something that the law has conveyed to the two bodies. I said earlier I would not agree to give up that power. It may never be exercised if we don't have a vacancy. At one point staff said we're going to take it out. We came back with an agreement to vote on, it was back in there. We had discussion, and staff told me, oh, we just overlooked it. We didn't take it out. I'm not going to vote for any agreement that has that language in it, and it's got to come out to get my vote. Thank you.

County Manager Smith said, and understand one thing, Mr. Chairman that the Recorder's Court, just -- and maybe we did not make that clear. These two issues -- the only thing we were emphasizing with Recorder's Court in this -- in this framework is that it needed to be done within 60 days. So anything you vote on with the framework on the police merger does not hinge upon Recorder's Court and visa versa.

Commissioner Center said, and I appreciate that --

County Manager Smith said, yeah. I just needed to make that clear.

Commissioner Center said, but still, you know, I know how --

County Manager Smith said, sure.

Commissioner Center said, I've learned a little bit about government operations.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Center said, --and if I put my toe in the door, I may have been told I put my whole leg in the door, so I -- I can't accept that language even in this -- in this -- what do we call it? This --

County Manager Smith said, yeah. And that was one of the -- that's one of the points we've attempted to negotiate --

Commissioner Center said, -- framework agreement.

County Manager Smith said, -- and we've not been able to get movement on that. So.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Now --

Commissioner Center said, thank -- thank you for the time, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, anybody else wish to speak on it before I entertain a motion?

Commissioner Stone said, I do.

Chairman Scott said, I got Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Farrell, Commissioner Kicklighter, you wish to speak on it?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir. I'd like to speak. I'd like to go last if I could.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter -- huh?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to speak last.

Chairman Scott said, the Chair speaks last.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, right.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Scott said, and -- so I've got, Dr. Thomas and then Commissioner Kicklighter, in that order. Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Farrell, Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. In going through this proposal or this framework, to me, this really is not a merger. I don't care how y'all want to phrase it, but it really is not. We're contracting for services for -- for this Special Service District or the unincorporated area, and we're 39 percent stockholders of this company. It's not 50/50. It's not a balance. It's -- it's not, in my opinion a merger. But I would - I do concur with a lot of what Commissioner Center said and the concerns of the unincorporated area. The phone calls that I get, and in this agreement, it says there's perception of not enough police coverage in the unincorporated area. I -- and I realize the data is not there to support it, but based on the phone calls that I receive, and incidentally, I represent probably more constituents in the city than I do in the unincorporated area, however, the calls that I get from the unincorporated area are lack of service. We can't get service. And to me that is our responsibility. That's why we're sitting here. And one of the calls, I was actually present when a car was broken into and people - elderly people from out of town trying to get back on the road. It took an hour and 45 minutes to get an officer on the scene. That's not acceptable. We can't -- that -- to me that does not make me feel safe. It did not make these folks feel safe, and so I go back to the point that this is not perception. In my mind this is pretty much a reality that the policing in the unincorporated area is not what it should be, and I don't know -- and -- and I appreciate the fact that a consultant can get the data, can weed through it, but I want to make sure that that's corrected, 'cause that's what we're up here for is to make sure that the unincorporated area has sufficient policing. I also in going through on page five --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone, let me -- let me just assure you one of -- one of the things that we -- we will have to insist is increased visibility in the unincorporated area policing.

Commissioner Stone said, absolutely.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and a cost that reflects the service used, and that's really what the data mining and the expert is about.

Commissioner Stone said, well, I'm just --

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, -- sorry that we have not obtained data up to this point that would support this because I live in the unincorporated area, and I can tell you it's -- it's very seldom that I see officers riding the area. So going back to some of the questions that I have with this current framework, and maybe it's just the wording, but on page 5, when we get to the cost formula -- cost formula un -- under number (b).

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Stone said, it says during year one and two of this agreement, the county re -- will reimburse the city on a monthly basis for paid expenditures of animal control, EMS, marine patrol, and counter narcotics team. I -- why are we reimbursing them when I thought that was a service that we provided?

County Manager Smith said, well, there's --

Chairman Scott said, don't we currently -- we currently reimburse them because -- not only do we reimburse the city, we reimburse Garden City, Pooler, Thunderbolt, as far as CNT's concerned. Officers -- officers who are in -- on loan to the CNT from Garden City, Port Wentworth, Pooler, Thunderbolt, Tybee, we reimburse all of those on a -- on a monthly basis.

County Manager Smith said, but also --

Chairman Scott said, including the City of Savannah.

County Manager Smith said, but also there's changes in here. CNT will be -- and these services which will revert to be 100 percent county which we've been paying, and they've operated, everything will be reverted. There are employees, in some cases, that are employees of the City of Savannah that it will be better to let them stay employees of the City of Savannah, not to interrupt their retirement issues, because that is very complicated. Some of those may be only for a few years. As that -- and it's only two or three people, and that's why we've put it in here. It's a very small part, but as we reimburse for those things, it was cheaper to do it that way. We've got outside folks to tell us that's the best way to do it. David Maxwell agreed to that, so we're reimbursing, but as attrition occurs and as people leave, you will see that disappear.

Commissioner Stone said, but I thought we were responsible for CNT.

Chairman Scott said, it's -- that's -- that's part of the problem with it. We are responsible for CNT. It's a county function, but we also have -- the city have some administrative responsibility, and they have to sign off on stuff, and we're trying to get away from that because they don't fund it. We fund it, and they have for administrative reasons now they have to sign off on it, and so we are trying to clarify that and get away from it, but as far as reimbursing folk for offices, we reimburse all the municipalities, and I know it because I sign off on it every month.

Commissioner Stone said, I guess --

County Manager Smith said, yeah. We have agreements for CNT to do that.

Commissioner Stone said, I guess my concern when I get to CNT and animal control, the majority of the use is within the City of Savannah.

County Manager Smith said, correct.

Commissioner Stone said, most of the animal control complaints I get are -- are usually in the Ardsley Park area --

County Manager Smith said, they're -- they're typically in the --

Commissioner Stone said, and CNT --

County Manager Smith said, -- on both of those are in the City of Savannah. That's correct.

Commissioner Stone said, -- and C -- and CNT --

County Manager Smith said, same thing.

Commissioner Stone said, -- when we go -- receive our monthly report --

County Manager Smith said, you'll see that in a few minutes.

Commissioner Stone said, -- the -- the demand is within the City of Savannah not the unincorporated area. So I'm just -- I'm trying to get my arms around how this is --

County Manager Smith said, yeah. But, remember, all those issues -- now, I -- I'm sorry for interrupting, but, on those items, that is M&O budget, so everybody in the county is paying.

Commissioner Stone said, I --

County Manager Smith said, so it's spread, even Garden City. I mean everybody, Tybee, everybody's paying.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand that --

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, -- but the way this is worded it just sounds like --

County Manager Smith said, well --

Commissioner Stone said, -- we're paying them --

County Manager Smith said, that will be clarified in the agreement.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, so -- but when we get to that detail, you'll see more detail about why. So as I explained, you've got -- it's a very small thing. CNT, all those -- CNT will come over July 1st of this year. Animal control and some of the others will be July 1st of '16. We're doing this phase in, which we -- you know, we -- that -- that -- you know I've been out to animal control. I looked at July 1st this year, and went, we can't -- it's too fast. We're biting off a lot, so we all agreed as a staff we would phase it in, but we have employees who have insurance. Now one thing that the city's agreeing to do, is like the folks who are marine patrol --

Commissioner Stone said, mm-hmm.

County Manager Smith said, they're all going to be absorbed by the city. Well, then we need to look at how we do marine patrol. Well, marine patrol can be done several different ways, and I'm looking at an avenue. I won't go into detail now, but we'll bring back to you an avenue which we can do it at a lower cost.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, so we're going to save money on marine patrol, and I'm very confident of that. We have a great avenue on that.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. All right. Next question is this issue of the old Comcast building. I mean I understand why it's in here, but it really doesn't belong in here.

County Manager Smith said, well, it came up in the total monies owed. The other thing is -- is that I personally and professionally wanted the city to stamp and go yes, we owe it, and yes, we're going to pay it.

Commissioner Stone said, and how much is that?

County Manager Smith said, 1.775 million. And that will be paid in 2017 in total.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I -- and I realize this was prior to this sitting Commission.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Stone said, but I -- I was very alarmed at the fact that the city moved into this building and nobody held them accountable for payment.

County Manager Smith said, well, I am now. Yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, and -- and -- and -- no, but I mean, this -- this confirms my fears --

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, -- of agreements with an entity that moved into a building and hasn't paid the bill.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, and that concerns me. I -- I just -- I -- that doesn't sound quite right.

County Attorney Hart said, some -- some background on that . The city [sic] acquired that building with -- with SPLOST funds and it was for a road project, okay?

Chairman Scott said, no. No. No. The county acquired the building with SPLOST funds.

County Manager Smith said, yes. The county, for the east west corridor.

Commissioner Stone said, right.

County Attorney Hart said, but -- but the point being is that money, if they're not going to build a road needs to go back in the SPLOST funds.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. It's got to be paid back.

Chairman Scott said, it -- it has to go back to the SPLOST funds from which it came.

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

County Manager Smith said, correct.

County Attorney Hart said, and that's -- that's just an outstanding issue that needs to be addressed, and it needs to be addressed because you can't do it otherwise, and we don't need to have that hanging over our heads.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and I might also -- that it was a prior Commission, one in which I was not a part of that allowed them to move into the building, and since having taken over as Chairman, I've sent a demand letter

for payment for the building, and the city has responded and said that they -- it would be included in their January 1st, '17 budget. That they would make payment for it, and the money would go back to the SPLOST fund.

County Manager Smith said, that's what the original agreement says.

Commissioner Stone said, well, I sure wish I could move into buildings and wait four or five years to have to make a payment.

County Manager Smith said, well the problem --

Commissioner Stone said, I mean I'm just saying it just --

County Manager Smith said, yeah, well the problem is you've got an agreement that says that, 'cause I've gone back and looked at that SPLOST agreement, and it does say July -- I mean, January 1st, 2017. But we -- we asked for the money in advance of that, but that agreement was out there, and that Board signed that agreement, your -- the County Board and gave them till 2017.

Chairman Scott said, I assume y'all voted.

Commissioner Stone said, I don't remember voting on the date.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. Yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, I remember voting on them acquiring the building.

County Manager Smith said, it's in the agreement. That's -- 'cause that's why I kind of -- that halted me. But we did ask for it in advance to see if they'd go ahead and pay it, but they said we'd be -- they were going to look at the original agreement, so I just wanted them to reiterate that they would pay it January 1st, 2017.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. And then the Recorder's Court you mentioned this in the pre-meeting will not hinge on this framework.

County Manager Smith said, no.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I just --

County Attorney Hart said, we -- we do need to understand though that the city and the county absolutely need to reach a Recorder's Court agreement.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Stone said, I -- I couldn't agree with you more, but I --

County Attorney Hart said, because it impacts your police department.

Commissioner Stone said, but it's kind of like the Comcast thing, does it really belong in the framework of -- of a police agreement?

County Manager Smith said, well, but here is the thing, and this is why it's -- it's -- it's -- important that this framework go to both boards. I would hear from even City Council meetings -- members out on the street about some of these issues, and I went, okay, let's go ahead and put everything to rest, you know, because they had concerns about what we owed, what they owed, and we have filed through this stuff, and -- ad nauseam. So, we finally have put all this in the framework to say what do we owe, what do they owe, and I got a comfort level from the City Manager, and in talking to some of the City Council that they had comfort, at least because -- they kept having -- they kept talking about the money, and we kept saying but you owe us, we owe you, so when we got down to it, we said, okay, we're going to wash out the cost on Recorder's and on the police because we've never agreed to your 39 percent. So we were paying 35, and I would negotiate down, and that's where we said, let's do a flat amount, and it does begin to look like, and I said it, contract for service. Well, you might be merged, but it's still a contract for service. It's an agreement. An agreement's an agreement, but you're responsible, I'm responsible for making sure that the service we pay for is given to the people who are paying for it --

Commissioner Stone said, right.

County Manager Smith said, -- and if we're not, then we're wrong.

Commissioner Stone said, I -- I agree. All right. A couple more questions. Mr. County Manager, you stated in an earlier meeting that if we did set up our own police department, that you felt like we could recognize a savings of around \$2 million.

County Manager Smith said, yes. At year, I think two or three. The first two years you have the set up costs because you've got to -- you've got to buy equipment.

Commissioner Stone said, and what -- and what do you predict those set up costs to be?

County Manager Smith said, right -- you would be somewhere between \$16 and \$17 million in the first year. So there would be an increase in the first year. Second year --

Commissioner Stone said, versus the 14 something million that we're looking at right now.

County Manager Smith said, that's correct. Yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. That -- that concludes my questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, I recognize Commissioner Farrell, the Commissioner from the 4th District.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. Where to start? I have so many things to say, and I'm not normally a Commissioner that has a lot to say because we seem to be able to work out our issues before the meetings, and there's not a lot of need to go into a lot of detail. Wow. Let's go back a little bit for historical perspective. The -- the merger deal was supposed to be renegotiated after four years of its inception. I was on the previous Commission that insisted that there was some escalators in cost, and there was a perception out there of lack of service or less service than was previously available under the Chatham County Police Department. I mentioned that to our Manager and asked him to look at the historical data, which he just told me as recently as a week ago he had at least 20 pieces of correspondence, and maybe one response. That has discouraged me because basically we've been arguing this merger for seven or eight years. Okay?

Commissioner Farrell said, the previous Commission which I was a part of never got past sending letters and receiving the silent treatment from our partner. I would like to commend this Commission and especially this Chairman for actually getting this on the table for a meaningful discussion. For the first time since this merger took place, we're actually discussing real meat and potatoes items that have been festering for so many years and have gotten worse and worse. The financial escalators that we asked from the tax paying citizens of the SSD are outrageous. The Commission that originally set this up put in some escalators probably with the intent of well, in four years, we can straighten out whatever the problems are. So I don't disparage anybody in the -- that sat on this Board in the past for what they did. I think they did what they thought was the best thing to do at the time, but when you go four years and then you breach your contract and -- and refuse to negotiate with your partner, that could be akin to a married couple where one couple [sic] refuses to discuss any of the issues the other partner has. If any of you have been married or had a relationship with another person, you know that that does not sit well with the person who has grievances at all.

Commissioner Farrell said, to me, being a sitting Commissioner for over ten years, that's where I enter this picture. And for the Chairman I want to compliment him for bringing this issue up and having some meaningful discussion. Now, there are many issues that the county would like to address. In a -- in a memorandum of status dated February 17th, there were 20 items. Of those, 13 were either -- the county either disagreed with or had questions about the outcome. Seven we agreed with. On the positive side, there's some agreement on consult and confer with the chief, that's great. We have the number of precincts we've agreed to, both parties, as of February. K-9 unit, aviation costs, and funding of non-shared -- those things we do -- we agree on, and capital asset purchases, there's agreement on. So we are making movement, and that's very positive. However, there are 13 areas with either question marks or flat out disagreement. I won't go into all those. Perhaps some of the minor items have been agreed on at this time. I'm not sure.

Commissioner Farrell said, my question would be on one of the approaches that we've had was cost allocation evidence-based funding approach is desired. I agree with that approach. There are -- the other side has some other approaches that I don't agree with. There's also some -- some information in here about the -- the precincts and the beats. Our position in the beginning was that all precincts are either exclusively city or county. The chief will determine boundaries of beats within in each precinct. Beats will at no time encompass both city and unincorporated area. Okay? That's a big stickling point for me because it goes back to accountability. When I say there's perceived lack of service in the unincorporated area, the reason I can't say it definitely is because we have no matrix to measure this. There is no matrix. It was purposefully put together to be intermixed so that nobody could track what was going on, in my opinion. That has got to end. The city needs to know where their resources, their human resources are. The county in it's oversight of the SSD need to know where their resources are or are not.

Commissioner Farrell said, now, if you don't have that accountability, how in the world are you going to know if you're paying for 100 plus patrol officers, if you're getting service from 60 of them on any given week or you're getting service from 100 of them or 150 of them. Nobody knows, and to this day we don't know. So, that's a major stickling point is accountability and a matrix that actually serves both entities so they know where their human resources are. If you know where your human resources are, then, you can achieve the goal that the Chairman has put out there, evidence-based allocation of funding. I in no way want to see that one party has advantage over the other. Therefore, with the evidence-based, if we're getting the service, we should pay for the service. If we're not getting the service, we should not have to pay for the service that we're not getting. Not from that pool of money called SSD, which is directly derived from citizens in the unincorporated area. There are a lot of things this Commission does on a grander scale that everybody chips in for, and I don't

question those. CNT, there's other programs that everybody pitches in for, and they're good programs, and they help everybody in the county. But, when we focus like a laser on the SSD, and be good stewards of their funding, and their service, then we have to ask these questions.

Commissioner Farrell said, now, the funding because it wasn't addressed, there was a document, and I've got copies if any of the Commissioners, anybody would like to see one, that shows unequivocally by our county accounting department that between 2003 and 2013, the unincorporated area experienced a 46 percent increase in the cost -- the money that they spent on those services. The City of Savannah, according to this document had a 24 percent increase in those financial areas. That's almost double the rate of increase, which should have been addressed in year four of this agreement, and was not, and has been allowed to increase and creep and creep and creep to the point where I've got citizens that can't even get their streets swept. Why can't they get their streets swept? Because there's no money for public works. We don't have discretionary funding in this -- in this idea. We have money for public service, number one -- for public safety number one, public service number two, which is your roads, your ditches, your mowing. I get complaints every day that we don't mow the grass enough; we don't pick up the trash enough; and I'm pay a ton of taxes, and where are my services. The streets aren't getting swept. There's all kind of deficiencies in public works that have crept up over the last ten years because of this inequity and imbalance in the amount of payments.

Commissioner Farrell said, now, being a student of mathematics, I took the 2003 money that SSD and only SSD was putting into the merger, and I multiplied it by the 24 percent increase, because I'm no person that thinks that you can actually run something for ten years at exactly the same cost, so assuming for a moment that we actually got the services that were provide -- that were provided pre-agreement, our increase would amount to over a ten-year period, it would take us to \$9.67 million, so let's round it off to \$10 million. If we just kept the same old stuff from Chatham County Police Department up to -- through 2013, the SSD would be putting in about \$10 million. Correct me if I'm wrong staff, but I believe we're putting in around \$15 million now.

County Manager Smith said, over 15.

Commissioner Farrell said, over 15. Okay? So that's \$5 million, which doesn't sound much to a county budget, but folks, you've got to realize this is a county budget within a county budget. This is a small town that we represent, a small segment, a specialized segment of this county that we represent with this money. Their total budget is \$30 million, and we're spending over half of it on public safety. That means other departments suffer. So, now, if the 10 million, and then there's -- we're at 14 million, today we're being asked to agree to a cost formula to lock it in at \$14.15 million per year. Now that is positive movement, however, -- that is the movement in the right direction. That makes a bad deal a little less of a bad deal, and that I -- I think is wonderful, but I don't think that that's anywhere near the compromise and fair shake that the folks in the unincorporated area deserve from this body as our -- as their sole voice and -- and representatives. We've got to get closer than that. That gives me serious consternation because it affects all the other departments.

Commissioner Farrell said, now, accountability that we -- I talked about earlier. Again, I can't talk definitively because the beats are not separated, and there's no clear way to track it. I've asked many questions about different ways to track it, and staff has told me that there's no definitive way. We have ways to kind of sort of monitor it, so I only can go back to my own experience over the last number of years and what's going on right now. Our crime rate in the unincorporated area thankfully is much lower than the crime rate in our incorporated area called Savannah, and for that I'm thankful and it's -- and it's a great thing for that part of the county, and it's unfortunate for the City of Savannah that they have such a difficult problem, and I feel for them, and I would like to see within our proper perspective to see that crime rate go down, but we are only tasked to do certain things under -- under our jurisdiction. So, for instance, the folks in a couple of communities in the unincorporated area feel like they don't have patrol. They don't have adequate patrol, just a police officer riding through their neighborhood. So, what have they done? They have privately contracted for uniformed, sworn police officers to come patrol their neighborhoods on a regular basis, and they pay the expenses as if they were security guards. And yet, we're spending millions more than what we would have spent and they're having to contract for services with police officers to -- to patrol their neighborhoods so they feel better that there's a police presence. So there's two major neighborhoods in this unincorporated area that have put -- pooled their resources to do this. That is a shame, and that should not be the case, but until we get accountability.

Commissioner Farrell said, and then we have this evidence-based. We can't fix the two major problems. A lot of the other stuff is stuff that staff can work out, and I get that, but these two areas do not appear to me to be effectively addressed in this agreement, and the reason I say that is, is it just prolongs this talk for another two years. The only reason I believe that we are even here talking about this is because this body wisely and unanimously said, listen, we're not getting anywhere, unfortunately, we're going to have to go back to the way it was and start a new police department, which is where we are right now, and without that, we don't seem to be getting the traction and the attention from the city. The current County Manager was very positive and said he is getting a good relationship with his counterparts in the City of Savannah. Without this hanging over their head, the previous County Manager never had that to fall back on and, therefore, got nowhere. Absolutely nowhere with fixing the accountability issue and the financial escalator issue. The only reason we locked down on where we are financially is not because the city didn't continue to demand and come up with formulas for escalators to continue indefinitely to pull more money out of the unincorporated area, it's only because the County Manger -- the previous County Manager decided this is all we're going to send you, and we don't really have an agreement anyway because we never renegotiated because you won't come to the table.

Commissioner Farrell said, so, I'm glad we're at the table. We're making progress. We got a ways to go to get there. It is possible to get there, but we're going to have to have a little more accountability and a better picture on this cost sharing before I can in good conscience as a representative of one special interest group, which is my constituency in the unincorporated area. Not FBI statistics, not the business community in other areas, not other jurisdictions, when I'm spending their money that they -- that they provide, then I have to look after their best interest, and that's in a nutshell, the tip of the iceberg of -- of some of the stuff that I'd like to share with the citizens and with my fellow Commissioners about where we are on this. Can we get there from here? Probably so, but we've got to have significant cooperation from the other group of folks to get there. I think we're a little too far apart today, and I would hate to stop the track and delay it for two more years. If we're going to do this, let's do it and get it done. They've been talking very well for six months. They can finish the talk and get a good agreement, and that's what I'd like to see before I vote in the positive. Thank you.

County Manager Smith said, Mr. Chairman? Can I just comment? One thing, we -- we were sitting here as the staff -- if I can.

Chairman Scott said, yes.

County Manager Smith said, one of the things that -- and I -- I know -- City Council, as I understand, along with Stephanie Cutter, you know, they believe on the population-based system that if we paid the 39 percent this year it would be 16.2 million. So in their minds, what we have done, is they have agreed to drop 2.1 million. Now that's just the way they look at it, but even if you look at what we were paying, we're still saving about 1.2, 1.3 million based on what we were paying at that 35.1 percent. The thing that I think is most important in trying to -- and I appreciate your saying coming together is for the first time this framework moves the city to approve for the first time an evidence-based system. They've never said it. They've said population, and we're saying, no, it's got to be evidence-based because it's a whole different system out there. So for the first time they will vote on that. That's major. That is a major thing for us. So we move away from population to evidence-based, and they recognize it. Even in the framework, and I agree with you, we've got work to do, but they're agreeing to do that. That's major in my book. But, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. And let me -- let me just say before we move on to our next speaker, I appreciate the -- the kind words from Commissioner Farrell, but it's my -- it's my intent with this agreement in the final analysis to increase visibility and to move to an evidence-based formula, and this is a -- a two-year phase in to get there. One of the reasons that you've got a contract in mining and the data versus our mining the data or the city mining the data is the everyone will perceive that the other one is trying to cook the information, and so we wanted to bring somebody in independent and really make the determination of what is the utilization, and -- and wherever the evidence take us, that is what we're going to pay in year three.

Commissioner Center said, so it won't be David Kennedy, who the city has already contracted for?

Chairman Scott said, no.

County Manager Smith said, no.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, no, it will not be, and -- and so that's -- that's the direction that we're going to try to increase visibility and to try to get a handle on what we should be paying based on utilization, but you also have to acknowledge that when you look at the percentages, there've been more growth in the unincorporated area than there have been in the City of Savannah during this same time frame, and that's -- that's the only thing, but Commissioner Farrell made a very -- a number of very good points, and -- most of which I agree with. At this time I'm going to recognize the Commissioner from the 8th District, Dr. Thomas, for the purpose of making her comments.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission, first of all --

County Manager Smith said, Commissioner Thomas, can you turn your microphone on?

Commissioner Shabazz said, is your mike on?

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission. For me this is an emotional time mainly because I was a part of that Commission group that voted for the merger. I felt that it was in the best interest of the citizens of Chatham County if we went that route. I agree with everything that my fellow Commissioner Pat Farrell has said, however, to me if we don't have accountability, then all is lost. In this agreement, we were working with various funding mechanism of services that should have been rendered, and we emphasize equal partnerships. I was elected by the citizens of District 8, but my election also dictates that I also represent the entire constituency of Chatham County. I do have a part of the unincorporated areas as well. As a matter of fact, I have one of the larger areas I believe in most of the Districts. I have tried very hard to represent each and every one of them to the best of my ability with information that I have received and have tried to follow through. I commend the Managers and staff for your perseverance looking at the larger picture of service to the people. Our goal is to protect and serve all the people of Chatham County. I for one have never, never will, have a personal agenda. I always like to make sure that I understand the needs and concerns and to come up with a decision that is best for the majority of the people that I serve.

Commissioner Thomas said, in these negotiations that have taken place in the last few months, and with the information that we have in front of us and have received, I've read them all, I want to say to the Manager and the Managers, that goes to the City Manager as well that back -- best practices must prevail, accountability of services, one cannot have the greater demand over the other. If we are going to be in the process together, it must be a partnership. In my opinion, if we can tweak the areas of this -- of concerns that have been discussed here today, we should be able to move forward. We are responsible for whatever we do as representatives of the people of Chatham County, and so today I'm hoping that we're looking at it from a positive perspective and hoping that we can do this in a civil manner and that for no other reason that we will take in account all of the hard work and hopefully we can move forward with this situation. Again, thank you, Manager Lee and Ms. Cutter and everyone else, but keeping in mind that we must learn to work together. That is important. We say that we are Team Chatham, and I want to say to the City of Savannah, that if you are truly, truly committed to working together with Chatham County this partnership has to be real, and we must have an opportunity of serving the people in the manner in which they have elected all of us. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. We have Commissioner Kicklighter and Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can at this time I'm -- I apologize, I did this quick. I'm asking for a little diagram to be put up. I did this when we were sitting here and I was listening. I hope to use this, and I apologize if anything's -- it's not like accurate to scale by any means. It's possibly misspelled, so, I'm just, you know, before this great drawing comes up here.

Commissioner Farrell said, you got some stick figures there, Dean?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. I thought about it. One of the major flaws -- problems in my opinion throughout the years when discussing the police merger is the general population's lack of understanding exactly how this department is funded and exactly who funds it. No, I -- I -- I'll come check it.

[NOTE: Overhead projector was not working. There was a pause in the meeting while trying to resolve the matter.]

Chairman Scott said, let's take a five-minute break while they're working on that.

County Manager Smith said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, good call.

[NOTE: The meeting was recessed at 11:25; Meeting resumed at 11:35.]

Chairman Scott said, this Commission will come to order. I recognize the Commissioner from the 7th District to continue his presentation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. The delay for this makes it much more embarrassing seeing now the drawing there, but.

County Manager Smith said, we're going to put it in the minutes, too.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, to better explain to people that might not necessarily know I drew the little pie chart and simply broke it down to the segments in Chatham County as a whole and how they fund their police departments. Okay, you have Savannah. They pay for their own police department through their taxes. Pooler pays for its own taxes -- I mean police service through taxes. Garden City, same thing. Port Wentworth, Thunderbolt, Bloomingdale, Tybee, and then you have this large segment of our county called unincorporated Chatham. So when you hear us talking about funding the Chatham County Police Department, that's not what we're talking about. We're funding unincorporated area Chatham police department. It should have been called unincorporated Chatham Police Department back when the brown cars were riding around. It was never a department that policed the entire area. It was never paid for by everyone in the entire county. You see I outlined in green just basically what the whole county pays for police wise. We pay and fund the CNT, animal control, marine patrol, and also the sheriff as far as police services. We also have, which is a safety issue, which would --

County Manager Smith said, public safety.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, public safety, would be our -- help me out with the word.

County Manager Smith said, what detention center or?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well detention -- detention center and -- oh, my God, our group downstairs that the emergency --

County Manager Smith said, oh, CEMA.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, CEMA.

County Attorney Hart said, CEMA.

County Manager Smith said, CEMA. I'm sorry. I wasn't sure. Okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. But no local -- no police department is paid for by everyone in the county. We're talking about -- when we -- when we're speaking of merging a county police department with the City of Savannah, we're strictly talking about merging unincorporated area Chatham's police services with Savannah's. So we're talking about those 85,000, and the reason I wanted to show this is I've heard people from various cities throughout the county with opinions of we either should or shouldn't, you know, keep this thing going, and I have to explain that it's no effect on them. That they pay a tax for their police services, and they're not paying in -- oh, but we're the county, yeah, but you're not paying for that. Just the unincorporated area residents. So as we go through this, just keep in mind that that's what we're talking about here. Unincorporated area for some that probably they -- they wouldn't know, definition wise, means any area in a county that's not in a city. So what we do, we serve a dual purpose up here. We have to represent the county as a whole, and we collect a tax for that function. We perform things and -- percentage wise, 80 percent of it I believe goes out mandated like to different constitutional officers. So that's one role we perform up here as Commissioners. We represent the whole county and everyone pays for those county-wide services. But then because the unincorporated area is not in a city, we are their city government, and they pay a separate tax for their city services, and as Commissioner Farrell stated very well earlier, unfortunately over 50 percent of their taxes are going now to fund this police agreement.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we are here -- well, I -- I'll just say, I was originally very supportive of the merger, and I'm still a supporter of a merger. But I'm not supportive of the merger under the conditions that keep coming out. It is appearing more and more like a take over, and I won't support it. We need to get back to what we were originally told, what we were originally sold, you know, some kind of equality here with the City of Savannah where we're all within a reasonable budget and move forward in that direction or change directions totally and make the Savannah-Chatham County Police Department the best that it can be without the assistance of Savannah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the latest agreement is kind of fluffed up with a little police committee, but basically that's a recommending body, and it would have no authority. There are no guarantees that the current chief is going to be around; that Savannah's Manager is going to be around; that the County Manager will be around; and that any of us will be around in the future, and you never know who's going to take their places. With this structure, I foresee a big tax increase coming up in the future. The reality is when push comes to shove, the only person that could fire a chief that needs to be fired would be the Savannah Manager. Okay. Everything that I just said applies right now. I didn't just think of those words, though, that's the exact wording from the minutes, Chatham County minutes, back June 27th, 2003 and September 26th, 2003. That was my words then and the exact same words applies today with this current proposal sitting in front of us.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we are being asked today to approve a concept of a police merger and contrary to my stance against the merger throughout all the years, this one will be hard for many to believe, but I was actually the Commissioner that made the original motion to approve a concept of a police merger. I made the motion. I'm for helping if it can be done without hurting. The problem then was exactly what the problem is today. For a real merger to ever be in place, the county must be equals in the agreement. The unincorporated area residents, business owners and property owners must be guaranteed equal services, equal oversight. They must have equal accountability and equal treatment, just as the residents and business owners and property owners of Savannah receives. That's a real merger, when you have equality. We must have written contract and assurances that the chief answers to the County Manager just as he answers to the City Manager, and we can no longer accept the belief that the chief will answer to the County Manager on a handshake, although the Manager -- because the Manager of Savannah hires and fires the chief.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, our Manager just stated in his talk a little earlier that the police chief is in contact with him daily, and they have a good relationship. That's great, and I'm actually sure that Chief Lumpkin will answer and respond to anything that the County Manager calls him with. Just as I said in 2003, though, there's no guarantee that that chief, this Manager, the Manager over there, the Commission or the Councils will be in place in the future. Verbal agreements do not work, so equality has to be written in a contract if you have any expectations of achieving that. We're not in a world of handshakes. We're in a legal world where if you want something done, and you have an agreement, it has to be in writing. Look what happened since 2003. I was told the same thing sitting here then, same thing. Different Manager, different chief.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chief Flynn is now gone. He disappeared without any regard or input from our County Manager at the time who was Russ Abolt. Chief Flynn is currently the chief of police in Marietta police department. He was appointed in 2007, and in 2010, he was actually selected as Georgia Association's Chief of Police of the Year for Georgia, in 2010 and '11. He was then inducted into the prestigious International Evidence Based Policing Hall of Fame. We had no say so. I can recall a very upset Manager at the time that this gentleman departed, and that the -- not a lot of communications took place, and I can recall County Commissioners whining about it, and I basically told the truth, and I said, y'all need to stop whining. This is exactly what you approved. I said at the time, you worded your agreement that the Manager of Savannah must consult with the Manager of the county before hiring or firing a chief. I said, basically, that means, that the Manager from Savannah can open the door, look at our Manager, and say I'm firing whoever, I'm hiring whoever. Job done. Written obligation fulfilled. Chatham County got then exactly what they voted for. Exactly. Identical.

Great, and I commend Savannah elected officials for pushing that deal through back then. It was brilliant. If I lived in Savannah, I would want that deal.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Berkow was hired as chief. He disappeared too. Our Manager didn't really know why. Couldn't tell us anything. Again, same conversation, it's in your agreement. Don't act surprised. Don't act shocked. Don't -- don't act anything. Several interim chiefs have been here. Lovett was hired, and he's now in prison. All with no input. Nothing, 'cause it's not written in an agreement, because we had at that time an agreement that the Manager would quote consult with the County Manager. That was the big, big catch there. Wow, what a deal. They're going to consult with our Manager. Savannah's Manager at the time, Michael Brown is gone, and Savannah's had a couple more Managers since then. The County had Russ Abolt, and we now have Lee Smith. Mayor Floyd Adams, regrettably, sadly, has passed away, after he finished his term. Billy Hair's no longer in office as Chairman, and two others have served as mayor and two others have served as Chairman since that time. Dr. Thomas and I are, I believe, the only two remaining members on the Commission since that original agreement, and the Savannah City Council has turned over many, many times, but the only thing that remains the same, exactly the same since the 2003 hiring of Savannah to police the unincorporated areas of the county is that the current proposal in front of us today is basically -- no, well, forget the part about the only thing remaining the same, but this current proposal that we're looking at today in a nutshell is nothing more than kicking a can down the road with a hope and with a prayer that after two years Savannah and the county will agree to a crime-based funding formula.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's the hope and the prayer for what many consider to be a good deal, and this particular proposal that you're being asked to vote on today has hope that both bodies will agree to some type of new precincts in two years, and it also has hope that the chief will answer to the County Manager although the structure of this proposal clearly has the chief working for the Manager of Savannah. That remains the same as before. Truth about this today is that approximately 80 something thousand unincorporated area Chatham County residents have never, ever been a part of a police merger. They've simply been paying millions more per year for their police services through a pay for police service contract than they should have and actually could have been paying.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they -- those residents in the unincorporated areas, they have received less police services under the current police service contract. Again, not merger, media I wish y'all would get that one right. It's been a contract. There is not a merger. Under the current police contract, they've received -- those residents in the unincorporated areas have received less police services. Under the proposal they will pay for police service contract, although they've been -- okay -- they'll -- they'll receive less service coming up with this proposal, although they'll still be paying millions more also. This has been taking place since 2003, and it's still going to take place coming up.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, however, this unfair, poorly structured proposal is being pushed and supported by businesses in our community, and many of the local media outlets, just as it was in 2003. This is for one simple reason. One simple reason only. Folks, it may be political suicide, 'cause you can't beat the media. You'll never beat the media as a politician, but by God, if I can go down telling the truth, so be it. Many businesses and many media outlets support this police what they want to call merger simply because it artificially reduces the crime rates in the City of Savannah. When you combine the unincorporated area -- area's low crime rates with the much higher crime rates in the City of Savannah, you lower the rate. These people, they all know that all local police departments and fire departments sign mutual aid agreements. They know this. So their argument about criminals crossing jurisdiction lines, they're baseless. All the fire departments and police departments in this county, Pooler, Garden City, you name them, Savannah, they all sign the agreement. So that's -- that's really a pointless argument.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, these people pushing for this artificially reduced crime rate, they understand and they know that a merger does zero. Zero. It does absolutely nothing at all, nothing at all to reduce crime in Savannah one bit because the unincorporated area county has no authority, no ability, neither verbally or contracted or constitutionally provided that helps -- gives us the ability to help fight or reduce crime within the city limits of Savannah. There's zero crime reduction in the City of Savannah because of a merger, however, these people who push, these folks that -- kind folks that sit around me who start out with very good intent when they start negotiating for a fair merger, granted I've watched it twice now, good intent in the beginning. Here comes the media, here comes some editorials, here comes some business people. Good intent dives, which I hope won't happen today. I can't say it's happened, 'cause it hasn't yet, but they seem to be more concerned with artificially reducing the crime rate in Savannah than they are with actually trying to lower the crime rate. These people to this point have shown no care whatsoever about the fact that 80,000 -- approximately 80 something thousand unincorporated area residents are not being treated as equals. To this point they've shown no care that those very same people are paying millions more than they actually should be paying, and they actually receive less service, although they're paying millions more. Nobody seems to really care in this group. Again, artificially reducing rather than reducing.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, on August the 8th, 2014 in the Savannah Morning News our Chairman, quote, Scott again accused the city of violating the agreement by not including the county in the police chief search process from the beginning. Chairman Scott said the county human resources director, nor County Manager Lee Smith have seen the list of eight finalists for the job. Yet another example. The current proposal that you're being asked to vote on today, which this blows my mind that this was presented to us as good, the current proposal says that the City Manager will quote consult with the County Manager on hiring and termination decisions related to the police chief. Wow. Great job. You got us back in the same boat. We're going to do

just as good as the group in 2003. Congratulations guys. If you thought you made a difference, you didn't. If you vote this through, if I'm lucky enough to be alive and lucky enough to be sitting up here in 15 years, and everybody's gone except me and Dr. Thomas, I'm going to probably be telling the same story again. I'll just read minutes from each ten years.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, \$14.1 million is in this proposed agreement for two consecutive years. That's \$1.4 million more than the projected cost to revive the old unincorporated area police department. That's \$3.3 million more than the sheriff's department quoted that they could police the area for. I encourage all of you as you can tell by now to vote against this proposal because it really relies on a two-year hope and a two-year prayer that Savannah and Chatham will actually agree in two years to funding, to patrols, to precincts, and it's really nothing more than kicking the can, and it won't fix issues, even if both agree because there's issues that's worded exact in this proposal today that the City Manager must consult with the County Manager before hiring and firing a chief. Even if the -- you're hope and prayer of two years materializes, granted, I commend that for being a much better deal than these good folks of the unincorporated areas have received in the past, it will not fix the key, key problem, and that's that it -- it -- it limits -- it has the City Manager consulting with the County Manager before hiring and firing a chief.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm interested in actually lowering the crime rate, which I'm sure everybody else is up here, and with this current deal and in the proposed deal, the county can't do it. We have zero ability to lower the crime in Savannah. The county would merely have hope to reduce the crime in the unincorporated area should this deal go through, and should Savannah and Chatham actually agree to something two years down the road. Residents will still be overpaying by millions, even for the first two years for a service that has absolutely no guaranteed level of services. Residents in the unincorporated areas unfortunately will still be hiring security guards to patrol their pot hole riddled streets with grass over growing around it because the taxes are paying for a sub-par saying kindly police service which prevents them from receiving any other service, and it's the wrong thing to do guys, and I was right in 2003, and I'm right today. We knew I was right when we started this negotiation in the correct direction. This negotiation started by fixing the flaws in the agreement. Again, I made the motion to approve the original conceptual merger. I'm not anti-merger, but this folks, this is more of the same, and it's the wrong thing to continue. Thank y'all.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Dean.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes, did you want to make a comment, or you wanted to make a motion?

Commissioner Holmes said, I -- I'd like to make a comment and a motion also.

Chairman Scott said, I recognize the Commissioner from the 2nd District. Commissioner Holmes for the purpose of a comment and a motion.

Commissioner Holmes said, there's -- there's one thing I just learned just now that I wouldn't let Dean be my art teacher.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's good. I agree.

Commissioner Holmes said, good work, Dean, but let me -- Pat Farrell, Commissioner Farrell, and Ms. Stone, along with myself, we -- we -- we came on board together, and from that day to this day, we have always worked as a team, and let me compliment you, Pat, on your homework that you did and your presentation. It very clearly stated, and I think if you would ask ourself eight months ago, that was some of the reason why we wanted to dismantle, but the key thing that I want to compliment this group on -- Ms. Thomas, Dean Kicklighter, I appreciate y'all undivided attention.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, sorry.

Commissioner Holmes said, thanks. Let me thank our Manager, along with the city for the work that you did with the staff, and I think it all was based on one thing, and that's communication and negotiation. You've kept the door open. You kept the communication open. I will always tell anyone who ask me question about the merger, long as there communication going on, there's hope, and the tirelessly hours that you all have put into this from the city and with you all, I can't thank you all enough. I agree with Commissioner Stone that when you look at this, yeah, you see an agreement, but it look almost like a promise to continue on, so that goes back to communication. When I read this, it's hope and it's prayer that negotiation and communication will stay in tact and will stay open and Pat Farrell, and -- and Dean Kicklighter, when all the -- your thoughts and ideas about this, hopefully, this will bring us to the table for a better merger. I'm still having that hope.

Commissioner Holmes said, now, what I would like to say is building trust and fairness, the only way you can build trust is you keep communication open, and if you communicate, then what you're doing then is building relationship, and once you build relationship, your trust and fairness go together. Back to your concept, Mr. Smith, Team Chatham. Well if we be Team Chatham, then I would like for the City of Savannah to adopt Team Savannah, then you got two entity that are playing team. Okay? Now, I've looked at something in this agreement, and I'm going to be very short, and for some reason, about a month and a half ago, we talked about 10(d). Unfortunately, the Commissioner from the 3rd District brought it up.

Chairman Scott said, when you say 10(d), are you talking about on page 6 on the bottom?

Commissioner Holmes said, on page 6.

Chairman Scott said, in reference to the appointing of the judges?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes. It -- it -- it's strange that he brought that up, but when I looked at it, I also had a concern because we had some in depth discussion and that presentation came from our attorney about that. So, Commissioner from the 3rd, thank you for bringing it up, and I appreciate it, but all that I've heard, and what I've seen I will make a motion that we accept the agreement as is to delete 10(d) from the agreement.

Chairman Scott said, so your motion is that we approve the agreement with the exception --

Commissioner Holmes said, approve the agreement --

Chairman Scott said, -- of 10(d).

Commissioner Holmes said, -- with the exception of 10(d).

Chairman Scott said, okay. Is there a second?

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. In further discussion -- in further discussion, the Commissioner from the 5th District asked to be recognized.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. I would like to first thank the County Manager and the City Manager and staff for coming together and crafting this framework. I've listened to all the comments of other -- of Commissioners, and I respect everyone of -- everyone of the comments. I've always been in favor of us staying merged or staying within this agreement, and I was just so happy to see that we are here today, and -- and also when they had the press conference last week -- last week or week before last, the city and county coming together to announce this framework, and I'd just -- I'd just like to thank you all for your service and coming together and being on one accord with that, and I'm still in favor of this agreement.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Essentially what we have is just simply removing the language that speaks to the committee and the appointing of the Recorder's Court judge. This does not in my opinion does anything to harm the agreement. We can address the appointment of the judges in the overall agreement on Recorder's Court during the negotiation process with the city, so I highly recommend that we approve this motion. There's no further discussion, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's encouraging. If I stay on here 70 years, and gain one vote each time.

Commissioner Farrell said, every ten years, soon -- sooner or later you'll get it.

Chairman Scott said, well, just -- just imagine when this comes back again, there won't be anybody here but you and Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Center said, you -- you should have used drawings earlier.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Holmes moved to approve the framework agreement with the exception of item 10(d). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried in a 6-2 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Shabazz and Thomas voting yes and Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter voting no. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Assistant County Manager

ISSUE:

Request Board Approval of the 2015 SCMPD Agreement Framework

BACKGROUND:

On May 13, 2015, the County and City Managers announced a mutually agreed upon framework for a revised Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) agreement. Both managers are bringing the framework to their respective governing bodies for approval, thereafter, a new agreement will be developed by legal staff.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. In 2003 the City of Savannah and Chatham County entered into an intergovernmental agreement for the operation of the SCMPD which became effective on January 1, 2005.
2. Over the past year there have been numerous discussions between the two parties about revising the 2003 agreement. On May 13, 2015 the County and City Managers announced a mutually agreed upon framework for a revised SCMPD Agreement. The Framework is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
3. The 2015 Agreement Framework has three main provisions:
 - a. Allow the City Manager and County Manager to provide quality police services within their respective jurisdictions, through direction to the Chief of Police.
 - b. Provide absolute accountability by developing a system to measure and track service levels through benchmarks and performance measures. Some data elements that would be measured include crime rates, calls for service, call volume, officer response time, beat structure, precinct structure and coverage ratios, and
 - c. Develop a supporting cost structure for each jurisdiction based on actual services provided within each service area.
4. Once the Board approves the 2015 Agreement Framework, the County Attorney's office will work with its City legal counterparts to draft a new agreement based on the framework which will be submitted for Board consideration within sixty (60) days. Legal staff will also concurrently present a revised Recorder's Court Agreement for Board approval.

FUNDING:

Funding will be provided in the fiscal year 2016 Special Service District Fund budget.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The revised agreement will lead to development of an evidence-based approach to operations and funding.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the 2015 SCMPD Agreement Framework, or
2. Provide other direction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative 1.

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4. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.

Chairman Scott said, at this time -- we will recognize Director Ragan for the purpose of his monthly report.

Director D. Everett Ragan said, well, you're right, Chairman. It was interesting to sit through to wait for this, however, I feel like my Power Point will be second rate to Mr. Kicklighter's art work, so we'll -- we'll see -- we'll see how we're going to town, see how hard it is to follow that up. The monthly report is not on the -- the screen, so I'll just briefly go through it. Eighty-three investigations began in the month of April. You see the number of agency assists we had. We're still assisting Homeland Security with an operation. During the month, \$319,276 worth of narcotics were seized off the streets of Chatham County. With that the most common drug we seized was cocaine. For the year we've received -- we've taken over 540,000 off the streets to far. Again, the most common of that is power -- powder cocaine.

Director Ragan said, weapons seized this month 59, with a total of 89 so far for the year. Sixty-seven arrests for the month, and with the geographic locations of the arrestees home, we see that we have -- we have gone outside of Chatham County. We have five out of Atlanta, six out of Ellabell, two out of Lawrenceville, so where the drug dealers who are supplying drugs to Chatham County, where they live, we go out and -- and are able to touch them too to get everybody involved. The -- our com stat reports we do on a weekly basis that we provide to the Savannah Metro also during our -- during their weekly com stat reports are -- are in there for you -- for you to look at. That goes by Districts -- your Districts identifying where the drugs are coming in from, where the arrests have taken place, and what we have done in those areas.

Director Ragan said, our hours expended in each precinct, again, the -- year to date, Central has been our busiest -- busiest one, and the Islands precinct, again, when we talk about Islands, we just don't talk about Wilmington or Whitmarsh, that encompasses basically from Bee Road east. That takes in the State Streets, Gordonston, and all those areas in that neck -- neck of the woods, so that's not just the Islands. That's all the Islands precincts. Hours expended in municipalities, again, year to date we see the -- the most in the -- in the City of Savannah. Work by zone, we show the -- all of our precincts, 1712 hours, municipalities 583 and 294 in the incorporated -- unincorporated areas.

Director Ragan said, a couple of significant events, you'll see it a -- again on the slide presentation. We started in 2013. This is the one we had the -- the news release on. You may have seen a hard copy of that. Again, it's the one -- the one we did DE -- along with DEA. Operation Fire and Ice recovering the meth, the guns and the cash. Again on the 29th -- the 29th of April is when we did the -- the MDT house -- no, excuse me, the DMT house over on 63rd Street, and on April 28th, we also did over a kilo and a half of cocaine in Port Wentworth. This happened to be a drug purchase that we purchased drugs from. He was staying in a hotel room. We did further investigation, got a search warrant for the hotel room, and found over a kilo of cocaine in the -- in the house.

Director Ragan said, now, understand we did this investigation, Operation Fire and Ice, it had nothing to do with the topics on the agenda today, so this was -- this was named several months ago. For a background on Fire and Ice, it's CNT and Drug Enforcement Administration joint investigation in the organization operating throughout the State of Georgia, investigation identified members of the organization of the Ghost Face Gangsters and we're getting more of them. Operation objective, to combat the drug distribution, utilizing narcotics investigation and information sharing. Effort to identify all the members of individual groups and their source of supply for methamphetamine, crystal meth specifically. Our timeline, October 2013 we started the investigation very on -- on -- very low level. November 2013 through February 2015, the investigation picked up. Under cover crystal meth purchases in Chatham, Henry, DeKalb and Newton counties.

Director Ragan said, phase one, we developed information here from an -- a person who identified a source of supply as coming from outside of DeKalb county. We identified a individual named Crystal -- Christopher Henry. He was actually located in Wilcox State Prison. Identified his wife Regina, Hughes -- Zachary Hughes and Guadalupe Villafranco. He was in -- he was a Chatham County resident. These individuals were running the meth supply out of Wilcox State prison. Phone conversations between Regina, who was Christopher Henry's wife, Zachary Hughes and this group of individuals who lived in DeKalb and some in Chatham County that were running the operation. Phone calls were made back and to between the prison and Regina. He would instruct her how to -- who should handle the money, who should deliver the drugs, and she would take part of the receiving the drugs, handing it out to these lower individuals, and they would distribute. Again Ghost Face Gangsters, Christopher Henry is a member of the Ghost Face Gangsters. He is a actually quote unquote lieutenant. A. Stanton, you'll see him in the handkerchief, and you'll see the green line pointed towards him. The group of the individuals posing for their group shot right there is actually in Wilcox State Prison. You know, you're not supposed to have telephones and cameras in prison, but, you know, you -- you have them, so that's -- Stanton is actually out, but we're not able to incorporate him in this investigation, but he is on the radar.

Director Ragan said, Ghost Face Gangster, they're affiliated with the Aryan Brotherhood, suspected of 3,000 members throughout the southeastern United States, heavily involved in drug trafficking in and out of prisons. Most are career felons. They're a white supremacist gang, organized crime syndicate in the US, 10,000 members in and out of prison. Less than one percent of the prison population, but based on FBI statistics, they are responsible for 30 percent --

Commissioner Holmes said, I want you to step back up to the mike.

Director Ragan said, -- 30 percent of the homicides that are -- occur in prison. Phase two, Guadalupe Villafranco. He's been on our radar for a while. He's been -- he's been in and out of the prison system in Chatham County for many, many years. He gets in; he gets out; and he starts right back. For a period of this time -- the reason it took -- we -- we started on him in October 2013. He was on probation. His probation was revoked. He went back to prison. When he got back out of prison, he still tried to run things from the -- from the county jail. He got back out of prison. We knew he'd crank right back up again, so we were able to switch from the supply coming from up north back to Guadalupe. His two associates -- two of his associates here were Alton Vanbrackle, who ran a business in Garden City and Dodie Dovich, who would buy several ounces and sell from a trailer in Garden City. Again, these are -- the ones lower are lower people on -- involved in the meth trade. They would buy some, use some, sell some.

Director Ragan said, if you'll look at the photograph of Mr. Wilkins up in the top, once the supply dried up in Atlanta, once we had a Statesboro supply, once that supply, and I'll explain that in a few minutes, dried up, then Dodie indicated that she knew an individual by the name of Five who would -- they would be able to get crystal meth for them. That was Mr. Wilkins. We identified him. It took us about two weeks to identify that he would be traveling to Jacksonville, Florida. He made constant trips usually about every three to four days, would pick up a pound of crystal meth and bring it back. We timed our investigation on him to where he came back, we were able to knock him off, a search warrant at his house. He by that time -- by the time we could get the search warrant, he had already sold four ounces to Guadalupe Villafranco, and we recovered 12 more ounces out of Mr. Wilkins' house.

Commissioner Center said, are Guadalupe Villafranco and James Wilkins members of the Aryan brotherhood?

Director Ragan said, no. No. They -- these -- these are not. Not -- not all are members of Ghost Face, not all are members of the Aryan, no. But -- but in -- in saying that, members of Ghost Face were working directly with the -- with the Mexicans and with some African Americans in the Atlanta/DeKalb area. When it comes to selling drugs outside, it's -- it's about money, it's not about everything else. It's about -- it's about money. Again, some more Chatham County individuals we arrested. Tied in the conspiracy with Villafranco, and then Effingham County, these three individuals, we were able to tie them to the conspiracy to distribute; Bryan County, you'll see, and Bulloch County. If you look and see Kay Austin there, she -- her husband is in prison. She has a connection. She was following up his connection. She was also supplying Guadalupe and Dodie, however, she

got caught by a Statesboro police officer doing meth in a parking lot, and so she was taken out of the equation after we had already had enough to indict her. So that's why they went to Mr. Wilkins and -- and got him. So we were able to -- actually we've been able to knock off three sources of supply for crystal meth in Chatham County with this one investigation.

Director Ragan said, timeline, search warrant residences in Henry, DeKalb and Newton counties, that's -- we -- crystal we -- ice we recovered from up there. March 2015 we did residential search warrants executed in unincorporated Chatham County and approximately one pound of crystal meth. That's what we got from Mr. Wilkins is -- well actually it was 12 ounces. March 2015 search warrants executed in residences and businesses in Garden City. Search warrant executed residence in Effingham County. Crystal methamphetamine and firearms seized. Again, photographs of the crystal meth. You can see we did three -- three search warrants in Atlanta and five in Chatham and Effingham, and one consent search in -- in Bryan County.

Director Ragan said, April 15th the conspiracy case is indicted in Chatham County, Georgia. Out of the 48 people we indicted in this case, 29 have prior arrests in Chatham County. Of the 48 indicted, 32 were already convicted felons. Total crystal meth seized 32.25 ounces, which is a little over two pounds. Total weapons seized to date 38 firearms, most of those were the -- the convicted felons. Total money seized was \$23,670. You don't -- and these patches represent the law enforcement agencies that participated with us, not only in the investigation, execution of search warrants, intelligence information, and working -- working this case throughout the State of Georgia.

Director Ragan said, success of the operation of course was the information sharing, combining the resources and contributing of man power, and we all worked as one, and there's -- we -- we exist because of the Commission. One other little footnote since this Zachary Hughes that you saw in there has already pled guilty in Chatham County Superior Court, 20 years, 10 serve, and we've already seized his -- like 15,000 of -- his money has been awarded to us plus his motorcycle that we will sell.

Commissioner Shabazz said, you say Zachary? Who's --

Director Ragan said, yeah. Zachary Hughes, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, Zachary who?

Director Ragan said, Hughes. So. Any questions?

Commissioner Stone said, wow.

Chairman Scott said, any questions?

County Manager Smith said, great job.

Commissioner Center said, good job.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Director Ragan said, thank you very much.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, good looking people in that last slide.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, yes? I have -- Commissioner Thomas has a question.

Commissioner Thomas said, without getting, you know, too involved, I notice that there were a lot of actions, you know, in and out of the jails.

Director Ragan said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Thomas said, and you eluded to the fact that they are not supposed to have telephones but in many cases they do.

Director Ragan said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Thomas said, that -- that concerns me because how do they get that stuff in there? I mean -- I mean I have my own suspicion, but --

Director Ragan said, well there -- there's an aspect of this case that is ongoing and still continuing, however, it is very common for the phones and drugs to get into the prison systems and the jails simply by bribing correctional officers.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's what I thought.

Director Ragan said, there are times when they are smuggled in by family members or during visitation, that type of thing, but to be quite honest with you the most -- the most prevalent type of smuggling going on is through -- is through corrections officer.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay. That answers my question.

Director Ragan said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's what I thought.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell, the 4th District has a question.

Commissioner Farrell said, what's the penalty for a correction officer being a part of that sort of activity?

Director Ragan said, don't know exactly what it is, however, when we're able to prove the exact person that's doing it, they are tied in to the conspiracy aspect of it, so all the drugs that we receive, all the drugs that we allege in the conspiracy, that is put on them also, so you're looking at -- at hefty penalties as far as -- as far as time served. It's well over -- it's -- these people are facing 20 years, so they -- they'd be facing that much time. But that investigation is still ongoing. We worked very closely with the Department of Corrections. The two prisons -- we actually had two prisons involved in this investigation. They've been searched several times. We've recovered their phones. So.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you for your presentation.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

For information only.

[NOTE: CNT monthly Report filed in Clerk of Commission's meeting file.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

<p>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.</p>

Chairman Scott said, the next Item up is the Action Calendar. In the pre-meeting no one asked that anything be pulled to be voted on separately, so at this time I'll entertain a motion to approve that.

Commissioner Center said, I move we approve the Action Calendar.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that the Action Calendar be approved. Any unreadiness? Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The Action Calendar is approved.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve all items on the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 5 and under Item 5 Items A through G. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Shabazz did not cast a vote.]

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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 MAY 8, 2015, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 8, 2015, as mailed. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Shabazz did not cast a vote.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 30, 2015 THROUGH MAY 13, 2015.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period of April 30, 2015 through May 13, 2015, in the amount of \$5,011,498. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Shabazz did not cast a vote.]

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3. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2015. PETITIONER: HARDIK PATEL, D/B/A GRAND LAKES LODGE AND SPA, LOCATED AT 815 SOUTHBRIDGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval of a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2015. The petitioner is Hardik Patel, d/b/a Grand Lakes Lodge and Spa. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Shabazz did not cast a vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager
FROM: Gregori S. Anderson, Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services
 Joseph H. Lumpkin, Sr., Chief of Police

ISSUE:

Request approval of a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2015. Petitioner: **Hardik Patel, d/b/a Grand Lakes Lodge and Spa**, located at **815 Southbridge Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31405**.

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Patel requests approval for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor-pouring license in connection with an existing Restaurant/Private Club. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Jay Pankaj Patel to Hardik Patel.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Inspector inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.
3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 7

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct as to form.

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

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- 4. REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2015. PETITIONER: ROBERT E. OWENS, D/B/A NORWOOD TAVERN, LOCATED AT 2130 NORWOOD AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval of a request for a new Sunday sales license for 2015. The Petitioner is Robert E. Owens, d/b/a Norwood Tavern. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Shabazz did not cast a vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Gregori S. Anderson, Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services
Joseph H. Lumpkin, Sr., Chief of Police

ISSUE:

Request for new Sunday Sales license for 2015. Petitioner **Robert E. Owens, d/b/a Norwood Tavern** located at **2130 Norwood Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406.**

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Owens requests approval of a new Sunday Sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Inspector inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.
3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 3

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct as to form.

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

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- 5. 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:

Commissioner Center moved 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 unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present; Commissioner Shabazz did not cast a vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5 A thru G

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THRU: LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: MICHAEL A. KAIGLER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS

ITEM A

ISSUE: Request Board confirmation of a not to exceed \$32,500 emergency rental of a Duratech tub grinder from Consolidated Disposal Systems to grind yard waste material for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: The Solid Waste section of Public Works currently picks up curbside yard waste weekly from the citizens of Chatham County.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The yard waste collected is taken to the County's drop off centers, one (1) on Wilmington Island and one (1) on Chevis Road.
2. The current large tub grinder is down for major repairs. This has slowed the grinding of yard waste significantly. The back up grinder is a smaller horizontal grinder not capable of grinding the same volume as the large tub grinder.
3. The biggest concern of accumulating unground yard waste is the potential for spontaneous combustion. Hotter months are approaching and the current stockpile is expanding on a daily basis.
4. If a major storm were to occur in the area the amount of debris produced would significantly increase current stockpiles of unground yard waste.
5. The not to exceed amount of \$32,500 is based on a \$325 per grinding hour rental rate at 100 grinding hours. Staff contacted Vermeer Southeast to provide an additional quote, however, after contacting eight (8) of their outlets they were unable to locate a tub grinder rental.
6. Staff requested emergency approval from the Chairman to rent a tub grinder from Consolidated Disposal Systems to prevent yard waste stockpiling. The rental, while only temporary, will assist in reducing the current stockpile and prevent spontaneous combustion of the yard waste. The Chairman concurred and signed the emergency approval for the rental of the tub grinder on April 29, 2015. (see attached page 3).

FUNDING: Solid Waste Restricted
(5404510 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board confirmation of a not to exceed \$32,500 emergency rental of a Duratech tub grinder from Consolidated Disposal Systems to grind yard waste material for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to confirm emergency purchases.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$2,700 Change Order No. 1, to the design contract with Kern &

Company, LLC, for additional design work for the design/engineering services contract for the Liberty City Community Center Addition.

BACKGROUND: On September 21, 2012, the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Kern & Company, LLC to provide design/engineering services for the Liberty City Community Center Addition for the

amount of \$47,850. The addition shall contain multi-purpose room to seat approximately 150-175 people, reading/game room, kitchen expansion, fitness/exercise room and toilets. Additional on-site parking shall be included to accommodate the occupants of the multi purpose addition.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The location of the addition is in the front yard of the existing Liberty City Community Center on Mills B. Lane Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia.
2. This change order represents design work and specifications for the general contractor's change orders, both deductive and additive.
3. Staff finds the fee for the additional work from Kern & Company, LLC to be fair reasonable.
4. Contract history:

Original contract (9-12-12)	\$47,850
Change Order 1 (pending)	<u>2,700</u>
Revised contract amount	\$50,550

FUNDING: SPLOST (2008-2014) - Liberty City Community Center
(3244980 - 52.12002 - 32470340)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$2,700 Change Order No. 1, to the design contract with Kern & Company, LLC, for additional design work for the design/engineering services contract for the Liberty City Community Center Addition.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy for approval of change orders necessary for the completion of projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
MARK BUCALO

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$2,420 Change Order No. 3 to the construction contract with RL Construction Group, Inc., for the Liberty City Community Center Addition.

BACKGROUND: The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved an \$834,238 contract for construction services to RL Construction Group, Inc., at their March 28, 2014 commission meeting.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The location of the addition is in the front yard of the existing Liberty City Community Center on Mills B. Lane Boulevard.
2. This change order represents the addition of a security fence around a new HVAC system for the new vestibule and the pressure washing and painting of the existing community center north elevation.
3. The washing and painting of the existing elevation is to allow the new addition to be more aesthetically pleasing.
4. This change order also represents a reduction for the elimination of the concrete ramp and handrail and signage. The intended ramp and handrail has been replaced by a sidewalk due to the elevation of the finish grade.
5. Staff finds the price of \$2,420 for this change order from RL Construction to be fair and reasonable.
6. Contract history:

Original contract (3-28-14)	\$834,238
Change Order No. 1 (9-12-14)	9,500
Change Order No. 2 (4-10-15)	5,375
Change Order No.3 (pending)	<u>2,420</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$851,533

FUNDING: SPLOST (2008-2014) - Liberty City Community Center
(3244980 - 54.13011 - 32470347)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$2,420 Change Order No. 3 to the construction contract with RL Construction Group, Inc., for the Liberty City Community Center Addition.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders necessary for the completion of construction projects.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
MARK BUCALO

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board declaration as unserviceable surplus and approval to sell at a public auction or to dispose as scrap material older vehicles which cannot be economically repaired. The listed items attached can no longer be beneficially or advantageously used by the County.

BACKGROUND: Fleet Management and the various departments to whom the vehicles and equipment were assigned are in agreement that the identified items are unserviceable and should be disposed.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The attached list, on page 7, are the vehicles to be disposed of at the auction or as scrap material.
2. These items will be disposed of as appropriate for condition, value and circumstance. By far, the most common method will be public auction, as prescribed by the Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual. Some items, however, without a reasonable resale value, will be sold as scrap.
3. The date, time and location at which these vehicles will be auctioned will be publicly advertised to give citizens an opportunity to bid on these vehicles and equipment.

FUNDING: N/A - Revenue Producing

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board declaration as unserviceable surplus and approval to sell at a public auction or to dispose as scrap material older vehicles which cannot be economically repaired. The listed items attached can no longer be beneficially or advantageously used by the County.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve disposal of surplus County property through a public auction.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
MELVA SHARPE

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the \$89,125 sole source repair of a tub grinder from Consolidated Disposal Systems for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: The Solid Waste section of Public Works and Park Services currently picks up curbside yard waste weekly from the citizens of Chatham County.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The tub grinder to be repaired was purchased in November 2006 from Consolidated Disposal Systems. This grinder is the primary source of grinding collected yard waste.
2. Major repairs to the tub grinder consist of remove and replace rotor and install tips, cut out worn metal on grinder tub and replace with new, replace shear plates, replace hydraulic lines and leaks.
3. Staff received emergency approval for the temporary rental of a tub grinder, which is being confirmed at this meeting. Public Works and Park Services has budgeted for the procurement of a new grinder, so once repaired, the current tub grinder will become the backup grinder.
4. Since the tub grinder was purchased from Consolidated Disposal Systems, staff believed it to be in the best interest of the County to obtain a quote from them for the needed repairs.

5. Staff believes the total cost of \$89,125 to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: Solid Waste - Restricted
(5404510 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of the \$89,125 sole source repair of a tub grinder from Consolidated Disposal Systems for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve sole source repairs when it is in the best interest of the County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM F

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award an annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Southeast Corrections, LLC, for Pre-Trial Diversion Services for the Chatham County District Attorney.

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-8-80, the Chatham County District Attorney's Office is creating a Pretrial Diversion Program as an alternative to the prosecution of certain offenders in the criminal justice system. The program is designed for first offenders who have committed crimes that did not result in injury to a victim and are otherwise non-violent and non-aggressive in nature.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A Request for Proposals was properly advertised and opened on February 17, 2015. Five (5) proposals were received and scored by the evaluation committee. Southeast Corrections, LLC, was the highest scoring firm (see detailed scoring matrix attached pages 10-11).
2. Each individual accepted to participate in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program will be required to enter into a contractual agreement, and will be subject to an individualized program of supervision, which may include counseling, education, drug screening, and community service work, for a specified period of time in lieu of traditional prosecution.
3. The decision to request to participate in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program must be made freely and voluntarily and be made with the advice of counsel. Participation will occur prior to adjudication, and successful completion of the program will result in dismissal or Nolle Prosequi of the charges. The program is designed to benefit the individual participant as well as the overall criminal justice system for Chatham County. Notification to the victim will occur prior to entry into the program.

FUNDING: No funding is required. All fees associated with this program will be paid by the individuals entering into the Pre-Trial Diversion Program. All fines collected will be submitted to the General Fund of Chatham County.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award an annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Southeast Corrections, LLC, for Pre-Trial Diversion Services for the Chatham County District Attorney.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve contracts/service agreements required to create new programs. Award contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM G

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$28,431 sole source renewal of the software maintenance support agreement with Cartegraph Inc., of Dubuque, Iowa for Calldirector, WORKdirector, GEOdata Connect, GISDirector, PavementPLUS, PAVementview, and STORMview for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: Public Works and Park Services has utilized the Cartegraph WORKdirector Software System as a method of taking and tracking routine and non-routine work orders for the past thirteen years. Public Works

captures road infrastructure condition inventory information with PAVEMENTview and also incorporates a separate inventory of all drainage infrastructure assets as part of the MS-4 reporting requirements through the use of STORMview. In order for these last two (2) software programs to correctly function, an interface with existing SAGIS software is required. Public Works purchased GEOdata Connect and GIS Director to achieve this linkage. The functioning of Stormview, GEOdata Connect and GIS Director are imperative to meet the requirements of the County's NPDES Stormwater Permit. Maintenance and support for this entire software system is critical for the entire department because all of the activities and information regarding the day-to-day work order operations of Public Works and Park Services are contained on this system.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Public Works and Park Services utilizes the Cartegraph WORKdirector Software System to take and track routine and non-routine work orders.
2. The Cartegraph WORKdirector/Call in System has been in use in Public Works and Park Services for thirteen years and contains all of the day-to-day operational work activity information.
3. Additional modules have been added to the Cartegraph system increasing the maintenance and support price.
4. Maintaining and preventing software failures is critical to safeguarding the data contained within the system.
5. All sections within the department utilize Cartegraph which provides the human resources inventory for populating the time and attendance software that makes the functioning and maintenance of the Cartegraph system critical to department operations.
6. Cartegraph is proprietary software. There are no other vendors providing maintenance and support for these software packages.

FUNDING:

- SSD-Public Works
(2704100 - 52.39001) - \$10,235
- General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
(1006100 - 52.39001) - \$7,676
- General Fund/M&O - Aquatic Center
(1006124 - 52.39001) - \$5,686
- Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund
(5054400 - 52.39001) - \$569
- Solid Waste Management
(5404501 - 52.39001) - \$853
- SSD - Solid Waste
(5404502 - 52.39001) - \$1,706
- Solid Waste Restricted
(5404510 - 52.39001) - \$1,137
- General Fund/M&O - Bridges
(1004230 - 52.39001) - \$569

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$28,431 sole source renewal of the software maintenance support agreement with Cartegraph Inc., of Dubuque, Iowa for Calldirector, WORKdirector, GEOdata Connect, GISDirector, PavementPLUS, PAVementview, and STORMview for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of maintenance support for software.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____

MARK BUCALO

BUDGET APPROVAL _____

CHRIS MORRIS

BUDGET APPROVAL _____

MELVA SHARPE

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.

Chairman Scott said, there -- there are no First Readers.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

Note: The petitioner has requested the Second Readings for items XII-1, XII02, and XII-3 be delayed until the Board meeting on May 22, 2015.

Chairman Scott said, the Second Reader that's -- that's in your packet, I will not call that today. It will be called up on June 12th, at the request of the property owner.

1. **THE PETITIONER, HAROLD B. YELLIN, AGENT FOR MARINER GROUP, LLC, IS REQUESTING A REZONING OF THE PARCEL IDENTIFIED AS 2100 EAST PRESIDENT STREET, LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF EAST PRESIDENT STREET, FROM AN I-H (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION DISTRICT TO A PUD-M 36 CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. THE APPROVAL OF THIS REZONING IS CONDITIONED UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE ASSOCIATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT AND THE PROPOSED TAX AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM DENSITY PERMITTED IN A PUD-M ZONING DISTRICT FROM 25 UNITS PER NET ACRE TO 40 UNITS PER NET ACRE.**

REZONING

MPC FILE NO. Z-150205-00012-1

[DISTRICT 3.]

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2. **THE PETITIONER IS REQUESTING THAT THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, 2100 EAST PRESIDENT STREET, BE CHANGED FROM COMMERCIAL SUBURBAN AND HEAVY INDUSTRIAL TO RESIDENTIAL-GENERAL. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) MPC FILE NO. Z-150302-00020-1. [DISTRICT 3.]**

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3. **THE PETITIONER, HAROLD B. YELLIN, AGENT FOR MARINER GROUP, LLC, IS REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE. SECTION 4-ZONING DISTRICT R-3-MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL; SECTION 4-6.1 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS - 4-3; SECTION 4-6.67D.1, PUD-M-DENSITY, AND SECTION 4-6.67 D.8 PUD-M-HEIGHT. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**

TEXT AMENDMENT

MPC FILE NO. Z-150205-00011-1.

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Scott said, and then you have a lot of information items in your packet.

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.

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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: May 22, 2015

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Helicopter tail rotor bearings, bolts, and nuts	Mosquito Control	Heli-Mart, Inc.	\$3,358	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Paint and sealer for helicopter hangar floor	Mosquito Control	Durall Manufacturing	\$2,952	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Soccer Officials for February 21 - March 29	Public Works and Park Services	Greater Savannah Soccer Association, Inc.	\$5,127	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
50 mobile radio batteries for the Detention Center	I.C.S.	Savannah Communication & Electronic	\$4,050	•General Fund/M&O - Sheriff's Dept. - \$2,025 •General Fund/M&O - Detention Center - \$2,025
Mailing of pre-bills for month of May	Tax Commissioner	World Marketing	\$5,397	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Postal equipment rental for Wilmington Island and Chatham Parkway Tag Office	Tax Commissioner	Pitney Bowes, Inc.	\$3,879	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Concrete wall repairs to Wilmington Island Drop Off Center	Public Works and Park Services	Land-Co Landscaping, LLC	\$2,500	Solid Waste Restricted
High capacity batteries and four (4) chargers for 20 mobile radios for I.C.S.	I.C.S.	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	\$3,683	General Fund/M&O - Communications
500 promotional shirts for "Let's Run Drugs Out of the Community"	Sheriff's Dept.	GI Custom, LLC	\$6,000	50% Drug Surcharge Sheriff
Warehouse stock oil and lubricants	Fleet Operations	Stubbs Oil Company, Inc.	\$2,764	Inventory Account Fund - Auto Parts
60 - 20gal. drums - all purpose cleaner	Detention Center	Paper Chemical Supply Company	\$2,880	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
75 - 15gal. drums - disinfectant cleaner	Detention Center	Paper Chemical Supply Company	\$2,985	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Stock - 200 ballast and 30 photo cells for lighting fixtures	Detention Center	Graybar Electric, Inc.	\$2,590	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
36 - 15gal. drums - disinfectant cleaner	Sheriff's Dept.	Paper Chemical Supply Company	\$6,660	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Three (3) jumpdrives, four (4) monitors, and three (3) scanners	Detention Center	B & H Photo Video Pro Audio	\$3,115	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Two (2) laptop computers with carrying case for Probate Court	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing, L.P.	\$3,336	General Fund/M&O - Probate Court
Accident repairs to unit #988 - Metro law enforcement vehicle - other driver at fault	Fleet Operations	Rainbow Paint & Body	\$3,703	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Engine repair to unit #193 - Public Works Ford F350 Crew Truck	Fleet Operations	Roberts Truck Center, Inc.	\$4,073	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Annual Fire, sprinkler, and extinguisher testing and inspection; and alarm & detection monitoring	Juvenile Court	Simplex Grinnell, L.P.	\$5,798	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Pressure washing of Juvenile Court facilities and sidewalks	Juvenile Court	Water Works Pressure Washing, Inc.	\$3,500	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Physical fitness equipment and flooring installation	C.N.T.	World of Home Fitness	\$9,024	C.N.T. - Escrow Account
Warehouse stock oil and lubricants	Fleet Operations	Stubbs Oil Company, Inc.	\$3,033	Inventory Account Fund - Auto Parts
Accident repairs to unit #988 - Metro law enforcement vehicle - other driver at fault	Fleet Operations	Rainbow Paint & Body	\$7,780	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 ROADS

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Leon Davenport, P.E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

BACKGROUND: Funding priorities for projects using Federal aid are established in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For awarded construction contracts, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Bay Street Widening. ROW acquisition complete. GDOT certified the ROW on April 1, 2015. Final plans revisions underway to address FFPR comments. Environmental certification for let approved May 7, 2015. Staff anticipates GDOT letting a construction contract in 2015.
2. Jimmy Deloach Parkway Extension and Interchange of Jimmy Deloach Parkway at U.S. 80. Design is on-going. Right of way acquisition for both projects underway. Notice to Proceed with ROW acquisition issued October 3, 2014 for Extension project and notice to proceed with ROW

- acquisition issued March 12, 2015 for the Interchange project. Projects to be let together for construction by GDOT in Fiscal year 2018.
3. SR 307 Widening from US 17 to I-16. GDOT accepted for ownership and maintenance the section from I-16 south to Hardin Canal. Project from Hardin Canal south to US 17 is substantially complete and open to traffic.
 4. Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement. Design is underway on a high level bridge to replace the bascule bridge over the Intercoastal Waterway on Islands Expressway. ROW authorization expected in 2015, as soon as the NEPA Document is approved.
 5. Local Roads.
 - a. Hunt Drive and Faye Road Bridge Replacements. Construction is complete. Both bridges are open to two way traffic.
 - b. Montgomery Cross Road at Sallie Mood. Construction is complete. New traffic signal and pedestrian facilities are operational.
 - c. Road Resurfacing.
 - a. Contract let for 2.9 miles of road resurfacing to include Albert Road, Cottonvale Road, Dove Lane, Goldfinch Court, Lansing Avenue, Lions Gate Entrance, Raleigh Road and Springhouse Drive. Construction is underway.
 - b. Preparing bid documents for a road surfacing contract for 1.5 miles of road resurfacing for Diana Drive, Michael Court, Bellview Drive, McLeod Street, West Fox Chase Road, Legacy Boulevard, Gamble Road, Adams Avenue and LaRoche Avenue.
 6. Local Road Projects under Design.
 - a. Benton Boulevard. Preliminary design underway. Project will extend two lanes of Benton Boulevard north from its existing terminus at Highlands Boulevard to State Route 30. Public Information Open House scheduled for May 5, 2015.
 - b. Quacco Road. Board approved professional services engineering contract with Moffatt & Nichol on May 8, 2015. This phase will consider improvements from US 17 to the bridge crossing Interstate 95. Traffic counts and database preparation underway.
 - c. Skidaway Road. Preparation of ROW plans underway. Project will provide improvements along Skidaway Road from Montgomery Cross Road to Ferguson Avenue.
 - d. Hill Road. Preparation of ROW plans underway. Dirt road paving project.
 - e. Fairwind Road. Preliminary plans to pave Fairwind Road within the existing right of way underway by staff.
 - f. East White Hawthorne Drive Cul-de-sac. Construction plans are complete. Waiting for execution of the Quitclaim Deed by the City of Savannah. Project is ready to bid as soon as City executes Quitclaim Deed.
 - g. Bradley Point Sidewalk Improvements. Concept development complete. Public meeting held March 3, 2015. Staff is developing preliminary plans for the preferred alternative based on comments in support of the alternative received from the March 3rd meeting.
 - h. Canebrake Road Improvement Project. Preliminary design underway. Design includes an extension of the Coastal Georgia Greenway on the southside of Canebrake Road, a 5-ft sidewalk on the northside of Canebrake Road and pavement widening to provide two 11-ft travel lanes. A public information meeting held April 28, 2015.
 - i. Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2-A. Board approved a professional services engineering contract with McGee Partners. Project will provide a multi-use trail from Lake Mayer north to DeRenne Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.
Districts All

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE
AGENDA DATE: April 24, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager
FROM: Leon Davenport, P.E., County Engineer
ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County drainage projects.

BACKGROUND: For awarded construction contracts, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates. For projects pending environmental permits, start dates are best estimates. Project scopes include varying degrees of canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Pipemakers Tidegate Replacement. The project involves replacing existing sluice gates with flap gates. The Board awarded a construction contract at the October 10, 2014 meeting. The contract is executed and work is well underway. Completion is anticipated by the end of May, 2015.
2. Ashley Road Outfall Drainage Improvements. The project will improve a drainage system from the Ashley Road cul-de-sac. Design work is underway.
3. Gateway-Henderson Drainage Improvements. The project will improve portions of the drainage system in the northeast quadrant of I-95 and SR 204. The project includes construction of maintenance access and drainage improvements. Design work is underway.
4. Norwood Drainage Outfalls. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance for two drainage outfalls from Norwood Avenue. Construction of improvements is complete at Norwood Place. Design work, permitting, and acquisitions are underway for the outfall near Skidaway Road.
5. Louis Mills/Redgate Canal. The project will correct inadequate drainage capacity and the lack of maintenance access to the canal. Design of improvements along the Marshall Branch Canal is underway and includes construction of maintenance access and culvert replacements.
6. Ferguson-Winterberry Outfall Drainage Improvements. The project will improve drainage and provide access for maintenance for the Remington Canal from Ferguson Road to the outfall at Moon River. The outfall passes through the Winterberry private development. Design work is underway.
7. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. Design of a project to expand and relocate an existing outfall channel is underway.
8. Little Hurst Canal. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance along the canal. Field surveying and wetland delineation are complete. Design of improvements at the CSX railroad crossing is underway.
9. Willow Lakes Drainage Improvements. The project will relieve internal drainage issues within the Willow Lakes subdivision. The project will increase the storage capacity of the pond by lowering the existing water elevation. Design work is underway.
10. Wahlstrom Road Drainage Improvements. The project will relocate a part of a drainage system located on private property into the County right-of-way and an acquired drainage easement. Construction contract awarded March 13, 2015 with construction expected to begin in June 2015.
11. Vidalia Road Canal Drainage Improvements. The project will improve conveyance and obtain easements for access and maintenance. Design is underway.
12. Concord Road Drainage Improvements. The project will include the replacement of the existing open channel along Concord Road with a closed system and improvements to the outfall system along Penn Waller. Survey work is underway.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.
Districts: All

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PERSONAL PRIVILEGE BY THE CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Center said, do we need executive session?

Chairman Scott said, and then before we -- we will need an executive session, but before we entertain a motion for that, I want to know if Ms. Shabazz learned anything today that she can take back to Howard.

Ms. Malika Shabazz said, should I come up there?

Chairman Scott said, yeah, if you'd like.

Ms. Shabazz said, oh, I didn't know.

Chairman Scott said, I was surprised that you sat through the entire thing, and I don't -- I thought for a while there he had you handcuffed to the seat. I didn't know, but --

Ms. Shabazz said, no.

Chairman Scott said, -- that's the reason I wanted to call on you.

Ms. Shabazz said, no, but I'm just glad to be here. I came to support my father, back from college break, but I do like the fact that Mr. Kicklighter, even though everyone's talking about your drawing. I think that I learned that it's better to be a visual person, because everybody can see where your vision is, so I will definitely take

that back to school with me when I'm presenting any proposals to my professors or to the student body on student council.

Commissioner Thomas said, wonderful. Glad to have you here.

Chairman Scott said, Ms. Shabazz will be a junior next year, is that correct?

Ms. Shabazz said, yes. Bio major.

Chairman Scott said, all right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I will support you to run against your dad.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Ms. Shabazz said, okay.

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PERSONAL PRIVILEGE OF COMMISSIONER FARRELL

Chairman Scott said, at this time before we entertain a motion, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Farrell from the 4th District, and he wants -- he wants a little briefing from Mr. Drewry on -- on an issue. Mr. Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, sir. Something that didn't make the agenda but I thought was timely and appropriate at this time, we have two very exciting pieces of news coming from the Public Works and Recreation Department, and I was hoping that we could have a representative to go over those two items, and the -- the first is the restoration at the Tybee Pier and the other is the Olympic Day that's coming up. If you could give us a little bit of information about where we are on those two events, just for everyone's information, and --

Mr. Robert Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services said, okay. Thank you very much. Robert Drewry, Director Public Works and Park Services. The first item is the Walter Parker Pier and Pavilion, the restrooms. I am pleased to say that the -- we have completed the work, and those restrooms as we had indicated were going to be open before Memorial Day, and they opened today.

Chairman Scott said, very good.

Commissioner Thomas said, very good.

Commissioner Farrell said, excellent.

Mr. Drewry said, so I'm very excited about that.

Commissioner Thomas said, very good.

Mr. Drewry said, we had a very good contractor who was very cooperative, and they look extremely nice. I brought pictures, but I don't think anybody really wants to see pictures of the inside of a bathroom, but -- but we are excited about them.

County Manager Smith said, I'll text them to you anyway.

Commissioner Farrell said, they're mighty shiny.

County Manager Smith said, I'll tell you, they are nice.

Commissioner Farrell said, they're in good shape. That's the best time to look at them.

County Manager Smith said, we'll get a sign, compliments of Chatham County.

Mr. Drewry said, if you want -- if you want to see the pictures, I do have them.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Mr. Drewry said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Mr. Drewry said, and the -- the other point of note is the -- is the Olympic Day as you had mentioned earlier. We briefed y'all a couple weeks ago, and I know y'all have seen some correspondence that's been back and forth since then. We're still excited about this program, this -- this inaugural event. The recreation committee has -- or excuse me, the Recreation Authority has met on the -- on the item, and graciously approved some additional funding to go with purchasing t-shirts and medals and things of that sort. As we mentioned earlier, there are several events that are for the most part being handled by -- by the event coordinator, such as weight lifting, Michael Cohen's handling the weight lifting event. We've got youth baseball. We have sailing being handled by the sail -- Savannah Sailing Center. Just various events that's going on that -- that particular week. Opening day ceremony I believe is Friday evening, and we are very excited about that. It will go on throughout the --

Commissioner Farrell said, a week from today.

Mr. Drewry said, from -- yeah, thank you, a week from today.

Commissioner Farrell said, at Memorial Stadium, is that right?

Mr. Drewry said, at Memorial Stadium. I believe it's 6:00 -- I believe 6:00 p.m. and it will be going on throughout -- throughout the area. Mostly in the Bacon Park area. Most of the events will be held in that area throughout the week, and -- and then closing ceremonies that following Friday. But, we are excited about it, and again we appreciate the Recreation Authority's assistance on that and -- and of course, as well as yours.

Commissioner Thomas said, good job.

Commissioner Farrell said, great. Yeah, if we can just get the word out to folks to participate. This is mainly for -- for the children of our area, Chatham County, but everybody's welcome to -- to get with their different perspective sporting events and -- and -- and I'm sure the Public Works folks can channel any questions to the proper person. This is a mostly volunteer project with some staff support from Chatham County and some funding from -- we got unanimous support from the Recreation Authority to do some funding so that the children will have some memorabilia and some accolades for their achievements at this event that will last approximately two -- two -- two weeks. So, a great way to kick off the summer. It's International Olympic sanctioned. There will be the five international rings. We will have permission to use all the logos for the International Olympic Committee to -- and it would be a great experience for our youth to participate in something that's very positive and -- and enriching in their lives and my hats off to the Public Works and Recreation Department for taking the lead and -- and working very diligently with the -- with the volunteer parts of the community to -- to -- to make this happen.

Commissioner Thomas said, very good.

Commissioner Farrell said, so -- and of course, you know, we -- we have a -- a former Olympian that lives in our county and -- and -- and has a contract for the county, Michael Cohen, who's done a great job of -- of helping facilitate the -- the connection between the Olympic committee and -- and our community, so hats off to him too, and -- and I appreciate the -- the -- the few minutes to -- to let the public know some of the great things that are happening as we speak. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you Commissioner Farrell. At this time, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, yes, just real briefly. I want to thank Commissioner Farrell --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner Stone said, -- for his involvement in this and the Recreation Authority, James [Holmes]. I'd like to see us build on this. This is such an opportunity for our young people, and we don't do enough with this in our community.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Stone said, so I'm very excited about it, and I want to see it grow next year. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Center said, are you ready for a motion?

Chairman Scott said, okay. If -- if there's nothing further, we will entertain a motion for an executive session. I will state that there will be no votes taken after the executive session, and it's for the purpose of legal.

Commissioner Center said, okay. I move we recess to executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation -- legal matters.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

County Attorney Hart said, and -- and personnel as it relates to --

Commissioner Center said, personnel too? Personnel and legal matters.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries. We are heading to executive session.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to recess to executive session for the purpose of litigation, personnel, and land acquisition. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present.]

The Board recessed at approximately 12:31 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center 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 Brady was not present; Commissioners Holmes, Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF JUNE, 2015.

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

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION