

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 31, 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 9:32 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2015.

Chairman Scott said, good morning and welcome. You may be seated. I'll ask that you be seated at this time and once our devotional leader has provided us with his devotional message and indicate it is time to pray, if at that time, if you would re-stand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance. Today Commissioner James Holmes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District will introduce our devotional leader. Commissioner Tony Center from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Scott said, at this time I recognize Commissioner Holmes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning to all. It is great deed and a pleasure. When one is asked to introduce one, sometime you have to go on the internet and pull up a resume on them; sometime you ask for that resume. But the pleasure I have this morning is to introduce a young man that I don't need no resume. And usually in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, we does what we call a survey. Whoever come into the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, we try to find out what is he doing? How's she doing? And how are they going to network theirselves with the community? Well since I met this young man and surprisingly enough in about the last two month we met, and we talked about some big celebration that he was doing -- going on at his church, and I understand that celebration was quite successful. That's because the leader of that church is a visionary, and he's a successful person. So, Pastor Rice, as I stated, it's a great deed and honor and pleasure to bring before you today, your leadership from the pastoral arena, Dr. Rice. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Dr. Rice.

Commissioner Holmes said, the hopper is yours.

Pastor Willie C. Rice, Jr., said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Pastor Rice said, I'm between a rock and a hard place. I've got people behind me and before me, but I -- I presume I have to speak into the microphone.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah. Lift the mic some.

Pastor Rice said, let me thank you for inviting and asking and accepting me to come and to give words of inspiration as you begin your session on today. I am deeply humbled and trust there is something to be said that will inspire you as you continue to serve in your various positions, and as you continue to lead our city. I also would like to say that your sacrifices and your commitment and dedication are very much appreciated by those who have some knowledge of the science of government.

Pastor Rice said, I thought I would share with you by way of inspiration this morning a thought on a good name. And there's a passage that's found in your Word about character, about integrity in Proverbs Chapter 22, verse 1, that a good name it -- it reads is more to be desired than great wealth, and favor is better than silver and gold. The world as we know seeks after wealth and silver and gold and recognition, but we believe that if we would conduct ourselves in such a manner as to gain favor from our peers, from our communities, from our cities and states, whatever level that it goes so much further than being greedy or trying to acclaim selfish gains. I say to you today, as you continue to do the work that as -- that you've been chosen to do, called to do, appointed to do, as elected officials, consider that your character, your personality, your name is you. You are what your name says. There's also a passage that says to be blameless, meaning that we're not perfect, but one does not have to be guilty of everything that he's accused of. If I was in church, I would say amen.

Commissioner Shabazz said, amen.

Members of the audience said, amen.

Pastor Rice said, but we -- we thank you, and we encourage you to remember that the results of your choices, and how you conduct and carry yourself affects not only yourself, but those around you as well. Ironically, the person that wrote Proverbs was named Solomon, and it is said that he was the wisest man to have ever lived. Yet, during the end of his reign as king, he made so many foolish mistakes. He practiced so many idolatrous practices and sometimes being in a position of leadership, being in a position of -- in the public limelight, many times that comes with opportunities and persuasions to become actively involved in so many things that are not conducive to bearing a good name. I say to each of you this morning that are represented here and who are representing us. Thank you that your name speaks for you and the work that you are doing is recognizable.

Pastor Rice said, finally, another passage in Hebrews, Chapter 6, around the 10<sup>th</sup> verse or so, says God is not unjust to forget your labor of love, and that you are ministering to us and continue to minister. Shall we pray?

Pastor Rice gave the invocation as follows:

Our Father, we thank you for this glorious day. It is a day that you have made, and we shall rejoice and be glad in it. We lift before you now these leaders whom we believe that you have deemed worthy, qualified to serve us -- serve us in this appointed time. We thank you that by divine providence, they are giving of themselves, giving of their resources, giving of their talents and as a result are contributing in such a large way toward making this place a better place in which to live. In the name of your son we ask and thank you, Amen.

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

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Center said, will you please, join me?

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

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**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Chairman Scott and Commissioner Holmes presented Pastor Rice with a Certificate of Appreciation for his devotion and invocation.

Chairman Scott said, the Chair recognize Commissioner Shabazz of the 5<sup>th</sup> District for comments.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning Pastor Rice.

Pastor Rice said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I just want to let you know out of all the invocations that we've had since I've been on this Board, that, we've had a lot of great ones, and yours just now was a great invocation. I think that you really broke the bread of life with us this morning, and I'd like to thank you for that. Thank you very much, sir.

Pastor Rice said, thank you. Thank you for having me.

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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  
                      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 Bocoock, County Clerk

Not Present: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
Lori L. Brady, District Six

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Chairman Scott said, at this time I recognize the Commissioner from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Commissioner Holmes for the purpose of a motion.

Commissioner Holmes said, on last evening, I got a call from Dr. Priscilla Thomas, our Vice, and she asked to be excused for some personal reasons.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Commissioner Center said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that Dr. Thomas be excused. All in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no.

Commissioner Center said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, the motion carries. At this time I'll recognize Commissioner Center of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District for the purpose of making a motion.

Commissioner Center said, thank you. Commissioner Brady had a doctor's appointment today, and I move that we excuse her also.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that Commissioner Brady be excused for medical reasons. Hearing the motion, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Commissioner Brady is excused.

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

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to excuse Dr. Thomas from the Commission meeting. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. (NOTE: Commissioner Brady was not present.)
- b. Commissioner Center moved to excuse Commissioner Brady from the Commission meeting. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. (NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.)

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## **V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. STATUS ON W. W. LAW COLLECTION.**

Chairman Scott said, at this time on our agenda we're going to recognize representatives from the City of Savannah for the purpose of giving us an update on the Law Collection. Ms. Spracher, would you also introduce yourself, and tell folk --

Ms. Luciana Spracher said, absolutely. I'll just wait for that noise. Good morning Chairman Scott, Commissioners and County Manger Smith. My name is Luciana Spracher, and I'm the Director of the City of Savannah's Research Library and Municipal Archives Department. Since the City accepted the W.W. Law Collection from the W. W. Law Foundation, the library and archives has both had -- has had both responsibility and the privilege of caring for this Collection. Today I'm going to give you a brief update on what has happened with this Collection since the City took possession of it in March of 2014. I wanted to provide a little background regarding W.W. Law and the Collection for our citizens.

Ms. Spracher said, as many of you know, Wesley Wallace Law, better known as W. W. Law was dedicated to making Savannah a better community for all. In the simplest summary he ded -- he was a prominent civil rights leader, serving as president of the Savannah Branch NAACP at the height of the American Civil Rights movement. He was an historian, an historic preservationist who's focus was to preserve the history, art, culture and sights of the local African American community. And he was a community leader who brought together diverse groups to address common issues. Law's efforts resulted in the King-Tisdale Cottage Museum, the Beach Institute African American Cultural Center, the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, and the Negro

Heritage Trail Tour. The W.W. Law Collection is a record of all these achievements and contributions. It's a record of his life and work captured in a variety of formats, including personal and organizational records and papers, photographs and scrapbooks, audio visual recordings, books and journals, artifacts, and art work. This Collection is important not only for documenting the man but all the phases of Savannah, Chatham County, and Georgia's history that he was a part of. Law's interests and impact are far ranging. At his core, Law was a leader and teacher. His Collection will continue that legacy by providing -- by providing resources for the public to study on a variety of important topics. Through these records he continues to teach us about our past and inspire us to do better for the future.

Ms. Spracher said, the main function of the City's library and archives department are outlined here in our mission statement. The two services highlighted in red are at the core of our archival commitment. Our mission is to manage, preserve, and make accessible records documenting the City of Savannah's history, and to share that history with our employees, citizens, and vit -- and visitors through a variety of outreach activities. When we accepted the donation of the Law Collection last year it was with this -- with this mission in mind. We are committed to preserving the Collection so that it is available for future generations and providing public access and outreach to the widest and most diverse audience as possible.

Ms. Spracher said, when the Collection was turned over to the City last year by the W. W. Law Foundation, that transfer included both the Collection materials and everything tangible that had been purchased with the SPLOST money. The Collection itself was in a partially processed condition. I'll use the term processing often today. It refers to all the archival activities required to make a collection available to the public, including inventorying, description, arrangement, re-housing, and basic preservation measure. When we received the Collection, there was no inventory for it. Basic cataloging had been completed on portions of the book, photo and art collections. Some papers had been re-housed in acid free materials, but most of the boxes were as they were when they had been packed out of Mr. Law's house. Many showed evidence of water, mold or pest damage. We believe some of this damage actually occurred when it was still at Mr. Law's house, but some also occurred during storage as it awaited processing. And as you can see, some -- there was some damage caused by stacking boxes too high too heavy, and so we do have some crushing damage.

Ms. Spracher said, along with the actual Collection materials, the City received items that were purchased with SPLOST money, including archival supplies, equipment and software. The supplies included acid free boxes, folders and enclosures. Equipment included desktop computers and an archival scanner. Once we received it, the City's IT department determined that the desktops were out of date at that point, so we've already replaced those. In terms of software, the Foundation had been using PastPerfect Museum software to start cataloging photographs and books. Those PastPerfect licenses were transferred to the City library and archives, and all the data that had been -- been input into the system was transferred to the City's network enabling us to back it up and build on it. We have since purchased what's called the PastPerfect Online module, which helps us to deliver cataloging records to the public on line. We are currently on PastPerfect version 4, that's what the Foundation had purchased, but we're planning to upgrade to version 5, the current version of the software next year. We have found that software to be very good for item level cataloging.

Ms. Spracher said, the Law Collection has been integrated into the duties of the City's full time archival staff, including myself and our staff archivist. In addition we have a part-time project archivist, as well as currently two summer volunteers. I'm handling project main -- management, and our archivist, Lisa Cisco, is handling the day to day work of processing. The part-time project archivist has helped us with cataloging photographs and sorting papers. We plan to hire a full-time project archivist for a period of two years to help accelerate our progress on this Collection, and we also look forward to hosting college interns who are interested in experiencing aspects of this Collection as they work on their college programs.

Ms. Spracher said, I want to get into the nuts and bolts a little bit of what we've been doing over the past year to get this Collection processed. If you'll jump down to the bottom two items on that list, I briefly want to mention that in taking on this Collection, the City will manage it as we do the same for all our historical and permanent retention records. Collections will be stored in the City records center, which meets archival standards addressing security, climate controls, and inventory management. Research collections can be accessed by the public through our research library which is located on the first floor of City Hall. I want to stress that the majority of this Collection is manuscript material and is a research collection. It is not realistic or appropriate for it all to be displayed at the same time. Rather we will work to rotate things in and out for displays and exhibits but always have everything available for research.

Ms. Spracher said, ongoing archival management includes inventory management, scheduled holdings maintenance and clean preservation and conservation, as well as managing exhibits, loans and reproduction permissions. Jumping back to the survey and planning work, last May we completed a preliminary survey of the boxes as we received them from the Foundation. Our survey included numbering all the boxes, identifying their contents and noting any preservation concerns we needed to plan for. The survey identified 1,019 boxes, of which 934 were completely unprocessed, and that left just 85 that were in a partially processed condition. We did not include the oversized and unboxed materials in this survey. We also conducted a supply inventory so we had a full accounting of all supplies that were transferred. This inventory has helped us to move forward as we planned for our processing and identified what gaps we had in our supplies. We have had to order over the past year a good bit of additional supplies to help progress our work and move forward.

Ms. Spracher said, based on the preliminary survey, we identified various records series that the whole collection will be broken down into, including the Savannah Branch NAACP records, organizational records for

the various groups Mr. Law worked with, serial publications, book collection, audio visual collection, photograph collection and art collection, as well as his personal papers. We have prioritized the series' and identified realistic phases of work, and for each series we then develop a processing plan that address how -- what staff needs we have for that particular series, what are the supply and conservation needs, what specific collection tools do we need to generate to facilitate access.

Ms. Spracher said, the first part of the Collection we focused on was the photograph collection. We started with the cataloging records that the Foundation had created in PastPerfect, audited their data entry, and then continued cataloging additional items until we reached our first goal of 1,000 images. We processed this collection down to the item level, so we have a catalog entry for every single one of those 1,000 photographs. We also digitized all those images. For the collection for outreach we created a collection finding aid with a subject inventory, which was then connected to the on-line catalog of digitized images. The finding aid provides the users information they need to request the items in person. Over 900 images are available on line through the City's digital image catalog, which is supported by the PastPerfect module, and you can see a snapshot of that online catalog in the lower right. On the lower left is a research guide for the Collection which you all should have a copy of on your desks. In addition to our research tools available through the City website, we have connected all these images to the Digital Library of Georgia, which is a state-wide hub that connects all of the digital connections and institutions that partner with Digital Library of Georgia throughout the State. Digital Library of Georgia is then also a regional hub for the Digital Public Library of America. So by attaching to DLG, we have made our records discoverable nationwide through the DPLA.

Ms. Spracher said, there are many more photographs in this Collection. We find more everyday as we sort through, so we will be adding to it over time. We officially opened the Collection last October and held an open house. You can see a picture here on the right, and that allowed people an opportunity to come down and look at some of the highlights of the Collection. We plan to do future exhibits once we've rolled out the next phase of the photograph processing.

Ms. Spracher said, next we focused on the art collection. Mr. Law had an extensive art collection of both original works and reproductions. Many of his relationships with the artists were based on them having exhibited at the King-Tisdale Cottage Museum, and his Collection reflects both local artists and Savannah scenes, as well as African American artists. For the first phase of processing of the art collection we focused on the original artwork of four artists, Christopher Murphy, Richard Law Evans, Ken Herrington, and Margaret Burroughs. These pieces were also cataloged at the item level and were re-housed, re-framed, and cleaned as necessary. We have already held two exhibits featuring the Collection. In City Hall from January through June of this year we had an exhibit of water colors by artists Herrington and Evans, and at the same time we partnered with the Live Oak Public Libraries to an -- an exhibit of the Margaret Burroughs prints which an example is in your upper right at the Carnegie Library. That was so successful that we have just loaned them water colors from Richard Lowe Evans which they are actually supposed to be installing this week, and that exhibit will run through the end of this year.

Ms. Spracher said, we've started talking with the Beach Institute about doing an exhibit with the Burroughs prints there. Our hope is that we will be able to continually rotate these -- this art collection around town with different cultural institutions so we can increase the user's awareness and ability to experience the Collection. As we move forward with the unprocessed art work, we will focus first on all of the original pieces, and the reproduc -- reproductions will come after that.

Ms. Spracher said, we've started processing Mr. Law's records from his 26 years as president of the Savannah Branch NAACP. We chose this series of papers to process before his personal papers because we feel that they have the highest level of researcher use and national historic value. Unfortunately, as we started going through these unprocessed boxes, we found a large infestation of silver fish. Here you can see some damage on the pages caused both by the silver fish eating the records and leaving behind excrement. Before we can process these or bring them into our archival storage areas, they have to be treated so that we have killed and removed all the silver fish and their eggs. This spring we started a non-toxic freezing treatment which was identified as the least harmful -- harmful to both the materials and our staff. As we finish the treatment, the records are being cleaned and re-housed in acid free boxes and enclosures, and this Collection we've processed down to the folder level. We've started with the incoming and outgoing correspondence. As we finish phases of the NCCP [sic] records, I -- we will open them up to researchers, and they will also have online finding aids and inventories to facilitate user discovery and access. We will probably only do select digitization of this portion of the records, choosing those items that are probably of national, really significant value to get on line. But one thing that we really hope to do is work on an exhibit that can travel around to our local schools and work on parent -- I mean not parent, teacher and student guides and orientations so that we can really share this in a lot of different settings with this -- with our younger generation.

Ms. Spracher said, as many of you might be aware, Mr. Law was a music lover and had a very extensive collection, including shellac LPs and vinyl discs. The overall audio visual collection includes over 125 boxes of materials. We started working on the first phase of this Collection this summer with the assistance of two volunteers, and we are focusing our first phase on the shellac albums which date from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many of which document significant cultural and political events, and they reflect a diverse range of genres, including jazz, folk, classical, spirituals, patriotic, and blues music. Processing includes cleaning the materials, re-housing them, item level cataloging and extensive research on the composers, artists and directors. In most cases we will not be able to play these original materials, but knowing what Mr. Law's Collection is, will help us to put it in a national context and also enable us to do very creative public outreach. We are planning

an exhibition of album artwork. We are also hoping to partner with the local schools to do a music -- I mean a concert based on the music in the Collection, and use that as an opportunity for music education. Again, we're going to break the audio visual collection down into multiple phases. By using this approach with all parts of the Collection, we hope that we will be continually rolling out pieces to the public and -- without them having to wait for it all to be opened at once. We hope this keeps people engaged and also satisfies all those people who have been waiting many years to access this Collection.

Ms. Spracher said, I've talked about specific deliverables for specific portions of the Collection but overall these are the deliverables for the entire Collection. The most important thing we need to achieve is full intellectual control and physical control over the Collection. We need to know what we have and where it is in order for us to retrieve information and materials for our citizens. Once we know what we have and where it is, we can open the Collection for research to the public, whether that is in person, research at our research library, on line through digital collections or remotely through phone and email reference. Knowing what we have also helps us develop the collection tools that will help others discover and access this Collection. Our main tool is a finding aid that tells you what is in a collection, what's -- what every item is, and how they access it. This includes inventories down to the box, folder or item level as appropriate. Additionally, we have -- we produce subject guides based on specific topics. So a potential research guide could be civil rights in Savannah or 1960s in Savannah. We plan on digitizing the entire photo collection and select digitization on other portions of the Collection. This will allow for remote access and give the Collection a greater international audience.

Ms. Spracher said, we are most excited about the opportunities we have with this Collection to partner with other local groups and organizations to share the Collection through exhibits, programs and a host of unlimited research opportunities, outreach possibilities. We recognize that to a great extent Mr. Law belonged to the people. So many have called him their mentor or the one that set them on the path to success. Because of this universal pride and ownership in his legacy, the Collection he left behind also belongs to the people, and the city -- at the City we feel a great sense of responsibility in making sure that every person in the community has an opportunity to experience Mr. Law's -- Mr. Law and his teachings through the Collection.

Ms. Spracher said, I want to close out just by going over some of the funding that is supporting this Collection. Today on your agenda there is an item to approve an agreement between the County and the City that would allow for the remaining SPLOST funding to be used to support this Collection. The agreement allows for the SPLOST funds to be used in getting the Collection up and running and open to the public, including project staff, supplies and equipment, software start up and data transfer, conservation and preservation activities and the initial public outreach efforts to let the community know when parts of the Collection are open and available. Moving forward, City funding through the research library municipal archives annual operating budget will support the ongoing costs of archival staff, supplies, equipment, software licensing and upgrades, maintenance and storage of not just the physical collection but the digital collections generated from it, public outreach programs, and collection support, including disaster preparedness and collection management.

Ms. Spracher said, I want to thank you for allowing me to give you this update. If you would like to learn more about the City's municipal archives or explore some of our digital -- digital collections or collection tools, you can visit our websites at [www.savannahga.gov/municipalarchives](http://www.savannahga.gov/municipalarchives). And I just wanted to close with three of my favorite pictures from this photograph collection. Thank you.

Commissioner Center said, can I ask a question?

Chairman Scott said, yeah. We have Commissioner Center of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, has a question, please.

Commissioner Center said, thank you. Great presentation. You know, I was born in 1949 so -- and graduated law school in '75, so basically, my entire formative life I heard my parents mention over and over and over their relationship with and -- W.W. Law and -- and Gene Gadsden. So it's -- it -- it -- it's a -- it's a name that's part of my childhood, and I -- I'm reading your brochure. I remember reading the Savannah Morning News, the department store lunch counter sit ins in Savannah, Georgia, and to me at that young age, it was bringing national news to Savannah. It was happening right here, and -- and watching that. Also, it's not in here, but W.W. Law's great efforts in the voting rights act and getting people the right to vote, some of whom now sit on this -- on this Commission. Is it -- is there anything open to the public right now other than online? You said there's something at Savannah City Hall, and I wasn't clear.

Ms. Spracher said, the -- the photograph -- the first phase of the photograph collection, which was a little over 1,000 photographs is open for research. It is also to -- almost over 900 of those images are on line. So the opportunity is there for the public to either use them on line or to come in and look at the original materials. Which we have had people do. Some people want that tangible experience. So, yes, that part is open. The art collection that we've opened up has been through exhibits. It's -- but they -- a researcher could come and look at the pieces we have had cataloged so far.

Commissioner Center said, so -- so the general public can't come in to City Hall and look at it? It has to be a researcher?

Ms. Spracher said, no, the general public is the researcher. I'm sorry. Our patrons include citizens, visitors, students, professors. You could come in after this meeting and come over and look at it, yeah.

Commissioner Center said, you -- you go to City Hall during operating hours of that building?

Ms. Spracher said, that's right. That's right.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

Ms. Spracher said, and I -- I would say, since -- since we -- we have a fairly small staff, we encourage people just to call ahead so that we can make sure we're fully available to help them.

Commissioner Center said, thank you. Great presentation. I very much appreciate it.

Ms. Spracher said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner Shabazz from the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Good morning.

Ms. Spracher said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I really enjoyed your presentation. I grew up two doors, three doors away from Mr. Law on Victory Drive, and I never knew that he had so much material in that small house there --

Ms. Spracher said, house.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- and right now today, you know, there are several structures and buildings that in my life that I've been a part of, institutions, and whenever I pass by those places, I feel a sense of reverence for them, and that house that Mr. Law grew up in -- or was living in, is one of those houses, one of those structures that this -- I feel a sense of reverence in the community. It's like a beacon in the -- those communities because so much things was going on there, and just -- just, he was a great man. And -- and it shows right here, and I'm glad that the City has taken up this task to preserve his work in history so that those coming behind us and future generations could see it and research it, and see just how great of a man that we had among us. Thank you.

Ms. Spracher said, you know, we have been -- as we work through the Collection, continually amazed at the range of his interests and research, education, busing, museums. When he started the King-Tisdale, he fully researched museums and what he should do to help start a museum here. So he -- he -- his mind absolutely fascinates us, and so I'm really looking forward to getting all that stuff out there for everybody to experience.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. One other -- one -- one last thing, when he -- when he was establishing the -- they were remodeling the King-Tisdale Cottage --

Ms. Spracher said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- I was in high school at the time, and so, sometime after that he did the Beach Institute, and then after that he did the --

Ms. Spracher said, Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, and then also, he was down in Yamacraw a lot, because I would give him rides back and forth to those places, and I -- I asked him each time he was to establish one of these museums, I said, didn't you just establish this one, why are you doing this? Why are you doing that? He said, well, in time you'll see.

Ms. Spracher said, I -- I believe he was creating a network.

Commissioner Shabazz said, And I guess we -- we see now.

Ms. Spracher said, yeah.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Yes.

Ms. Spracher said, and -- and the City hopes and plans to work with all those organizations that Mr. Law helped start so that we can connect all of them to this Collection.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Ms. Spracher said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you. What a masterful plan. Very much appreciate it. Couple of questions I want to ask. The Board that exists -- the Board that exists, is that Board --

Ms. Spracher said, the -- the W.W. Law Foundation?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes. Is that still in tact?

Ms. Spracher said, I can't -- I --

Commissioner Holmes said, what -- what role does it play now?

Ms. Spracher said, I can't speak to what the current condition of the Foundation is. When the transfer -- the Collection was transferred, they deeded the Collection over. We have a signed deed of gift that gives us full control of the Collection, and at that point the Foundation stepped out of the W.W. Collection project.

Commissioner Holmes said, all right. So what role do they play now?

Ms. Spracher said, they don't play a role outside of if I have a question about, you know, who's this person in this picture or can you enlighten me on what this event was? I have resources at the Foundation where I can ask about that, but they're not physically working with the Collection at this time.

County Manager Lee Smith said, just really advisory.

Commissioner Holmes said, so they have -- pardon me?

County Manager Smith said, advisory, wouldn't you say?

Ms. Spracher said, well, I'd say they're --

County Manager Smith said, good for information.

Ms. Spracher said, they're not even really advising on the Collection, they're providing information about Mr. Law and his life as needed to help process the Collection.

Commissioner Holmes said, who do they provide the information to?

Ms. Spracher said, I would be the one that would ask.

Commissioner Holmes said, you?

Ms. Spracher said, yeah.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. I understand sometime ago there was some technical in house I would say fighting. To your knowledge, have all this been resolved?

Ms. Spracher said, well, I think a great deal of that was around the Collection and what was going to happen to it, so with the Collection being deeded to the City, that part was closed. As far as what's going on with the Foundation now, I can't answer those questions. I'm not involved with it.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Would the -- would this archive always remain at City Hall?

Ms. Spracher said, well, I think portions of it, we will try to partner with other organizations, and a good example would be the book collection. The book collection is really large. There is a large children's book component to it, so my hope is that we would partner, you know, the most likely candidate would be our local public library system or, you know, local school district, and a way to get those to a high -- an area that has a higher level of interaction with students than City Hall has. City Hall will be where the core research part of the Collection is housed because we have the facilities there to store it and provide research or access, and the space where we can do student class orientations and programs.

Commissioner Holmes said, in the future would there be any plans to move it from there to --

Ms. Spracher said, it's own building?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes.

Ms. Spracher said, at this point there's no plans.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Thanks.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Shabazz of the 5<sup>th</sup> District has a follow-up question if nobody else has any questions.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes, I -- I -- I forgot to say when I was making the comments earlier, that I'd like to just thank all the individuals who worked with this Collection and it's archiving and stuff and preserving his work before the City took over. I'd just like to thank them and commend them for -- for holding the line, one -- one being Mr. Pendergrass and also Mr. Clifton Jones. I know they worked closely with it, and all the ones that worked with them. I'd just like to thank them, and just recognize them. And -- and also thank you all too.

Ms. Spracher said, yes. Well, we -- we understand that, you know, Mr. Law died in 2002, and we did not receive the Collection until 2014, so for 12 years, there were individuals that were safeguarding the Collection to make sure it got to this point.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Thank you.

Ms. Spracher said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, I might also add if you stop and think about it, we're on SPLOST VI. SPLOST V was a six-year SPLOST. We're in the first year of SPLOST VI, and this was actually an item on SPLOST IV, and the voters approved funding to acquire and to maintain this project, and so a lot of the materials was actually purchased with SPLOST funds and maintained in original research, or the original start of trying to catalog the materials was paid for with SPLOST fund by the County. The City did provide a building in which to work from and to house this project that was not a building that was properly adequate for this type of collection during some of the early days, and that may have resulted in some of the damages that -- that you see, and so I just wanted to put that in perspective, that this was a SPLOST IV project, and since I've been on board, I've had interactions with members of that Foundation Board to try to acquire additional fundings, and I resisted that and it was not until they agreed to really hand it off to the City because I was concerned about its long-term protection, and -- that we got to a point where we -- once the City had it, that the County wanted to be able to pass those funds on to a governmental agency, such as the City of Savannah, so they could finish the project and properly secure it for all to view and to inspect, and -- and that's how we got where we are at today. And, I just wanted to make sure that the public understand that this was a vote of the people on SPLOST IV, that's really made the -- the preserving and the protection of the Law Collection possible.

County Manager Smith said, Mr. Chairman, I had an opportunity to go with Michael Kaigler, Assistant County Manger, and the staff from the City, maybe six months ago to look at the entire Collection, and I -- overwhelming is -- is the -- does -- is -- doesn't suit and is not adequate for what I saw. So I want to commend the City and the staff for what they're doing. Also the process that they've put in place and that they proved to us. So I do thank -- and tax payers investing these dollars, the staff of the -- of the City of Savannah are doing a really good job, and I feel very confident about what you're about to do in -- in making that investment for Sales Tax IV, I guess, it was, what, a half a million dollars.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

County Manager Smith said, they've done a really good job.

Chairman Scott said, and during my conversations with folk with the City and -- and I know that they're -- there will soon be new administration since there are elections this year, but there was some discussion about possibly putting a portion of the Law Collection in the proposed new culture center, was kicked around at one point, and so I don't know if that's still a possibility, Commissioner Holmes, but it was talked about.

Commissioner Holmes said, yeah. I've heard it.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Thank you so much.

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## 2. PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE HUMAN RESOURCES WEEK, AUGUST 10-14, 2015.

Chairman Scott said, the next item on the agenda is a proclamation to declare the week of August 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> Human Resources week, and we have a proclamation to accomplish that, and I want to just share with you a little bit of the proclamation. I'm not going to read it in its entirety. But we do have members of our Human Resources Department here, and I'm going to ask Carolyn [Smalls] to come up in a -- in a few minutes, and she will introduce everybody who's here, and their role. But, the proclamation says --

Chairman Scott read part of the following proclamation:



**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Human Resources Department is a vital and valued partner in the accomplishment of Chatham County's strategic objectives, and essential in the recruitment, training and development, performance management, pay and benefits administration, and reward and recognition of Chatham County team members; and,

**WHEREAS**, in that endeavor, the Chatham County Human Resources Department provides a variety of services for 34 departments covering 1600 employees as well as benefits administration services to over 550 retirees and their dependents; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Human Resources Department is staffed by 15 team members who are trained and responsible for the strategic planning to put the right people, in the right place, at the right time, with the right attitude to meet the needs of Chatham County; and,

**WHEREAS**, Human Resources team members continually strive to enhance their professionalism and competence such that the vast majority of them hold national or state certifications in Human Resources Management from such noted associations as the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI), the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR), and the Georgia Local Government Personnel Association (GLGPA); and,

**WHEREAS**, during the week of August 10-14, 2015, the Chatham County Human Resources Department will celebrate its first annual Human Resources Week to highlight the role of the human resources profession in Chatham County Government.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Albert J. Scott, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of August 10-14, 2015 as:

**CHATHAM COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES WEEK**

in Chatham County and extend sincere appreciation for the dedication, professionalism and devotion shown by Chatham County's human resources professionals in their service to the citizens and employees of Chatham County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 2015.

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

**ATTEST:**

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

Chairman Scott said, Carolyn. [Applause.]

Ms. Carolyn Smalls, Human Resources Director said, good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and to the Commissioners. I want to thank you for recognizing August 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> as Chatham County Human Resources week. HR is a vital role -- plays a vital role in this organization and the purpose of this week was to recognize that, and it really came about as our team reflected over this past year to 18 months over all that we have accomplished as a team and sought a way to recognize that, and staff really came up with the idea of having HR week. And we recognize that our mission is to help other county departments to accomplish theirs. We are really in a support role, and we do that by ensuring that we have competent, qualified, trained and engaged staff to support our departments. So when other county departments succeed, HR succeeds.

Ms. Smalls said, so during HR week we're going to celebrate what we do. We have a variety of activities planned. We're having an open house so that all employees can come and see what HR does, and also so that we can learn more about county departments. We have several departments who are going to come in and make presentations to us about their programs and their services, and also as a way to give back to the community, we are sponsoring a food donation drive to benefit America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. So throughout the County there are food donation barrels posted, and we are urging all of our team members to generously give to that endeavor as we celebrate this week.

Ms. Smalls said, but we recognize that we cannot do what we do without your support and without the County Manager's support, so we want to thank you for all the resources and support you have given us so that we can accomplish our mission. And behind me is a very, very talented team of HR professionals that I believe all of Chatham County should be proud of, and I just want to introduce them, and -- so we have with us -- I'm not sure what order we're standing in: Debra Allen, Barbara Baucum, Shannon Bazemore, Octavia Brown, Tamala Fulton, Leigh Herald, Ramona Hill, Van Johnson, Marilyn Labrador, Takiyah Martin, Keith Pflager, Katrina Suarez, and not with us today are three team members who are out today, James Aberson, Sylvia Everett, and Mindy Ramsey. So, again, on behalf of our entire team I want to thank you for this recognition.

Chairman Scott said, okay, and before you leave, we have a framed copy that we want you to hang over there in the lobby someplace, and I'm going to ask before we engage in comments if we could have members of the Commission to come down and present you with this framed copy. Dean [Kicklighter], if you would do the honors as the senior member of the Commission who's here today.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, sir. I just want to thank you for everything that you do and your entire staff does. We sincerely appreciate everything.

Ms. Smalls said, thank you very much.

[NOTE: Board members presented Human Resources Department with framed Proclamation]

Ms. Smalls said, thank you all.

Chairman Scott said, and at this time I'll recognize Commissioner Holmes who wanted to make some comments.

Commissioner Holmes said, what I've noticed as you stand up there, probably for the last 20 years, I think everybody around the world realized that if you want to get anything done, hire you some females, and as I look at that line -- as I look at that line up there, you are quite female heavy, and the three that is missing is two female and one male. So you're still heavy in the absentee ballot. But ladies, keep up the good work --

Ms. Smalls said, and gentlemen.

Commissioner Holmes said, -- because we're not -- well, them two guys are sitting on the wing, you all standing between them, so you all in good hands. Keep up the good work, and I just wanted to call your attention to that. When you want to get something done, hire some ladies. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further comments? We have Commissioner -- Commissioner Shabazz from the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Good morning.

Members of Human Resources said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I'd like to thank you for your leadership. Before I came on this Board I used to hear all about a lady by the name of Ms. Whitehead. I never got an opportunity to meet her, but I got an opportunity to meet you, and I think that your level of professionalism is exemplary, and also, the -- the staff that you have -- the staff that you have, it -- it bears witness to your leadership.

Ms. Smalls said, thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and thank you. You all keep up the good work and congratulations.

Chairman Scott said, Van [Johnson], Commissioner Holmes didn't think much of your service.

Mr. Van Johnson said, people rarely do, sir.

Chairman Scott said, well -- well for those of you who think that -- that Van Johnson is a full time Commissioner, I'll have you to know that he's been a faithful county employee for what -- 20 years?

Mr. Johnson said, 22 years.

County Manager Smith said, 22.

Chairman Scott said, yeah, over 20 years. And -- long before he became a city councilman.

Mr. Johnson said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, long before he was brought down to just one of three guys like that.

Chairman Scott said, anyway. Thank you all so much.

Ms. Smalls said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank y'all. [Applause.] Y'all don't have to sit through any more torture. If y'all, you know, I know --

Commissioner Center said, they can get back to work.

County Manager Smith said, tell them, they can go back. We've got stuff to do. I've given them about 100 projects, so.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and -- well, y'all -- y'all might want to wait before you leave. You want -- you want -- you may want to wait on the next item.

Commissioner Holmes said, yeah. It's worth it.

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### 3. INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARK SERVICES ALL-STAR TEAM.

Chairman Scott said, I want to invite our Public Works team member who heads that department and -- Robert Drewry, for the purpose of introducing and to point out some all-stars of his team. And he will go into more details and introduce those who are here today. Robert.

Mr. Robert Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commission, County Manager. I'm a big baseball fan. I don't know if you knew that or not, and I do vote on the MLB all-star team every year. We did something a little bit unique this year that we've never done before. We actually held our own elections for an all-star team, and they were voted in by their own peers, which is also a little bit unique. I'm not sure -- nor am I aware of any other organization that's done that before. So I want to introduce our all-star team of Public Works and Park Services, and when I -- when I tell your name please raise your hand so you can be identified. There's 11 of us, unfortunately 10 in front of you, one of them couldn't make it this morning, he had a doctor's appointment. So let me introduce this team, the all-star team of Public Works and Park Services. For position of administrator, our lone female, Ms. Ruth Crawford. [Applause.]

Commissioner Stone said, see there. See -- see.

County Manager Smith said, be careful what you say.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, there's your balance.

Commissioner Stone said, we're kind of male heavy on this group.

Mr. Drewry said, Ms. Crawford -- Ms. Crawford handles all of our personnel issues within the -- the department. For the position of manager, I introduce Mr. Lorenzo Bryant, III. [Applause.] Lorenzo is a manager in our parks and recreation department. For position of equipment operator, I want to introduce Mr. Reggie Edwards, in park maintenance [applause]; Mr. Nate Harvey, in storm water maintenance [applause]; Mr. Plummie Roberts, Jr., in storm water maintenance [applause]; and Mr. Pete Solomon in storm water maintenance. [Applause.] For position of maintenance worker, but voted in by their own peers, Mr. Nate Atkins in road maintenance [applause]; Mr. Robert Hicks in water and sewer [applause]. I will say something a little unique about Mr. Hicks. I am going to point him out directly. He only works in a department of 6 employees, so to be voted on by the -- the bulk of the -- the other employees says a lot for the -- for the gentleman, because everybody knows Mr. Hicks. Mr. Willie Jones in our road maintenance department [applause]. For the position of supervisor, Mr. Darryl Graham who is not with us and Mr. Keith Page in our storm water maintenance department [applause].

Mr. Drewry said, I thank you for your time. I thank you for this wonderful opportunity to induce -- introduce the Public Works and Park Services All-star team. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commissioner Shabazz said, I want to say something.

Commissioner Holmes said, mens heavy.

Chairman Scott said, Robert, before you leave, we have some comments from members of the Commission. Commissioner Shabazz of the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Good morning. I'd like to thank you and your all-star team and congratulations. You all are an integral part of the county in what you do, and I thank you for all your service. Thank you.

Mr. Drewry said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank y'all.

Chairman Scott said, now for those who want to leave and go back to work, you may do so.

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**4. RECOGNITION OF CHATHAM COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN FROM STATE COMPETITION IN ATLANTA (SERGIA GABELMANN, CHATHAM COUNTY 4-H AGENT WILL BE PRESENTING).**

Chairman Scott said, the next item we have on the agenda is the recognition of the Chatham County 4-H members, and this is following their return from the State competition in Atlanta, and hopefully we'll hear more about their successes up there, and at this time I'm going to recognize Ms. Gabelmann for the purpose of introducing the 4-H members that she have with her and their level of accomplishments.

Ms. Sergia Gabelmann said, well, good morning Chairman and Commissioners and City Manager -- County Manager. I want to thank you for inviting us here. Today I have one of our delegates from State Congress, and I wanted to let you know a little bit more about what 4-H did at State Congress. In January of 2015 --

Chairman Scott said, pull the mikes down so --

Ms. Gabelmann said, I'm sorry. In January of 2015 we took several kids to Rock Eagle, which is one of our 4-H centers for competition, and these young adults actually competed in different project areas, and they actually placed first in our district and moved on for this summer to go to State Congress. We took seven delegates from Chatham County to participate in this. We met lots of sponsors. All of this was sponsored by different corporations and companies and our children went down as delegates with about 300 other 4-Hers from the State of Georgia. Today I have Amari McDonald with me. The other ones are out and some are working, some are finishing up their vacations, and they weren't able to attend today. I do have one young lady who placed first, and she is at competition as we speak right now in Perry National Fair with the horse competition. She placed first in the state and now is in regions. So with no further adieu, I'd like to introduce this young lady.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes.

Miss Amari McDonald said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Miss McDonald said, I'm Amari McDonald and at State Congress I did my topic on paper maché, which is under the arts and crafts category and I won fourth place, but I plan on going back next year and getting first. [Applause.]

Commissioner Stone said, that's the spirit.

Ms. Gabelmann said, with me also I have my program assistant, Ms. Brandi Muhammed, and I have a parent volunteer. Our program is heavily run by volunteers. I am new to Chatham County. I've been in 4-H for 18 years, but in the Metro Atlanta area, and I recently was hired to fill the position here that was vacant for about eight, nine months that I've heard. So this is all new to me, and I want to explain that this comp -- this actual competition that our kids went to is not easy for them to qualify. This is really, really a serious and tough type of competition for the children. They just don't do their public speaking, they also turn in a portfolio, and it's weighed 50/50. So as our kids are being judged for their public speaking ability, they are also being judged by their portfolios. So I'm -- I'm really proud of the kids that I took. Seven is a great number to present -- you know represent Chatham County. So I want to thank you for inviting us and recognizing us because you're going to hear more about, you know, Chatham 4-H. Okay? Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, okay. Thank you so much. Commissioner Shabazz wanted to make some comments before you left, and then Commissioner Stone, from the 1<sup>st</sup> District, in that order, please.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Good morning.

Ms. Gabelmann said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, give me your name again.

Miss McDonald said, Amari.

Commissioner Shabazz said, Amari. Is that your mother over there?

Miss McDonald said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah. She -- you all resemble, strong resemblance. I'd like to thank you for your involvement with 4-H, and also, you know, I -- I -- I -- I went to a competition for VICA when I was in high school, and also when I went to the vocational school, and I placed, maybe third in -- in a competition, and I was kind of disgruntled about it, and my instructor told me, say, well, you don't really want to be in terms of first or whatever, you just want to be the best. And I'm quite sure that you are the best. Even though you placed fourth, you are the best, and you have to look at it that way. Okay?

Miss McDonald said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and I -- I thank you for that. And also, I'd like to know exactly what does -- what does 4-H stand for? What -- what is that?

Miss McDonald said, 4-H, it stands for the four H's, your hands, your health, your head and your heart.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Very good. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone of the 1<sup>st</sup> District.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, congratulations. I would like to learn more about the 4-H. We don't hear that much about 4-H in Chatham County, and you just mentioned that, and I'm -- I'm -- that disturbs me because it's a wonderful program for our youth and teaches them so many wonderful things, so certainly I would like to see more publicity for our 4-H here because you just don't hear about it as much as you do in other communities.

County Manager Smith said, well one thing we're getting ready to do, and we met with the staff, I went up to Statesboro and met with the UGA representatives, but in working with Jackie Ogden and the staff here, we're proposing this fall -- I'm used to in the past, 'cause I was also a 4-Her, so I'm glad you got the H's right --

Ms. Gabelmann said, yes.

County Manager Smith said, -- but anyway, what we're going to do this fall, is we are going to do a lunch, and then we're going to have each of the organizations or agents within Cooperative Extension to go through in stages and show you what they're doing, because I think you are going to be floored by it. They're impacting thousands of young adults and adults in programs. So we're going to do that this fall. So Jackie's working with the staff, Carolyn's working with the staff, and we're going to do that for you in the next couple months.

Commissioner Stone said, wonderful. Thank you. Congratulations.

Miss McDonald said, thank you.

County Manager Smith said, thank y'all.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

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

Chairman Scott said, on page three we don't have any items for consideration.

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

- 1. PROCLAMATION OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO GDOT FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (COMMISSIONER FARRELL.)**

Chairman Scott said, although there's one item listed that we will talk about at a future meeting.

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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 (\*)

None.

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## **IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

- 1. TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015: AN AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE**

**\$110,500 FUND BALANCE IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (E-911) FUND.**

Chairman Scott said, we're now on page five for Individual -- Items for Individual Action. First item is to request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers for Fiscal Year 2015: an amendment to appropriate \$110,500 fund balance in the Chatham County Emergency Telephone System (E-911) Fund.

Commissioner Holmes said, so moved for approval.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, any unreadiness or discussion? Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, just a -- just a quick comment. As I said in the pre-meeting I would hope that possibly a goal in the future with this wireless money could be used to -- to cover the cost of our 9-1-1 center, and I understand that it's -- it's a little more complicated than it looks, but there is money available, and it's my understanding that that goes to the city but the county still has to pay their half, but I'm -- I would like to see us work towards this not being a burden to Chatham County and see what we could do to see if there would be funds to cover this through the 9-1-1 wireless. And I don't -- I don't know the probability of that, but I would like to see if we could work towards that.

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Manager, do you want to respond to that?

County Manager Smith said, well we do have, as we've been talking about the police merger, we do have built into that negotiations over the next two years for improvement of the 9-1-1 center with a project that we hope to be all municipalities and the county in one system, one piece at one 9-1-1 center so that we can have better communication. That would include our EMS, fire, everyone, law enforcement. I think that -- and by doing that we can create I think some efficiencies. Will it fully cover -- the 9-1-1 fully cover your cost, I will say it will be very doubtful, but I think through creating efficiencies and gathering everyone, we can reduce our cost going to -- into the future, and that's going to be our intent.

Commissioner Stone said, I think that's sort of what I wanted to know is that -- what could we do to improve our efficiency and our cost.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Commissioner Center said, maybe I mis --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I misunderstood earlier, the way I understand it, there is a tax on the phone bill, on the wireless phone bills, whatever portion's assigned to 9-1-1, it's paid to the city, 'cause they administer it, the remainder is made up 100 percent by the county or is there a formula where the city and the county together make up the difference?

County Manager Smith said, well first of all, the monies are collected by the state. The state then allocates based on a formula. So, municipalities, those folks, we would receive -- we receive a certain amount and -- and like I said, I think that money's between 400,000 and 500,000, 453,000 or something -- something like that, so -- but that money then goes directly -- we would pay that -- I will tell you that is pretty common throughout at least the five states that I know of that we do that. You know, so, as far as control of what that tax is going to be, it's a tax or a surcharge, it's now been placed in the hands of the state. I will tell you once that happens, typically states begin to use some of those dollars for their own communication systems, highway patrol, things like that, and -- and I see more burden being placed on local municipalities and counties, and I think that will be the case for us in the next five to ten years. That's why we've got to create some efficiencies, because --

Commissioner Stone said, I agree.

Commissioner Center said, but my question was, once this tax is applied --

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, -- and there's -- it costs more to operate the system than this tax generates --

County Manager Smith said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, does the county make 100 percent -- make up 100 percent of that difference or is it a formula between the county and the city of savannah?

County Manager Smith said, it's -- it's just part of that agreement. We have an agreement with them on a -- on what portion we will pay.

Commissioner Center said, all right.

Chairman Scott said, but it's -- it's a -- a portion is paid by the county and a portion is paid by the city, as far as share fall is concerned.

Commissioner Center said, that's -- that's what I was asking.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any un -- further unreadiness or questions? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no.

Commissioner Center said, do we have to get five votes on this? Do we have to wait for Dean to come back?

Chairman Scott said, well, we've got somebody who's not voting. Yeah.

Commissioner Center said, oh, there it is.

Chairman Scott said, the motion carries.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Holmes moved to approve an amendment to appropriate \$110,500 fund balance in the Chatham County Emergency Telephone System (E-911) Fund. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Amy Davis, Finance Director

**ISSUE:**

To request approval of an amendment to appropriate \$110,500 fund balance in the Chatham County Emergency Telephone System (E-911) Fund.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

The Assistant County Manager has requested funds to replace equipment at the Police Annex which houses the E-911 call center. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the E-911 fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the Chatham County Emergency Telephone System Fund.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the following:

**CHATHAM COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND**  
 Appropriate \$110,500 fund balance for equipment replacement.

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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## 2. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.

Chairman Scott said, at this time we will invite up our CNT Director Ragan for his monthly report.

CNT Director D. Everett Ragan said, good morning, Mr. Chairman. Good morning Commissioners. For the month of June CNT initiated 105 investigations; 42 have already been closed out. Again three agency assists with Tybee Island, the meth arrest; Savannah Probation on a search warrant; and Homeland Security we're continuing to help. Drugs seized, a little over \$5,000. So far year's to date -- year to date, \$540,752 in narcotics have been seized off the street. Drugs purchased, if you'll look at the month of June, I -- I -- I don't remember in the past, but it is -- it -- this may be the first time, we bought more heroin than anything else, it's again an indication of -- of the heroin epidemic not only in this county but throughout the United States with the -- with the reduction of the amount of opi -- opioids, for the pills that have been taken off the streets and the easy access that has been -- some of the loopholes have been closed. Heroin is cheaper; it is coming across the border; and it is now the drug of choice for a lot of people. So we are seeing an increase as we are nationwide with the use of heroin.

Director Ragan said, seized four firearms which brought us to a total of 94 so far this -- this year seized and arrested 22 people. Geographic locations, out of the people arrested, 14 were the City from Savannah and then we had Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Decatur, and Tennessee. The Dobson case that came from Garden City, Tybee and Thunderbolt, and with the number of drug complaints we received for the month, and those were assigned individual agents to process out from Crime Stoppers, from project logs by -- either through the Chief, Lumpkin, or through elected officials. The other stats are basically the com stat reports for your Districts, individual Districts, with the number of complaints, where the complaints came from, actions taken, and individuals arrested. Hours expended in each precinct for the year so, you see the central precinct, which is downtown, and mid-town Savannah, again, is still leading the way. City of Savannah 10,000 so far this year, and almost 1500 hours in the unincorporated areas so far. That's -- total hours worked in the municipalities 334; 1859 in the precincts, and again 283 hours in the unincorporated hours [sic]. Administrative hours, everything, you see is listed, and we spent a lot of time in training this month. July was a -- a heavy training month.

Director Ragan said, as far as significant events, June 4 -- June the 4<sup>th</sup>, working with probation and parole, we did a -- did a warrant with them. Seized cocaine, marijuana and a .357 Ruger®. Took another parolee off the street. Again, in April we received a complaint of heroin distribution out of an address on East 59<sup>th</sup> Street. We worked it up through several buys, search warrant, arrested an individual. Again, recovered heroin and as you can see the box they had in the house not only was he selling heroin, he was using that. The -- the people using that house as a place where they can use the drugs, shoot the drugs. We are aware of several overdoses occurring at this residence and from people who had left this residence. Excuse me -- and we are still continuing investigation on -- on those overdoses. We do know at least one was fatal involved in this address. And again, in the -- working with Metro police, a gun with a -- a complaint from -- from the Alderman, in reference to the address of a local bar on the southside. We conducted operations with Savannah Metro Police and successfully arrested three people outside the bar. Nothing on the inside but in the parking lot right there Largo Drive and at Abercorn Street. We made several arrests there for sales of cocaine at the bar parking lot.

Director Ragan said, Power Point this -- this month, I'm -- I'm -- I'm sorry it's not going to be one with a bunch of tattooed guys and -- and dope, but it's something that I'm equally -- equally proud of. I wanted to speak briefly on State Certification. State Certification is a program that is sponsored by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. They were just in town. We had a conference Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from Chiefs of Police and ranking officers from throughout the State. It's a voluntary process that acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. 129 law enforcement standards developed by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police containing a clear statement of professional objectives, and participating agencies conduct a thorough self-assessment to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives.

Director Ragan said, a team of trained assessors verify that applicable standards have been successfully implemented, the process accumulates with a decision by a joint executive committee that the agency has met the requirements for certification. Certification is renewed every three years. We receive -- we received our current -- achieved our current certified status on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. We are currently in our self-assessment phase, and we will have a team of trained assessors verify compliance with applicable standards prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. CNT is the only certified narcotics task force in the State of Georgia. We've received certification on three different occasions. And just this past month CNT received the 2015 Georgia Gang Investigator's Association President's Award in recognition of the successful prosecution of the Ghost Face Gangsters. That was the meth case that we wound up last February and April dealing with a prison gang that was helping to distribute methamphetamine within Chatham County. And that's my presentation for today. So, any questions?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, we've got Commissioner Holmes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Commissioner Stone of the 1<sup>st</sup> District in that order.

Commissioner Holmes said, just one question. On page three --

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Center from the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Holmes said, page three where you have Crime Stopper complaints.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, 25.

Director Ragan said, 25 for the month, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, assigned 23.

Director Ragan said, we assigned 23.

Commissioner Holmes said, can you tell me why that other two wasn't assigned?

Director Ragan said, generally when those are not assigned, there is a lack of information. It just may be some very generic information that is really nothing that we can operate on and work with and go forward with. That would be the only reason.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Good enough.

Commissioner Stone said, I just want to say congratulations for your -- for -- for your award and for all that you do to keep our streets safe. You know it's -- it's very sad when you read your report of what's out there, and these individuals that choose to use these kind of mind altering drugs. I know it's not easy for you to deal with it and it's not safe all the time, so congratulations on your award and thank you for what you do.

Director Ragan said, thank you, ma'am.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Director Ragan said, are we doing math again?

Commissioner Center said, no, we're not going to do math. But what I ask you may be beyond what -- what you -- I -- I know you're tasked to -- to enforce laws and -- and -- and enforce laws that are on the books, but I've been reading a lot lately about home break ins, particularly in Gordonston, which Coach Holmes and I neighbor our -- our Districts, and car break ins and -- is there a correlation between the drug activity and -- and these crimes? Is there any way to -- to piece those together?

Director Ragan said, it's generally the train of thought that a -- a lot of crime is drug driven not necessarily done by drug dealers but those who want to perpetuate crime to gain funds to purchase drugs, your property crimes, your burglaries, this type of thing. So there is that -- there is that prevailing feeling that that is -- that is partly the problem. We do find that in the area that you describe, and especially off of the state streets, that has -- has become a high area of narcotics activity. We're working very closely with some of the communities in Gordonston and again, you know, we just in -- in July we've done a couple of operations over there in fact made a -- another arrest of a long-time drug dealer last Wednesday or Thursday off Texas Avenue, again off the state streets, that are in fact in that area. It's just right across from Gordonston, so, there is an issue, and it's affecting all parts of the community but in -- in your District and Coach's District there is -- there is that -- that -- that problem that is arising.

Commissioner Center said, yeah. Well, I -- I appreciate that. I was concerned 'cause I know it's also broader than our jurisdiction.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, but, you know, there -- there are some countries that have taken narcotics and drugs out of the criminal process.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, and I -- I'm not asking you to be an expert and study on it, but it's a long range plan. You know if you treat it as a medical system, rather than a criminal system, there's funds saved and -- and guns are not used, and I -- I don't know the answer, but I keep reading about that. Do you have any comments in that area?

Director Ragan said, I -- I -- I have some personal observations and -- that are quite frankly, I -- I'm not in -- I'm not a believer in decriminalizing. Now at CNT there's -- if you want to sit in your house and smoke a joint and watch television, that's, you know, pretty much your business. CNT's not going to be kicking down your door, but if you're selling the marijuana, and you're selling it in any bulk, whatsoever, of course, we're -- we're -- we're going to prosecute those. The -- and as far as decriminalizing, no, that's not in -- as -- as far as gun control, I have my opinions on that.

Commissioner Center said, that's what scares me --

Commissioner Holmes said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, -- all -- all these pictures every month of guns.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, you know, because that's harm to somebody else not to yourself.

Director Ragan said, yes, it is. Yes.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Commissioner Shabazz from the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, Commander, I'd like to -- first of all good morning.

Director Ragan said, good morning, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I'd like to commend you and congratulate you on your award.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and it's --

Director Ragan said, thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- it shows just how important the -- the service that you render to this community, how important it is. Something had to be done to combat the crime and -- as well as drug distribution, and I just appreciate your work and your effort.

Director Ragan said, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Director Ragan said, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I have a question.

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner Kicklighter of the 7<sup>th</sup> District.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so, basically, I guess, the presentation shows that some people obtain guns illegally?

Director Ragan said, yeah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. Okay. I was just checking.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I mean we have gun statements from time to time, and I just, you know. Thank you. Good job.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions?

Director Ragan said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Scott said, thank you very much.

**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**

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

Chairman Scott said, on -- we're now on page six of our agenda with this -- the Action Calendar. In the pre-meeting there was no indication of anything wanting to be pulled off the Action Calendar, so at this time I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Commissioner Shabazz 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 Stone moved to approve all items on the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 6 and under Item 6 Items A through H. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the 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 JULY 17, 2015, AS MAILED.**

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

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 31, 2015, as mailed. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

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- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 9, 2015 THROUGH JULY 22, 2015.**

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

Commissioner Stone moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period of July 9, 2015 through July 22, 2015, in the amount of \$11,108,128. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

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- 3. REQUEST FROM THOMAS AND HUTTON, ENGINEER FOR THE OWNERS, SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SLF IV - GA NORTHPORT OAK GROVE, LLC, AND LAND INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC, 32, FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR PARCELA-1 NORTHPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

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

Commissioner Stone moved for approval of the request from Thomas and Hutton, engineer for the owners, Savannah Economic Development Authority, SLF IV - GA NorthPort Oak Grove, LLC, and Land Investment Partners, LLC, 32 for the county to record the subdivision plat for parcel A-1 NorthPort Industrial Park.

Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**

**AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

Request Board record the subdivision plat for parcel A-1 NorthPort.

**BACKGROUND:**

The engineer, Thomas and Hutton, for the owners, Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), SLF IV- GA NorthPort Oak Grove, LLC and Land Investment Partners, LLC, 32, requests the County record the plat.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Parcel A-1 NorthPort is the remaining large parcel in the NorthPort Industrial Park located on International Trade Parkway off Highway 21. This subdivision plat consists of 4 parcels on 214.126 acres. Paving and street drainage are maintained by the NorthPort Property Owners Association, Inc. Water and sanitary sewer systems are owned and maintained by the City of Savannah.
2. The NorthPort Industrial Park was previously master planned to consist of one large parcel that would be leased out to different entities. Since that time, individual tenants have necessitated ownership of their respective lease parcel and therefore subdivision of the main parcel is required.
3. NorthPort Parkway is a paved road that currently serves the industrial park. This road was approved as an access road for the park, contained within a 100' and 150' access easement. The proposed subdivision plat will turn NorthPort Parkway into a private right of way, providing each parcel access. The proposed NorthPort Parkway right of way will abut a private access easement instead of a public or private open street right-of-way. The area containing the access easement, known as International Trade Parkway, is owned by the Georgia Ports Authority. Obtaining the necessary approvals to establish the access easement as a private road right-of-way would be problematic. Staff determined that a variance to allow a road right-of-way to extend from a private access easement was required and must be approved by the Metropolitan Planning Commission as a condition of Final Plat approval. The MPC approved the variance at the July 21, 2015 meeting.
4. The Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board record the subdivision plat for Parcel A-1 NorthPort.
2. Do not approve the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

This action is consistent with the subdivision regulations regarding the creation of lots through plat recording.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.  
District 8

PREPARED BY: Chris Rains

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4. **REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM APPROVAL GIVEN IN ADVANCE TO DISPENSE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (BEER AND WINE) FOR A SPECIAL EVENT (WEDDING) ON BYNUH'S FIELD AT BETHESDA ACADEMY, 9520 FERGUSON AVENUE. PETITIONER: JOANN'S FLORIST & CARLSON'S PREMIER EVENTS, THROUGH JAMES CARLSON. THE EVENT WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2015. [DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for approval to dispense alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) for a special event (wedding) on Bynuh's Field at Bethesda Academy, 9520 Ferguson Avenue. The Petitioner is Joann's Florist and Carlson's Premier Events, through James Carlson. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015**

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

**ISSUE:**

Permit to dispense alcoholic beverages for a special event in Chatham County on August 1, 2015.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. **Joann's Florist & Carlson's Premier Events**, through James Carlson has filed a Special Event Application for a wedding to be held at Bethesda Academy (9520 Ferguson Avenue). The applicant has the intent to dispense alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) at the event.
2. Section 16-134(4) of the Chatham County Business/Occupational Tax Ordinance requires approval of the County Commissioners to issue a temporary permit to dispense alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a special event.
3. The ordinance grants the Board of Commissioners discretion to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a special event.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Grant permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event on Bynuh's Field at Bethesda Academy.
2. Deny Permit.
3. Provide direction to staff.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Alcoholic Beverages Code prohibits the sale, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages during a special event without a permit and approval of the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Alternative 1.

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5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROCEEDS FROM THE 2003-2008 SPLOST TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH FOR THE PURPOSE OF ARCHIVING AND PRESERVING THE W. W. LAW COLLECTION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for approval of an agreement for the distribution of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax proceeds from the 2003-2008 SPLOST to the City of Savannah for the purpose of archiving and preserving the W. W. Law Collection. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Michael A. Kaigler, Assistant County Manager

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of an agreement for the distribution of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax proceeds from the 2003-2008 SPLOST to the City of Savannah for the purpose of archiving and preserving the W. W. Law Collection

**BACKGROUND:**

In the 2003-2008 SPLOST referendum approved by the citizens of Chatham County, funding was set aside for the purpose of developing an archive system for historical civil rights documents and for capital improvements to the W. W. Law Center. The original budget for the project was \$908,762.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. In August 2004, the Board approved an agreement between Chatham County and the W. W. Law Foundation for distribution of SPLOST funds for archiving the W. W. Law Collection. The Collection has since been transferred from the W. W. Law Foundation to the City of Savannah. The City of Savannah, as a condition of receiving the Collection, has agreed to complete the work necessary for archiving and preserving the W. W. Law Collection.
2. The County has agreed to transfer the balance of the funds in the project account to the City of Savannah for the purpose of archiving and preserving the Collection. Attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file) is a copy of the inter-governmental agreement between Chatham County and the City of Savannah that outlines the project scope and deliverables that the City has agreed to for distribution of the funds. The County Attorney's office has reviewed the agreement to ensure that it meets the standard for appropriate distribution and use of SPLOST funds.
3. Currently there is a balance of \$507,390 in the 2003-2008 SPLOST budget for the W. W. Law Collection archiving and preservation project. The agreement stipulates that the funds will be disbursed to the City of Savannah on a reimbursable basis.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the attached Inter-governmental Agreement with the City of Savannah for the purpose of archiving and preserving the W. W. Law Collection.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

**FUNDING:**

SPLOST 2003-2008 (W. W. Law Center)  
Fund/Dept. 3234985  
Project #: 32370282  
Objection Code: 57.30001

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Mr. W. W. Law contributed greatly to the history of civil rights in the Savannah and Chatham County communities. His collection of books, papers, artwork and memorabilia is of significant importance to the public. Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Savannah will provide funding needed to archive, preserve and provide public access to his collections benefitting the citizens of Chatham County.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve Alternative 1.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone 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: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6 A-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**THRU: LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER**  
**FROM: LINDA CRAMER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER**  
**SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS**

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$28,516 purchase of two (2) single boat engines from Mercury Marine for Chatham County Marine Patrol.

**BACKGROUND:** In order to better serve the citizens of Chatham County, Marine Patrol is purchasing additional boats for Marine Patrol's fleet. These new boats will allow officers to patrol the smaller creeks and tidal marshes in an effort to detect and apprehend perpetrators who have been committing marine related thefts from boats, docks and property along the waterways of Chatham County.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Quotes were requested on the engines only, and the responses are as follows:

Mercury Marine Lake Forest, IL	\$28,516
Brunswick Commercial & Gov. Products Edgewater, FL	\$32,160
Mathews Marine Bluffton, SC	\$38,400

2. Staff believes the total cost of \$28,516 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2008-20014) - Marine Patrol Facility or Equipment  
 (3244980 - 57.30101 - 32460702)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- Board approval of a \$28,516 purchase of two (2) single boat engines from Mercury Marine for Chatham County Marine Patrol.
- Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide essential equipment required for law enforcement activities.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 MARK BUCALO

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$91,208 purchase of two (2) boats, with trailers from Baja Marine, LLC, for Chatham County Marine Patrol.

**BACKGROUND:** In order to better serve the citizens of Chatham County, Marine Patrol is purchasing additional boats for Marine Patrol's fleet. These new boat will allow officers to patrol the smaller creeks and tidal marshes in an effort to detect and apprehend perpetrators who have been committing marine related thefts from boats, docks and property along the waterways of Chatham County.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Invitations to Bid were publicly advertised and received on June 2, 2015 Responses are as follows:

Baja Marine, LLC Washington, NC	\$91,208
Brunswick Commercial & Gov. Products Edgewater, FL	\$138,204

Edgewater Power Boats, LLC \$209,024  
Edgewater, FL

2. The engines are being purchased separately.
3. Staff believes the cost of \$91,208 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2008-20014) - Marine Patrol Facility or Equipment  
(3244980 - 57.30101 - 32460702)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$91,208 purchase of two (2) boats, with trailers from Baja Marine, LLC, for Chatham County Marine Patrol.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide essential equipment required for law enforcement activities.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

**ITEM C**

~~**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract, with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Staffing Companies, Inc., to provide contract labor for Public Works at a rate of \$9.80 per hour, with a 1% increase applicable in years two (2) through five (5) of the contract term.~~

~~**BACKGROUND:** Public Works has historically supplemented its workforce by using temporary contract labor from employment agencies to perform manually intensive tasks such as maintaining drainage ditches and trash collection services.~~

~~**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**~~

~~1. The contractor will be required to provide approximately 29 laborers per day during the work week. Contract laborers will be utilized as funding allows.~~

~~2. Bids were properly advertised and opened July 7, 2015. The bid responses are as follows:~~

<del>Staffing Companies, Inc.</del>	<del>\$9.80 per employee per hour</del>
<del>Savannah, GA</del>	<del>1% increase in years 2-5 of the contract</del>
<del>Hibrid Staffing</del>	<del>\$11.05 per employee per hour</del>
<del>College Park, GA</del>	<del>15% increase in years 2-5 of the contract</del>
<del>Temporaries Unlimited</del>	<del>\$13.00 per employee per hour</del>
<del>Savannah, GA</del>	<del>2% increase in year 2 of the contract</del>
	<del>1% increase in years 3-5 of the contract</del>

~~3. Staffing Companies, Inc., the low bidder, met all specifications. Staffing Companies, Inc., has satisfactorily provided service to the County for the past 11 years. The current rate proposed by Staffing Companies, Inc., represents a 2.48% decrease from their current per hour labor rate of \$10.10 per hour. Staff believes the bid submitted by Staffing Companies, Inc., of \$9.80 per hour, with an annual increase of 1% to be reasonable and fair.~~

~~**FUNDING:** •SSD - Public Works  
(2704100 - 52.39001)  
•Solid Waste  
(5404502 - 52.39001)~~

~~**ALTERNATIVES:**~~

~~1. Board approval to award an annual contract, with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Staffing Companies, Inc., to provide contract labor for Public Works at a rate of \$9.80 per hour, with a 1% increase applicable in years two (2) through five (5) of the contract term.~~

~~2. Provide staff other direction.~~

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUGALO

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

#### ITEM D

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract, with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Belfor USA, dba, Belfor Property Restoration (Primary Contractor), and to ServPro (Secondary Contractor), to provide “as needed” disaster restoration and recovery services for various County facilities.

**BACKGROUND:** Disaster restoration and recovery contracts are established to provide services on an “as needed” basis, as required to assist the County in recovering from man-made or natural disasters which result in damage from fire, water, smoke, contamination, and corrosion. The competitive sealed proposal method was used to acquire these services in compliance with guidelines established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA).

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

1. A Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide Disaster Restoration and Recovery Services was issued and publically advertised. Four (4) firms responded to the RFP: Belfor Property Restoration, Garden City, GA; Servpro of Savannah, Enviroworx, Richmond Hill, GA; Service Master Recovery Management, Fortson, GA.
2. The County’s intent behind the RFP was to establish and pre-register a primary and secondary contractor, to provide disaster and restoration services in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. Both the primary and secondary contractors are required to immediately respond to a man-made or natural catastrophe that results in a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Minimum services to be provided include, but not limited to:
  - Water/Moisture Removal
  - Document Restoration
  - Mold and Mildew Abatement, Removal and Restoration
  - Electronic Restoration
  - Corrosion Control
  - Wood Restoration and Preservation
  - Data/Media Restoration and Preservation
  - Soot/Smoke Removal
  - Odor Removal and Control
  - Hazardous Substance Decontamination
3. The technical proposals received were scored by an evaluation committee consisting of the County’s Risk Manager, the Interim Director for CEMA, and the Asst. Superintendent of Facilities Maintenance and Operations. (See attached matrix page 8, for scoring details).
4. Fee proposals were requested as part of the proposal document. Proponents were required to submit their fee proposals based on regular and overtime rates as well as equipment rates.
5. Staff recommends contract award to Belfor USA, dba, Belfor Property Restoration (Primary Contractor), and to ServPro (Secondary Contractor), based on total points for the recommendation of award as stated in the RFP.

**FUNDING:** Risk Management - Claims and Judgements  
(6259925 - 57.30101)

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Belfor USA, dba, Belfor Property Restoration (Primary Contractor), and to ServPro (Secondary Contractor), to provide “as needed” disaster restoration and recovery services for various County facilities.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to firms which have been deemed qualified to provide the necessary services and comply with all FEMA and GEMA guideline requirements.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
ESTELLE BROWN

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$26,209 purchase from Dell Marketing, LP., for a replacement network backup system at the Sheriff's Complex.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently the Sheriff's Office operates two (2) separate backup systems, one (1) for physical servers and one (1) for virtual servers. The proposed replacement system will be able to backup both physical and virtual servers. The Sheriff's Office current physical backup system is outdated as it will not backup Microsoft Server 2012 operating systems (operating system that I.C.S. is currently deploying).

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The current physical backup system at the Sheriff's Office is outdated and needs to be replaced.
2. Equipment purchase will include an extended three (3) year warranty period.
3. Dell Marketing, LP., provided a quote discounted at a governmental rate. Other Dell sellers were contacted but declined to bid.
4. Staff believes the quote provided from Dell Marketing, LP., to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Detention Center  
(1003326 – 54.25001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$26,209 purchase from Dell Marketing, LP., for a replacement network backup system at the Sheriff's Complex.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases of necessary critical network equipment.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
NICK BATEY

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$22,152 renewal of property insurance for various Tybee Island locations.

**BACKGROUND:** The Tybee Island Library, Pavilion and various communications equipment located at Fort Street are considered high risk property due to their susceptibility to wind and wave damage. Based on the high risk exposure, these properties are not eligible for coverage under the existing property and contents policies. The Tybee Pier is not insurable. These Tybee properties are valued at just over \$3 million.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Lloyds of London Insurance Company (existing carrier) was the only one of two (2) companies willing to provide a quote. Cincinnati, Travelers, Ace, Arch, and RSUI Insurance Companies declined to provide a quotation due to the coastal location. Travelers Insurance Company would require a minimum premium of \$100,000.
2. Lloyd's quotation of \$22,152 represents a decrease in premium from the current premium of \$24,180. This is the second consecutive year the premium has decreased.
3. Lloyds is a non-admitted carrier and are not subject to the State's Guaranty Fund. However Lloyd's has an A rating (Excellent) with a financial surplus of XV - or above \$2 billion.
4. Terrorism coverage was quoted by both companies, but is not recommended. The probability of meeting all of the requirements that would trigger coverage is remote.

**FUNDING:** Risk Management Fund - Premiums Insurance and Surety Bonds  
(6259922 - 52.31021)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$22,152 renewal of property insurance for various Tybee Island locations.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The Board in the past has chosen to purchase coverage for the Tybee properties to transfer the risk of loss rather than self-insure for the potential loss. It is consistent with Board policy to purchase coverage to transfer the risk on properties with large exposures.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
ESTELLE BROWN

#### ITEM G

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$85,300 purchase and installation of a 60 Hz-500Kw diesel Genset generator from Y-Delta, Inc., of Statesboro, GA for the Police Annex located at 295 Police Memorial Drive.

**BACKGROUND:** The original generator served as standby power for the Police Precinct 1, 911 Call Center, and CEMA. The generator is obsolete and parts are no longer available.

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

1. A Request for Bid was properly advertised and six (6) bids were received.

**	Y-Delta, Inc. Statesboro, GA	\$85,300
	Energy System Southeast Birmingham, AL	\$85,473
**	Copper Construction Company Inc. Vidalia, GA	\$102,880
	OECI Corporation Savannah, GA	\$106,448
	S-D Solutions, LLC Alto, GA	\$126,129
**	Penco Electrical Contractors Morrow, GA	\$211,785

\*WBE

\*\*MBE

2. The generator failed to start due to overheating issues. A temporary mobile generator was leased from Cummins Power South to allow for bidding of a replacement generator.

3. Local preference was not offered to the local bidder since this is a construction bid and local preference may not be used for public works construction.

4. Staff believes that the total cost of \$85,300 for the generator to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** E-911 (Pending Board Approval of Budget Amendment)  
(2153800 - 54.25001)

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$85,300 purchase and installation of a 60 Hz-500Kw diesel Genset generator from Y-Delta, Inc., of Savannah, GA for the Police Annex located at 295 Police Memorial Drive.

2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

#### ITEM H

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$25,000 sole source repair from Hendrix Fire Protection of the existing fire alarm control panels and agent tanks for the 911 Call Center and data room at the Police Annex.

**BACKGROUND:** The data room is a key component for the daily operations at the Chatham County Emergency Services. It serves as a link between Savannah Metro, Savannah Fire Department, 911 Call Center, CEMA and Ambulatory Services.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The fire alarm system is original with the construction of the building and the main control board is damaged.
2. This project was originally solicited as a replacement of the current system. During the pre-bid conference, contractors suggested a repair of the existing system would be possible. Upon investigation, staff along with the consultant, Rosser International, concluded that a repair would be effective and more cost efficient. The estimate for a new system is \$69,000.
3. Hendrix Fire Protection is the local company certified to repair the current system.

**FUNDING:** E-911 (Pending Board Approval of Budget Amendment)  
(2153800 - 54.25001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$25,000 sole source repair from Hendrix Fire Protection of the existing fire alarm control panels and agent tanks for the 911 Call Center and data room at the Police Annex.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award sole source repairs that are in the best interest of the County.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a \$340,660 construction contract to Griffin Construction, Inc., for the construction of parking lot improvements for the Chatham County Health Department.

**BACKGROUND:** The existing parking lot pavement has extensive cracking, drainage problems and does not meet the needs of future site development plans. The project will rehabilitate defective pavement, curb and gutter, improve drainage and increase the parking capacity. This project will also incorporate modifications to account for changes in traffic flow along Eisenhower Drive resulting from construction of the Jennifer Ross Soccer Complex Drop-Off Loop and Parking project.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Invitations to Bid were publicly advertised and received on July 14, 2015. The results are as follows:

Griffin Contracting, Inc. Pooler, GA	\$340,660
-----------------------------------------	-----------

** E&D Contracting Services, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$352,998
---------------------------------------------------	-----------

\*\*WBE

2. Staff believes the bid from Griffin Contracting, Inc., is fair and reasonable.
3. Design of the Chatham County Health Department Parking Lot Improvement s project and Jennifer Ross Soccer Complex Drop-Off Loop and Parking project were performed by Chatham County Department of Engineering staff.
4. It is estimated construction will begin within approximately 30 days after award of the contract. The contract time for construction is 75 calendar days.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003-2008) - Chatham County Health Department  
(3244981 - 54.13001 - 32460640)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award a \$340,660 construction contract to Griffin Construction, Inc., for the construction of parking lot improvements for the Chatham County Health Department.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
PURCHASING DIRECTOR

=====

## **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, we don't have any First Readers.

=====

## **XII. SECOND READINGS**

Chairman Scott said, now it's time for Second Readers.

County Attorney Hart said, Second Readers, we received a request from the applicant this morning that the Second Reading be continued to the meeting of August the 28<sup>th</sup>. Apparently there's a -- a contractual issue between the parties that they need to resolve, which will be resolved.

Chairman Scott said, both one and two?

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion?

Chairman Scott said, is there a motion?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to continue them until --

County Attorney Hart said, August the 28<sup>th</sup>.

County Manager Smith said, the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- until August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, any unreadiness or objection to the motion? The motion is that we move to delay Items 1 and 2 under Second Readers until August 28<sup>th</sup>. Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. See you on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to continue Items 1 and 2 until August 28, 2015. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioner Farrell was not present for the vote.]

- 1. THE PETITIONER HAROLD YELLIN AS AGENT IS REQUESTING THAT THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES 6033 AND**

6037 OGEECHEE ROAD BE CHANGED FROM COMMERCIAL-REGIONAL TO RESIDENTIAL GENERAL. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-150526-00043-1

AGENDA ITEM: **XII-1**  
AGENDA DATE: July 17, 2015  
AGENDA ITEM: **XII-1**  
AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015



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

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

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THRU: LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER  
FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

The petitioner Harold Yellin as agent is requesting that the Future Land Use Category for the subject properties 6033 and 6037 Ogeechee Road be changed from Commercial-Regional to Residential General. The MPC recommends approval. File No. Z-150526-0004301

**Proposed Amendment:** The petitioner is requesting that the Future Land Use Category for the subject properties be changed from Commercial-Regional to Residential General. The subject properties consist of three lots of record comprising 13.5 acres. All parcels are vacant and undeveloped. The petitioner's intent is to develop the site and construct a multifamily residential complex of 216 one- and two- bedroom units. In conjunction with this petition, a zoning map amendment has been filed to rezone the properties from mixed P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) classification (24 units per acre proposed) to accommodate the proposed use.

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

**Proposed Development Category (Land Use):** Residential - General

a. **Appropriate Land Uses:**

Residential General - Single-Family detached, single-family attached and multifamily residential uses at a density greater than 10 dwelling units per acre as well as limited civic uses.

**The proposed land use serves essentially as a moderate density multifamily residential development. This type of development would likely have little to no impact on the existing neighborhood character, which consists of some single-family residential, strip-commercial, light industrial, general retail and civic uses.**

b. **Characteristics to Encourage:**

Residential General - Encourage a mix of housing types. Encourage mixed use development consistent with Smart Growth principles. Encourage commercial development meeting the needs of residents and protecting established neighborhood character.

**The Residential General land use category encourages an appropriate mix of housing types. Although the predominate development in the vicinity of the subject properties is retail and light industrial, moderate density multifamily can be compatible and cohesively developed with appropriate buffers.**

**c. Characteristics to Discourage:**

Residential General - Discourage intensive forms of commercial development that are not compatible with adjacent residential uses.

**The proposed land use category and associated zoning map amendment would not allow intense commercial development on the subject properties.**

**Discussion Number 1**

The development of a use which would not be in keeping with the existing character of the immediate area should be discouraged. The proposed development of vacant land for the purpose of establishing multifamily residential, with the appropriate buffering, would not adversely impact the adjacent commercial/industrial uses.

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

Section 5.4 Housing

Goal C: Provide affordable housing for all levels of income within the community.

Goal F: Improve coordination and delivery of housing services.

**Discussion Number 2**

Incorporating compatible development in a developing area is key to maintaining the viability of the general area, in accordance with the desires and goals of the community.

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

The proposed Residential General future land use category for the site along Ogeechee Road will not alter the land use pattern in the immediate surrounding area.

The area has developed as commercial retail along the highway right-of-way, while retaining existing residential uses. The resulting mix of development will accommodate multifamily residential.

**Discussion Number 3**

The proposed and/or permitted uses allowed within an R-3 zoning district will have a minimal impact to the surrounding area.

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

**Discussion Number 4**

The amendment of the land use category for the property along this section of Ogeechee Road to Residential General benefits the community by allowing vacant and undeveloped land to contribute to the affordable housing stock of the general area.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

There are no known historical or cultural resources onsite.

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

**Discussion Number 5**

The amendment of the land use category of the site along this portion of Ogeechee Road to Residential General will enhance the economic viability of the community by eliminating vacant non-productive parcels of land and creating a use that will provide additional customer base for nearby retail use.

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

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Planning Commission recommends that approval of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the properties identified as PIN(s) 1-1029C- 01-005A, -005B and -006 from Commercial-Regional to Residential General.

PREPARED BY: Gary Plumbly, Director
Development Services

June 9, 2015

Gregori Anderson, Director
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES



CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

"Planning the Future - Respecting the Past"

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
SUBJECT: MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

PETITION REFERENCED:

Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan Amendment Future Land Use Map
6033 and 6037 Ogeechee Road
File No. Z-150526-00043-1

MPC ACTION:

Approval of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the properties identified as PIN(s) 1-1029C -01-005A, -005B, and -006 from Commercial-Regional to Residential General

MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the request of an amendment to the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the future land use category of the properties identified as PIN(s) 1-1029C -01-005A, -005B, and -006 from Commercial-Regional to Residential General

MEMBERS PRESENT: 7 + Chairman

Shedrick Coleman, Chairman
Lacy Manigault, Treasurer
Stephanie Cutter
Timothy Mackey
James Overton
Linder Suthers
Tm Woiwode

James B. Blackburn, Jr., Secretary
Lee Smith
Ellis Cook
Tanya Milton
Adam Ragsdale
Joseph Welch
George Woods

VOTING FOR MOTION

VOTING AGAINST MOTION

\*ABSENT OR \*\*FAILING TO VOTE

Shedrick Coleman, Chairman
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James Overton
Adam Ragsdale
Linder Suthers
Tom Woiwode

\*Tanya Milton
\*Lee Smith
\*Ellis Cook
\*Timothy Mackey
\*Joseph Welch
\*George Woods

FOR APPROVAL: 8

FOR DENIAL: 0

ABSTAINING: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
Executive Director

=====

- 2. THE PETITIONER TG OGEECHEE, LLC, HAROLD YELLIN AS AGENT IS REQUESTING TO REZONE THE PROPERTY AT 6033 AND 6037 OGEECHEE ROAD FROM MIXED P-B (PLANNED BUSINESS) AND R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS TO AN R-3 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) CLASSIFICATION (24 UNITS PER ACRE PROPOSED). THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. Z-150520-00041-1

AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-1~~  
 AGENDA DATE: ~~July 17, 2015~~  
 AGENDA ITEM: XII-1  
 AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH  
 METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 THRU: LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER  
 FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

The petitioner, TG Ogeechee, LLC, Harold Yellin as agent, is requesting to rezone the property at 6033 and 6037 Ogeechee Road from mixed P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential-Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) classification (24 units per acre proposed). MPC recommends approval. File No. Z-150520-00041-1.

**ISSUE:**

The rezoning of the parcels identified as 6033 and 6037 (PINs 1-1029C-01-005A, -005B, and -006) from mixed P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential-Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) classification (24 units per acre proposed.)

**BACKGROUND:**

The subject property is located on the south side of Ogeechee Road across from Southwest Elementary School just west of Chevis Drive. The subject site is cleared, undeveloped land. The developer proposes to construct six multifamily buildings with 216 one- and two-bedroom units.

The properties west and south are zoned R-A. The subject property to the east is zoned P-B. The properties adjacent to and west of the subject site share an unnamed private drive and are used for industrial and storage businesses. There have been non zoning changes within the immediate area in the last five years.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS**

- 1. **Existing Development Pattern:** The predominant land use within the vicinity of the subject property is industrial, commercial, and single family residential. The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Zoning</u>
North	Civic (school) Vacant	P-B[1] P-B-C [2]

South	Single Family Residential	R-A [3]
East	Commercial Single Family Residential	P-B R-A
West	Light Industrial	P-B

- [1] P-B Planned Business
- [2] P-B-C Planned Community Business
- [3] R-A Residential-Agricultural

2. **Transportation Network:** The property is accessed by Ogeechee Road, Federal US-17, and has 539 feet of frontage on the right-of-way.
3. **Public Transportation:** The subject site is served by Chatham Area Transit (CAT). The nearest CAT service (Route 12 Silk Hope/Savannah Festival outlet) and bus stops are available directly in front of the subject site.
4. **Public Services and Facilities:** The property is served by the Metropolitan Police Department, Southside fire protection, and City water and sewer services.
5. **Land Use Element:** The Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property as Commercial-Regional. The proposed R-3-24 zoning classification and the proposed multi-family development are not consistent with the definition of this land use category. Therefore, the Future Land Use Map will need to be amended to the Residential-General category. Multifamily residential units in this location will support the existing commercial and industrial uses.
6. **Existing PD-R-SM Zoning District:**
  - a. **Intent of the P-B District:** The intent of the P-B zoning district is to create and protect areas in which heavy commercial and certain industrial-like activities are permitted. The “P” designation indicates that development plans must be reviewed by the MPC in order to secure an orderly development pattern.
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the P-B district are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file).
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the P-B district appear in Section 4.6.1 of the Chatham County Zoning Code.
6. **Proposed B-C District:**
  - a. **Intent of the B-C District:** The purpose of this district shall be to provide community shopping facilities consisting of a wide variety of sales and service facilities at locations that will be accessible to a market area containing from 35,000 to 70,000 people.
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** That uses allowed within the B-C district appear in the attached chart.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the B-C district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

1. Will the proposed zoning districts permit uses that would create traffic volumes, noise level, odor, airborne particulate matter, visual blight, reduce light or increased density of development that would adversely impact the livability or quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X
2. Will the proposed zoning districts permit uses that would adversely impact adjacent and nearby properties by rendering such properties less desirable and therefore, less marketable for the type of development permitted under the current zoning?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X
3. Will the proposed zoning districts permit uses that would generate a type of mix of vehicular traffic on a street or highway that is incompatible with the type of land use development along such street or highway?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

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

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the petitioner’s request to rezone a 13.5 acre parcel from P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3-24 (Multi-Family Residential, 24 units per acre) classification (proposed).
2. Approve an alternate zoning classification or density.
3. Deny the petitioner’s request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The proposed rezoning to an R-#-24 classification is not consistent with the Tri-Centennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. An amendment to the Future Land Use Map is recommended for approval. The requested rezoning will establish a zoning district that has a use and density that will provide multifamily residential housing that will serve the needs of the immediate area. The subject property is close to commercial, educational and employment areas, and would not negatively impact those areas.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Planning Commission recommends **Approval** of the request to rezone a 13.5 acre parcel from P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3-24 (Multi-Family Residential, 24 units per acre) classification (proposed).

The approval of this rezoning is conditioned upon the approval of the associated Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment is also on the June 9, 2015 MPC agenda.

PREPARED BY:  Gary Plumbley, Director   
Development Services

JUNE 9, 2015

Gregori Anderson, Director   
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

*“Planning the Future – Respecting the Past”*

----- MEMORANDUM -----

DATE: June 9, 2015

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MPC RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**

TG Ogeechee, LLC, Petitioner  
Harold B. Yellin, Agent  
6033 and 6037 Ogeechee Road  
File No. Z-150520-00041-1

**MPC ACTION:**

**Approval** of the request to rezone 13.5 acre parcel from P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3-24 (Multi-Family Residential, 24 units per acre) classification (proposed). The approval of this rezoning is conditioned upon the approval of the associated Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment.

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approval** of the request to rezone 13.5 acre parcel from P-B (Planned Business) and R-A (Residential Agricultural) zoning classifications to an R-3-24 (Multi-Family Residential, 24 units per acre) classification (proposed). The approval of this rezoning is conditioned upon the approval of the associated Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 7 + Chairman

Shedrick Coleman, Chairman  
Lacy Manigault, Treasurer  
James Overton  
Linder Suthers

James B. Blackburn, Jr., Secretary  
Stephanie Cutter  
Adam Ragsdale  
Tom Woiwode

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

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

Shedrick Coleman  
James B. Blackburn, Jr.  
Stephanie Cutter  
Lacy Manigault  
James Overton  
Adam Ragsdale  
Linder Suthers  
Tom Woiwode

\*Ellis Cook  
\*Timothy Mackey  
\*Tanya Milton  
\*Lee Smith  
\*Joseph Welch  
\*George Woods

FOR APPROVAL:  8

FOR DENIAL:  0

ABSTAINING:  1

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
Executive Director

[NOTE: The Boundary description is attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file.]

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**XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairman Scott said, what's left is informational items.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

=====

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2**

**AGENDA DATE: July 31, 2015**

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

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DEPT.</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
Asbestos removal and demolition of 7305 Skidaway Road	Engineering	B & D Clearing, Inc.	\$7,300	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Road Expenditure
Repair engine belt and A/C mount to unit #23 - Public Works and Park Services front end loader	Fleet Operations	JCB of Georgia	\$3,005	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Renewal of software maintenance agreement for Finance	I.C.S.	Sungard Public Sector Pentamation	\$8,048	General Fund/M&O - Finance
Sixteen (16) radio charger adapters and accessories	I.C.S.	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	\$2,815	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Upgrade and monthly software fee for front desk cashier	Aquatic Center	Jonas Fitness, Inc.	\$4,483	General Fund/M&O - Aquatic Center
Repair gate and replace circuit boards due to lighting strike damage	Mosquito Control	Savannah Fence & Entry Systems	\$2,659	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Duraseal, gloss, paint and degreaser for hanger floors maintenance	Mosquito Control	Durall Manufacturing	\$4,686	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Renewal of server service agreement	Detention Center	Nationwide Power Solutions, Inc.	\$4,550	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Mailing of pre-bills for month of July	Tax Commissioner	World Marketing	\$6,406	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Software renewal for cellular forensic data extractor	C.N.T.	Cellebrite USA, Corp.	\$3,098	General Fund/M&O - Counter Narcotics Team
Rent for Wilmington Island Tag Office for the month of August	Tax Commissioner	Bre Southeast Retail Holdings, LLC	\$2,574	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
July 2015 Tax Sale advertisements	Tax Commissioner	Shivers Trading / Operating Company	\$3,505	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Annual alarm monitoring	Tax Commissioner	Tyco Integrated Security	\$6,366	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Annual maintenance agreement for wireless network analysis device	I.C.S.	Fluke Networks	\$5,040	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.

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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: JULY 31, 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. 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.
2. Bay Street Widening. ROW acquisition complete. GDOT certified the ROW on April 1, 2015. Final plan complete and submitted to GDOT. Environmental re-evaluation underway. Staff anticipates GDOT letting a construction contract in 2015.
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. Corrective work is taking place.
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. Environmental document was approved on May 26, 2015. ROW authorization expected in 2015.
5. Local Roads under Construction.
  - a. Road Resurfacing.
    - a. Construction is substantially complete 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. Corrective work is underway.
    - b. Board approval of a contract award for road surfacing of 1.5 miles of roadway including Diana Drive, Michael Court, Bellview Drive, McLeod Street, West Fox Chase Road, Legacy Boulevard, Gamble Road, Adams Avenue, LaRoche Avenue and Pine Barren Road considered on June 26, 2015.
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. Preliminary plans anticipated in October 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. Project will provide improvements along Skidaway Road from Montgomery Cross Road to Ferguson Avenue. ROW plans are complete. Staff requested titles of impacted parcels to begin ROW acquisition. A property owners meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2015.
  - d. Hill Road. Dirt road paving project. Preparation of ROW plans under review and final design is underway.
  - e. Fairwind Road. Final plans to pave Fairwind Road within the existing right of way under review.
  - f. East White Hawthorne Drive Cul-de-sac. Construction plans are complete. Project is out for bid.
  - g. Bradley Point Sidewalk Improvements. Concept development complete. Public meeting held March 3, 2015. Preliminary plans and environmental permitting

underway for the preferred alternative based on comments in support of the alternative received from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Utility coordination is underway.
- 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. Project kick-off and coordination meeting scheduled for July 8, 2015.
- j. Crisp/Fisher. Dirt road paving project. Preliminary design is underway.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.  
Districts All

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE**  
**AGENDA DATE: JULY 31, 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 contractor completed the project and the County accepted the improvements.
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. All permits have been received, and property acquisition is nearing completion. The project will be out to bid soon.
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 will begin in August 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.

13. Tiana Circle Drainage Improvements. The project will reconstruct a segment of the existing roadway which has settled and improve the drainage system to eliminate chronic street ponding. Design is underway.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.  
Districts: All

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#### 4. COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE -- SCMPD/RECORDER'S COURT

Chairman Scott said, but at this time I'm going to recognize our Manager, Mr. Lee Smith, for some informational items and updates.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. Thank you and good morning. First of all this is a -- I do want to mention to you, and I think we got some information out to you on a ribbon cutting ceremony at 99 Johnny Mercer Boulevard. This is for the Turner's Creek Boat Ramp renovation project. So if you can be there at 10:00 a.m. on August 4<sup>th</sup>, we would love to have you out there. That's a great project. You know we're still working on some, but it's generally and we do have some other building issues and things that we're going to be putting together over the next few months, but it is open and is working really well. So, anyway, invite you August 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. and any of the public that would like to join us at 99 Johnny Mercer Boulevard for Turner's Creek Boat Ramp ribbon cutting.

County Manager Smith said, next I'd had a couple of the Board members and talked to the Chair yesterday, just wanted to give you a real quick update on SCMPD and Recorder's Court agreements. We've had meetings with the City. We have expanded the meetings from just myself, the City Manager, finance officers, and Assistant City [sic] Manager, Linda -- Linda Cramer. We actually had involved in these last meetings development of drafts through our attorneys. We developed the draft and have forwarded that to the City. We have had a meeting face to face with the City Manager and Attorneys with the City. They met yesterday, and I've been notified we will agree -- we will be meeting Tuesday, and my hope is that we will finalize next week these agreements to bring to you at the next meeting if possible. And I know I've heard some that may not be here on the 28<sup>th</sup>, so it's something we may want to talk about but I'm -- I'm shooting for the 28<sup>th</sup> to bring this back because we are now beyond the 60 days.

Commissioner Stone said, two meetings?

County Manager Smith said, I would think by the time we get things cleared up and drafts back, I would say the 28<sup>th</sup>. But if we can make the 14<sup>th</sup> fine, but I will -- we'll just have to see how our meeting goes Tuesday. I will tell you our points, you know, we did offer some alternatives. There were some issues within the Recorder's Court agreement that I think are being massaged. As far as the actual police merger agreement, that has gone fairly well based on the framework. So I feel, you know, pretty good about that in that the details that we've put in place seem to be generally acceptable. So unless there's something I've not been told in the last week, I feel pretty positive about that portion. There were some concerns on Recorder's Court, I think on both sides and also there have been concerns by our Board, and by yourselves. So at this point, we'll meet next Tuesday, and we'll hope to bring the -- a final version back to you for consideration. Of course, we would get that to you in advance so it will not be, you know, we bring it to you on Friday morning. It will be in advance. So I would be glad, or Jon, any of us, to answer any questions about where we are on it. But, again, our last couple of meetings have been extremely productive. So I'll open it up to questions, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, glad to hear that.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Center said, I -- I thank you very much for adding this as a -- and -- and giving us this presentation 'cause I had sent an email asking for an update, and -- and I just want to tell you why. You know, I tried to research what we have done as a Board. I know last September we voted to terminate the existing agreement. So it's been basically 11 months. In January we sent a pro -- we approved a proposal. In February we authorized you, and I think we authorized funds to retain a -- a search firm to find a police chief. In March we -- we appropriated or -- or authorized spending up to \$65,000 in that search. In April you told us

our drop dead date was April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. May 27, we approved a framework that we thought we'd get back, you know, in 60 days.

Commissioner Center said, and I'm very much concerned as -- as you heard me talk with Commander Ragan. All these list serv's I see from the Eastside Alliance, downtown Savannah, Captain's Heron's reports that I get. I just see more and more break-ins, more and more robberies, more and more gun shots, and it doesn't seem to me that this merged agreement is reducing crime. I mean we're -- we're existing under what we have, and I have to tell you that the longer we wait, and I want the City officials to hear this, the longer we wait, the more they lose votes on any agreement because there's not a lot of confidence from this Commissioner on the city administration's handling of this police force. And I -- the police, you know, they don't report to us, as Commander Ragan does. We have no idea what's going on. The citizens want to be in charge of their police force. We are the elected citizens, they asked us to be those citizens, to ask questions and be in charge. I represent a bulk of downtown Savannah. I've been told I have absolutely no authority to do anything with policing there, even making a recommendation. It comes as a recommendation but there's no authority. Thunderbolt has it's police force; Garden City has his -- has it's police force. So I have a little bit of unincorporated area. I was told this week there were three cars stolen out of one driveway in Isle of Hope Wednesday night. There's been broad daylight hold ups in Savannah in -- in my District.

Commissioner Center said, I know all the Councilmen on the City of Savannah. I respect them all. I know we work great individually, but something seems to be in the collective oversight of the police force, I just -- I'm losing confidence. It's an election year in Savannah, and once that election's over, they have four years before they have any pressure from the citizens again. So I want them to publicly know if we don't get something quickly that we can vote and agree on, they're losing a vote that they have, and I don't know where I stand right now, but I -- I -- what I read every day in the media and the list serv's, I'm losing confidence, and I want -- I feel more confident in protecting the citizens I'm charged with protecting by having our own police force than a merged police force if we don't get something done.

County Manager Smith said, Mr. Chairman, if I can? The -- I will tell you, on a daily basis, I'm in communication with the chief and/or Julie Tolbert. I will also tell you that I have had multiple meetings with him. We meet once a week, but we also have had other meetings where I'm trying to -- we had a meeting this week with the hospital where I actually took the chief out there to talk about some of the incidences, what the impacts are of not just offenders, but we're having shootings where people are being dropped off, so partnerships are forming.

County Manager Smith said, now, the other thing is -- is the chief has also talked with me over the -- this week and his time here is -- is developing a plan of kind of the hierarchy within the police department. He's been there long enough. He sees it, and he's about to make some pretty major changes in the structure of his management team, what we call the brass, and trying to reduce that and put people on the street, and he's seen that, and I am confident that based on what he is telling me and what he is demonstrating, that he is attempting to do that. Now, as he said to me about three months ago, this was a -- it's a massive task, a culture within the police department, a culture in the community of crime, and -- that we have to show force out in the unincorporated area, as we do huge force in the City of Savannah, which is going to require an investment by City Council, absolutely, and we will invest in the unincorporated area. But, I do think the chief gets it. I do also agree with you that the longer we wait, I do think there is a loss of confidence, and we get that. The City Manager also understands that. So that's why I'm encouraging this thing has got to be done this month. Because if the Board decided to take -- and you as a Board decided to take another avenue, I know if you -- you're going to look at me, and we're going to have a short time period in which to look at alternatives, but alternatives can and would be solved, and we'd be successful. So.

Commissioner Center said, well, and -- and I thank you and I very much appreciate the update and -- and -- and the Chairman for putting this matter on the calendar. I thank you for that report and that -- and -- and knowing that. Let me say, Julie Tolbert was great in her interim position, and -- and Chief Lumpkin, I've watched him, you know, just the fact that he reaches out and meets with the public, and his demeanor, has enstore -- has restored a lot of confidence with people who didn't have it before, and I don't in any way mean to demean what they do or how they work, and I really don't want to sound as criticism of the City Council. You know, I -- I know many times, I guess in my background I sound like I'm cross-examining rather than examining or learning, but I just have to say and I want the City to hear it. You've had -- I've had my misgivings. You've heard me say it in every speech, and yet I voted to stay with the City because it's my City, and I don't want them to be harmed, but if this hangs out there, the -- the threads are unraveling. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone of the 1<sup>st</sup> and Commissioner Kicklighter of the 7th. In that order.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want concur with my colleague and thank you for bringing that to our attention. Just in the unincorporated area recently there has been a body placed, the three cars stolen the other night. I'm not seeing a lot of confidence within the citizens in the unincorporated area, and I too voted to keep this merger together because I feel it's in the best interest of the community. I was out of town on county business about eight or ten days ago, and this is spreading that we have a crime problem in our community, and ultimately this could affect us in a very negative way, not to mention the public safety of our citizens, so this is serious business, and we all need to be mindful of what's going on. It brings up something that I asked several years ago, maybe a year recently, we used to have an update from our police report [sic], just as we do from CNT, and I would like to see that happen again.

Chairman Scott said, we're planning -- we're planning -- the chief is planning on coming over, giving us a quarterly update, and I don't know when his --

County Manager Smith said, yes. We had that discussion this week.

Commissioner Stone said, I think --

Chairman Scott said, -- when his first appearance will be, but it will be sometime in August, but we've already set that in motion.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. Thank you, because I -- I would like to know what's going on. I learned about the three cars being stolen from Commissioner Center, and the body being dumped at Tuten's Fish Camp by a resident. So I -- I don't know all of these things that are going on, and it's important to know what's going on in -- in the areas that you represent, and it's very frightening to hear stuff like this. It's -- it's not just in the downtown area, it is county-wide.

County Manager Smith said, well, I do have to say, Mr. Chairman, the one thing that the chief and -- and I don't want to say just the chief, but the staff in trying to change the culture, there has been a culture in the unincorporated area and some in the City of Savannah where things were not reported, even with law enforcement being brought or SCMPD being brought, reports may not have been taken, and in some cases we know they had not been. They are now being taken. Now is that 100 percent? I don't think so, but I think we're getting close, and as we're reporting all of the crimes, property crimes, in the unincorporated area and City of Savannah, you are going to see actually what's happening, and I think you're getting a true picture of what's really going on in our community. That's important because it's being reported, and the chief is really hammering down on that his folks will report it, they will get these reports in, and we will see what's going on because nothing is going to be swept under the rug, and I applaud him for doing that. So, I think you will see some rise, you know, it's like testing for certain diseases in a community. You'll go out and test and find out, oh, we have the sickest community. I had this happen in a county in North Carolina. Sickest community in the state, and what we found is -- is we were just the best at reporting, and then when everybody else started testing, we found out we weren't quite so bad, but sometimes it's reporting. But we've got to do a better job, and I think they are on the report side. So I think we're finding out what the real picture is, which may not be great, and we've got to attack it.

Commissioner Stone said, well, I -- I can concur with that. I have an alarm system, and my alarm went off, and the police were contacted, but there was no indication that they came to my house. Nothing left on my door, so I didn't know when I got home whether it was safe to go in my house or not. I had to call --

County Manager Smith said, yeah, and those are things that are being discussed on alarms, alarm policies, you know, we -- that -- that's all in motion.

Commissioner Stone said, well, it's important --

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Commissioner Stone said, -- because I didn't feel safe for a moment or two to go into my own home.

County Manager Smith said, correct. I understand that.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter of the 7<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd actually be shocked if Savannah follows any of the guidelines or adheres to any of the time lines or actually ever approves the framework that this body approved. The City has in my opinion screwed the unincorporated area since 2003, and they're going to continue to do so as long as we allow them to do so, and it will blow my mind if they even remotely come close to approving what this body approved as framework without us caving yet again and giving up many of the items that was listed in there. But, just, state it for the record. I have hope that -- that y'all can pull it off, but they're already falling behind what -- what was agreed on, and that's no different than the treatment since 2003, and it will continue.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, and as we stated, the County Manager and I talked about this, and he relayed it to the chief. Once this agreement is in place, the chief will be before this body on a quarterly basis to brief us on activities of the police department. This is not in defense of the chief, but I would say that this chief is probably more accessible than any chief we've had since -- I would say since the late '70s or early '80s in all actuality. And what we -- what we must refrain from, the chief does not work for us individually. We are not allowed to instruct or direct his activities because then you're going to be extremely upset and disappointed when he doesn't listen or follow your lead, because that's not what he's supposed to do. Technically, he reports to the

City Manager, but if you want any information about anything that's going on in the city, I can assure you that if you email the chief, he will respond to you.

Commissioner Center said, I just want to ask, for protocol, should we email the County Manager who email's the chief? I'm --

Chairman Scott said, if you -- if you --

Commissioner Center said, I'm very reluctant to interfere on a level like this here.

Chairman Scott said, no, you shouldn't, but I'm just saying that if you have any -- if you have -- if you have a question that you want to ask -- a general question about the police department, the chief will respond to it. If you've got questions about a specific incident or individual, go to the County Manager because he's talking to him on a daily basis. So if you email the County Manager that night, he will bring it to the chief's attention in the morning because he's talking to him face to face, and you will not be talking to him face to face every day, and so the County Manager is -- is an excellent conduit for you to bring anything or any concerns you have in reference to the police department. But, I have to resist the temptation as well.

Chairman Scott said, but as County Commissioners, we do not have the jurisdiction over activities within municipalities, be it Pooler, Garden City, City of Savannah, Thunderbolt, we do not because if they have an elected governing authority, they're responsible for the public safety and public services within those municipalities. And it's tough to do, however, it doesn't prevent us as a Commission, especially, as an elected officials to take our case to the council in person at their meetings, and -- and we generally don't go that route, but occasionally, I've -- I've gone to a Garden City Council meeting. I've gone to a Pooler Council meeting. I usually don't ask for time on the agenda, although I have been given time on the agenda at Garden City, but as their representative, you ought to go to a council meeting occasionally. And -- and if you've got any displeasure with them, you ought to tell them because you represent them and they represent you, and -- and -- and we should -- we should not pass on that opportunity.

Chairman Scott said, but, on the merger agreement, again, I have not been personally involved in the negotiation because it's been a staff and quite frankly, I didn't want to try to influence the process.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, and -- because what we voted on is what we got, and I don't want -- I don't want them to think that by my being there that we can get more concessions or changes through me, because that's not the purpose of it. Anybody else? If not I'll go back to Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just -- for the record, I just want people to know that my comments were not a reflection of my thoughts about the chief at all.

County Manager Smith said, no.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's about the structure of what some people call -- what people -- some people call a merger, and I call us hiring a -- police protection, and as far as Commissioner Center, his question, it's -- it's my understanding that we as Commissioners have no authority to directly address even department heads within the government, that everything that we want has to go through the Manager because he is over the entire administration, and that should apply as far as police too. You send -- send your concerns to him, and he takes them to the others. I mean, we're not technically supposed to address them directly, is -- is my understanding.

County Manager Smith said, I know for -- for our office, the one thing that is -- is helpful, and this -- I know this is off task, Mr. Chairman, but, whenever there's a flow of information and something is requested, the one thing that's important to me is when we get that information that we can -- if you have a question, that we then can disseminate that to all of you because typically, you're -- you know, not that you all think the same things, but you have similar questions, so it just helps us do that, and then when I don't someone will say, well, I didn't know about that. Well, if -- if we can create those conduits of communication, we're not all perfect at it, but if we can do that, I know one time Commissioner Farrell and I -- he said how's the best way to get up with you, call the office? I said, text me and say call me, and then I'll go, okay, you know, do it, and a lot of you do that, which is terrific, because I may be in meetings. I -- I could be hours in meetings, so -- but the same with the chief, if you've got something specific on an incident, I will tell you, my phone, and -- and I tell the chief that he and I are texting buddies and Julie Tolbert, but I get more texts from the chief and from Julie and from the police department than anything else, and I probably get 4,000 or 5,000 a month texts. The bulk of those are the police department on what's happening, and if there's something that would involve you personally, or something I thought you were impacted, I would say, okay I need to tell you about this. But when the chief and when we get into this agreement, we do need to look at how we report information to you. Right now we're kind of in between, but we need to establish -- because I don't think you're getting information you need about police protection, but until we establish this -- we got to figure out how do I communicate that to you properly. I can't text you 24/7, but how do we do that properly? So I think that's going to be a process we're going to have to build upon over the next few months.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but, if -- the -- the -- the problem is I'm not questioning the communication at all, but the structure or the requested structure allows this person who communicates wonderfully with you right now to be fired on a whim without your knowledge and be replaced with someone that may not speak with you. That's where the problem lies and why we need to hammer this sub-par agreement on through if that's what's going to happen because it's better than the old agreement and still not as good as it should be. And --

County Manager Smith said, it's not perfect.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, not by far for -- for the unincorporated area, but --

Chairman Scott said, okay. When I said that this was the most accessible chief, I meant the most accessible chief for the City of Savannah. I cannot say that past county police chiefs were not accessible, because I know when St. Lawrence was police chief, he was very accessible.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that -- that's not what I even suggested.

Chairman Scott said, no, I'm not -- I'm not saying that, but I just wanted to clarify --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. Yeah.

Chairman Scott said, -- my statement. But I was in reference to the City of Savannah, and I said that the most -- he's been the most accessible chief since Epstein really.

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Scott said, and with that we need executive session for legal.

Commissioner Center said, I move we recess to executive session for --

County Attorney Hart said, litigation.

Chairman Scott said, no.

Commissioner Center said, -- for litigation and personnel.

County Manager Smith said, and personnel.

Chairman Scott said, not --

Commissioner Center said, legal -- legal and --

Chairman Scott said, not personnel.

Commissioner Center said, legal --

Chairman Scott said, we're not going to do appointments because we've got two members of the Commission, and one of them have an interest in the appointment.

Commissioner Center said, all right. For legal.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Commissioner Center said, I move to recess to executive session to discuss legal matters.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any unreadiness or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes.

Chairman Scott said, and I think we're officially off live television. For those who may not know the history of the King-Tisdale Cottage, and those who have spent a lot time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, that building was in an urban renewal area right off of Gwinnett and Wheaton Street, up in that area, and -- and it was back in the late 70s, and Mr. Law formed an organization that was not mentioned here today, the Association for the Study of African American History, and he approached through me members of the legislature about getting money to move that cottage from where it's at now. The Historic Savannah Foundation, I think, provided that lot that it's currently on, and that building -- the King-Tisdale Cottage was moved because it had significant history in the black community, and Mr. Law did not want to see it destroyed. And that's how it got where it's at now. Governor George Busbee at the time is the person who helped me with the money to relocate it. The Historic Savannah Foundation, I believe, paid for the lot that it currently sits on, and a lot of people in the community

who have an interest in preservation helped put forth money to renovate that house. And back during the movement, I for a brief time, served as treasurer of that association. Charlie Mikells [sic], former Judge Mikells [sic], served as general counsel and legal advisor to Mr. Law and Mr. Law was president of the association, and that's how it got there.

Chairman Scott said, the Beach Institute, we really owe a debt of gratitude to SCAD. That was a original trade school or high school for the Alfred E. Beach School, and it was --

Commissioner Holmes said, elementary and (inaudible) school.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. And it was with SCAD help, Richard Rowan, at the time that that building was restored. And -- and then Ralph Mark Gilbert building for those who may not know it housed an insurance company for years and Bowles Ford, who was on City Council and friends with your father, Commissioner, was senior vice president and director of that insurance company, Guaranteed Life Insurance, that was headquartered in that building. Also in that building in the basement, was -- almost during Mr. Law entire tenure, right -- during most of his tenure, housed the NAACP office in the Ralph Mark Gilbert, and at the time that building was the Guaranteed Life Insurance Building. It too was purchased with SPLOST funds after that insurance company closed down and -- and became the Ralph Mark Gilbert, and that name Ralph Mark Gilbert was a suggestion of Mr. Law. Ralph Mark Gilbert is a former pastor of First African Baptist Church, and he too served as president of the Savannah Branch NAACP, and he was perhaps the original person who was concerned about race relations and etcetera in Savannah and did a lot of work to try to maintain calm during the height of the civil rights movement, and Mr. Law wanted to honor him by naming that museum in his name, Ralph Mark Gilbert.

Chairman Scott said, so -- and you -- you talk about Mr. Law's house, he had a couple rooms he used as library, and they were stacked from floor to ceiling with papers and boxes and articles of all description. We used to call it a major fire hazard.

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

Commissioner Center moved to recess to executive session for the purpose of litigation. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present.]

The Board recessed at approximately 11:24 a.m.

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#### **ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

Commissioner Center moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Brady and Thomas were not present; Commissioners 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 11:55 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF AUGUST, 2015.

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

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JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION