

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 9:40 a.m. on Friday, December 4, 2015.

Chairman Scott said, good morning and welcome. Please be seated. I'll ask that you be seated until such time as our worship leader completes his message and indicate it's time to pray. At that time, if you would re-stand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance. We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by our Commission Pro Tem, Commissioner Stone from the 1st District.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Scott said, at our last meeting we had the opportunity to welcome the Calvary girls volleyball champions to appear before us. We missed an opportunity because today we have with us from the same organization the Reverend Josh Brewer. And in addition to being a -- a member of the clergy, he's also a member of the staff in terms of the school because he teaches journalism, religion. He is sort of the lead of the yearbook at Calvary Day School. He's a certified journalism educator. He also serves on the staff of the First Baptist Church of Savannah as assistant minister for community missions. And he grew up in Gulfport, Mississippi. He has a Bachelor and Masters degree. He had his Masters from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He has a Master in divinity, mission, and world Christianity. And I -- I looked -- I looked at it, he's been on multiple mission trips, and I -- on three different continent, so when -- I had not met Reverend Brewer, so I expected him to be 50 or 60 years old when -- when I looked at all the missions that he's been on, not just abroad, but here in the US, in Mexico, in Bolivia, in Kenya, Rwanda, China, and India -- that's why I said multiple continents that he's gone out and not only -- on missions, but also on teachings. And I -- I said with somebody who had -- grew up in Mississippi and went to school in Texas, what brought him to Savannah, and then in -- in talking to folk, I found out that he married someone from Savannah who went to Jenkins High School. That's what brought him here. Nicki brought him here. And he has -- and -- and now he's stuck 'cause he's got two young girls and -- and a wife, and they're all from Savannah and now they're born in Savannah, so I guess we'll have to give him some sort of citizenship paper to really transform him from a Mississippian to a Georgian, but it's a real pleasure to have with us this morning and -- the Reverend Josh Brewer as our devotional leader. Reverend Brewer.

Reverend Joshua Brewer said, thank you so much. Most of my students think that I am in my early 30s, so I've never gotten 50 before. I don't know whether to take offense, but I -- I -- I won't. I actually just turned 39 two days ago. So, if you were wondering how old I was --

Commissioner Center said, happy birthday.

Reverend Brewer said, -- that's -- that's definitely it. Thank you for inviting me this morning. As a private school religion teacher, I -- I am afforded the privilege of being able to pray with my students, and oftentimes we get to pray for our world leaders and our -- our community leaders, and so I wanted you to know that the students that I teach have prayed for you all and that you all are prayed for. So thank you for your service and know that you are thought of many times before we start class.

Reverend Brewer said, speaking of those students and speaking of my children as well, the other night I was -- I was putting my children to bed, and my daughter wanted to read a book, and so the book that she picked up and the book that she wanted to read was a familiar one to me, one that I loved when I was a kid. It was a book called *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Maybe you read it to your kids at some point, okay? You know, it's the story of this little five-year-old, and he has a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day for a five-year-old. He wakes up and he can't sit in the window seat going to school. He's scrunched in the middle. And his best friend tells him he's not his best friend anymore, he's only his third best friend, And later on he's got to wear his pajamas that he doesn't want to wear, and so to him he's had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day, and it really hit me that day because as all of us know, we've had some of those, you know. We can't be human and not have some pretty terrible days, right? I mean I know sometimes in -- in the position that many of us are in we have to put on our best faces, but we can't be human and not have some pretty bad days, right?

Reverend Brewer said, and I was reminded after reading that book of how much for -- for me in the Christian tradition looking at the life of Jesus how sometimes I look at Jesus and think, man, Jesus is like superman, you know. Jesus puts on his cape and goes and saves the day, but there's some times where Jesus has some

pretty terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days himself. There was this moment in Jesus' life where he wakes up in the morning, and he goes to give a talk at his local -- at his local synagogue, and he gets there, and they don't like him. They don't like what he has to say. As a matter of fact they throw him out. And that's a pretty bad day, you know, when you're rejected by the place that you think's got your back. And so he leaves, and it's a pretty bad, dark time for Jesus. And not only that, he leaves, and then he gets word that his cousin has been killed. His cousin was a political prisoner that's killed by the -- by the official, and he gets word that his cousin has just been killed in some gruesome way. And it's just turned into a really bad day. And in this moment in Matthew 14, Jesus wants to get away. You know, sometimes I thought Jesus would be like, oh well that doesn't bother me at all. He goes off, and he leaves 'cause he wants to be alone, right? 'Cause that's what we want to do when we're having some bad times. Sometimes we just need some alone time, right?

Reverend Brewer said, so he goes off, and he's alone but not too long. He gets to where he's going, and there's 5,000 people who need him; 5,000 people who want him; 5,000 people who need a piece of his time, want his opinion, want him to do something for them. Maybe you know how that feels, except maybe a few more people, you know. So he gets there, and he's tired, and he's worn out and it's dark, you know, and they want to be fed, and so Jesus' disciples come to him. Maybe you know the story and say, Jesus we've only got five loaves of bread. We got two fish. That's all we got. What are we going to do? And Jesus says, you give them something. You do something. You -- you give them something, and they say we -- we -- we don't have anything except this. It's not going to be enough. And Jesus just says, well give it to me, and he makes something beautiful happen. He feeds all the people. He gives them what they need. And then guess what Jesus does after that on his bad day, on his dark day when the darkness is around him, where the darkness is setting in, Jesus goes off, and he's alone again 'cause he needs some time, right? You've got to get away 'cause sometimes we can feel that darkness, right? We can feel that darkness setting in. It's coming -- it's coming over us. It gets in us because all of us got them dark days. Sometimes when you turn on the news you might think, man, the darkness is coming. Sometimes you pick up the Savannah Morning News in the morning, and you're standing out on your front porch, going, man, the darkness is coming in. It's coming.

Reverend Brewer said, and I'm reminded that in this season of Christmas, as we're getting ready for Christmas and things are ramping up, I think what's beautiful about Christmas, about the coming of -- of -- of Jesus in the Christian tradition is that it comes at the darkest time of the year. Don't know if you've ever noticed that Christmas always comes at winter solstice, around that time where it is the darkest night the year, the day where there is the longest darkness, and yet in that darkness, Jesus comes. Jesus is born. The light has come and in the Christian tradition, we would say the light has come and the darkness has not overcome it. The darkness will not overcome it. And I think it's a beautiful, beautiful message to us because on a personal level, on a state level, on a city level, sometimes the darkness just seems like it's coming. It's coming over us and the light comes because as we know, some of us know, the darkness is -- is not going to win. The darkness isn't going to have it's last day, is it? 'Cause the light is going to win.

Reverend Brewer said, we know that light will concur darkness. We know that justice will prevail over injustice, and we know as Jesus speaks that love is going to over come any -- any discord, disunity, any bigotry, any evil. That love is going to win in the end. And so for you as you've let me come today, I think what I would say to you as you start the day, remember that light's going to win at the end, justice is going to prevail over injustice, and in the end love is going to prevail over any disunity, over any pride, over any hatred, that in the end, love is going to win. So today in your conversations, in your debates, may they be healthy, may they be constructive, but let us all know that in the end love is going to win? Yes? May I pray for you all? May I pray for you all? Thank you.

Reverend Brewer gave the invocation as follows:

Christ, thank you for waking us up this morning and for bringing us here. Thank you for these leaders. Thank you for -- for Ms. Stone. Thank you for Mr. Holmes and Mr. Center and Mr. Farrell and Mr. Scott, Mr. Shabazz and Ms. Brady and Ms. Thomas and Mr. Kicklighter. God, I pray that today as they are dealing with the business of -- of our city, of our county, God, may you give them wisdom. As I said, may their debates be healthy. May they be constructive, and may they remember that in darkness, whether that's personal, whether that's national, world, city, God, may we remember that the light has come into the darkness, and the darkness isn't going to win, God, that justice is going to prevail. And may their discussions and may their lives be filled with love. May that love be brought into their discussions and be reminded that love will win over injustice, over bigotry, over hatred. In your name. Amen.

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

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Chairman Scott said, Pastor, we are not allowed to compensate you, but I wanted to present you with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of all the members of the Commission.

Reverend Brewer said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we wanted to let you know that we really appreciate you being here.

Reverend Brewer said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, for taking of your time. Thank you Janice [Bocook]. And say to your students, I didn't think that you looked like you were 50, I was in reference -- I was in reference to the travel and the mission work --

Reverend Brewer said, yes, sir. Yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, -- on -- on the many continents. And keep up the good work. Thank you so much.

Reverend Brewer said, thank you so much. I appreciate it. Appreciate it too, and if it's okay, I -- I have to get back to class. So. Is that all right?

Chairman Scott said, the pastor is excused.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

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IV. ROLL CALL

Chairman Scott said, next we have a roll call. The Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Scott said, our Vice Chair stepped out. I'll ask our Pro Tem if she would introduce the members of our Youth Commission who are here today.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can see from here. Is that --

Commissioner Center said, Byron Gray.

Commissioner Stone said, Byron Grant -- Gray or Grant?

Commissioner Center said, Gray.

Commissioner Stone said, Gray. I'm sorry.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Bethesda Academy.

Commissioner Stone said, Bethesda -- oh I'm looking at the wrong one. Okay. And then --

County Manager Smith said, you could let them introduce themselves.

Commissioner Center said, T'Amarri Grant.

Commissioner Stone said, T'Amarri Grant. You're from Jenkins High School. Welcome.

Chairman Scott said, thank you all for being here.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Scott said, and I would ask, and I should have earlier, if you have cell phones, please silence them.

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Scott said, I want to recognize a couple of -- of folk who are here today. One is the former Mayor of the City of Savannah in the person of Dr. Otis Johnson. And then we have a newly elected, newly minted, not yet sworn in member of City Council in Bill Durrence, who -- who's here. And I just wanted to acknowledge the -- the fact that -- that they are in the audience.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION ON CHATHAM COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT (TARA JENNINGS).

Chairman Scott said, and at this time, we're going to have a -- a presentation. We have been at it now for what, Mr. Manager? About ten months?

County Manager Lee Smith said, tomorrow.

Chairman Scott said, putting really what I refer to as sort of a -- checking the pulse of not just the unincorporated area of Chatham County, but the entire community and even outreach into Effingham and to Bryan County to talk about -- can you get that door? I'm hearing that background noise. To talk about issues that are important to this community, and I'm referring to it as a community because it's more than the unincorporated area of the county. It's Chatham County as a whole and it's immediate neighbors. Now, I hope what you will hear today -- and you see on your screen, the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, and how that came about, years ago that the City and the County and all agreed to fund this organization to gather data, to look at information, but that Coalition really was not given a charge or a mandate or a blueprint or anything else to do with the information. It was simply an awareness. And since we had that group already in place and doing good work, the Manager came and suggested that we bring them on board and let them take the lead in putting together our -- our vision and blueprint for this community. So they were -- in that final analysis there will be a lot of moving parts to it. Some of it you will not be presented today. Some of it will be in the form of recommendations to municipalities because we as a county cannot implement across jurisdiction, but we hope to get not just the municipalities buy in, but also the School Board buy in, because there will be recommendations as far as education. We also hope to get the business community buy in because there will be recommendations on that. And I just wanted to preference [sic] that before I -- I turned it over to the County Manager to invite Ms. Jennings up for the presentation.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. Thank you. As the Chairman said --

Chairman Scott said, is there any -- any member of the Commission have anything they wanted to say before we do that?

Commissioner Center said, did you want --

Commissioner Holmes said, I'd rather look at their presentation.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Manager.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. Thank you for the opportunity. It's been now into 11 months of working with the community, as well as Bryan and Effingham county, and the thing that we're pleased about is that we're getting -- with the community indicators what I was impressed with was if you go to their website, and Tara will talk about that, their charge is to keep us engaged in where we are in -- and I won't say failure, opportunities and our strengths. And they help -- and then compare us to not only other counties and communities in Georgia but nationally. How are we doing in health? How are we doing poverty? How -- we've got to do that so we can have how do we raise the bar? And it's been very -- as late as yesterday, Jon [Hart], myself, the Assistant Managers, Leon Davenport were with Savannah Home Builders, and we said to them yesterday, we need you to be a part of this. We -- on affordable housing, how can we help you? So we're engaging them. The entire community is engaged in a process of improving jobs, education. And it's amazing to see how it all comes back to those areas of education and poverty. So I -- I'd like Tara [Jennings] to come up, and I do want to publicly say, and I've said it before, and she's probably sick of me doing that, but I -- I have been amazed by her energy. I have been amazed by her passion, which we needed desperately. So to the Coalition -- the Indicators -- the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, I was just -- have been amazed by the work and by your passion and the attendance.

County Manager Smith said, on the 14th -- this is an interesting process, on the 14th we're trying to establish a model as a county organization where we're then going to look at the -- what's the community has brought to us, and we're going to develop internal strategies as a county that we can look at what things do we need to do as a county? And then we're going to identify are there others? And then have the municipalities do the same thing and then it all gets molded together. Then you're going to find redundancies. You'll find where there are holes in plans where we're not doing certain things. This is the exciting part. They've done the heavy lifting getting us here. Now we've got to take action. So I'd like to call Tara Jennings up. She has been phenomenal, and I think you'll be pleased with some of the information you'll hear today. But I was -- consider this the beginning.

Ms. Tara Jennings said, good morning.

County Manager Smith said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Chairman Scott said, Tara, thank you.

Ms. Jennings said, thank you. Thank you. I'm going to kind of walk through the process a little bit. If you'll be patient with me, I have a lot to bring to you and then when we're finished, I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can answer or make a commitment to respond back to you at a later date with information. So basically just to kind of begin with a brief history that's already been mentioned a little bit. As many of you may know, back in 2007-2008 the United Way, the City of Savannah, and Chatham County came together to begin to look at data. They had an agreement to look at the data and begin to make decisions based on that data. In '09/10 time frame, we contracted with Armstrong State University to do a feasibility study to begin to look at what data was available community level wide that had -- that we could find trend information for and a reliable source. In 2012-2013, as a matter of fact, December of 2012, there was an executive partnership agreement signed with about 12 partners, of which many of them are in the room today with me, to begin not only to look at data, but also to begin to talk about data and be able to report that data on a community level. In 2013-14 time frame we hosted some community meetings and a summit and following that we were solicited to sub -- submit to do the proposal to do the strategic planning as already mentioned. So in 2014-15 we contracted with the county to begin the process of a strategic plan.

Ms. Jennings said, historically Savannah has had some plans. There's a Vision 2020 on file, but what we learned in the process of this evaluation is that the Vision 2020 did not have an implementation plan. So not only are we going bring to you what we think are some areas of opportunity in this community but also a recommendation to continue forth with implementation. And what I'd like to do is I do have some of the partners here this morning. If you don't mind, I would like to give them a little bit of a shout out. So I have some people from Armstrong State with me, their research center, as well as Savannah Graduates program. You guys can stand. I mean y'all have been like heavy lifting in the background. City of Savannah, I think Ms. Stephanie Young is here with me. We also have -- obviously Ms. Linda Cramer has been very critical to this process. The Metropolitan Planning Commission, I believe Jackie's [Teel] here as well. There she is. The Coastal Health District and more specifically the Chatham County Health District, Memorial Health University, Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. I believe SEDA's here as well. The Youth Futures Authority is represented, St. Joseph/Candler Hospital, the United Way of the Coastal Empire. In addition to that, there's been some community volunteers who are not necessarily associated with any one of those organizations that I just mentioned and that includes the Coalition Chairperson, Mike Kemp, who's right behind me; Dr. Johnson, who is our co-Chair; as well as Howard Morrison, and even Chris Blaine, who is representative of the Coastal Regional Commission. So it's been a very diverse group of people working together. I mean while we've had the contract with you guys for a year, this group of people have actually been -- actually been working together since about '08. I think Mike [Kemp] actually began -- Mike and Dr. Johnson began in '04 time frame talking about it. So, it's a long time to get to this point.

Ms. Jennings said, so just to be clear, we also -- not only did we have the data that we looked at, but we also worked with the community and tried to get a pulse from the people, and we worked diligently to look at all the data and to listen to all the people. In some cases the perception of the individuals matched the data and in

some cases it did not. The vision statements and goal statements that will be presented to you today have been created -- have not been created in the vacuum. We have taken everything into consideration and hope that it will make sense not only to you guys but to the people who helped to build it to this point. In addition, we did a document scan. We reviewed 92 documents that existed within the city, the multiple cities that we have, as well as the county. We looked at things that -- plans that had actually goals and benchmarks within them and within that there were 331 vision statements and goals, and we cataloged them into 17 different areas. We tried to do that to make sure that we could determine where there was duplication and where there was opportunities for improvement.

Ms. Jennings said, to ensure that the community had a voice, we did neighborhood forums -- okay, sorry. We did focus groups, community conversations, a public opinion survey and community-wide meetings, some of which you may have attended. There were a total of 441 people who participated in the community meetings to include all of the Districts. We had about equal representation, but it also included representatives from Effingham, Bryan and even South Carolina at times. Of the surveys that were submitted, there were 1927 returned. So we sent out 30,000 plus surveys to Chatham County residents that were selected randomly, and of the 1927 that were returned, we took out bad addresses, and that's a return rate of about 7.1 percent, which is almost double what most surveys get return wise. The survey instrument consisted of closed-end questions, demographic questions and open-ended questions regarding big picture for the community. It also included access and satisfaction in regards to goods, services, public transportation, health, economy, education, and while there were some things that varied from one District to another, one thing that was consistent was race, place and income matter. But what we heard from the community were very similar to what the data is telling us, and if you don't mind I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Mike Toma to give you a little bit of that report.

Dr. Mike Toma said, thank you for inviting me in. I just want to give you a brief --

Chairman Scott said, pull those mikes up just a little bit. You're a little bit --

Dr. Toma said, does that sound better?

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Dr. Toma said, all right. So with the results of the survey, what I would like to do is just really kind of highlight some of the themes that come forward without necessarily delving very deeply into the data. There's a lot of richness in the data that has become available through the surveying process. Much, much more than we can really talk about in the short period that we have, but as -- among the several themes that have -- that have come forward, the first of which I wanted to highlight with this screen here is -- that place matters. The results are very different by District with respect to, for example, just these two questions: convenient access to recreational facilities ranges from agreement with the statement that I have convenient access ranges from about 56 percent in the 5th District to 87 percent in the -- in the 4th District. So place matters. Thank you.

Dr. Toma said, another element -- another question sort of --

Chairman Scott said, Mike, go back to that last slide, and -- and just to the members of the Commission, those are their District numbers at the bottom.

Dr. Toma said, that is correct.

Chairman Scott said, so -- so you would know -- know that when you are looking at it. That's all I wanted to just make sure we point that out.

Dr. Toma said, thank you, sir. Again, along the bottom are District numbers and here we have percentage of -- of individuals who indicated that they were satisfied with public safety ranging from 36 percent in the 2nd District to 82 percent again in the 4th District. Just again, an illustrative of that place matters. The District responses varied by District. Race matters in some senses that we have here differences of perspectives. Again a randomly drawn question here from the survey just illustrative of this fact. This is with respect to the -- the public -- public transportation system. Satisfaction ranges from -- satisfaction with the public transportation system ranges -- this is the light color from 32 percent among white respondents to 64 percent among African American respondents, illustrative that question -- responses do vary by race. Thank you. With respect to income mattering, here what you have in the two columns is responses divided by whether their household income was less than \$50,000 or greater than \$50,000. Clearly more individuals are living paycheck to paycheck among low income households, about 59 percent versus 31 percent. So there is, and, you know, it's just in the sense of -- of looking at the data, lower income households have fewer part time jobs -- excuse me, have more part time jobs as opposed to fulltime jobs. They are less likely to own their home and -- and bear a proportionately higher burden of their income goes towards household -- housing expenses.

Dr. Toma said, if I could highlight one statistic on this particular sheet, on that screen that -- that would make all the other ones get better realistically, it's that number right there that's highlighted, that 42 percent of households -- of low income households that are reporting having a full-time job as compared to 70 percent of the households -- persons in that household having a full-time job if their incomes are -- household income is greater than \$50,000. If that number that's circled in red got bigger, it would make all the other numbers on that particular screen move in a favorable direction, and that's something that's carried forward I think in -- with respect to some of the open-ended questions that we took responses about. The three most important problems

facing the community today, that's the top screen, figure 10.1 there. If there's one thing that you could change in the community, what would it be, and then figure 10.2 in the survey, if you were thinking about what's -- you know, what -- what are our priorities in some senses, planning for 2035 and beyond, there's a theme that comes forward here after you look past the crime information, which is always important and always come up important in community surveys of this type, and it relates back to that last screen in terms of -- of low income households not having full-time jobs. There is a desire for doing something about creating educational or job training or improving access to education that would help address that one particular issue in terms of -- of increasing opportunities for lower income households to obtain full-time jobs. So that's really -- what I wanted to do was just provide a brief overview in terms of some of the basic themes that are coming forward is that the respondents did differ by District. Clearly in many cases they varied across races, and the responses were varied by the level of household income. So race, place and income do matter.

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner Center from the 3rd District with a question.

Commissioner Center said, these slides that you're showing us on the screen, I didn't -- I didn't see in here, can you -- can you email me these so I can study them later? The -- these graphs that you just went over?

County Manager Smith said, we'll have the --

Dr. Toma said, the --

County Manager Smith said, the -- we'll -- the whole report we'll have on -- we'll put this on line, so all the Commissioners will get a report.

Commissioner Center said, okay. 'Cause I'd like to look at it in a little more detail after. Thank you.

Dr. Toma said, sure. Yes. Great.

Chairman Scott said, the County Manager will --

County Manager Smith said, sure. Yes. And when you go through --and Tara's going to address this, but when you go through this in more detail, I mean it really gets into the -- yeah. So she'll be talking about that.

Chairman Scott said, the County Manager will make sure that all members of the Commission have a copy of everything that was presented here today.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. Yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Dr. Toma said, thank you.

County Manager Smith said, thanks, Mike.

Ms. Jennings said, so the process that we took to get to this point is really very inclusive and -- and kind of got us a little bit more focused because as you can imagine there's a lot that could be done. The first phase is really to get the input from the community. We did that through the neighborhood forums, and we created four vision statements. So we really have four themed areas that we've been working in, and I'll discuss those briefly in a moment. Phase two was to re-affirm what we had heard and make sure that we didn't overlook different parts of that, and so we held three community-wide meetings, and then the final part to that is actually moving in to action, and that's what we want to talk about a little bit more today.

Ms. Jennings said, but before I get to that point -- so within economy the vision statement that you see in front of you, and the letters that are -- or the words that are in bold are what we heard specifically from the community. That they want a thriving, business-friendly regional economy in which all workers are prepared for quality jobs and residents feel empowered. Within that we have three strategy areas we want to focus on, and in your book, you'll also see where I have also listed action steps that we will -- we recommend that will be part of that process. And the first one within that is to link current and projected needs of employers to be able to increase apprenticeship programs and vocational training programs. The second one is really in regards to removing the barriers for those individuals who are living in poverty, and the third is really focused on entrepreneurial growth, specifically around small businesses.

Ms. Jennings said, so how will we know if we've made an impact? One of the indicators that we're going to be watching is the unemployment rate and the civilian labor force. As of August of 2015, Chatham County had a 5.7 percent unemployment rate. The other part we're looking at is the per capita income. This is as of 2013 but reported in '15, and most data is about two years behind, so we have to keep that mindful. The per media -- I'm sorry, the median per capita income was \$25,023 for Chatham County residents, which correlates directly to the next indicator, the Chatham County poverty rate as of 2013 was 19.1, and that is the entire community, all municipalities included; the footprint of the entire community. And then finally, within this area to be looking at the severe housing problems. 18.9 percent of Chatham -- Chatham County residents are living in conditions with an increased exposure to mold, mildew growth, pest infestation and other environmental hazards, and that's going to correlate back to something we'll talk about in health as well.

Ms. Jennings said, within the education, we're focusing on early education, as well as post-secondary, trying to be innovative and inclusive. We want to be a model of academic excellence to make sure that the students have knowledge, skills and abilities to succeed at chosen pathways. So we don't want them to just get a job but get a job that has some future to it that they can actually increase their -- their knowledge, but also increase their income. Part of the goals within this -- or strategies within this part are first to increase and ensure, integrate financial skills, social skills and conflict resolution skills to parents teacher -- and students. The second is to implement a mentorship program which will be correlated back to the one I just mentioned with internships and apprenticeships potentially, and finally we know that children who have parental and family involvement have better success rates, so we want to work on getting more parents involved in the public school system, as well as private school system process. Unfortunately the indicators that we have currently are focused on public school. We will begin to look at how we might collect data for private schools.

Ms. Jennings said, so the indicators within education that we're going to be looking at, first of all is to engage the students' parents in the community. The Savannah-Chatham County Public School system measured as of school year 2010-11 district wide score of 23, and that's measured based on the engagement activities of the individual families with their student, how often they come to PTSO meetings, their participation in other events outside of school as well. The second is reading on grade level, and unfortunately as of 2014-15 school year, our third graders were only at 49 percent proficient reading. There was a slight -- an increase in fifth grade for 60 percent, but it dropped by eighth grade slightly. Again, these are from the public school. Okay. The student to teacher ratio according to the National Center for Economic -- Education Statistics, our public school is at 14.7 for '13-'14 school year, and this indicator shows the number of public school students per teacher. It does not necessarily measure a class size. And so if you have those students who are not performing well in reading that we just mentioned, and they're at a 14.1 ratio, they're not getting the help and the one on one assistance that they need.

Ms. Jennings said, and then finally within education, we want to be mindful of our school discipline. According to the Savannah-Chatham County public school district for school year '14-'15, there was a 12.4 percent of students that were referred for in school suspension, out of school suspension or expulsion. And when you're in expulsion, you cannot be learning.

Commissioner Center said, do we have any historical data to compare how this has been in the past?

Ms. Jennings said, that's a great question. We do have it, but unfortunately, the way the State of Georgia does it, about every two years they change the reporting process, so we don't have trend data. You can argue why that's the case, but -- but it is the case that we have. So, one of the things that we are looking at is how does our school system compare to other similar school systems, but I -- I don't just look at the geographic and the demographic part, I also look at the school systems that have equal free and reduced lunches to what the Savannah-Chatham County public school has. That's an indicator within itself as well. And that will be coming forth as we continue to -- to get more information.

Ms. Jennings said, within health, we want to focus on a cult -- culture of health for equal access, quality, affordable healthcare, for chronic disease prevention, health inclusive policies, and environmental design. I'm sure no surprise to you, one of the things we heard loud and clear was that mental illness is a problem in this community, however, we have very little data to support that, so that's going to be an area of -- of interest for us, and I'll talk about that in just a minute. The second is to ensure that community-based health resources are available so that individuals can increase their health quality while optimizing their health. We want to ensure and try to work with the community to make sure we're not using the ER inappropriately. The third is to instill healthy practices. So we want to focus on healthy foods in the schools, but also be mindful of physical activity and prevention education, to include some violence prevention very early on. And then finally we want to ensure that we have healthy food in those food insecure areas within Chatham County.

Ms. Jennings said, so the health indicators that we're going to be looking at are individuals with health insurance. First of all, for the adult population age 18 to 64 in 2013 there was 73.7 percent of Chatham County residents that had health insurance. At this same time for children 19 and under there was a 90 percent. So we've done a pretty good job with the children, we just need to do a little bit better with the adults. The food insecurity rate according to the Feeding America, 19.2 residents -- percent residents of Chatham County are food insecure, and we'll talk about that. It -- it basically defines where they have limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods, uncertain of the ability to acquire these foods in a socially acceptable way. What that means is there may be a garden down the street, but it's not their garden. So they may have access to it, but it's not an acceptable way to get it.

Ms. Jennings said, poor mental health days is one of the things that we're looking at. This is self-reported so it's not one of those that I really like to use, but it's what we have right now, and that's what we're going to start with, and Chatham County residents are reporting an average of 2.8 days that they've missed in the past 30 due to mental health. I know that Safety Net is working with the County and the County jail to do an assessment on state programs that we have and we'll be feeding that data back to you as soon as we have a report on that, as I'm sure Safety Net will keep us abreast of that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, did you say days they've missed?

Ms. Jennings said, mm-hmm.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir.

Ms. Jennings said, so they have to call in and report it, and part of that is what -- what's the likelihood of someone who's having a mental crisis of telling their boss I'm mentally unstable. So it's -- that's why 2.8, I'm not real comfortable with that statistic, but it's what we have in our hands today.

Ms. Jennings said, within quality of life, the goal that we have there or the vision statement is that Chatham County residents and citizens achieve a superior quality of life that's health -- that's safe, active and healthy. We want to be inclusive of the areas history and that natural resources, public mobility and efficient government are addressed. There are four strategies within this one. First, probably no surprise to you is to reduce crime. The second of that is to provide neighborhood connectability and build environments. This would include those parks and pedestrian access, as well as some complete streets and education to help the benefits of exercise. The third is to begin to build local and regional collaboration. We have a lot of partners doing great things, but in many cases they're not working together, and we could increase capacity if we were able to do that more efficiently. And then finally to provide effective, efficient government services while ensuring that the process and procedures are planned and executed with transparency, and that's something we heard from the residents of the community, that they really didn't understand what all was happening.

Ms. Jennings said, the key indicators that we'll be looking at in the quality of life include the violent crime rate. For a population of 100,000, 2013, the violent crime rate was 389.7, and that includes things such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assaults. In addition to that, there's a -- there's a property crime rate, and we're watching that as well, and that includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, etcetera, and those footnotes and those additional ones are included in your packet. I just didn't include them in the presentation. The second is workers commuting by public transportation. According to the American Community Survey, again, that's a self-reported tool, Chatham County workers 16 and older 2.2 percent were using public transportation, and that kind of gets back to the point that Dr. Toma was talking about with place and race because certain people are using it and certain people are not, and so we need to be able to address that.

Ms. Jennings said, and then finally to begin to see how we can address the Recidivism rate, not only for adults but for juveniles. And some of this you may have already heard recently, but it's still alarming to me. That for Chatham County in 2014 there were 947 juveniles referred to delinquent cases; 474 of those who were referred had a prior case within the past three years. At the same time the Chatham County jail booked 17,235 individuals with 68 percent of them being repeats, and that's arrests in Chatham County. That is not counting if they were arrested in Bryan County, Effingham or some other county within the State of Georgia or wherever else it might have been. And again this is -- there's more detail to this and what we plan to do and what our recommendations are as far as action items are on page 3 through 11 or 36 through 48 of the bigger document that I think was emailed out or sent out to them prior to this meeting.

Ms. Jennings said, through this process we've tried to be very transparent and make sure that the community had a voice. We not only had the public opinions and all the things we did with paper, but we also had the opportunity for people to go on line, and so this is our website. All of the planning documents that we've been using are under the About Us. If you go down to Our Journey and then go there, we have planning documents available, all of the things we've been using and referring to to get to this point today have been available to the community, as well as will continue to be available through that process.

Ms. Jennings said, so now that we kind of have an idea of the direction we're heading, the past 30, 45 days we've been doing I Commit cards. In the presentations that I've been doing I've been passing out commit cards, not only for an individual commitment but for organizational and institutional commitments. As of right now we have 80 plus. Some of those commitments include meeting space or leadership of specific initiatives. Some actually include providing funding to the blueprint, so that they realize and understand that the Commission can only do so much. And I wanted to let you know who some of those corporate partners are, so as you begin to see them in the community, although they may not have made a specific commitment to date, thank them because we're going to need their help. And that includes Georgia Power, Gulfstream, Georgia Ports Authority, Wells Fargo, and Thomas and Hutton. And some of them are here as well today. So that's been a -- a critical part to this whole thing, that we don't just include social services, and we don't just include government, but we also have our business partners participating as well, and we'll continue to look for those.

Ms. Jennings said, so our next steps is that we will continue to encourage the I Commit cards. We will continue to provide monthly electronic newsletters and increase awareness through the use of social media, which has really been the majority of how we've been able to get some of our younger population engaged in the process. We not only will solicit support from the Board of Commissioners, but we will do presentations to the municipalities within Chatham County, as well as the other planning boards that exist. And we want to begin an implementation -- implementation plan of the vision that we've just presented which will consist of the convening of the project teams, the outline of an implementation plan to not only give you the baseline data, but where do we want those data points to be in five, ten, 15, 20 years from now? So we'll have some measurable stakes in the ground. And we want to align programming with strategies and action steps. We don't want to duplicate what works, we want to see what works and build capacity in those areas. The implementation plan in your packet is on page 50, and there's a calendar there.

Ms. Jennings said, so one of the things that Mr. Smith has said for me -- to me from day one is this is not a race, it is going to be a marathon, and as we all know, making these changes in the community is not something that's going to happen overnight. It's going to take time and it's going to take effort on everyone's part, and so that

calendar outlines what our recommendations are to effectively move this program and the plan into place. So our recommendations to you, we ask that you promote the Chatham Community Blueprint, along with the other community partners as a strategic plan to serve as a guideline for current and future planning and development in consideration of your budgets. We ask that you review, update procedures, policies and ordinances at least annually to ensure alignment where possible, to remain attentive to the need for ongoing revisions of this plan and updates at least every three years, to include the public opinion survey so that we can continuously see how we're making improvements. We ask for a commitment to the responsibility once the implementation plan is completed. As Mr. Smith pointed out earlier, we will be working with the County department heads on December 14th, and we would also recommend a -- a workshop with the Board to begin to define your priorities and what you guys want to address after the first of the year so then we can begin implementation, on maybe some of those low hanging fruit, as well as some of the longer term processes that we need to do.

Ms. Jennings said, we would like to ask that you include the blueprint updates in the annual State of Chatham address or report that you provide, and finally to consider this not just a strategic plan, not just a blue print, but it's the conscience. This is the voice of the people that you represent, and so we ask that you take that very seriously when you consider things going forth. And more information on the recommendations are found on page 48 in the document that you have as well. I want to thank you for the opportunity to do this work. I want to thank the people who are behind me, who have been supportive through the process --

County Manager Smith said, I can jump in anytime.

Ms. Jennings said, jump in.

County Manager Smith said, okay. I will tell you, when I mention that Tara has passion, she has passion for this. That's why we engaged this group, because of that. When we look at the workshop for the Board, we hope to have a lot of work done from our -- to develop as I said earlier, a model from the county expanded department managers to meet and bring back to you possible -- some of the things we're already doing, and I appreciate what Tara said. There are things that we then need to add to and to make better. I'll go back to one point, public transportation. I was in New York with my daughter a week or so ago, and when you're in New York, you're in a larger muni -- you're in Atlanta. We used public transportation because that's what you do. We come here, and there's a thought of only poor people use transportation. No. It's access to it. We've got to change those mind sets. That's not what it is. We need to get people to work downtown. We have a parking -- a parking problem downtown, so -- then with MPC and the parking issues, how do we get people to use public transportation to help instead of more parking decks, get people down here on public tran -- there are ways to do it.

County Manager Smith said, so what I'm saying is everything ties together. Education, we don't control education, however, we can put together mentorship programs because how many of these -- of us in this room are meeting with some child or meeting with a teenager and aiding them in reading or math, and we've got people in this room who could do it. Who's doing it? Remember the conscience plan she just talked about? We have to take ownership of this. This community will not change unless we commit. Those commit cards, I mean I was dead serious when I signed mine. Also committed you by the way, so you're already signed up. You know, because we've got to do this. You know, you -- we've -- and I will tell you, when we get this plan, and I say together, it is a continuous document. It's a living, breathing document. We're not going to shelve this. Every step or action that we bring to you or recommendation for a motion, we will be addressing in the next year that what you are doing either applies to or defies an action step or recommendation, and that should drive where you go as a Board or city councils, or, you know, transportation or the Board of Education. If it defies the plan -- and I have to say this, it's kind of like the physical education issue -- you read the paper. That's all I'm going to say. You saw what the community said, we need our kids more active. So what I'm telling you is the community has spoken. They've spoken. Does that give you enough time? Anything else?

Ms. Jennings said, I'm good.

County Manager Smith said, you good?

Ms. Jennings said, thank you.

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

Chairman Scott said, we got Commissioner Holmes have a question, and then we've got Commissioner Stone, then we've got --

Ms. Jennings said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, -- our vice Chair, and then we've got Commissioner Shabazz from the 5th, in that order, please.

Ms. Jennings said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, be patient with me. Let me -- let me first thank the -- the members of the Coalition who have taken their time out, that looked at what we should have been looking at for some time. Some of this been ongoing for sometime in the community. What make this different is that you are putting together a group

of cross reachers. People who are just not looking into their community and neighborhood, but members of that Coalition that have reached out to all community. Let me say that -- that one thing you mentioned in here in your goal two on the economy, if we do this, goal two, it will summarize and it will take everything and move forward.

Ms. Jennings said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, goal two say facilitate -- facilitate lifting an individual out of poverty by reducing barriers and creating opportunity for quality and employment for young adult, working poor, ex-offended, and those struggling with mental illness. If we just take that line and apply it to everything else that I read in here, we will be successful. Let me say this, that when I first came on as a Commissioner, I knew half of the plans that I implemented working with my colleagues, it is not nothing that I will see today. Most of your plans are seen in the future. Half of the members of the Coalition, when this plan is implemented and become effective, we may not be here to see, but this is a beautiful blueprint for going forward. It's one of the blueprint that I've seen that connecting everybody across all segment of life.

Commissioner Holmes said, but I'm going back to something that you mentioned Terry [sic] about discipline. You cannot teach anyone, you cannot get anyone to see anything until that mind is disciplined. You can start with school, you can start in church, you can start on a team. If a child and -- are participating in any activity that's not disciplined, you cannot get education to them. So, discipline is a key factor in moving this forward. One more implement that I want to say, Dr. Johnson, I have to say this to you because I've known you for quite some time. I've known you was working on such plan like this all your life, and I'd like to say to you that you are a person and a citizen that Chatham County need to be saying to you we are blessed to have you among us sharing your long time experience. When I read this and look over it, I see your hands all over it. Not only your hands, but I'm talking about the rest of them hands, and all the other participant who is working with this Coalition hats off to you all. Your plan -- your children will probably reap this plan. I know for a fact, I've been around children and plans all my life, this plan is going to take us to another level that there could be some people implementing Chatham County and Savannah. Thank you for your work. I'm on board. I'm going to support it, and let's go forward with it.

Chairman Scott said, Madam Pro Tem.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Jenkins [sic], I would ditto what my colleague just stated for the appreciation. I have a couple of suggestions, comments. Demographics clearly some of that affects crime, and I had the opportunity to meet with Chief Wilcox. I know there are some people here from Armstrong, and a professor out there has done a study on this and maybe you all could tie this in with it. I would like to see -- I only read -- it was a one page summary, and I should have brought it for you, but Chief Wilcox will have it, and it looked to me to be very thorough, and I think that's something that could be implemented in this plan. The other thing, I was very glad to hear our County Manager say that this document would not be put on a shelf because how many time does government do studies and put them on a shelf? It's -- it's a real problem, and if this isn't going to be a working document, I -- you know, then we've wasted a lot of time, and I don't want to see that happen. And the last thing I'll say is that I'm privileged enough to be a member of the Curtis V. Cooper Board here, and one of the statistics that keeps jumping out at me, and I know that you've met with those folks is that I learned recently that Savannah has one of the highest, if not the highest, teen pregnancies in this nation. And you all, that's very alarming from the standpoint of teenagers are growing up themselves, and it's very difficult for a teenage child to raise a child, and when these child -- when these children grow up in homes where they don't have support and love, what can you expect them to accomplish? And I -- I -- that is a -- that was a very alarming meeting for me when that was presented, so I just -- I want to incorporate all of this information, and what we can do to assist you going forward and to make this document something that will have an impact in this community. So thank you very much. I thank the Chairman. I thank our County Manager for moving this forward and, you know, bringing an update today. So, I appreciate it.

Chairman Scott said, Madam Vice Chair.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, I am really excited about what I'm hearing here this morning. We have been talking about issues of this sort for so long, and we would come to the table, and we'll deal with it, and then after that it's gone away. I'm hoping and -- and praying that all of us will certainly wrap our arms around this -- this particular project and give it our all and all. I want to thank Dr. Johnson also because I started with Dr. Johnson years and years ago myself, not to, you know, say that you're old, old, old, Dr. Johnson, but -- but I've been very much involved with this type of thing with Dr. Johnson for years, and I -- I -- I don't know where Parent University and some of the other programs -- and I know all programs are important, but Chatham County has two particular programs, that is the Chatham County Youth Commission, as well as the Chatham County Summer Bonanza program, and we are involved with Parent University, which we have made a tremendous difference in the past two years. I certainly would not want to, you know, not have them involved somewhere along the line. But I want to say that what you have here is a great blueprint, and we certainly -- I look forward to working with you and hoping that we can make a difference in whatever we are trying to do, and I'd like to thank the Manager and our Chairman.

Ms. Jennings said, may I respond, sir?

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

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning. I'd like to ask do you plan to include the religious community in this plan in terms of -- because I just can't see this plan being effective without a spiritual component. And also, moral accountability. I -- I notice the -- the economic development piece, the educational development, which we know that where there is low economic development then you have high levels of crime, and that is -- it's a direct proportion, and it's because we have not really dealt with those issues that we have the high levels of crime that is just spiraling out of control now. So I'd like to ask will you have the religious component as a part of this? First question. And then the second question is the cost to implement this plan? And -- and -- and first before you say that, I'd like to just commend you for your efforts because I think it's very comprehensive, the plan, and I can see it working, and I'd like to thank you for your service and everyone that's involved with you in this.

Chairman Scott said, any other Commissioner wanted to make any comments?

Commissioner Shabazz said, I wanted to -- I wanted to further ask the question in terms of the religious component and the cost.

Chairman Scott said, cost?

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah.

Chairman Scott said, we -- we -- we can't address the cost. It --

County Manager Smith said, well, the -- I can say this, part of December 14th, of our staff starting to meet, we're looking at how do we accomplish some of these things. We have existing programs one, as Tara said, programs that are working that we have to expand. Some don't exist. So what we're going to do now is look at those strategies and apply into the coming year's budget. We can't do it all, so what we -- it's kind of like putting a time line of here's what we can do, 'cause it's kind of like eating an elephant one bite at the time. So where do we start? As we said, like on the Youth Commission, Youth Commission we actually held, I think, a separate strategy plan just for them. So we tried to get teens involved. We're looking -- we had pastors. We've had meetings with individual pastors, so I think you've got inclusion, but now the county will put it's piece together and then we've got to go to the municipalities to push this into our budgets because that's -- that's going to drive it. And then when we meet in January, you guys, to look at what are your -- you know, what are your overall goals? Because our county does need a vision and our objectives. Yours will be kind of the 50,000 foot vision, and then the departments are going to drive it down to the 5,000 foot. So.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. That's what I'm saying, I mean --

County Manager Smith said, but we're going to bring those costs back to you during budget.

Chairman Scott said, we -- we can't -- it's -- it would be impossible to talk about costs at this point.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay, but when we discuss budget, I'm saying, there have to be a dollar amount in terms of helping them implement this program and this plan.

Chairman Scott said, they're -- they're not implementing it.

County Manager Smith said, no. They're all -- the -- the Coalition will basically be monitoring and looking at when we set what our goals are, they'll determine on a state-wide basis, a nationwide basis, are we successful? Did we move the clock a little further? Did we improve it? That's their job. And then -- that's what Tara's been doing to help us engage and update the plan, but it will be local governments, the business community, SEDA, and the School Board, but we implement. And that's why I said, I want everything we bring to you, every motion, every ordinance, we'll put on there what part of the plan does it attack; what does it go after; what does it do. Does it improve? Does it decline? So that -- and I think it's a good strategy. I've seen it work in the past, so. Because we will do that during the budget piece, and I think it's going to be all the cities. You will also see redundancies, and that's where municipalities and the county have got to work better together, and the School Board. We've got to work better together.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. Thank you. Thank you.

County Manager Smith said, you're welcome.

Chairman Scott said, Youth Commissioner Grant.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner T'Amarri Grant said, good morning.

Ms. Jennings said, good morning.

Youth Commissioner Grant said, on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, I'd like to compliment you on your dedication and hard work in trying to improve Chatham County.

Ms. Jennings said, thank you.

Commissioner Brady said, I --

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner Brady of the 6th District.

Commissioner Brady said, I appreciate the work that y'all have all done, and we're all working together, but a huge piece of -- of addressing children's issues is parental involvement, and we have got to do a better job of parental involvement and -- and holding these parents responsible for some of the things that their children are doing or not doing. I can tell you that I served on the School Board for 16 years, and we have worked on parental involvement for 16 years, and it is a tough cookie to crack. But it's -- it -- we've got to be focused on these parents. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner from the 7th District, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just first want to commend you on this. It's a -- a lot of work and a great job. Just an observation and at no fault whatsoever of your own or the entire group, it's -- it's just kind of sad to me that with a study based off of surveys that -- I'll say I know you -- y'all can't force people to respond, but 1253, which is 64 percent of the 1927 responders had college degrees. So huge portion of our community did not represent themselves, and again, no fault of your own. It's just -- that's a observation, that it's really sad when you're trying to gather reliable information. Another thing is that I don't know the racial make up of our county, but it's got to be significantly different than only 22 percent -- 420 black people out of 900 -- 1927 responders were black, compared to 1320, 69 percent of the 1927 were white. And, you know, I don't know how --

Chairman Scott said, the county is 60/40.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so, I don't --

Ms. Jennings said, and one other thing I will add to that Commissioner is the survey was only one part of the assessment. The community forums and neighborhood meetings we did, and if you will recall maybe back in April when I provided some update on that, we worked very diligently to go into some of those neighborhoods --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, again --

Ms. Jennings said, -- to be able to get that information.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, again, there is -- that's not a reflection on you, I'm just saying we are looking at a -- a great amount of work here. A -- a great project that you're doing here. It's just a observation of how -- to me how sad it is that -- that we didn't have more responses from the African American community and from people that -- without degrees because we're not getting the total accurate picture by the -- just the people that chose to respond. So.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Tara, let me just thank you and thank all the members of the Coalition for their efforts and their work and the amount of hours and time they've put into this, and a special shout out to Armstrong, Doctor, thank you. And I don't have a question for you, Tara, and thank you so much.

Ms. Jennings said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, excellent job.

Chairman Scott said, and let me -- let me just point out and -- and please keep in mind what the Manager said at the very, very beginning. He said this is the beginning. This is only part -- part of the plan for the county going forth. This is only part of our blueprint. It's a very important part, but there will be other components. On the fiscal side, when we do a final plan, it will incorporate our life cycle study, it will make recommendations to eliminate duplications across governments, it will also, and I've said this to the Manager, that it must include a timeline. So we're going to have short term goals, and when I say short term, things that we can accomplish within a five-year window. We'll have medium-term goals, things that we can accomplish within a ten-year window, and then we'll have more long-term goals. But the staff will sort of filter that out, and then the Commission will have input, and -- before we finally adopt this as our blueprint going forward. Now many of the things in the blue print will require action from multiple governmental entities and the private sector. The school board will have to buy in to some of the recommendations. So will the municipalities.

Chairman Scott said, and for instance, and the Manager recognized this, originally this was a issue with Commissioner Center from the 3rd, blight, dilapidated housing. There will be a recommendation on a approach to that because we think it ties in to some of the information that you saw here this morning.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Chairman Scott said, but now will all the municipalities buy into the recommendation on how we address blight and dilapidated housing? We may even have to go to the legislature with some additional authorities in order to deal with it. We don't know until staff comes back with a recommendation. There will also be a -- a recreation

component that will require municipalities and everybody else to buy into it. And so when -- when it's all put together, there will be -- we'll incorporate what you have heard here today, then many of the fiscal stuff that the Manager has undertaken like life cycle studies and etcetera, and you will also have a recommendation on the long-term stuff that will be recommendations for your SPLOST lists going forward in the event that we go back to the voters for an additional SPLOST.

Chairman Scott said, so this is -- this is a -- a plan that I know we'll hopefully still be implementing long after I'm off the Commission and many of you here may still be here, but -- so this -- this is not something that we plan to put on a table and -- and let rest, and that's what was wrong with 2020 and many of the other visions. And really part of the initiative, a lot of those initiative was taken on by the Chamber and -- and then even the Coastal indicators, they was taken on by United Way, Chatham County and the City of Savannah as indicated and everybody put money in to fund this, you know. And -- and so that's the reason we used them because we knew that they've already done some seed work and -- and why re-invent the wheel. So when you -- when you see your final plan, it will incorporate some of the other components that was not discussed today but will address some of the things that was discussed today. For instance, the blight and dilapidated housing. That -- that's a key com -- component. And I also think, and I'm going to say this, and this is to the employers in this community, we've got to address the issue with low wage jobs, and we can't do it through any sort of forced formula by the government. We can't do it by any mandates, we want to do it by consensus and buy ins. And -- and so it will be a roll out to the business community of recommendations that we think that they ought to embrace, and -- and then you heard what the community wants, and then we will see if the community is willing to step forth and pressure those individuals. Not just pressure us, but pressure cities and pressure the private sector to address the issues. And again, thank you. Mr. Manager, you want to add anything to that?

County Manager Smith said, no, I just would ask that over the next -- you know, as you are thinking about and looking at plans -- we'll get this -- the document that you saw today -- presentation, but as Board members are thinking about it, send your ideas to us because -- and -- and you're constituency. I mean, they're going to be talking to you guys about this. We want the engagement now, and I appreciate Commissioner Kicklighter saying it -- it is sad. Community complacency is what kills communities. I remember I used to -- I had one Board that -- it was seven members, I never, ever had anybody in the room. And -- unless they were -- they were against something. People should be, and -- and not to scare the devil out of the Boards, but community -- folks should be in the room at every City Council, you know, SEDA meetings, the Commissioners' meetings, Board of Education, yes, to get educated on what's going on. Community complacency is a problem, and you hit the nail on the head. We've got to fix that, and that -- the very first thing she said was they don't know.

County Manager Smith said, the Chairman says to me all -- all the time when I -- I get frustrated, he'll say, you know, people don't know what they don't know. So have we done our job to communicate that there are programs to help you? That you -- businesses are doing certain things in training programs? Not always. So we've got to do a better job. So a lot of it is just acknowledging what we have, getting it out there and working together. So, you know, I'm just -- I -- I want to thank the Board for taking this up. The very first meeting I had before I was hired with the Chairman, after we introduced, the first thing he said was we need a plan. And I went okay. And I remember -- I've still got the document, and he walked through, you know, what you as a Board -- and then when I interviewed individually, everyone of you said, we need a plan; we need a road map; we -- in some version everyone of you said it. So, I -- this is the start. So I just thank you so much for -- for funding this and allowing us to continue the project. This is going to be our guide.

Chairman Scott said, and I want -- I want to just say one last thing, and I don't want this to be a -- seen as cold water, but the county only have about 32 to 34 percent of it's budget for discretionary programs.

County Manager Smith said, correct.

Chairman Scott said, the other 68, 66 percent are constitutional funding. When I say that, funding of constitutional officers and activities such as the jail, the courts, etcetera. And -- and that's the reason SPLOST gives us a big opportunity on some of the fiscal stuff that we're going to have to embrace the private sector, even in this blight and dilapidated housing, we need to bring them on board because there's an opportunity, and we have to bring the cities who's budget is roughly 90 percent discretionary. They've got to get on board, and a lot of the problems exist within the corporate limits, but you can't do a blueprint for the unincorporated area. You cannot do it. You do not live on an island, so it has to incorporate the entire county, and then we have to worry about what we do, how it impacts Effingham and Bryan, and that's the reason that they were involved in the discussion.

Commissioner Shabazz said, Chair -- Chairman, why did you mention about the discretionary programs? Why did you mention that?

Chairman Scott said, I -- I wanted to say that because when -- when the staff comes back with recommendation, they are restrained. They are restrained because there are constitutional funding mandates. And -- and that's just a fact of life. That's what counties are about. That's not what municipalities are about, but that's what counties are about, and I wanted --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. And -- and that's why I asked the question.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. And -- and that's the reason I pointed it --

Commissioner Shabazz said, exactly why I asked the question.

Chairman Scott said, and I pointed it out really more -- more or less for the audience more so than members of the County Commission.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I -- I just want to clarify. I started with negative. I think that y'all did a great job.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I mean absolutely. And -- and, you know, I just know there is a direct tie in with the socio-economics, and the amount of education that one has, and with that being the responders, I know that, you know, it would have been nice if we had others respond, but I think y'all did an excellent job.

Commissioner Thomas said, exactly.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I appreciate it.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and do know that this plan will never set on a shelf --

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

County Manager Smith said, it can't.

Chairman Scott said, -- during however long my tenure is because that's not the purpose of it. The purpose of it is to provide us direction --

County Manager Smith said, right.

Chairman Scott said, -- and to gather input from our constituents, and we ought to be funding and spending their money based on what they want to do in terms of making this community better, and we have to engage the public sector -- sector to join us. They are -- they will be willing to join us, I -- I -- I can -- I can almost bet on it if we approach it right.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, thank you so much.

Ms. Jennings said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm glad I clarified myself. I didn't realize the entire audience was part of it.

Chairman Scott said, oh yeah. You were being watched.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. Yeah.

Chairman Scott said, that -- that was their interest.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, absolutely.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. SPECIAL ELECTION

Chairman Scott said, the next item is under Chairman Item, and I put this item on here for -- for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to clarify the selection of the Sheriff of Chatham County because of a recent passing of our long time Sheriff, Al St. Lawrence. And I asked our County Attorney if he would just explain. I know the members of the Commission have all heard this, but you may have additional questions. But if he would explain for our listening audience and everybody in the room how the process will work, why we selected the special election in March 1st, and etcetera, and -- and so we would be better informed as to how we will go about selecting the next Sheriff. We currently have a Sheriff who has been sworn in to take the current Sheriff's

place, and our County Attorney will also speak to that. And at this time I want to turn it over to Jonathan, if you would.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, sure. Thank --

County Manager Smith said, before we do that, Mr. -- Sheriff Harris was here. He had to leave --

Chairman Scott said, yes, I know.

County Manager Smith said, yeah, so -- he -- he had to leave or he would have stayed.

County Attorney Hart said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, our long standing Sheriff, Al St. Lawrence, passed away November 24th, on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The following morning at 10:00 o'clock Chief Superior Court Judge, Michael Karpf --

Chairman Scott said, Jon, would you pull that microphone --

Commissioner Center said, the microphone -- oh, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, okay. Our chief Superior Court Judge Michael Karpf swore in Sheriff -- Deputy Sheriff Roy Harris, Chief Deputy Sheriff Roy Harris as the Sheriff of Chatham County, and officially Roy Harris is now the Sheriff of Chatham County. Several years ago Chief St. Lawrence indicated he wanted to do -- do some reorganization and changes in and about his command staff, and at that time it was determined that there would now be a Chief Deputy Sheriff and there would no longer be what used to be called the Under Sheriff in the -- in -- in some jurisdictions. The Georgia Code, 15-16-8, provides that when there is a vacancy for the sheriff and there's no chief deputy sheriff, then certain actions take place in the Probate Court. Fortunately, we have a chief deputy sheriff, and we have a process by which we will follow and it basically follows that statute. The chief deputy sheriff will assume the position of the Sheriff of Chatham County pertaining to the unexpired term.

County Attorney Hart said, if there are less than six months in the sheriff's term at the time of the vacancy, the chief deputy will be the interim sheriff and shall be the sheriff until the unexpired term actually expires. In our case, it's more than six months. If there's more than six months remaining in the unexpired term, the process is that the election superintendent who is with the Board of Elections shall call a special election to fill the vacancy. Some years ago, the legislature passed code section 21-2-540, which set forth the various days when you can have elections or special elections and the intent of that was to try to narrow the number of times that there would be special elections and to narrow the costs. We fall under that provision, and we fall under the provision I just read. The Board of Elections last week put forth the fact that they will be calling the election, and the special election will be held on March the 1st.

Chairman Scott said, but Jon, also point out, they did that in consultation with -- with you and --

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. I mean there's no issue about that.

Chairman Scott said, they didn't do it in a vacuum.

County Attorney Hart said, the Board of Elections was -- was unanimous in that and they're -- the Chairman of that board is also an attorney, and we've consulted and the super -- the election superintendent has also indicated to that, and we pretty much derived that decision separate and apart but were consistent with each other. So on March 1st there will be a special election called. And the other statute says on the third Tuesday of March in the even number years which will mean 2016, you will hold it during that time, which will be the pres -- presidential preference primary. Immediately -- and -- and therefore --

Commissioner Center said, that's not the third Tuesday -- March 1 can't be the third Tuesday.

County Attorney Hart said, okay. I mean -- the date was picked to be the earliest date we could possibly do it.

Commissioner Center said, yeah, but -- but you need to check that if it's -- the law says the third Tuesday in March, we've got a problem.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah. Yeah. The election can be called and it has been called. If it needs to be amended to recall it, we can always recall the election. That's not particularly a -- an issue. The provision basically provides that that election will determine who the sheriff will be to fill the unexpired term. Unfortunately at that time there's also -- will be another election in which you're going to have a situation in which you may have a primary situation. So, we got a situation in which if you wish to run, you're going to run now, and you may run again and then we will elect an election [sic]. The Sheriff after the other primary -- after the nine-months has passed and the primary election's over and the unexpired term's filled, we'll have an election for the Sheriff, and that's the way the act sets it forth. So we just need to be aware of that.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center has a question of you.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and I'm just going to restate it. You know how I -- difficult for me to follow. Our Sheriff died and there was a chief deputy sheriff, so he stepped into that position. He was sworn into that, and Roy Harris is now the Sheriff. And now because there's still a year -- more than a year to go in the --

County Attorney Hart said, more than six months.

Commissioner Center said, more than six months to go in the unexpired term we are required to have an election to fill that unexpired term. And in consultation with the Elections Board, to save money we decided to piggy back that within the presidential primary.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah. It falls within the time period, and it saves 70, \$80,000.

Commissioner Center said, right. So rather than have a special election, a presidential primary, a regular primary and a regular election, we saved money by doing it with them. That's how it's going to happen?

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, now I -- and I have this question, Sheriff Al St. Lawrence appointed a chief deputy sheriff so we did not have to have -- go through the Probate Court procedure -- procedure. Has the new Sheriff Harris appointed a chief deputy sheriff or if something happens to him are we back in Probate Court?

County Attorney Hart said, I don't know. The law is silent on that, and I have -- to be quite honest, the -- the -- the Sheriff, Roy Harris, has been -- had a pretty full plate the last couple of days, and that's certainly we can take up with him.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, but -- but to answer your question is no he has not.

County Manager Smith said, he has not at this point.

Chairman Scott said, at this time.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, but -- but --

County Manager Smith said, to date.

County Attorney Hart said, but -- as far as I know --

Commissioner Center said, I just -- I just -- I'm sure it won't be overlooked, but I -- it occurred to me so I'd like to keep that in concern. Thank you. So I -- I expressed it correctly to make sure I understand?

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, but the other -- the other clarification. Let's just say that if -- if there's somebody who wants to run in this March 1st, what I refer to it as a nine-month term, because that's what it amounts to is that you would only be sheriff from that time until December 31st, and then whoever's elected on November 8th, which is the general election, that person will assume office January 1st of 2017 -- of 2016 -- of 2017 rather, and so -- and so when you -- when you think about it, it's a very -- it's a very short term affair, and it's an election that -- a office that you would hold for nine months unless you are successful in competing in the primary process, if you are opposed at that level, you'd have to win, which would be later in the summer, and then you would also have to compete in the general election, assuming that there is opposition from both sides, and so, we wanted to make sure that the public fully understood the process of selecting the sheriff.

Commissioner Holmes said, so, Jon, if it was less than six month, we didn't have to add that March 1st election.

County Attorney Hart said, correct. If it was less than six months, he would just assume it and run the -- run the clock out on that term.

Commissioner Holmes said, right. Okay.

Chairman Scott said, any -- any further questions for him? Okay. Any further clarification, Tony?

Commissioner Center said, no. thank you very much.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah, but he would -- he would -- he would -- if he decides to run for the next term, he would be the incumbent in that race, right?

County Attorney Hart said, he who?

Chairman Scott said, he's the incumbent now.

County Manager Smith said, he's talking about Harris.

County Attorney Hart said, oh, yeah. Yes. He's considered the incumbent.

County Manager Smith said, incumbent.

County Attorney Hart said, but -- but serving the unexpired remaining term.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I'm -- I'm saying there's nothing prohibiting -- there's nothing prohibit him from running in the next election.

County Attorney Hart said, absolutely not. He'd have to qualify like everybody else and participate like everybody else.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, I just wanted to make sure that folk understood be -- because if you run in the March 1st, that does not make you Sheriff beyond December 31st of next year. That's the end of it. And then you would have to run in the primary and then you would have to compete in the general election to get a four-year term as Sheriff. So it's a -- it's a complicated process, but we wanted to make sure that folk understood it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so -- so to put it bluntly, we're going to all be sick of the Sheriff's race because there's going to be one going on all the way up to the presidential election.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's what it sounds like.

County Attorney Hart said, the last person standing can consider himself duly elected. Let's say that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, wow.

Chairman Scott said, there will be -- there will be three different elections, not necessarily three, but we know for somebody who wants to be sheriff there will be at least two, and there's a possibility there could be three if they want to try to fill that unexpired term, and Jon and I were musing about this because there's a -- there's a -- a requirement that the Sheriff be trained and certified within so many months of having been elected. So if you elected somebody March 1st who was not qualified to be sheriff, that person would spend the most of that nine months in training --

County Manager Smith said, qualifying -- getting qualified.

Commissioner Thomas said, trying to get trained.

Chairman Scott said, -- to -- to learn how to be sheriff.

Commissioner Thomas said, to become certified.

Chairman Scott said, so that's --

Commissioner Thomas said, wow.

County Manager Smith said, interesting situation.

Chairman Scott said, but -- but -- but the Georgia law -- the qualification for sheriff does not mean you have to be in law enforcement at all. You don't have to have anything to do with law enforcement.

Commissioner Thomas said, I guess that means I can run for sheriff.

Chairman Scott said, that -- that means anybody on this Commission could run for sheriff.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I thought they changed that law where you had to have your police certificate. I guess not then.

Chairman Scott said, no. So, that's it in a nutshell.

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VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS

1. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Chairman Scott said, at this time I want to recognize Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. And this is to the Chatham County employees. Earlier this week we had a lunch to commemorate their service and thank them for their service, and I make it a special point every year to get to that lunch. Unfortunately, techie as I am, when I get involved in my client matters, I had a client matter come up, took emergency involvement early that morning, and by the time I looked at my clock, I had missed the lunch. So I wanted to apologize to the employees for missing the lunch and let you know that I really do appreciate your service to the county. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any other points of personal privilege? I recognize the Commissioner from the 6th District, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, I also appreciate the work that our employees do. I was not able to attend the luncheon. My mother is -- is ill, and she came first that day. So, again, I appreciate your service, and I'm doing everything I can to get my mother back on her feet. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Thank you. All right. If there's -- there's no other points of personal privilege, we'll move on.

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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 (*)

1. **AT THE BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2015, A PORTION OF ITEM IX-1, BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, WAS TABLED. THAT PORTION IS SHOWN BELOW IN *ITALICS AND BOLD*.
TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015: 2) *IN THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND TRANSFER \$120,000 FROM CONTINGENCIES TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET.***

Chairman Scott said, on page four, we have a tabled item. This is the last time. It takes -- it has to sit on the table three times, and if there's no action, it automatically removes itself. So it will be the last time you see the tabled item.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: 1) IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$30,593 FOR A GRANT AWARD FROM THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY/HOMELAND SECURITY (GEMA/HS); 2) IN THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND APPROPRIATE \$279,774 FUND BALANCE FOR POLICE PAY RAISES; AND 3) IN THE SOLD WASTE FUND APPROPRIATE \$200,000 NET ASSETS TO MEET AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION MANDATE.**

Chairman Scott said, Individual Action. This is to request approval of the following budget amendments: 1) in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenue, expenditures by \$30,593 for a grant award from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security or GEMA. The second item is in the Special Service District Funds appropriate \$279,774 fund balance for police pay raises; and 3) in the solid waste fund appropriate \$200,000 net asset to meet the Environmental Protection Division mandate.

Commissioner Center said, all right. I -- I'd asked if we could consider those separately. I could -- I could make a motion to do subparagraphs one and three.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll second it.

Chairman Scott said, if -- all we need is a motion and a second.

Commissioner Center said, okay. Well I move that we grant the request, subparagraphs one and three.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Scott said, any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Okay. Item (2), in the Special Service District Fund appropriate \$279,774 fund balance for police pay raise. If you recall, you voted to approve the pay raises. What this does is transfer the money to pay for the pay raises, and that's the pay raises through December 31st of this current year. That's all that this item does is to fund a motion that you approved previously. And at this time I will entertain a motion to transfer the funds to fund the motion that you approved earlier.

Commissioner Thomas said, I move for approval, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that we transfer the funds to pay for those police pay raises that you approved earlier on. Any unreadiness or discussion? I recognize the Commissioner from the 4th District, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, yes. This -- this motion I spoke against previously, and I'll -- I'll not support it again today, but I want to be crystal clear. The -- the officers and the raises are city department and a city bureau, and this Commission and this Commissioner in particular has absolutely no say so in what their pay is, what it will be or what it was. It's my firm opinion that we are currently spending from this Commission from the Special Service District, special tax, approximately \$3 million a year more than our fair share to fund all the appropriate entities that go along with this city bureau covering the unincorporated area, and I do not believe that an additional \$279,774 from fund balance is a wise use of tax payer money no matter what it goes to when we're already in my firm opinion spending over \$3 million too much in the -- in the first place. So that's my view on that particular issue. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further unreadiness? I recognize our Pro Tem from the 1st District, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though I have been worried about this police merger and have seen some things on the city side that did not want to support, I will support these raises. I think that we need to be competitive. I think that we need to build our police department. We're deficient in many areas, not only with man power but with technology, and so I will support the raises even though I'm not at this time supportive of the merger as it is.

Chairman Scott said, I recognize our vice Chair.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in support of these raises because, you know, when I stop and think and I look at what --

Chairman Scott said, Dr. Thomas, is your mike on?

Commissioner Thomas said, -- our police department, those who are serving as policemen in -- in our city and our county regardless of whether they come from the city or the county, I look at it from the standpoint of public safety and -- and also from the standpoint of what these people do each and every day. They put their lives on the line each and every day. This is -- would be one way of helping to build morale and to provide better services to the citizens of -- of this city and this county, and I -- I agree, there are some things that we need to critique and perhaps make some changes in the future but as of right now, this is what I would like to do.

Chairman Scott said, I recognize the Commissioner from the 7th District, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to restate for the record as I stated in the previous meeting that pay raises for officers were never broken out individually as line items in budgets or budget requests from the City of Savannah. They've -- for how ever many years now, 13 years, sent us a bill, and we're supposed to pay it. This is no more than propaganda, a publicity stunt to obtain more monies from this Commission, and it's just truly sad and -- but, you know, since clearly the majority is going to go that direction, I don't want any misunderstanding with the officers, so I will be voting for it because I want them to be paid, but this is a publicity stunt and all intent for later is to keep the -- the majority vote that we had to split, and then we can pay the officers better and provide better services for the unincorporated area residents. But I will hold to what I voted on the last time, but it is a publicity stunt. Make no mistake about it.

Chairman Scott said, I recognize the Commissioner from the 2nd and then the Commissioner from the 6th, Commissioner Holmes, at this time.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you Dean.

Chairman Scott said, thank you Commissioner Kicklighter. No first names.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you Commissioner Kicklighter. I -- I want to say this about this merger, about this particular request, we get requests for other areas of departments, and I see costs go up, and sometime it's -- it's non-controllable for us, but we approve it. Every year costs go up because in life things goes up, but what bothers me about this for anyone to think not to honor a request for policemen for the attack that they are under now. You have to be considerate of the lives of these people when they go out to protect us. Our health program goes up, and we pay for it every year. This is public safety, so with that in mind, I cannot see in nobody mind that you're not encouraging the employees of the police department to get a pay raise. And -- and if you remember now, the structure of that last agreement, it was -- it's structured the way Dean explained, but we're trying to correct that now in the negotiation. Hopefully it will come to our liking.

Chairman Scott said, point of order, the -- the way Commissioner Kicklighter explained it.

Commissioner Holmes said, and -- and -- and so -- so -- so -- so that said, let us give the benefit of the doubt to the people who put their lives on the line for us, because it -- it -- it -- it -- it's -- it's much needed, and I think since we approved the salary increase from the city and the county, talking to Chief Lumpkin, his recruiting strategy have increased. So I know the salary increase have helped with that recruitment, so I think we're on the right verge of doing it, so let's not tarnish that, and -- and send the wrong message out here that we don't care about it. But I know most of us don't.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chair?

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. -- Mr. Chair, if I may?

Chairman Scott said, I -- I got Commissioner Brady of the 6th District.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, I voted the first time to give these pay raises. I think the police officers deserve these pay raises, but I want this community to understand, this money is only going to last through December 31st of this year. It is not going in to 2016. We do not have a signed merger agreement, which I'm very disappointed in, and I hate funding things -- or I dislike funding things when we don't have the issues resolved regarding the police merger. But I am not going to send a message to the police officers of this community that we don't -- that I don't think they're worthy of a pay increase. But I want to make it crystal clear this is through 2015 and until we resolve some other issues there -- there should not be any other discussion about pay raises as far as I'm concerned. That's Lori Brady's thoughts.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, anyone else? Commissioner Kicklighter of the 7th District.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to better just clarify what I was trying to say. Savannah would be no different than having a lazy child that you give money to every month. You know that that child's spending and wasting that money, and you hope they'll spend it in the right way. You hope and pray they're not doing bad things with it, but then you actually -- that child comes up and asks you for more money. You say, no, I already give you X amount, but then they throw in the zinger where you can't turn it down. They say, well, dad, my wife's dying. That's why I need the extra money. I've got to buy her medicine. Well, I'll be damned, what kind of dad would you be if you didn't give that money --

Chairman Scott said, point of order.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, excuse me for that. But what kind of parent would you be if you didn't give the money? That's exactly what took place here. They get a set amount to operate a police department, and after they come through begging for more money constantly trying to negotiate it, they didn't get it, so they come through with a heart tugging, no brainer, that if you turn it down you are not a very good person. And that's what occurred here. It's very sad, and it's pretty pathetic as far as being in some type of so called partnership when pranks are played like this just to put out propoganda to force pretty much additional expenses in which you're already paying \$3 million too much for each and every single year. That's what's happening right this second.

Commissioner Thomas said, you're right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but I'm not going to let my kid's wife go without her medicine, so I'll support it.

Chairman Scott said, any -- any further requests? If not, for the second time I will recognize the Commissioner from the 6th District, Commissioner Brady for further comments.

Commissioner Brady said, I also want this community to know that the City of Savannah who controls Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department, they voted on giving raises and then came to us without even having a discussion with us about will you help fund it? And then they asked for the money, and that's just

wrong in so many ways. They should have talked to us about we're considering these pay raises. You know, will you help fund it, and they didn't do it, and the community needs to know that. They are -- they are making decisions about Savannah Metro Police Department without any input from the county at all. And I'll leave it at that.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell of the 4th District want a second crack at it.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. Once again, if you would look at this motion and just simply take out what supposedly this money is to be used for, it boils down to the Special District fund appropriate \$279,774 thousand -- 774 more dollars from fund balance that's unbudgeted for in addition to the 3 million plus that we're overpaying for the service in the first place. So let's not get too hung up what they're supposedly going to use this money for. We have paid way above what is -- is a -- a reasonable and fair amount to -- to provide for these police officers, and this has no reflection on whether or not they get police raises or they deserve them. Absolutely, they do a tremendous job. They work hard; they put their life on the line. They deserve the best of the best, but this is simply a request from one governing authority, the City of Savannah, to another governing authority, the Chatham County Commission, for more money. Regardless of what action is taken here today, their -- their actions are going to be whatever their actions are going to be. We do not vote on how they spend every dollar of that 14 million that we send over there. We don't -- we don't have a say so in -- in where it goes. We don't know if it's -- you know, that is their bureau and their department. Their tax payers hold their Councilors accountable for how they spend their money. We -- there is no accountability, which is one of the reasons why I have a real problem with this merger agreement. When somebody spends that kind of money on an annual basis to provide a very important public service, and there is no direct accountability, I have a problem with that. So let's try not to get hung up what supposedly this is for and just understand what it really is. It's just we need another \$280,000, and we're going to frame it in such a way that we shame and guilt you into sending it over, and that's what's going on. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point -- point of order about a technical thing here. What -- what was approved at the last meeting was 279,773.92, what's being requested is 279,774. We need to, I believe, approve the exact same thing.

Commissioner Center said, it's eight cents.

Commissioner Farrell said, eight cents.

Commissioner Center said, what --

Chairman Scott said, I think it's a rounding. If no further discussion --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I mean that -- we --

County Manager Smith said, this came on the staff report. I mean. You know, you've got to do -- I mean, you approved the exact to the penny, which would be an eight cent difference.

Commissioner Center said, point of order.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well that's what I'm recommending.

Commissioner Center said, point of order.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we approve --

Commissioner Center said, point of order. We're transferring eight cents more than we're going to spend. That's all it is.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, whatever's fine. I just didn't want it to misconstrue whatever was passed last time into something else, that more went passed it today. So.

Chairman Scott said, no further unreadiness or discussion. All in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Motion carries.

Commissioner Center said, Mr. Chairman, may I ask you a -- a question, please?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, I'm not trying to burden things, but I've always mentioned that the -- the unincorporated area has never had their own expression on the police merger, and I'm not trying to cost more money or entangle things, but if we're going to have a special election on March 1, can we talk later and consider adding a referendum language that lets the SSD voice their opinion on -- on the police matter? It's -- I'm not saying make the decision now.

Chairman Scott said, yes, we -- I -- I was going to have the -- our Counselor address that when we go to the Green Room for our meeting, but for one, we are not authorized to put something on the ballot, and secondly, this is a presidential preference primary, and -- but he will speak to the legal -- legality of it, but -- okay.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Center moved to approve the following budget amendments and transfers: in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures by \$30,593 for a grant award from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS); and 3) in the solid waste fund appropriate \$200,000 net assets to meet an Environmental Protection Division mandate. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve item 2) in the Special Service District Fund appropriate \$279,774 fund balance for police pay raises. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Commissioner Farrell being the lone no vote.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Amy Davis, Finance Director

ISSUE:

To request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures by \$30,593 for a grant award from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS); 2) in the Special Service District Fund appropriate \$279,774 fund balance for police pay raises; 3) in the Solid Waste Fund appropriate \$200,000 net assets to meet an Environmental Protection Division mandate.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Chatham Emergency Management Agency has received a \$30,593 grant award from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS). Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Multiple Grant are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
2. The Board authorized a payment of \$279,773.92 to the City of Savannah for Police Pay raises at the October 23, 2015 meeting. A transfer from SSD Fund-Fund Balance account will provide the funds. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the SSD Fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
3. The Director of Public Works and Park Services has requested a \$200,000 net assets appropriation in the Solid Waste Fund to meet an Environmental Protection Division mandate. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Solid Waste Fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

FUNDING:

The budget amendments will establish funds in the Multiple Grant, Special Service District and Solid Waste Funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approve the following:

MULTIPLE GRANT FUND

Increase revenues and expenditures \$30,593 for a grant award from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS).

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND

Appropriate \$279,774 fund balance to the Police budget for Police Pay raises.

SOLID WASTE FUND

Appropriate \$200,000 net assets to meet an Environmental Protection Division mandate.

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. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH CHATHAM WATER UTILITY, LLC, AND A SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CHATHAM UTILITY MANAGEMENT, LLC, RELATED TO THE COUNTY'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS. NOTE: ITEM WAS LISTED ON THE NOVEMBER 20, 2015, AGENDA. ACTION ON THE ITEM WAS DELAYED UNTIL THE BOARD'S REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 2015.

Chairman Scott said, all right. The -- the next item on Individual Action Calendar is to request Board approval of a Purchase Agreement with Chatham Water Utility, LLC and a Service Agreement with Chatham Utility Management, LLC related to the county water and sewer systems. And I want to note that this item was listed on the agenda at our November 24th [sic] meeting. It was asked that it be delayed until this meeting to give members of the Commission two weeks to review the agreement and to ask questions of staff, and so this is here today for a motion. Is there a motion?

Commissioner Center said, well, I'll move that we approve the purchase agreement that staff has recommended.

Chairman Scott said, is there a second?

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, properly moved and second. Now, we've got the purchaser here and we have staff. Is there any discussion before I ask the Manager to review the agreement or to -- if you have any questions of the purchaser, we can certainly --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I have a --

Chairman Scott said, -- invite them up. I recognize the Commissioner from the 7th District, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke with the Manager from the City of Pooler on the phone this morning, shortly after our pre-agenda meeting, and he expressed a definite interest in purchasing the Hunter's Ridge, Cross Creek well and said they would not be opposed to paying -- or to paying -- actually paying for that system, and they'd be interested to sit down with the county to discuss it. He made it very clear that due to the repairs that would be needed in the area, that they definitely would not want to pay half a million dollars and then have to invest more in it but that -- that they believe that they could, you know, be able to take that over, and it would be a benefit because it's right there within their city limits, and then -- that they would be able to provide the city rates of water to the people, and they would be able to leave the emergency tie in connected to it, and I would just ask this Board that because of this new reveal -- this -- this new information I received this morning --

County Manager Smith said, it's a new revelation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- that -- yeah, that we pull at least that section off and ask staff to sit down to at least have a conversation with them to see if something could be worked out with them, and I'd have no problem approving the other portion at this time and --

Commissioner Thomas said, this is with Pooler?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, ma'am. And it's --

Chairman Scott said, let me -- let me --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe it's ten percent of the total deal, and it's itemized out, and, you know, like I said, if we could just --

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Chairman?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- delay that portion briefly.

Commissioner Holmes said, could I ask any member of that company --

Chairman Scott said, oh yeah, we'll get to that in just a second. Let me -- let me make sure that everybody is clear on the motion. This is a request the Board approval of a purchase agreement with the Chatham Water Utilities, LLC and a service agreement with the Chatham Utility Management, LLC related to the county water and sewer system. I also stated that we delayed this for two weeks for Commissioners to raise any questions

that they may have about this agreement. I also want to make it clear to the public that you -- municipalities treat water systems as an enterprise operation, and an enterprise operation, you expect to recoup costs and turn a profit. That's -- that's what enterprise does, and that's what municipal governments will do. All municipal governments would like for us to just give them this water system so they could collect the money and make a profit, and that's what it's about. It was put up for bid. It was a discussion with every municipality. I also pointed out in the Green Room that our County Manager have quarterly meetings with every Manager, including the Manager of The Landings to concern -- to discuss issues of concern. This agreement was discussed, and I just wanted to point that out to the audience.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point of order?

Chairman Scott said, and then --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, I'll -- I'll get back to you. I'm going to recognize the Commissioner from the 1st, and I'll go back to the Commissioner from the 7th.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to express this earlier this morning, but we ran out of time. In the memo that was sent from Robert Drewry to Linda Cramer where it said the city would not provide water to the Runaway Point customers once the sale is made and that there would be no back-up water supply from the City of Savannah in the event of a problem, I -- that's a concern to me.

Chairman Scott said, I'd like staff to address that.

Commissioner Stone said, and I would like -- I would like --

County Manager Smith said, Robert's going to come up.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, Mr. Robert Drewry from Public Works.

Mr. Robert Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services said, good morning.

Commissioner Thomas said, good morning.

Mr. Drewry said, let me explain that provision. It's an interconnection -- we have interconnections with the City of Savannah and an interconnection with the City of Pooler, and that's interconnections based on an intergovernmental agreement. Both the City of Pooler and the City of Savannah have expressed a desire to eliminate that inter -- interconnection should we sell the systems. And I -- that's the -- the email that you're referring to is a response to that letting -- letting the County Manger -- Assistant County Manager know that that's the case.

Commissioner Stone said, so what would happen?

Mr. Drewry said, well I don't want to speak for the vendor, he may want to come up and speak for himself, but you know, we've been put on notice if we do sell that system, then, you know the cities don't -- do not want that interconnection. But again, I'd like to refer to the vendor, 'cause I know he's got that -- that provision as well.

Commissioner Stone said, well, then I guess my second question would be, I mean, with water being what I would consider a valuable commodity, and when I served on the MPC a lot of -- it dictated where development would go, I -- I -- is there an option to lease -- to have this company lease this water supply and not purchase it?

Mr. Drewry said, we didn't put it out on the streets as -- as a -- a solicitation for a leasing, but I'm not sure there would be an interest in leasing it. I don't think there would be any -- any profit in leasing.

Commissioner Stone said, well I mean I -- I'm -- it's just a concern that I have. I mean if we don't have a back up here. I mean I don't want to ever do anything that might back fire on us down the road, so I'm a little bit concerned, and I do understand in talking to Mr. Smith briefly this morning that that was, you know, made under this City Council, and the new City Council could change that, but once we vote on this, if we don't, then we're in a -- in my opinion, we're in a predicament.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that the State of Georgia law states that enterprise funds can't actually -- you can't profit, that you have to break even. Is that -- that the case? Unlike what was stated?

County Manager Smith said, well --

County Attorney Hart said, well you can have a capital reserve fund, and -- and reasonable expenses that may not incur in one year but could incur in another year.

County Manager Smith said, multiple years.

County Attorney Hart said, or multiple years.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, what -- what's the cap of it? I know there's a -- some type of law where you cannot profit.

County Attorney Hart said, it -- it -- being -- being unreasonable.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

County Attorney Hart said, that's basically it. Being unreasonable.

County Manager Smith said, you've got to be able to show -- if you've got -- for instance, if you've got a -- upgrade line, a lift station, whatever it is, you've got to be able to prove that, you know, saying, okay, I know that -- just like we're doing with our facilities plan, we're looking at the life cycle. If a lift station has to be replaced every, let's just say 20 years, and I know the cost is this today, I put it a -- you know, an inflation rate on it, and say -- so you should be able to say to the user, your rate is this to produce water and this to put money aside to take care of the system, and you just have to prove it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. But legally is it safe to say that by law -- is it safe to say that an enterprise fund cannot be enhanced to a point as to offset or decrease a general budget?

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, it can offset -- it can be offset for -- if you've got some budget shortfalls, you've got a budget shortfall.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm saying that --

County Attorney Hart said, the money -- money's got to come from somewhere. It's going to come out of M&O.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- would law allow you to accumulate enough monies to subsidize a budget as far as to -- would that not go against the law?

County Manager Smith said, well, it -- it depends, and the reason being is that you have -- for instance in kind -- not in kind, but I just lost the word. Linda's [Cramer] not looking at me. In that cost allocation study, Linda -- Linda -- Linda? Indirect costs. It just hit me. I just lost my word. I looked at Linda, and I remembered it. When we do indirect costs, for instance, on our system, there may be costs incurred but even though I'm not with Robert [Drewry], for my salary, for the attorney's -- so, you see what I'm saying? That would come back to general fund. You can do those, so there's indirect. There's a lot of ways to do it. Now, there are a lot of municipalities that offset other expenses with enterprises. They do it. So it really depends on the law and the test of being unreasonable as -- as Jon [Hart] said because there really are no --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Obviously the law will allow a city to sell water at a higher rate to outsiders than they do their own city, but --

County Manager Smith said, if there are no caps by legislation, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, all right. I really didn't want to have that discussion. All I ask is that we please just sit down with the City of Pooler out -- out of -- just please sit down with them and see what we can do because that was new information that came to me this morning, and it would be a very nice courtesy of this body if they would at least pull that section out for now and speak with them, and if not satisfied, approve it at the next meeting, and -- and whatever the wishes would be of -- of the company out there we -- if they want to approve the rest at this point, that would be fine, but I would like to just talk with Pooler before we sell the whole system.

Chairman Scott said, we got Commissioner --

County Attorney Hart said, well, the -- the -- the issue with that is the county has negotiated in good faith, they have negotiated in good faith. You are now eliminating part of the deal, okay? You're not obligated to do this, but at the same time, they may not want to buy part of the deal.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

County Attorney Hart said, and quite frankly, that -- that -- I -- I won't say anything else.

County Manager Smith said, we'd have to go back and renegotiate.

Chairman Scott said, we got Commissioner Holmes who wanted to ask some questions of the purchaser.

Commissioner Holmes said, just want to be Curious George here for a second.

Chairman Scott said, if the -- who do you want to address this question to Commissioner Holmes?

Commissioner Holmes said, to --

Chairman Scott said, the purchaser?

Commissioner Holmes said, -- Mr. Lee Smith.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, when we're going into a community to do something, we usually inform the citizens, if you're going to make them change in their community.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Holmes said, was it not required to inform these citizens that's -- what's going to take place in their community before we --

County Manager Smith said, yeah, we've had -- and I would ask the staff, we've had, what through -- I mean our employees, the general public notices and the bidding process, I mean, so we -- we vetted all that.

Commissioner Holmes said, so all the citizens of these communities that's going to be affected, they've been --

County Manager Smith said, users. Users.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, is that -- that's a fair statement? We've not had like a public meeting, other than notices, things like that. So.

Commissioner Holmes said, uh-huh.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, how -- how were they notified?

Commissioner Holmes said, yeah, that -- that's --

Ms. Amy Davis, Finance Director said, well it was voted on by the Board of Commissioners to proceed with this contract several months ago.

County Manager Smith said, yep. Back in August.

Commissioner Holmes said, did you get any feedback from any community concerning this?

County Attorney Hart said, zero.

County Manager Smith said, the -- well the only we got, if you remember in the Green Room, it was discussed, we had one group, and I may be wrong, was it Isle of Hope? There were some issues. I'm looking at --

County Attorney Hart said, fire.

County Manager Smith said, -- at the fire folks about fire pressures or something, and we resolved those issues. Some things came forward. It was mostly community based or an industry or something like that, but we resolved all those issues, you know, through the company, through Southside. We were able to resolve those issues.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm. But I'm -- I'm speaking on behalf of the citizen right now.

Ms. Davis said, it was also in the newspaper.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. It was also in the newspaper about it, yeah. So.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. Yeah.

County Attorney Hart said, two or three articles.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. There were at least three. Yeah.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Commission -- Commissioner --

Commissioner Holmes said, I'm -- I'm through.

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

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I wanted to follow up on a couple of these points. Let -- let me first state that I've gotten to know the owner of this company through working with the Georgia International Trade and Maritime Center, and there's no question in my mind that I have a lot of faith in his integrity and his talents and his company. And if we're going to sell it to somebody, I think we're selling it to a great company. So if Mark Smith were the only issue, you'd get a yes vote no way -- I mean right away. There are other issues. I too have problems with the informing. As I -- as I learned we send a bill, I guess once a month or once a quarter or every two months to the users of the water, and it's -- it seemed it would be very simple to have just simply put an insert in one of those bills to inform each household that we are contemplating this. And I know there's arguments that go both ways. Some people say don't incite others say keep them fully informed. I would assume at some point when we sell the system, they're going to get a bill that notifies them that they have a new supplier. Then we're going to get inundated with questions because people are just afraid of change. So piggy backing on Commissioner Holmes, I think it would have been more prudent had we put some kind of insert in the bill earlier.

Commissioner Center said, and then Commissioner Stone brought up the point about the City of Savannah threatening not to have a back up supply, and Runaway Point is in my District. Inherited that from Commissioner Farrell, but they -- they didn't -- well, it -- it's in the 3rd District, and I -- they didn't know about it, but when I asked -- I was very concerned about the City of Savannah being able to not have a back up, and I was told that legally they can't take that position. That was basically a bargaining position they did because they wanted to buy this for \$1. So if someone could speak on that, whether it's the -- the -- Mr. Smith's company when they talk or the County Attorney, but I just can't see how you can deny someone as vital as water, and I was told legally the City of Savannah cannot refuse to be a back up if that were to happen.

County Manager Smith said, if the Chair will allow, I'd like Mark Smith if he would come up and maybe address that issue on the interconnection because there are some, you know -- we just want to address the concerns about that.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Mr. Mark Smith said, my name is Mark Smith. I'm the president of Chatham Water Utility, LLC. I'd like to just make a few comments just to kind of set the stage for this discussion and -- and maybe go back to square one. The county voted, it is my understanding, the county voted to put out an RFP last February, and we received that RFP, and we -- it was a very voluminous request for information, and the -- the -- the proposal that we submitted was nearly 200 pages, and it went into every possible aspect of this proposed transaction. We responded to that RFP, along with other entities. We were -- came and met with the county staff. We were fully vetted. We went through every aspect of this transaction and -- throughout the spring. There was a call for final and best offers. We responded to that. We were the high bid. The county staff reviewed that over the summer, and then in August we were presented to the County Commission as the high bid and there was a unanimous vote by the County Commission to enter into a contract with our company, and as Mr. Hart said, we have negotiated in good faith throughout that period. Several different issues have come up. We have responded to those issues, and so here we are today.

Mr. Smith said, we have been in business for 45 years. We design, permit, construct, operate, acquire private water systems a sewer systems throughout a 12-county area in southeast Georgia serving over 15,000 homes presently. We have a tremendous amount of experience in this area. Throughout this -- these multiple decades of our being in business, certain water rights have accrued to our company, and in fact, we have more water resources than Chatham County does now. Chatham County is essentially out of water capacity with the new restrictions and reductions that have been mandated by the Environmental Protection Division in order to reduce the overall pumping within Chatham County. Every ground water permit in Chatham County is being reduced by 19 percent by the year 2025. So we have resources that we can bring to the county. We have other strategies that we're working on to create more water resources.

Mr. Smith said, just as an example, we've had discussions with the city in the past. If we could take where we have existing permitted taps on an existing water system, and maybe buy water from the city and then move those taps to a more isolated area of the county that needs growth or that doesn't have any water resources available for it, that's just one example of the many strategies that we're working on not only within Chatham County but regionally to provide water resources for this area.

Mr. Smith said, the contract for the sewer operation calls for us to manage the sewer in conjunction with the county staff with the idea that eventually the -- these assets could be sold as well. The contract calls for us to work on expanding the sewer system under our direction, as well as overseeing the review of the existing sewer assets, which we believe there are -- there are some gaps in the plans and -- and other infrastructure that it requires some in depth review of the sewer system. Coincidentally with that, we have the issue of the city accepts all the sewer, you guys have been on a -- a -- a situation where the city can arbitrarily change the rates and has arbitrarily changed the rates on an annual basis on what they charge to accept that sewer. We don't think that's the way to do business, and we think that a long-term agreement with the city, whether you own the

sewer or we own the sewer is the best way to go, and we believe that -- we are optimistic that on the issue of the sewer acceptance and the rates for the sewer, as well as back-up water service, that we can work those things out with the city.

Mr. Smith said, as Commissioner Center indicated we've been in touch with the Environmental Protection Division in Atlanta, and they have -- you know, this is all -- all of this is regulated by the EPD in Atlanta, and so we think they have a voice here too, and -- and a -- and a stake in this game. I'd like to also mention that we employ over 25 people in our company now. We have agreed to employ all the county staff. We think we're an excellent employer. We pay above market wages. We're going to get -- they will get a pay raise when they come to us from the county. We give very generous Christmas bonuses. We're about to have our Christmas party next week and everyone in our company will get \$1,000 bonus plus \$100 for every year of service. And that's just one indication of the way we like to take care of our employees, because they have to take care of us. They're on call 24/7. We go out in the middle of the night. We, you know, respond because this is our business, and we do it in a humane way; we do it in a responsible way to take care of our customers and take care of our employees.

Mr. Smith said, I'd be happy to try -- oh -- oh one other thing, I would like to say, when the county voted back in August to enter into a contract with us, I went out to Pooler and met with Mayor Lamb last September. Sat in his office for an hour and a half and discussed our proposed take over of the Runaway -- of the Hunter's Ridge system, and I heard no indication that they were chagrined or disappointed that they did not bid on the system or anything. And quite the contrary, they welcomed me to the Pooler community with open arms and said they looked forward to working with us. So I'd be happy to try to answer any other questions.

Chairman Scott said, any -- any questions of Mr. Smith? We have Commissioner Brady from the 6th District has a question.

Mr. Smith said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Brady said, I asked this in the Green Room, but I want this to be televised. This sale does not include the Modena system.

County Attorney Hart said, no, ma'am, it doesn't, and the only reason it doesn't is we have not been able to get all the paperwork together. We have an agreement in principal. There were some questions about some repairs.

Chairman Scott said, but you have an agreement in principal with Modena.

County Attorney Hart said, Modena.

County Manager Smith said, Modena. Yeah.

County Attorney Hart said, and -- and the -- we got -- got the information back this week that the things they're asking us to do are reasonable to do to do, so I think it's -- we'll probably be bringing that to you, assuming we go forward, next meeting.

Commissioner Brady said, okay. I just -- I just wanted it to be televised because I -- I -- I know folks that live out there at Modena.

County Attorney Hart said, they've been very cooperative.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, their people have been very responsive. They've asked good questions, and they deserve good answers.

Commissioner Brady said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further question of Mr. Smith?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I --

Chairman Scott said, I recognize the Commissioner from the 3rd District.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And again, you -- you mentioned, Mr. Smith, that you -- that the EPD regulates -- I mean it's -- it's a regulated area. Can the City of Savannah or Pooler legally cut off the back up if it's needed?

Mr. Smith said, I -- I'm not an attorney. I don't know the legal ramifications. I don't know all of the regulations per se, but I -- you -- you know, it -- it strikes me that -- that the city provides a lot of service to a lot of municipalities. How they could discriminate against a private company? I don't know. But I'm not a lawyer, but

the city is in the business of selling a lot of water to a lot of different entities, and so how they could select one -- in fact, they sell a lot of water to a lot of private entities. How they could arbitrarily say we're not going to sell to one, I -- I don't know, but I -- I -- you know, I don't think this is -- will be a confrontational situation. I'm optimistic that we will reach a -- a very mutually agreeable agreement with the city because, you know, we -- we have other areas in which we can work together.

Commissioner Center said, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, do you want to speak to it, Counselor?

County Attorney Hart said, yeah. You know, cities have -- have -- may have a decision that say we want -- we want to cut the water up that's the back up to a valve system, which is basically what they've got now. That's fine. If there's an emergency, you unscrew the valve, and you put the water back on. I don't think you're going to see that here. That's not to say they couldn't try that, and that's not to say that somebody certainly couldn't challenge their ability to do that. If they -- if they're providing services they have an obligation to do that not in an arbitrary or capricious manner, but in a reasonable manner, and that means everybody gets the opportunity if they're willing to pay the cost of the extension of the utilities to -- to be serviced in those utilities. Now they don't have to do that outside their jurisdiction, but if they elect to do that, they can't be arbitrary and capricious about how they do that. So, you know, I don't think we'll ever remotely even be in that direction, and that's all I can say about it. I mean, I -- I can tell you that I've had public officials, staff members indicate to me that they were not interested in owning this -- purchasing this system. And I don't know what to say beyond that.

Mr. Smith said, I -- I'd like to make one other comment along the back up service area. We have a lot of systems in a lot of rural and isolated areas throughout southeast Georgia, and for the last dozen years or so the Environmental Protection Division has required every new build water system to have a back up well at the -- at the original pump site. So we have been building in redundancy. There are ways to build in redundancy to Runaway Point and Glen of Robin should all efforts with the city fail. A second well can be drilled. We're already making plans at Runaway Point to put up a automatic start up, back up generator so that in the event of power failure, the -- the -- it comes on automatically. And -- so there are other ways to provide back up water rather than just be dependent on the City of Savannah.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions on that?

County Manager Smith said, no, sir.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter, you've already been recognized twice on this subject, and it --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well was I able to ask Mr. Smith a question or not, sir?

Chairman Scott said, yeah, but I'm just saying on motion --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I'd like to be recognized three times.

Chairman Scott said, I understand, but you'll be in violation of the Robert's Rules of Order, but -- if so -- but out of -- out of an abundance of fairness, I wanted to make sure that you recog -- you understood that you were in violation. I'll let you ask Mr. Smith a question if nobody has an objection. Hearing no objection, proceed, please.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Smith, is it a deal breaker to delay or pull out that portion in Pooler?

Mr. Smith said, well, I have responded to an RFP. I have worked with the county staff for nearly a year to get to this point. I don't think it's up to me to stand here and say that I'm willing to renegotiate or take out something. I think it's up to the county to tell me what they want to do, and I'll respond to what the county decides, just like I responded to the RFP.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Well the -- the Manager of Pooler told me on the phone this morning that if they were to take over that those residents would pay city rates. The agreement that -- that -- that's being discussed here today has y'all freezing the current rates for three years and then no freeze in place. Would you agree to possibly let that section not exceed whatever Pooler's rates are?

Mr. Smith said, my understanding Pooler's rates are higher than the county's rates, so -- significantly higher than the county's rates.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but would -- so would -- well, that would be good for you for business then, if that's the case. Would there be an agreement to after three years not exceed whatever Pooler's rate is on water?

Mr. Smith said, yeah, I -- I have responded to the RFP. I have negotiated in good faith, and I stand here ready to respond to the direction that Chatham County goes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's -- it's really sad because --

Commissioner Center said, is that it?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, really, really sad, 'cause the citizens aren't guaranteed the rate after three years.

County Manager Smith said, well, I -- I have to -- Mr. Chairman I have to say this and Commissioner Kicklighter, not to cause any problems or to be critical, but we don't have guarantees either on our purchase of water. So what I'm saying is, it's kind of an open market on water costs. I mean I -- I -- I couldn't guarantee it. You see what I'm saying?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I know that, and I'm not here to slam --

County Manager Smith said, no, and we know that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I know he operates a great company --

County Manager Smith said, but I don't want to put the person that's --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just have the second largest city in this county request that we have a little discussion with them, and obviously, we've got to rush on in and -- and -- and sell something when we don't even know if there's back up to the wells in Savannah or in the City of Pooler.

Commissioner Center said, point of order. We all love Pooler, but they should have made that request through the proper channels.

Chairman Scott said, and we don't have a request from the County [sic] Manager of Pooler. We -- what we have is your sharing of your personal communication with the County [sic] Manager.

Commissioner Center said, are we done?

Chairman Scott said, any -- any further questions of Mr. Smith before he sits down? Thank you Mr. Smith. Any further discussion?

Commissioner Stone said, I just --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just want to make certain that there is --

Chairman Scott said, please pull your mike up. We can't hear you.

Commissioner Stone said, I'm sorry. I -- I'm still a little bit concerned and I don't -- it matters not who answers the question about back for water if -- if there were a problem,

County Manager Smith said, I don't see it as an issue because of mandates. I just don't see it. We've talked about it as a staff, and I just don't see it as a major issue because it's going to be there. I real -- based on what the company has told us, based on what we see from other cities --

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I mean it's --

County Manager Smith said, the valves are going to be there. They're not going to cut them off.

Commissioner Stone said, I think it's a legitimate question, and it's a concern. I mean I would hate --

County Manager Smith said, oh, I understand that. And I --

Commissioner Stone said, -- for anybody to be without water.

County Manager Smith said, based on our discussions, I just don't see it as an issue. I think -- I think it's going to be fine.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, well, Mr. Chairman, the only thing I would say is and I understand what Commissioner Kicklighter is saying, you know, and I, too, wish we had heard this before, and I don't know how -- I'm speaking for myself and not meaning the staff, and, the, you know, if we looked at something, it's kind of an all or nothing deal. If you -- I -- I would not recommend pulling this out today. What I would recommend to you is if you don't want to do it as a Board that you table the whole thing, allow us to discuss, because in good faith, Mark [Smith] has -- and his company has negotiated. So we're going to have -- if you choose, and we talk to Pooler and they want to give me \$253,000, then, you know, we'll go renegotiate, but -- you see what I'm saying, we've got to be fair.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, (inaudible).

County Manager Smith said, but it's got to be an all or nothing deal. Either you table it today -- or that's my recommendation or you vote for it. That's just my recommendation. One or the other. I would table it.

Commissioner Center said, point of order.

Commissioner Farrell said, we can either table it or -- or vote it up or down.

Commissioner Center said, I got you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner --

County Manager Smith said, I'll just say I would just table it.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady has a --

Commissioner Brady said, I -- I was under the impression that there had been conversations with Pooler.

County Manager Smith said, there have been.

County Attorney Hart said, there have been.

County Manager Smith said, multiple, and that's why --

Commissioner Brady said, and there's been no indication that they were ever interested in buying this --

County Manager Smith said, nope.

Commissioner Brady said, -- this?

County Manager Smith said, no.

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, and I understand that he's communicated and that -- that's fine, but all I'm saying is if you want to do something, table the whole thing until the discussion has come back because we've got to be fair to this water company too.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree.

County Manager Smith said, yes. So that's all I'm telling you, you know.

Commissioner Brady said, well -- well, as much as I'd like to support my Commissioner from the 7th, if we've had conversations with Pooler about this water system, and there is no indication that they wanted to buy it at the time of those conversations, then I wouldn't support tabling it at this point.

Commissioner Holmes said, on the -- let me --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes for the 2nd time.

Commissioner Holmes said, Commissioner Brady --

Chairman Scott said, order -- order, please. Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, I'm going to ride with your comment on that, and the only thing I have to say toward it is that the information that Commissioner Kicklighter have, that information should have been sent directly to our source and it should have been simulated [sic] from that point to this.

County Attorney Hart said, they didn't even respond.

Commissioner Holmes said, that's why I -- I can't -- you know, as much as you've got the information, it should have been sent to us in a different form.

County Attorney Hart said, any municipality could have --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, then we need to think that way on the police department. They were supposed to answer that a long time back, so.

Chairman Scott said, order, please.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's the way that goes.

County Attorney Hart said, any municipality could have responded to the RFP. Some of them chose to do that. Some of them chose not to do that. This has been discussed about, it's been written about three or four times in the paper, and nobody has officially contacted us since this thing came up. I don't know what else to say.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just asked for a delay. That was it. I -- I didn't want to kill the deal.

Chairman Scott said, we have -- we have a motion and a second before us. There's no further discussion. All in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Shabazz said, can you repeat the motion so I know -- so I know how to vote on this?

Chairman Scott said, request Board approval of the Purchase Agreement with Chatham Water Utility, LLC and a Service Agreement with Chatham Utility Management, LLC related to the county water and sewer systems.

County Manager Smith said, and that --

County Attorney Hart said, and that -- that excludes Modena.

County Manager Smith said, just to clarify.

County Attorney Hart said, and --

Chairman Scott said, and it does not include --

County Manager Smith said, Modena.

Chairman Scott said, the Modena water system. That motion does not include the Modena Water System.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, for the record, I'd like to say I'm not opposed to the sale of this, I'm just opposed to sell it right this moment. I would have liked two weeks.

Chairman Scott said, has everybody voted?

Commissioner Stone said, no.

Commissioner Farrell said, can we table it?

Chairman Scott said, has everybody voted? Has everybody voted?

Commissioner Center said, tough vote.

Chairman Scott said, the motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve the purchase and agreement of Chatham Water Utility, LLC and a Service Agreement with Chatham Utility Management, LLC related to the county water and sewer systems, excluding the Modena Water System. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Commissioner Kicklighter being the lone no vote.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2
AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager
FROM: Linda Cramer, Assistant County Manager
R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

ISSUE:

Request Board approval of a Purchase Agreement with Chatham Water Utility, LLC and a Service Agreement with Chatham Utility Management, LLC related to the County's water and sewer systems.

BACKGROUND:

Staff was directed to prepare a solicitation for the sale of the County owned and operated water and sewer systems. The solicitation was prepared and a Request for Proposals (#14-0122-7) was advertised.

Responses were provided to the Board on August 14, 2015. The Board authorized staff to develop contract documents.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Chatham County owns and operates a collection of independent water and sewer systems throughout the County. The System has 3,503 customers including 478 sewer-only accounts. The County's system is composed of water wells, water distribution, sanitary sewer collection, real property/easements and a land application sanitary sewer treatment facility. More specifically, the System includes:
 - a. The Glen of Robin/Montgomery Area (Permit #CG0510109J/#CG0510099. 1.007 mgd)
 - b. Little Neck Plantation (Permit #CG0510124)
 - c. Modena on Skidaway Island (Permit #CG0510128)
 - d. Runaway Point (Permit #CG0510096)
 - e. West Chatham Water (Permit #CG0510133, 0.1 mgd) and the Pine Barren Land Application System (Permit #GA02-285, 0.06mgd)
2. As a result of an RFP process, the County received proposals from the City of Savannah, Water Utility Management, LLC (Chatham Water), and Consolidated Utilities, Inc. All proposers were interviewed. After the interviews the County requested a Best and Final Offer from the proposers. Results were presented to the Board on August 14, 2015.
3. The Board directed staff to develop a Purchase Agreement for the sale of the County's water systems and the Pine Barren sewer system to Water Utility Management Company, LLC or its affiliate, and the resulting agreement between Chatham County and Chatham Water Utility, LLC ("CWC") is attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file. The systems being sold include the Glen of Robin/Montgomery (water only), Runaway Point (water only) and the West Chatham/Pine Barren water and sewer system for a total value of \$6,861,000.
4. The Board also directed staff to develop a Services Agreement with the lead proposer for the wastewater/sewer system's operations, which is attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file, as an agreement between Chatham County and Chatham Utility Management, LLC ("CU"). Because of Savannah's reluctance to contract with a private provider for sewer treatment, the County is unable to effect an outright sale of the sewer system to a private company. The county will retain ownership of the sewer system's infrastructure and will still be responsible for most system maintenance. Sewer fees will be billed by WUM and remitted to the County to pay for the wastewater system's operation, net of a management fee. The Board of Commissioners will continue to set rates for sewer treatment for the remaining sewer customers in the Glen of Robin/Montgomery area and Runaway Point area.
5. Proceeds from sale of the water system will be deposited to the County's Water & Sewer Fund. Staff recommends that these funds be used to make needed infrastructure improvements to the County's sewer system.
6. Separate purchase agreements are being developed with other parties for the sale of the County's two remaining water systems (Little Neck and Modena), and staff hopes to have both agreements to the Board on December 4, 2015.
7. The Services Agreement is intended to replace the County's current agreement with Chatham Water Company for the provision of billing and collection services for the County's sewer system in the Parkersburg area of Isle of Hope.
8. The County currently has back-up emergency water source agreements with the City of Savannah and Pooler. These agreements will terminate upon sale of the water system to the private provider. Both cities have indicated that they will not provide back-up services to the private provider within former County-owned systems.
9. Key provisions of the Purchase and Services Agreements mirror the original letter of intent as shown below:
 - a. CWC shall have the option only to the extent provided by law to purchase the County's wastewater system for 10 years at the price of \$1,000,000 should County elect to sell the systems at a future date.
 - b. Under the Services Agreement, the County will retain ownership of and hence retain significant maintenance and infrastructure costs for its sewer systems. 90% of all wastewater revenue will be remitted to the County and 10% retained by CU as a service fee. The County will use revenue to pay for sewer treatment and other remaining operating expenses.

- c. Under the Services Agreement, compensation packages are being offered to current county employees. Packages are being developed in coordination with the County Human Resources Director.
 - d. CWC will maintain the current County water and the Pine Barren sewer rates for a three (3) year period following the sale of the systems, and will work toward a uniform system of billing rates for all of its water customers within Chatham County. The purchaser estimates that it will take approximately 12 years to make rates uniform across its customer base.
 - e. CWC will pursue opportunities to enhance fire flows and will provide the County Manager with an annual report of its efforts toward this goal.
 - f. CWC is authorized through the Purchase Agreement to make needed repairs at Runaway Point, Pine Barren and Glen of Robin in the amount of \$184,167 which will adjust the net sale proceeds at closing.
 - g. The closing date under the Purchase Agreement will occur within ninety (90) days of the Board's approval of the agreement.
10. System customers will be notified of the transition of services through a joint letter from the purchaser and the county Finance Director. County staff will redirect any water or sewer payments received after closing to the purchaser.
11. The Purchase Agreement includes a number of asset transfers, and the Board's approval of this document will be construed as authorization for the County Attorney and Finance Director to make these transfers in accordance with the agreement, subject to final closing. After the closing and at a subsequent meeting, the Board will be asked to approve budget adjustments reflective of needed accounting entries related to the sale of the system's assets.

FUNDING:

Sale proceeds will be allocated to the Water and Sewer Fund to be used for future maintenance and upgrades of the wastewater system infrastructure.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Board action is required to dispose County property.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Request Board approval of the Purchase Agreement with Chatham Water Utility, LLC and the Services Agreement with Chatham Utility Management, LLC, thereby authorizing the Chairman's execution of these agreements and related documents.
- 2. Provide staff with other direction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Board approve Alternative #1.

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES RELATED TO THE COUNTY'S LITTLE NECK ROAD WATER SYSTEM.

Chairman Scott said, the next item, request Board approval of a purchase agreement with Consolidated Utilities related to the county's Little Neck water system.

Commissioner Center said, I move approval.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any discussion?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, which number? Three?

Chairman Scott said, number 3.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, will they be held to the same standard as the other contract?

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. Handled the same way.

County Attorney Hart said, well there's not a service agreement --

County Manager Smith said, yeah, it's --

County Attorney Hart said, this is an outright sale.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. It's being sold separate.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, but it's got the three-year freeze, and the same -- same provisions.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve a Purchase Agreement with Consolidated Utilities related to the County's Little Neck Road water system. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
Linda Cramer, Assistant County Attorney

ISSUE:

Request Board approval of a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the County and Coastal Water & Sewage Co., LLC as it relates to Little Neck Plantation Water System.

BACKGROUND:

Staff was directed to prepare a solicitation for the sale of County owned water and sewer systems. The solicitation was prepared and request for proposals were advertised. Responses were provided to the Board on August 14, 2015. The Board authorized staff to develop contract sale documents.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Chatham County owns and operates a collection of small and non-interconnected water and sewer systems throughout Chatham County. All customers in the system total 3,503, including 478 sewer-only accounts.
2. The county water system is composed of water wells, water distributions systems, real property and easements as appropriate. Specifically, the system subject to this agenda item is the Little Neck Plantation Water System.
3. The county has a separate agreement with Chatham Water Utilities, LLC as it relates to the sale of four other systems, but given that Coastal Water & Sewage Co., LLC was a substantially higher bidder on the Little Neck Plantation Water System, a decision was made to sell this individual system separately to Coastal Water & Sewage Co., LLC.
4. The bid price for the purchase of the system was \$63,000.00.
5. Attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file is a copy of the purchase and sale contract for the Little Neck Plantation Water System to Coastal Water & Sewage Co., LLC.
6. Coastal has the capacity and capability to operate the water system. As with the other sale of system agreement, Coastal will agree to a three year freeze on current county water rates from the date of purchase as to water rates for customers.
7. Proceeds from the sale of the water system will be deposited into the County's water and sewer fund. The county recommends that these funds be used to make infrastructure improvements as needed to the County's sewer system.

8. The approval of the Agreements with Coastal Water and Chatham Utilities Management would leave only the Modena system remaining, and the terms of purchase system have been agreed upon in principal. Due to the interruption of the Thanksgiving holiday, a contract will be presented to the Board on December 18, 2015.
9. The key provisions to this Agreement are shown below:
 - A. Sale price of \$63,000.00.
 - B. Three year freeze on current water rates in the Little Neck system.
 - C. The sale will be "as is."
 - D. The closing date under the purchase price will occur within 90 days of the approval of the Agreement.
 - E. System customers will be notified of the transition of services through a joint letter from the purchaser and County Finance Director. County staff will redirect any water payments received after closing to purchaser.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Board action is required to dispose of County property.

FUNDING:

Sales proceeds will be allocated to the water and sewer fund to be used for future maintenance and upgrades to the waste water system infrastructures.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of the Purchase Contract with Coastal Water & Sewage Co., LLC to sell the Little Neck Water system and that the Chairman be authorized to execute all necessary and related documents.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative #1.

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4. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THROUGH RESOLUTION THE CHATHAM COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

Chairman Scott said, request Board -- the next item, to request Board adopt through a resolution the Chatham County multi-jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Center said, second.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any unreadiness? Any discussion? All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Dennis [Jones], you did a good job explaining it.

Mr. Dennis Jones, Interim CEMA Director said, thank you. That will work.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved for adoption through resolution the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-4

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Dennis Jones, CEMA Interim Director

ISSUE:

Adopt through Resolution the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency is pleased to announce the completion of the 2015 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of this Plan is to consolidate and organize data from natural hazard assessments and prioritize mitigation actions in order to make Chatham County eligible for project grants to reduce the impact of natural disasters. The plan development process has involved cooperative partnerships between Chatham County and each municipal government.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has conditionally approved the Plan. Final approval will be granted once the plan is adopted through resolution by local governments.
2. FEMA requires an approved Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Program project grants. Without these grants, many of the necessary mitigation actions will have to be deferred or obviated.
3. Resolution adoption is being solicited from each municipal government.
4. An Executive Summary of the Plan is attached. The full documents (517 pages) is available for review in the Clerk's Office.

FUNDING:

No funding required.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt through Resolution the Chatham County Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Do not adopt through Resolution the Chatham County Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (lack of adoption disqualified Chatham County and its municipalities for Federal grant funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is consistent with Board policy to adopt plans and procedures required by State and Federal law.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board adopt Alternative 1.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Executive Summary

Local hazard mitigation planning is the process of organizing community resources, identifying and assessing hazard risks, and determining how to best minimize or manage those risks. This process culminates in a hazard mitigation plan that identifies specific mitigation actions, each designed to achieve both short-term planning objectives and long-term community vision.

To ensure the functionality of a hazard mitigation plan, responsibility is assigned for each proposed mitigation action to a specific individual, department or agency along with a schedule or target completion date for its implementation. Plan maintenance procedures are established for the routine monitoring of implementation progress, as well as the evaluation and enhancement of the mitigation plan itself. These plan maintenance procedures ensure that the Plan remains a current, dynamic and effective planning document over time that becomes integrated into the routine local decision making process.

Communities that participate in hazard mitigation planning have the potential to accomplish many benefits, including:

- saving lives and property,
- saving money,
- speeding recovery following disasters,
- reducing future vulnerability through wise development and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, and
- expediting the receipt of pre-disaster and post-disaster grant funding.

Typically, communities that participate in mitigation planning are described as having the potential to produce long-term and recurring benefits by breaking the repetitive cycle of disaster loss. A core assumption of hazard mitigation is that the investments made before a hazard event will significantly reduce the demand for post-disaster assistance by lessening the need for emergency response, repair, recovery and reconstruction. Furthermore, mitigation practices will enable local residents, businesses and industries to re-establish themselves in the wake of a disaster, getting the community economy back on track sooner and with less interruption.

The benefits of mitigation planning go beyond solely reducing hazard vulnerability. Mitigation measures such as the acquisition or regulation of land in known hazard areas can help achieve multiple community goals, such as preserving open space, maintaining environmental health, and enhancing recreational opportunities. Thus, it is vitally important that any local mitigation planning process be integrated with other concurrent local planning efforts, and any proposed mitigation strategies must take into account other existing community goals or initiatives that will help complement future implementation.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION
AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, Chatham County and its municipal governments are vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damages to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County and its municipal governments desire to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of a Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of Chatham County and its municipal governments to fulfill its obligation under the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981 and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County in coordination with Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Savannah, Thunderbolt and Tybee Island, have prepared a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and has approved the Plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Chatham County Commission hereby adopts the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and agrees to take such other official action as reasonably necessary to carry out the proposed actions identified by the Plan.

Adopted on _____, 2015.

Albert J. Scott, Chairman
Board of County commissioners

ATTEST:

Janice E. Bocook, Clerk

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- 5. REQUEST BOARD, AS THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF CHATHAM COUNTY, APPROVE PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §36-36-22 ET SEQ. TO PASS A RESOLUTION OF CONSENT TO ALLOW THE DEANNEXATION OF THE MEGASITE PROPERTY FROM THE CORPORATE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF POOLER INTO THE UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY, AND TO APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE COUNTY, CITY OF POOLER, AND SEDA.**

Chairman Scott said, the last item on Individual Action request Board, as the governing authority of Chatham County, approve pursuant to code section 36-36-22 et seq. to pass a resolution of consent to allow the deannexation of the Megasite from the corporate municipal limits of the City of Pooler into the unincorporated Chatham County, and to approve the execution of an intergovernmental agreement among the County, City of Pooler and SEDA.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any discussion?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just wanted to make that motion, but that's all right.

Commissioner Stone said, oh, I'm sorry.

Chairman Scott said, any discussion?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, 'cause it was my area, you know, but oh well. Pooler's -- Pooler's excited about the work they've done with SEDA, on this, and -- and I think the county and everybody -- it's a good thing, so.

Chairman Scott said, any further discussion? If not, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved for Board, as the governing authority of Chatham County, approval pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-36-22 et seq. to pass a resolution of consent to allow the deannexation of the Megasite property from the corporate municipal limits of the City of Pooler into the unincorporated Chatham County, and to approve the execution of an intergovernmental agreement among the County, City of Pooler and SEDA. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-5

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

ISSUE:

Request Board, as the governing authority of Chatham County, approval pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-36-22 et seq. to pass a resolution of consent to allow the deannexation of the Megasite property from the corporate municipal limits of the City of Pooler into the unincorporated Chatham County, and to approve the execution of an intergovernmental agreement among the County, City of Pooler and SEDA.

BACKGROUND:

The Megasite, a large development tract, bordering the northern side of I-16, is now located within the city limits of Pooler. The Georgia Ports Authority and SEDA, constituting 100 percent of the land owners, desire to have the site deannexed from the City of Pooler back into the unincorporated Chatham County. The purpose of this deannexation is to encourage development of the site. The City of Pooler has unofficially indicated that it will pass an ordinance which is scheduled on its Monday agenda at first reading to approve deannexation.

Deannexation from the City of Pooler will eliminate property tax revenue of approximately \$150,000, the City would no longer be responsible in the future for municipal services and road maintenance. The County SSD would gain property tax revenue of approximately \$32,731 and assume municipal services and road maintenance. The property tax revenue would substantially increase upon the five year capital exemption terminating. The Megasite would become part of the CAT transit district and would gain tax revenue of approximately \$6,528. SEDA and the State of Georgia could make the Megasite one hundred percent exempt from qualified manufacturing inventory taxes and eliminate this as a development issue.

In addition to the consent resolution, the City of Pooler, the County and SEDA would enter into an intergovernmental agreement confirming deannexation, and the County would assume the municipal services at a similar level as other services in unincorporated Chatham County. Pooler would be confirmed under a fire service plan as the provider of fire service for the site. SEDA would fund engineering, acquiring of equipment and installation of a traffic light at the end of the intersection of State Highway 307 and Pine Meadows Road in the City of Pooler. Attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file) is the proposed form application, proposed resolution and intergovernmental agreement

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Megasite, a large development tract, bordering the northern side of I-16, is now located within the city limits of Pooler. The Georgia Ports Authority and SEDA desire to have the site deannexed from the City of Pooler back into the unincorporated Chatham County.
2. The purpose of this deannexation is to encourage development of the site.
3. The County SSD would gain property tax revenue of approximately \$32,731 and assume municipal services and road maintenance. The property tax revenue would substantially increase upon the five year capital exemption terminating.

- 4. The Megasite would become part of the CAT transit district and would gain tax revenue of approximately \$6,528.
- 5. The Resolution of Consent by the County governing authority is a requirement of law to permit deannexation.
- 6. The Intergovernmental Agreement sets forth the understanding of the parties.
- 7. The deannexation will enhance the attractive nature of the site to future employers wishing to locate in the County.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is in the best interest of Chatham County and its municipalities to encourage the development of industry which will provide excellent employment to the citizens of Chatham County. The approval of the resolution and intergovernmental agreement would benefit all parties to the intergovernmental agreement and ensure that a manufacturing site would be more competitive in development of the site given the manufacturing inventory tax exemptions.

FUNDING:

Funding will not be required at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve Resolution of Consent to allow the deannexation of the Megasite property from the corporate municipal limits of the City of Pooler and into the unincorporated Chatham County, and approve the execution of an intergovernmental agreement among the County, City of Pooler and SEDA.
- 2. Do not approve Resolution of Consent to allow the deannexation of the Megasite property from the corporate municipal limits of the City of Pooler and into the unincorporated Chatham County, and approve the execution of an intergovernmental agreement among the County, City of Pooler and SEDA.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative 1

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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, next we have the Action Calendar. No one requested anything to be pulled off to be voted on separate, so I'll entertain a motion at this time.

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

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The Action Calendar is approved. Let me mention that it will be necessary to have a very short executive session.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve all items on the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 8 and under Item 8 Items A through F. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter 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 NOVEMBER 20, 2015, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2015, as mailed. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 12, 2015 THROUGH NOVEMBER 24, 2015.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period of November 12, 2015 through November 24, 2015, in the amount of \$8,995,890. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD TENTATIVELY SET THE DAYS AND TIME FOR REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2016. THE BOARD WILL BE ASKED TO CONFIRM ADOPTION OF THE CALENDAR AT THE FIRST MEETING OF 2016.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to tentatively set the days and time for regular Commission meetings for 2016. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Lee Smith, County Manager

ISSUE:

To tentatively set the days and time for regular Commission meetings for 2016. The Board will be asked to confirm adoption of the calendar at the first meeting of 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The County's Enabling Act requires the action be taken during the first meeting of the Board each year.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Enabling Act states:
The Board of Commissioners shall hold two regular meetings each month except as may otherwise be determined by the Board of Commissioners, as the County seat for all matters requiring action of an administrative or policy nature, and for all matters advertised or scheduled for hearing in which the public will be asked to speak for or against the items under consideration, which meetings shall be open to the public. At the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners in January of each year, the Board of Commissioners shall set the days and the time when it will hold its regular meetings. Meeting hours for the public hearings may be changed by action of the Board of Commissioners and may be held at such hour as stated in the public notice of the date and time of such hearing. Special or additional meetings may be held as necessary upon call of the Chairman or any five members of the Board of Commissioners, provided all members of the Board of Commissioners have been notified at least 24 hours in advance of such special or additional meeting, and such notice shall specify the subject matter to be considered.
2. The Commission has met on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the past except in January, November and December. When possible, the Board holds one meeting during the month of January. The meetings in November and December are held on the first and third Fridays to allow for the holidays. There are five Fridays in September 2016.

Changing to the first and third Fridays beginning in October will allow at least two weeks between meetings for the remainder of the year.

3. The Chamber will hold Savannah-Chatham Day in Atlanta on January 28, 2016. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
4. The ACCG District Day at the Capitol (formerly Capitol Connection Conference) will be February 17, 2016, in Atlanta. This will not be a conflict.
5. The NACo Legislative Conference will be February 20-24, 2016, in Washington, D.C. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
6. In 1998 the Board asked that in future years meetings not be scheduled on Good Friday. In 2015 Good Friday will be on March 25th. This will conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule. Since there are five Fridays in April, the Board could have three meetings in April (first, third and fifth Fridays).
7. The ACCG Annual Meeting will be April 29-May 2, 2016 in Chatham County. The first day of the Annual Meeting (April 29th) will be a conflict, but should not pose a quorum problem.
8. The NACo Annual Conference will be July 22 - 25, 2015, in Long Beach, California. This will conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule. Since there are five Fridays in July, it would work to hold the July meetings on the third and fifth Fridays.
9. The ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference will be September 28-30, 2016, location TBD. This will not be a conflict.
10. Currently the pre-meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to be followed immediately by the regular meeting, generally at 9:30 a.m.
11. A calendar showing County holidays for 2016 and tentative Commission meeting dates is attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Set meeting time to immediately follow 9:00 a.m. pre-meeting and set dates as follows:
 January 15th
 Second and fourth Fridays in February
 March 11th
 First, third and fifth Fridays in April
 Second and fourth Fridays in May and June
 Third and fifth Fridays in July
 Second and fourth Fridays in August and September
 First and third Fridays October through December
 Schedule to be confirmed at first meeting of the year, January 15, 2016.
2. Set meeting time and dates as designated by Commissioners, schedule to be confirmed at first meeting of the year, January 15, 2016.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Compliance with the Enabling Act.

FUNDING:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative #1.

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4. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2016. PETITIONER: SANDRA G. BAXTER, D/B/A OLD FORT JACKSON, LOCATED AT 1 FORT JACKSON ROAD, 31404. [DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval of a transfer of a beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2016 for Sandra G. Baxter, d/b/a Old Fort Jackson located at 1 Fort Jackson Road. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4**AGENDA DATE: December 4, 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:**Request for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2016. Petitioner: **Sandra G. Baxter, d/b/a Old Fort Jackson, located at 1 Fort Jackson Road, Savannah, Georgia 31404.****BACKGROUND:**

Ms. Baxter requests approval of transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license in connection with a cultural historic site. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Scott W. Smith to Sandra G. Baxter.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 3

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO_____
Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

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5. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2016. PETITIONER: SANDRA G. BAXTER, D/B/A PIN POINT MUSEUM, LOCATED AT 9924 PIN POINT AVENUE, 31401. [DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval of a transfer of a beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2016 for Sandra G. Baxter, d/b/a Pin Point Museum located at 9924 Pin Point Avenue. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5**AGENDA DATE: December 4, 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:**Request for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2016. Petitioner: **Sandra G. Baxter, d/b/a Pin Point Museum located at 9924 Pin Point Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401.**

BACKGROUND:

Ms. Baxter requests approval of transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license in connection with a cultural historic site. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Scott W. Smith to Sandra G. Baxter.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 1

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

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- 6. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2015. PETITIONER: KIMBERLY N. ARGENTA, D/B/A PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC., #0456, LOCATED AT 155 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD, 31410. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval of a transfer of a beer and wine pouring license for 2015. Petitioner: Kimberly N. Argenta, d/b/a Publix Super Markets, Inc., #0456, located at 155 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, 31410. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 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:

Request for a transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2015. Petitioner: **Kimberly N. Argenta, d/b/a Publix Super Markets, Inc., #0456 located at 155 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31410.**

BACKGROUND:

Ms. Argenta requests approval of transfer of beer and wine retail license in connection with the existing grocery store. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Delores S. Rivera to Kimberly N. Argenta.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Inspector inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.

3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 4

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

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7. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2015. PETITIONER: KIMBERLY N. ARGENTA, D/B/A PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC., #0521, LOCATED AT 4717 US HIGHWAY 80 EAST, 31410. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval of a transfer of a beer and wine pouring license for 2015. Petitioner: Kimberly N. Argenta, d/b/a Publix Super Markets, Inc., #0521, located at 4717 US Highway 80 East. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

ISSUE:

Request for a transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2015. Petitioner: **Kimberly N. Argenta, d/b/a Publix Super Markets, Inc., #0521 located at 4717 US Highway 80 East, Savannah, GA 31410.**

BACKGROUND:

Ms. Argenta requests approval of transfer of beer and wine retail license in connection with the existing grocery store. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Delores S. Rivera to Kimberly N. Argenta.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 4

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved for approval to award bids as follows: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.) Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-8 A-F

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 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 to award four (4) annual contracts with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms (4) to provide On Call Design Engineering for Drainage Projects for Chatham County, with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 with various engineering services companies for drainage related projects.

BACKGROUND: There are stormwater design projects that can be done by a variety of professional engineer and technical services companies that have demonstrated their capability to accomplish quality and timely work for the County.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The contracts will be managed by task orders. Each task order will be for a specified not to exceed amount. The task orders will be for specific tasks with deliverables for either lump sum or not to exceed amounts.
2. The companies listed in this report are not intended to be all inclusive of "qualified" companies. Their selection was evaluated through a quality based selection process. Nine (9) proposals were reviewed and scored. (See score matrix for detail on pages 2-5) The following firms were the highest rated from the list of proposers and are recommended to receive contract awards in the amounts indicated.

EMC Engineering, Inc. (NTE \$250,000)
Savannah, GA

Hussey, Gay, Bell, & DeYoung, Inc. (NTE \$250,000)
Savannah, GA

Thomas & Hutton (NTE \$250,000)
Savannah, GA

Moffatt and Nichol (NTE \$250,000)
Savannah, GA

FUNDING: The costs will be charged to appropriate projects budgeted in the Sales Tax I, II, III, IV, V, & VI SPLOSTs, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Special Service District (SSD) and the Land Bank Account.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award four (4) annual contracts with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms (4) to provide On Call Design Engineering for Drainage Projects for Chatham County, with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 with various engineering services companies for drainage related projects.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to award on call professional services contracts to the high scoring firms.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$25,000 construction contract to Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. to provide and install cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) at 122 Overland Trail for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: The storm water pipe at this location serves a drainage for the street and impacts several homes in the area.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Due to the pipe's age, location and deficiencies, it has reached its life expectancy.
2. This project will be to rehabilitate 170 feet of 30 inch diameter reinforced concrete storm water pipe. The replacement of this pipe with CIPP technology will correct deficiencies and greatly extend the future life of this vital drainage structure.
3. An invitation to bid was properly advertised and two (2) bids were received and opened on November 19, 2015. Bid results are as follows:

Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. Patterson, GA	\$25,000
IPR Southeast Stone Mountain, GA	\$65,000

4. Staff evaluated the bid and Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. met the required specifications.
5. Staff believes the cost of \$25,000 is fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: CIP - Drainage
(3504250 - 54.14031 - 3503822)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$25,000 construction contract to Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. to provide and install cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) at 122 Overland Trail for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve construction contracts to repair and improve the infrastructure of Chatham County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$17,047 sole source purchase agreement with MSDSONline for online safety data sheet and chemical management for Occupational Safety and Risk Management.

BACKGROUND: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires manufacturers, distributors and employers that utilize chemicals in their processes become GHS (Globally Harmonized Standard) compliant by June 1, 2016. The main component of this compliance is access and availability of chemical safety data sheets, proper chemical labeling and employee hazardous chemical training.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. MSDSONline provides a sole source solution that is compliant with national standards. The key features provided by this solution sets it apart from others in the market which do not offer latest updates, first responder access and e-Binder MSDS information storage for County buildings and departments. The e-Binder would assist the County in creating, managing and maintaining a complete and up-to-date County-specific safety data sheet library to facilitate compliance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard.
2. Key features of the program include:
 - a. Unlimited access to a database of over 9 million safety data sheets
 - b. Automatic GHS updates to chemicals in our inventory
 - c. Unlimited eBinder MSDS storage for all buildings and departments

- d. GHS compliant labeling
 - e. First Responder Access to safety data sheets
 - f. Unlimited back up of the data (flash drives, CD, DVD etc.) On demand regulatory report generation
 - g. Detailed container tracking
 - h. Generate and print container bar codes
 - i. Flag and control banned chemicals in the Chatham County inventory
 - j. Generate submittable Tier II Form
 - k. Generate EPCRA TRI (Toxic Release Inventory) Form R Worksheet
3. Three (3) year purchase cost is \$17,047. The cost per year is as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| \$6,049 | Year 1 (includes start up cost) |
| \$5,499 | Years 2 and 3 |

FUNDING: Occupational Safety and Risk Management
(6251555 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$17,047 sole source purchase agreement with MSDSONline for online safety data sheet and chemical management for Occupational Safety and Risk Management.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases which assist in maintaining compliance.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
ESTELLE BROWN

I.C.S. APPROVAL _____
NICK BATEY

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1 to add nurse triage and telephonic case management services to the annual contract for worker's compensation third party administration services with Underwriters Safety and Claims, Inc.

BACKGROUND: On June 26, 2015, the Board approved to award an annual contract, with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Underwriters Safety and Claims, Inc., to provide Worker's Compensation Third Party Administration Services, at an annual cost of \$41,000 for the first one (1) year term of the contract, \$41,000 for the second one (1) year term of the contract, and \$43,500 per year for the three remaining one (1) year terms of the contract.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Staff requested from Underwriters Safety and Claims, Inc. a proposal to provide nurse triage and telephonic case management services. Staff believes the cost for the service will offset the savings associated with providing employees the correct level of care for a work related injury.
2. Underwriters thru BHN Access24 will provide 24/7 nurse triage for a fee of \$1,500 per month. This fee includes:
 - (1) 24 hour access to BHN Nurses/ Telephonic Case Managers
 - (2) Claim Intake by medical professionals
 - (3) Assessment of the work injury or illness
 - (4) Direction to appropriate level of care, within the appropriate panel
 - (5) Provide information to injured workers/ supervisors regarding appropriate medical protocols for their work injury
3. As part of the telephonic case management, there will be a flat fee for each claim from date of injury until Maximum Medical Treatment. These fees are as follows:
 - (1) Lost Time Claims \$450
 - (2) Medical Only Claims \$150
 - (3) Incident Only Claims No additional charge
4. Services to be provided by the telephonic case management include:
 - (1) 4-point contact throughout claim -- injured worker, County, Provider and adjuster
 - (2) Review for medical necessity of all treatment, including diagnostics physical therapy, surgery, pain management

- (3) Coordination of reviews to Physician Review Panel for evaluation of treatment plans or issues regarding causation/ compensability
- (4) Review and management of medications ordered for the work injury
- (5) Assessing and coordination of Return to Work; works with both the County and Provider to facilitate early return to the most appropriate modified duty or full duty position
- (6) Assistance with scheduling/ coordinating Independent Medical Exams

FUNDING: Worker's Compensation
(6259926 - 51.27004)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1 to add nurse triage and telephonic case management services to the annual contract for worker's compensation third party administration services with Underwriters Safety and Claims, Inc.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders essential services contracts.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
ESTELLE BROWN

ITEM E

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

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The attached list, on page 12, are the vehicles and equipment to be disposed of at the auction or as scrap material.
2. These items will be disposed of as appropriate for condition, value and circumstance. By far, the most common method will be public auction, as prescribed by the Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual. Some items, however, without a reasonable resale value, will be sold as scrap.
3. The date, time and location at which these vehicles and equipment will be auctioned will be publicly advertised to give citizens an opportunity to bid on these vehicles and equipment.

FUNDING: N/A- Revenue Producing

ALTERNATIVES:

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

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
MELVA SHARPE

PREPARED BY _____
PURCHASING DIRECTOR

ITEM F

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$167 per truck load contract to B&N Trucking, Inc., to haul ground yard waste from the Wilmington Island and Chevis Road Drop Off Centers.

BACKGROUND: Chatham County Solid Waste collects residential yard waste throughout Chatham County. Most of this yard waste is taken to the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center and ground into mulch.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Currently, the County has exceeded the capacity limits to stockpile yard waste allowable by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) at the Wilmington Island and Chevis Road Drop Off Centers.
2. After a recent EPD inspection, the County has been mandated to remove the current stock pile of mulch from the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center within 90 days.
3. Staff is currently hauling all of this material to Waste Management's Superior Landfill and Recycling Center. Staff will continue to haul in conjunction with the contractor to expedite the process and meet EPD deadlines. Waste Management has a need for the mulch and therefore is not charging the County to cross over their scales.
4. An Invitation to Bid was properly advertised and five (5) bids were received and opened on November 19, 2015. Bid responses are as follows:

	<u>Per Truck Load</u>
* Theodore Gordon Ministries Savannah, GA	\$108
** B & N Trucking, Inc. Garden City, GA	\$167
Griffin Contracting, LLC Pooler, GA	\$170
* J. Eady Construction, LLC Savannah, GA	\$175
Atlantic Waste Services Pooler, GA	\$240

*MBE
** WBE

5. Upon checking the references of the apparent low bidder, Theodore Gordon Ministries, it was determined they did not have experience in hauling large volumes of material nor did they have a fleet of trucks to meet the demands this project requires.
6. Staff verified the references of B&N Trucking, Inc., and each confirmed B&N as a well established trucking company with extensive hauling experience throughout Chatham County and having fleet capacity.
7. It is anticipated the contractor will haul an estimated 1,000 loads of mulch material.

FUNDING: Solid Waste (Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)
(5404501 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award a \$167 per truck load contract to B&N Trucking, Inc., to haul ground yard waste from the Wilmington Island and Chevis Road Drop Off Centers.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to award contract to the low, responsive, responsible bidder that meets all specifications.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

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, there are no First Readers.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. ADOPT A NEW PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2016.

Chairman Scott said, I'm sorry. We have a Second Reader. My pages were stuck together. Second Reader, and this is to adopt a new procurement ordinance with an effective date of January 1st, 2016. We read this the first time at our last meeting, so at this time, unless somebody want a full explanation of it, we'll entertain a motion for approval.

Commissioner Center said, move to approve.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Our Purchasing Director and our Assistant County Manager did a great job. A great explanation.

County Manager Smith said, very good. They worked hard on this. I'm just going to tell you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approved the adoption of a new procurement ordinance with an effective date of January 1st, 2016. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: XI-1

AGENDA DATE: November 20, 2015

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: Lee Smith, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Assistant County Manager
Margaret H. Joyner, Purchasing Director

ISSUE:

Present a new Procurement Ordinance for adoption by the Board of Commissioners with an effective date of January 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The County's Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual has not had a major revision since 1989. The dollar thresholds for sealed bidding have not been updated since 1998. Purchasing staff surveyed other Georgia counties and found that Chatham County's bidding and department thresholds are below that of many other progressive counties which results in inefficiencies and delays in small purchases.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. This is a complete rewrite of the Purchasing Ordinance based on the American Bar Association Model Procurement Code for State and Local Government. The ordinance takes into account upcoming changes in the way the County does business including electronic signatures, on-line bidding, use of purchasing cards and capabilities of the new Tyler Munis software for workflow approvals.
2. The County's enabling legislation allows the Chairman to delegate signing authority as appropriate. This ordinance designates the County Manager to approve and sign contracts

and Purchase Orders over the \$25,000 threshold once the Board of Commissioners have approved the contract for purchase.

3. Attachment I lists the major changes to the existing Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual.
4. Attachment II (which is attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file) is the proposed ordinance in its entirety.
5. The County Attorney has reviewed the proposed ordinance.

FUNDING:

N/A

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Procurement Ordinance must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Present the Procurement Ordinance for a First Reading November 20, 2015 and a Second Reading on December 4, 2015.
2. Provide the Purchasing Department with other guidance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

Attachment I

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE

- Raise formal sealed bid limit from \$15,000 to \$25,000.
- Raise Board approval level requirement from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to be the same as the formal sealed bid limit.
- Increase departmental approval authority from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
- Allow for the use of P-cards by departments subject to the purchasing card policy.
- Allow departments with appropriate training to obtain a minimum of three written quotations for procurements up to the \$25,000 sealed bid limit subject to Purchasing approval of the quotes.
- Allow the Purchasing Director discretion in the acceptance of late proposals (RFP's only) when there is no advantage gained by the late submission.
- Allow the Purchasing Director discretion in correcting bid prices other than by the unit price when the bidder's intent is clearly evidence or the mistake made is obvious and can be corrected without consultation with the bidder.
- Revise local preference to require the local bidder to be within 5% of the non-local bidder to be offered the opportunity to match the non-local bid. Currently there is no limitation in the percentage difference required for a local vendor to match a non-local bid. This results in limited competition, particularly on vehicle bids.
- Consider all construction to be exempt from local preference since it is not allowable for public works construction projects (construction over \$100,000).
- Allow for electronic signatures, on-line bidding and electronic transmittal of bids where bonds are not required. This is not addressed in current ordinance.
- Allow Purchasing to extend an annual contract for up to 6 months instead of 90 days when necessary to complete the bidding process.
- Add a method of source selection titled "special procurements" which would allow for an abbreviated bidding period when Purchasing determines that strictly following the sealed bid limit requirements would be detrimental to the county's best interest. An example of this might be issuing a quick quote rather than a formal sealed bid for the purchase of police pursuit vehicles when we are bumping up against the manufacturer's cut off date for ordering. Another example would be obtaining three quotes rather than publicly bidding due to situations that are not necessarily an emergency but where timing is critical and there is a need to obtain Board approval at a particular Board meeting. This is not addressed in current ordinance.
- Revise emergency procurements to require County Manager approval rather than Chairman approval but continue to require Board approval at the next Commission meeting.
- Require the County Manager or his designee to sign purchase orders and contracts over \$25,000 rather than the Chairman once Board approval has been obtained. Change orders would also be signed by the County Manager once Board approval has been obtained.
- For non-construction contracts and Purchase Orders, Purchasing Director would sign change orders up to the \$25,000 Board approval threshold.
- Name changes and changes to the unit prices of annual contracts based on documents manufacturer's increases would be administratively approved by Purchasing Director.
- Require Purchasing to provide the Board with a list of purchases as information items for those purchase orders between \$2500 and \$24,999. We currently provide for up to \$10,000.

- Allows the use of all project delivery methods authorized under State law with Design-Bid-Build being the preferred method of project delivery.
- Set requirements for on call and annual contracts.
- Prohibit a vendor who has been paid for developing specifications to bid on a project. A vendor may assist with specifications and bid as long as there was no fee paid for the specifications and there is no fee expectation if the vendor is not the successful bidder. Purchasing will be responsible for insuring that the bid specifications do not result in an unfair advantage to any bidder.
- Allow exclusions as necessary from the procurement ordinance for items such as subscriptions, utilities, and professional services under \$25,000. A complete list is included in the ordinance.
- Allow for waiving of MWBE scoring on Request for Proposals where there is no opportunity for MWBE participation.
- Revise and strengthen section on suspension and debarment.
- Revise and strengthen section on employee and elected official ethics as it relates to procurement.

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XIII. INFORMATION 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.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2015

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
27 cases of ammunition	Sheriff's Department	Precision Delta Corporation	\$4,861	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff's
Architectural services providing necessary bidding documents for Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum	Facilities Maintenance	Barnard Architects	\$9,808	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance
Two (2) replacement computers with four (4) years of pro-support	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing, L.P.	\$4,788	•Reimbursable Expenses •I.C.S. Computer Replacement
Disposal of yard waste to assist in abundance during the absence of Duratex Grinder	Public Works and Park Services	South Coast Logging	\$6,000	SSD - Solid Waste
18,000 file folders	Magistrate Court	VIP Printing & Office Supply	\$4,515	General Fund/M&O - Magistrate Court
Repair of rough running engine to unit #205 - Public Works Knuckle Boom Truck	Fleet Operations	Freightliner of Savannah, Inc.	\$3,441	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
8.5' x 24' enclosed trailer for median maintenance crews	Public Works and Park Services	Dorsey Trailer Sales	\$5,413	CIP - Public Works
November 2015 tax sale advertisements	Tax Commissioner	Shivers Trading / Operating Company	\$8,885	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Repair concrete of two (2) area sections where weights are dropped onto floor at the Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting Center	Facilities Maintenance	Glovers Masonry	\$4,800	General Fund/M&O - Weightlifting Center
Repairs of key switch and wire harness to unit #79 - Public Works excavator	Fleet Operations	ASC Construction Equipment USA, Inc.	\$4,154	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Youth soccer officials for October 17-25	Public Works and Park Services	Greater Savannah Soccer Association, Inc.	\$3,290	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Youth football officials for October 15-21	Public Works and Park Services	Coastal Football Association	\$3,045	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Scott said, and -- and let me mention two things. We have -- we have -- necessary for a short executive session. There are only a couple items for --

County Attorney Hart said, litigation.

Chairman Scott said, litigation and real estate.

County Attorney Hart said, no we don't have real estate.

County Manager Smith said, hmm-mm.

Commissioner Center said, there was a condemnation. Is that real estate?

County Attorney Hart said, oh yes.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

County Attorney Hart said, yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. You're right. Correct. I wasn't thinking about it in that category.

County Manager Smith said, also --

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Okay. And then -- and then we'll have a discussion --

County Manager Smith said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, on --

County Manager Smith said, legislative agenda.

Chairman Scott said, -- our issues that we will present to our legislative delegation. This is a non-binding item, although it might be necessary to have a show of hands on whether or not we're with it. Okay?

County Manager Smith said, 'cause we wanted something that was --

Chairman Scott said, but before we go there, I want to recognize Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, mister --

Chairman Scott said, he -- he wants to -- it's not really a point of personal privilege, but he asked if he could be recognized for comments before -- under the information section.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And it may take feedback from the County Manager and the Chairman. And let me tell you, I'm going to ask some questions. I'm not blaming anyone, pointing fingers. I know as an attorney that I sometimes have an accusatory manner when I discuss things, but I'm really informational.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Center said, we have -- you know, our community, the bulk of it, has just been through a very emotional election. Still kind of raw, and over the past year or so, we suffered some hard blows in that the police

chief was indicted, convicted, off in jail. The Clerk of the Probate Court was indicted, convicted, and off to jail. And now I read in the paper, although there's been no conviction, that our CAT executive director has been indicted. These people are not county employees. This involves federal FBI investigations that are necessarily kept private from the county and the city while they're investigating, because they have to, but I had questions, and I figured if I had questions, the public would have questions, and I'd like the public to be reassured. I noticed the Chair mentioned that the County Managers and City Managers have quarterly meetings, and maybe this is something to be discussed, but I think that the public needs to be reassured that there's -- somebody is going to be in charge that these things get stopped and don't happen. I know we can't keep our pulse on everything, but the question I have is why don't we know this is happening from our highest police chief, CAT director and second person at Probate Court. Why don't we know this is happening? What checks and balances do we have? Are we appointing the right people where we have appointments? Are we looking at -- at the right people before we appoint them to make sure they should be there. Who manages this? Who watches it? I'd like to reassure the public, and I know, Mr. Chairman, you don't have authority over everybody, there are different jurisdictions, and neither do you, but let them know that we're on it, and it's not going to happen and it stops because all we're going to hear is the criticism, and who's in charge? What's watching? And I'd like some response to reassure the public, if that's okay.

Chairman Scott said, let -- let me just -- and -- and -- and then I will see if counsel or the Manager want to say anything about this. But in the case of the Clerk of the Probate Court, as the county in that particular incident, we have an audit responsibility because we fund them, and their misdeeds was discovered in our audit. What was not unearthed in our audit, who was responsible for the missing funds, and after further investigation at the federal level, it led to the Clerk being indicted. In that particular case, our audit, and people that the county funds are -- are -- we're in charge of their budget. We also have a responsibility to audit them, and when we do, if there is anything that's out of the ordinary or any irregularities, at that point, we bring it to the attention of the appropriate authorities and sometime it's the local DA, sometimes it's the federal prosecutor, and then they decide whether or not charges will be filed for those type incidents. And this is the second time we've had an audit irregularity in that particular department, and at both times they were turned over to authorities. And then -- the first time it was turned over to the GBI for further investigation and -- and then the second time the federal government got involved, and the reason they got involved, it involved fraudulent bank activity, and -- and then it became -- it became a secret service sort of deal there with the banks. And, Jon, do you have anything you want to add to that? Mr. Manager?

County Attorney Hart said, I -- I really don't. You know, we're government that we have a lot of responsibility as the Chatham -- Chatham County government to make sure things run, the -- the -- trains run. But we don't get to run the courts; we don't get to run the DA; we don't get to run the Public Defender; we don't get to run the Tax Commissioner; we don't get to run the Board of Assessors or the Board --

Chairman Scott said, or the jail.

County Attorney Hart said, or the jail.

County Manager Smith said, or CAT or any of those.

County Attorney Hart said, we get to fund them. We -- we can ask them and make them go through a budget process --

County Manager Smith said, and audit.

County Attorney Hart said, -- for financial account -- accountability, and we can also request audits, but as far as day to day decision making, we don't have a lot of responsibility there nor do we have the right to do it, and they're pretty quick to let us know that.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and I will also point out we -- we called for an audit of the Sheriff's department early on.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, and we didn't find wrong doings that warrant any further -- but we did find processes and -- and activities that needed improvement, and we made those recommendation, and the Sheriff at that time cooperated and incorporated those recommendations from the audit to bring his department up to standards. So you have that going on, and as it -- as the position with the sheriff [sic] at the time, and -- and I heard this discussed. The sheriff [sic] at the time was no longer an employee of the city when he was indicted because --

County Manager Smith said, the police chief.

County Attorney Hart said, the police chief.

Commissioner Stone said, the police chief.

Chairman Scott said, -- police chief, I'm sorry. The police chief was no longer an employee of the city when he was indicted. It was a case where he resigned because of alleged sexual activities with subordinates, and he resigned. There was never any mention of any investigation for anything else of the police chief, because it was

a federal investigation on corruption charges, and the federal prosecutors do not, until they get ready to bring the indictment will they inform us. They may inform us right before it's announced or right before they bring it, but it's within 48 hours of them bringing an indictment if we get any information at all. So we were not aware of that. And so the corruption charges was filed after he resigned on allegedly sexual misconduct with subordinates with the -- with the police chief, and so that's where we stand.

Chairman Scott said, and on this particular case, I didn't learn of the CAT director until I got a call from the Chair of the CAT Board, former Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis who called me to inform me that he had been summoned to federal court on notice of two of his employees were indicted. He didn't -- he was not given their names or anything else. He went over to the court, and at that time he discovered the identity of the two employees, and he informed me at that point. He contacted his legal counsel, and they are not represented by our attorney. They have their own legal counsel, but he contacted his legal counsel for further instructions, and based on his legal counsel recommendation, he called a special meeting and suspended one of the individuals in charge and that the second individual, based on his communication to me, will be dealt with -- with the acting director. And the acting director, I -- I would suspect, would either terminate him or suspend him. I don't know what action he's going to take, but he will be done at that level because it was not a board level position, and he was following the chain of command is the way he explained it to me. And this is my personal conversation with the former Chair of the Commission, who is now Chair of -- of the Chatham County Area Transit Authority.

County Attorney Hart said, I would also like just to say that we have really good constitutional officers, and they cooperate with us.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

County Attorney Hart said, and they go through the budget process, but occasionally they'll have an employee that will do something that they shouldn't do, and -- and they cooperate with us then, too.

County Manager Smith said, through internal audit. I do want to mention, Mr. Chairman, and -- and I do appreciate you --

Chairman Scott said, before -- before you do that.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, I wanted to recognize Commissioner Holmes --

County Manager Smith said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, -- since he's also a member of the CAT Board.

County Manager Smith said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to react to one line that Commissioner Center mentioned just now, and I'm talking on behalf of two of my colleagues, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Stone and myself. We serve on that Board, and when you question who you sent to a board integrity, then you are questioning the integrity of me and my colleagues. The meeting that we called yesterday representing CAT Board, the information that was served and given to us, I can reassure you that you have three good representative from this Board serving on CAT Board. The action that we took last evening, going forward your representation are in good hands, and it speaks very highly of how we handle business. So I just want you to know, Mr. Center, that this representation that I'm speaking about and Ms. Thomas, you have nothing to worry about. We have -- due diligently moving forward and you will see results and moving in the right direction.

Commissioner Center said, and let me -- I was --

Chairman Scott said, I don't -- I don't think Commissioner -- I don't think Commissioner Center meant that, but I'll let him explain his comments. Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Holmes said, he may not have meant that, but he said be particular who you put and serve on a board.

Commissioner Center said, right. And -- and -- and -- and most of that means for the people appointed who they appoint also. I said I don't want to sound accusatory or blame, I -- and what you said, is basically what I wanted to hear. I want to reassure the public --

Commissioner Holmes said, then you should ask.

Commissioner Center said, -- I understand.

Commissioner Holmes said, not publicly. You should have asked.

Commissioner Center said, I just want to reassure the public. Well, if I -- I apologize if I sounded like I was attacking you because I was not. But I want to reassure the public that we have capable people that -- that are

on it. I have those questions too, and -- I think if I had them other people would have them, and they don't have the forum to let everybody hear the answers, and that's all I wanted to do was -- was -- was communicate to the public the questions I had.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, Mr. Chairman I don't --

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Manager.

Commissioner Brady said, I --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, my -- and my question is -- is to our Board members who sit on that Board, when -- I mean CAT's audited right?

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, sure.

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner Brady said, when was the last audit they had. Do you all know?

Commissioner Holmes said, we are not typically advised about that.

County Manager Smith said, June -- yeah, for June --

Chairman Scott said, hold on a second. Hold on a second. We'll --

Assistant County Manager Linda Cramer said, they're in a audit right now for this year, but their audit for June 30, 2015.

County Manager Smith said, it's the same process that we follow.

Commissioner Brady said, okay. Okay. I just wanted to know.

County Manager Smith said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, the next one will be June 30, 2015.

County Attorney Hart said, some -- something -- something you need to remember about audits and never lose sight of is audits can audit what they know and what's on the books and in the accounts and if people were playing with the budget, and if people are shorting accounts or moving money around, but if people are taking secret bribes, and I'm not saying they are, that are off the books, there's no way an auditor is going to know that.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

County Attorney Hart said, there's no way somebody's going to know in an audit if the clerk of court opens five accounts that nobody knows about and is running money through those accounts independent of the audit status. We can audit what we know. We don't audit what we don't know.

Commissioner Thomas said, exactly.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

County Manager Smith said, but I will say this, Mr. Chairman, in internal audit, you know, we're in the process, you know, Roy Hinely's retiring. We're looking at bringing someone in that's got, you know, almost to the level of forensic auditing, and that's, you know -- we put together with internal audit a list of, and this is where we're looking to expand that department slightly over the next couple of years where they have regular internal audits, and like Jon [Hart] said, when you do the external audit, those are tests of different things and processes, but we'll take, and if we hear anything from employees, and we encourage the employees, if you hear, call us, because we want regular -- now I don't want this to be witch hunts, and sometimes you turn internal audit departments into witch hunts. That is not appropriate. You do it to look at processes so that we -- and we look at all the processes so that we can avoid where people can be dishonest. You can't make people honest. I think my grandmomma said it, a lot was for an honest person. So we can only -- as Jon said, audit what we audit.

County Manager Smith said, I do want to mention this, in the Metro agreement, we agreed to pay for, and right now, we've got the RFP going out on the process. We are going to do a separate audit. The city said, well we have an external auditor of Metro, and I went, that's great. And Linda [Cramer] and I negotiated and said, we'll pay for one, and we put it in the agreement. We want a financial audit of Metro before we get in. We want to see -- 'cause earlier -- and Dean [Kicklighter] made a good point, where does the money go? Several of you said it. We want to know that. So we're actually going to do a financial audit before we do that two-year final agreement. I have to have that or in good conscience, I could never say, stay in Metro. So what I'm telling you is -- is we're moving into that, we're changing, you're seeing some things come to light, but we've -- we've got to go do discovery so when we hear it -- and some of it's even from you guys, you and the citizens, we go check it out. So we just ask people to inform us.

Chairman Scott said, and the other thing that -- that you need to understand, that you approved this, but when our audit staff went over to the Probate Court and came back --

County Manager Smith said, yep.

Chairman Scott said, -- and said there are too many irregularities here that I can't get to the bottom of it.

County Manager Smith said, we need help.

Chairman Scott said, that we need a forensic auditor in here.

County Manager Smith said, right.

Chairman Scott said, and you all approved the funds to hire one, and that's how we discovered those accounts.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, we knew that there was something missing there. We couldn't figure out what, and we spent additional money. Quite a bit of money really, to get to the bottom of it. So those safeguards are in place. At this point I need a motion for an executive session --

Commissioner Center said, I move --

Chairman Scott said, -- for legal and property -- real estate.

County Manager Smith said, real estate.

Commissioner Center said, I move we recess to executive session for litigation and real estate purposes.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. And I again will state we'll have a discussion of legislative priorities after the -- after the -- after the executive session. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

The Board recessed at approximately 12:33 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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2. SETTLEMENT OF CASES

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve the settlement of the Michael Brown condemnations. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.

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

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION