

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016, 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 9:28 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2016.

Chairman Scott said, good morning and welcome. You may be seated, and I'll ask that you remain seated until such time our devotional leader indicates it's time for prayer. And if you would at that time please re-stand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance. We will be led into the Pledge of Allegiance this morning by the Commissioner from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Commissioner Center. I will also ask at this time, if you have cell phones, please turn them off, put them on vibrate. We have the high Sheriff in the house, who will confiscate your phone.

Sheriff John Wilcher said, I just turned mine on vibrate.

Chairman Scott said, please comply.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Scott said, it is a pleasure this morning to welcome and to have with us Rabbi Robert Haas. He is a native of Texas. He is over the congregation Mickve Israel as the fourteenth spiritual leader. He has been in Savannah since 2012. But when I was reading about the Rabbi, what was so impressive was his work with so many different groups. He spent considerable time in Africa. He also work with youth in this community, and he has a continued commitment to personal education and growth, and I don't know if he wants me to mention this, but he is also a newlywed.

Commissioner Center said, you did mention it.

Chairman Scott said, and I won't -- I won't belabor it by reading his entire bio, but I can assure you that it's quite impressive, and it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to have him here to share with us whatever words he wishes and to lead us in prayer. At this time I recognize Rabbi Robert Haas.

Rabbi Robert Haas said, thank you. It's a pleasure to be here. Thank you for all you do. I was asked to give a brief devotional, so I'll do it from a Jewish perspective, because as you probably figured out, I am Jewish. In Judaism we have a word called Mitzvah. You may have heard Mitzvah. To some it means good deed, but in Judaism Mitzvah actually means something a little bit more essential. Mitzvah actually means commandment. We as a Jewish people are a people of law, and we believe we are commanded by God to do good deeds. Let me explain this further. When they were creating the modern Hebrew language, they had to invent a new word for the modern day because this word does not actually appear in any other ancient or any type of Hebrew that was created before the last century, and that word is volunteer. There is no word volunteer in the Hebrew language. Why? Because there is an expectation placed upon us. It is a commandment. In other words, we do not volunteer, we are obligated to help those in need. We as human beings are allowed to choose how we help other people, but it is not a choice as to whether we should do it or not. In other words, we are obligated to go out into the community and make the world better. So as I come here before all of you, I thank you for all you do as public officials, but I want to remind all of us out here that as Americans, it is incumbent on us to help our public officials make this country better, to help our public officials make our county and our communities better by giving of our time. So thank you for all you do. I'm now going to invite everyone to please rise.

Rabbi Haas gave the invocation as follows:

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank you for the privilege of living in this wonderful country we call America. We thank you for the opportunity to vote for those who will lead us. We thank you for all they do to make our county the best county it can be. We also thank you for the opportunities we have as human beings to go out there and assist them. We understand it is their obligation as it is ours to make our community better. They as public officials, us as volunteers in our community. We thank you for the privilege of living in this wonderful place we call Chatham County, and for the opportunities to make it even better. Amen.

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

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### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Center said, please join me.

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

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### **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Chairman Scott said, thank you for being here. And we are not allowed to compensate you but we wanted to present you with a certificate of appreciation. And you really deserve two of these certificates. I just found out you now have a new member. I will ask that he join me.

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### **IV. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Scott said, the Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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

Not Present:         Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight

Chairman Scott said, at this time I recognize the Commissioner from the 5<sup>th</sup> District, Commissioner Shabazz, for the purpose of making a motion.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I make a motion that we excuse Commissioner, Dr. Priscilla Thomas, today.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that we excuse Commissioner Thomas from these proceedings. She is ill this morning. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Dr. Thomas is excused.

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

Commissioner Shabazz moved to excuse Commissioner Thomas from the Commission meeting. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW**

Chairman Scott said, per our public notice in the legal organ of the county, ladies and gentlemen, we are required to hold a public hearing in compliance with State law relative to the county's proposed fiscal year 2017 budget. We will discuss the budget with the various funds. When you entered the room, there should have been a sign up sheet for those who were here to comment on the budget. The sign in sheet will be given to me, and I will call on those as -- as listed on the sign in sheet to make any comments or requests that they may have of this Commission. I will tell you that we will limit your remarks to five minutes, and if there are more than one person speaking on the same subject matter, I would appreciate it if you try not to be redundant, because we

have, according to the list, roughly nine people who wish to speak, and we would like to make certain that everybody have a chance to be heard, and we would ask that you be as brief and as concise as possible. And with that, we will -- we are now -- open the public hearing.

[NOTE: The Public Hearing was opened at 9:38 a.m.]

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Manager, do you --

County Manager Lee Smith said, I do want to make one comment. It -- it appeared in some of the media last night that with the budget that there was a -- an increase in millage. There is no millage increase in the Special Service District nor in the M&O General Fund. Both -- one is at 11.543 mills, which is the -- the General Fund remains the same, and 4.13 mills in the Special Service District, SSD. So there is no increase. I don't -- some of that is the language by which the State of Georgia requires you to list it, and the Assessors did that. But, there is no increase.

Chairman Scott said, we -- we will have hearings on the millage increase with the budget as proposed. There is no millage increase that's being recommended by staff. However, that will have to be voted on by the members of this Commission.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, and at this time, Mr. Manager, are you or anybody else from the finance want to say anything else about the budget before we start recognizing the members of the audience.

County Manager Smith said, no, the only thing is we do have hearings coming up as listed in the agenda, and we also have a workshop with the Board on the 16<sup>th</sup> to talk about specifics to the budget, where if you hear things today or in a public hearing, we can address those at that time.

Chairman Scott said, okay. And when I call on you, if you would please give your name and -- and -- and your address, and if you're representing a specific group, would you please, for the purpose and benefits of the members of the Commission, as well as the audience, what organization you're representing. And at this time we're going to start with Ms. Belton.

Ms. Kathleen Benton said, Benton.

Chairman Scott said, oh, it's Benton. I -- I -- it looks like an L, but it's Benton.

Ms. Benton said, that's okay.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Ms. Benton said, I don't have the best handwriting. It's not your fault. Thank you so much for having us. I am Kathleen Benton, and I'm representing the Isle of Hope community, that you will see back in the corner over here, including two of my three children under the age of six. We will hope for the best on their behavior today. What I'm requesting today is now an unfunded CIP for the improvement of our park. I played on the same Isle of Hope park that is now in existence because the same equipment has been there for decades. Over the last year and a half our community efforts have been strong as we have asked that you hear what we have done to try and make our park better to work in collaboration with the county. Though it is a county park, we would like this to be a joint community venture because we do know that we have ownership in this park as well.

Ms. Benton said, the equipment is old. It is hazardous. It is rusted over, and it is unsafe for our children. I am also the sister of a boy who is now 29 who has the same disease as the elephant man, so I do know the special needs of our children, and I know that our park is not inclusive of kids who want to play who are handicapped. I would like to make that improvement as well. So essentially, we are asking that you fund this request knowing that we will make this a joint collaboration. We have worked with the county to do a utilization survey to prove the use of the park, though I know it will be even ever increased if the equipment is safer for young children.

Ms. Benton said, we have done an awareness campaign. We even did a joint Christmas tree lighting with the County just to raise awareness about how we need to work together in collaboration. We have also developed a fund that the county has set up for us called the Isle of Hope Park Fund where we have raised our own money, pledges and dollars, almost to the amount of 10,000 at this point so that we know that not only do we need to put in the sweat equity but also the dollars to make this a collaborative effort. I've also asked for volunteers in the community to be willing to donate sweat equity, including concrete, supplies, and help in constructing this -- this park. We have a petition with hundreds of names. The community is jointly in favor of preserving the beauty in Isle of Hope and keeping all the equipment that is considered safe but please replacing that which will make it more of a haven for our children so that they do the right thing, their well-being, their livelihood as children is considered. Children in parks, children that have places to go, do better, and right now Isle of Hope needs major improvement. We have asked for this for many years, but I will say we have not been as persistent, and we have not been willing to give the efforts and now we are.

Ms. Benton said, I had a baby two years ago and started this effort. So with a third child, this has been a huge task to take on, meetings and committee raising and awareness raising, but we've done it because we know it's important. I know there are lots of parks out there to fund, but I also know they're not all with a community behind them to help this funding, and that's why I say our park is different. There are a lot of people that use our park outside the Isle of Hope area, and it would benefit those of multiple -- multiple cultures and multiple socioeconomic status. It is with that -- this I -- I make this request. I thank you for your time and -- and know that we appreciate your strong consideration.

Chairman Scott said, Ms. Benton, before you leave, I want to see if there's any members of the Commission have any questions for you, and I see one hand from Commissioner Stone of the 1<sup>st</sup> District.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I do not have a question, but I have a comment, if -- if that's all right.

Chairman Scott said, does anybody have a question of Ms. Benton?

Commissioner Center said, if I may? Hi.

Ms. Benton said, hi.

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner -- Commissioner Center and Commissioner Holmes in that order.

Commissioner Center said, how much are you requesting?

Ms. Benton said, we've gotten two separate bids, but right now the lower bid is at \$60,000, and what we have told Commissioner Stone is that we will supplement any portion that you cannot raise, but we are requesting the \$60,000 at a max if possible.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Commissioner Holmes said, what is the size of this park?

Ms. Benton said, the park is about a half an acre of land. We were able to meet -- we've been working jointly with Stephen Proper and Lee Smith, who have both come out to survey the park and see how can we maximize the area with as -- as -- you know, as much equipment as possible in this smaller -- it's a smaller park.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, those -- those were my questions.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Ms. Benton, thank you so much. She doesn't have a question of you. I recognize Commissioner Stone from the 1<sup>st</sup> for comment on the same subject matter.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated when we were discussing the budget earlier, we have parks all over -- through this community, and this is an area that we do not have a park for the young folks to use, and I think that we need to look to have parks and recreation throughout the county, and this is one area that has been neglected, and these folks really have stepped up to the plate to try to raise their own money and to try to create awareness for the need of this park within their community and the sort -- the surrounding communities. But there are two areas out near that particular part of Chatham County that do not have recreation facilities, and I think that we really need to address those, so thank you very much.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Next we have what looks like Joe Buck, and I saw the name, and I didn't see Joe Buck around here, but I didn't know if there was more than one.

Dr. Joe Buck said, there's not but -- well, there's actually five, but thank you very much. My name is Joe Buck, and I am the executive champion for Savannah Graduates, and I'm here this morning to make a request for -- for the new budget to help us as we continue this community-wide initiative. Lumina Foundation came to Savannah a year and a half, two years ago and asked that we become the 39<sup>th</sup> city in the country to be a part of this initiative. The initiative itself has to do with workforce development and making certain that young people are ready for the next step in their lives. Statistics across the nation show that by the year 2025 that we need to have 60 percent of our citizens with something beyond high school. In Savannah-Chatham today that is 39 percent that have something beyond high school.

Dr. Buck said, Savannah Graduates was chartered in 2015 and it was signed by 13 different agencies across the county, including the County of Chatham. Since the beginning we have worked very, very closely with the Coastal Indicators Coalition, which you had commissioned to come up with -- with a blue print for the future for Chatham County. We have sponsored activities; we've attended meetings with the coalition and have worked hard to do what we could do to actually impact the Coastal Indicators Coalition. We have held financial aid form workshops for parents and students. We have worked to get financial literacy in our schools. We have -- one of the banks that gave a financial literacy package into all of our high schools, and we've worked closely with

Junior Achievement. Today I'm asking your assistance for a meaningful new pilot, and I want to say that again, it is a pilot that we are trying -- that we believe will work. If it works, then we would ask that others come forth and be a part of it.

Dr. Buck said, this is a -- a -- a near peer career advisement program for three of our high schools. We interviewed most of the -- the principals in the school district, went to the principals and said, if you had your wishes, what would be the number one thing that could help you help your students? And they asked for near peer advisors that could help their kids determine their next career path. You can quickly say, well, we have counselors in the schools. We have one counselor for every 820 kids, and so there's a -- a real shortage of -- of licensed counselors, and obviously, you know they're caught up in other things. After interviewing, we chose three different schools in the county system, one, Jenkins; one, Groves; and one, Windsor Forest. We a -- we appeared -- in talking with the -- the principals, those students in those schools needed us the most. We are asking is hiring quick, recent graduates, who will be advisors to be fully trained, to be fully integrated into the life of the school with the principal and with the -- the counselors. They will provide high touch support for these students and their families. I can't emphasize the family part enough because your Coastal Indicators' blue print shows that there's a -- a huge lack of involvement with parents most of the time because they don't know what to do next to help their children. They will work with community organizations and work in unison with those programs that are already in -- in operation.

Dr. Buck said, the near peers will work with a cohort of 50 plus students in those three schools, 50 plus students that have been -- have been identified by the principal and by the teachers. We're also working closely with the Summer 500 program and with the Savannah Pre-Apprenticeship program and trying to tie in the students that are apprenticeships this summer and in the Summer 500 program to move them continually through the program. We are also asking that students and their parents will sign a contract that will show us, very much like student leadership program does with Gulfstream that will show their interest and help us to help them do a better job. Our assessment team is made up of data experts from SEDA, from Armstrong, from the Coastal Indicators Coalition, from the Savannah-Chatham Public Schools, and the three principals. We expect higher expectations to come out of this from the students, reduced numbers of expelled and in-school and out of school suspended students, increased numbers of students taking the college entrance exams, and greater numbers of students going directly into some sort of post-secondary, apprentice or education program.

Dr. Buck said, the budget -- a -- a total budget of \$146,000 is needed in direct support. The three near peers are budgeted at 25,000 plus benefits. Complimentary housing is being provided at Armstrong as an added incentive for these three near peers. The three individ -- institutions, Savannah State, Savannah Tech, and Armstrong, have all indicated a willingness to support the program at \$20,000 each. The Savannah-Chatham School Board has \$20,000 in their budget for next year, although that has not been approved yet. We're asking the City for 20,000 and SEDA for a like amount. And so I am here today to ask that the county consider \$20,000 also. Mr. Smith and Ms. Cramer have been involved with Savannah Graduates since the beginning and are very aware of the time and the research that have gone into this request. I'll be happy to answer any questions. Yes?

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

Commissioner Holmes said, Dr. Buck, how -- how many student are you all planning on serving?

Dr. Buck said, we're -- in each of the three it would be at least 50. Fifty or more.

Commissioner Holmes said, 50 or more from each school?

Dr. Buck said, from each of those three schools, Windsor, Jenkins and Groves. And if you -- just to answer that further, if you look at our school district, Woodville Tompkins is well taken care of. Islands, Savannah Arts, but the three that have the most need right now, and really, honestly, the most interest from the principals, are Windsor and Jenkins and -- and Groves.

Commissioner Holmes said, and how did you do your assessment on that?

Dr. Buck said, we interviewed most of the principals. Seven -- eight of the eleven and picked those three after talking to the principals. The school district did not make that decision for us.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, we have Commissioner Shabazz from the 5<sup>th</sup> have a question and Commissioner Brady from the 6<sup>th</sup>. In that order, please.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning, Dr. Buck.

Dr. Buck said, good morning, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, who you representing?

Dr. Buck said, Savannah Graduates. It's a national -- Lumina has sponsored this initiative. They came to Savannah and asked us to participate and Lumina is all about access and graduation, and we were chartered in -- two years ago at a kick off event and committees and folks in the community have been working ever since.

Commissioner Shabazz said, my next question was what are you asking for, but you told us \$20,000 from county government, and the -- the schools that you chose are Jenkins, Groves and Windsor Forest?

Dr. Buck said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and you say they are -- it's based on the most need?

Dr. Buck said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Dr. Buck said, I mean, if you look at Johnson, we looked at them. They seem to have a real handle on what they are already doing. We looked at Beach. Beach has already got a similar program going as part of their development. It actually is a federally funded program from Savannah State, but they bring people in all day every day to help with those students, and so, New Hampstead, was one of the others that we considered, but we thought those three were the best.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and so you -- you made this assessment based on interviewing the principals?

Dr. Buck said, and Dr. Levette, the deputy assistant superintendent -- deputy superintendent.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. What -- what -- what is the end result that you're looking for?

Dr. Buck said, the end result would be as I said, less students being suspended. Our graduation rate is good. We still have too many students that don't have anything to do when they graduate and college is not the ultimate answer for lots of those students. The military, apprenticeship programs, technical programs, whatever it might be, but students really don't know enough to know how to approach those avenues.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Brady said, good morning, Dr. Buck.

Dr. Buck said, good morning, Ms. Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, I appreciate your work in -- involving educating students. My question is and -- and -- and all of us should be thinking of this, all the governments that would contribute to this, would this be considered an ongoing request on an annual basis?

Dr. Buck said, what -- what we have asked for this year is a pilot study. If it works like we think it will work, we will come out into the community and ask for additional funds and perhaps would come back for money next year to ultimately have it in as -- as many schools as we could, but we are trying to meet the most critical need right now, and so that's why we've -- but this is a pilot. This is not -- at this point I couldn't tell you that we would definitely be back next year asking for money.

Commissioner Brady said, have y'all looked at any possible grants?

Dr. Buck said, yes. We are looking at -- we're working with grant proposals. Lumina is good. Lumina is an extremely good foundation, but they give you great resources in terms of technology and things like that. They don't give you much money. They assume that you and your community are going to ask for that money. If you look at Savannah Graduates as part of the Lumina Foundation, Louisville, Kentucky was the first city to try this. They are six years into the program and have had great success with it, trying to get that number -- like they were about the 39 percent too. It's a little frightening when you hear that 60 percent of our folks by 2025 are going to need something beyond high school, and we're right now, 2016 at 39 percent. So.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you, Dr. Buck.

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

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Dr. Buck said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Buck, I really commend you and have been concerned about work force development as you know for quite some time. I guess my concern really at this point is coming to the county, we're trying to keep our millage flat, and we have a lot of state mandates, a lot of people in the community

making requests. The School Board has a very large budget. They are now considering another millage increase. You've got E-SPLIST. I'm just curious to why they wouldn't be able to -- to absorb the entire cost of this?

Dr. Buck said, I can no longer school -- speak for the School Board, but I would tell you that they basically have said the same thing you are saying, that they have lots of requests, and as a pilot, they could, in essence, do their part, but that they're -- excuse me, they're not prepared to assume the whole --

Commissioner Stone said, but this strictly falls under their mandates for graduation and that kind of thing, so I'm just -- it -- it's not a -- it's not a criticism --

Dr. Buck said, no, I understand.

Commissioner Stone said, it's an observation --

Dr. Buck said, no.

Commissioner Stone said, -- simply because of the number of burdens that are put on our budget. I'm -- I'm just asking the question why this would not fall exclusively under the school's budget.

Dr. Buck said, well, I -- I guess a -- a broader answer would also be that the Coastal indicators' Coalition blue print that you folks are now working with talks about the community and not just the education, and that's one of the reasons in here that we're asking SEDA for 20,000; that we're asking the city for 20, because we think it's broad enough. So with 13 entities that signed the charter for Savannah Graduates in February of 2015, and Chatham County was one of those, we have not asked Chatham County for anything since, but we need it now. So.

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

Commissioner Center said, Dr. Buck, good morning.

Dr. Buck said, good morning.

Commissioner Center said, are you also asking the other seven municipalities in addition to Savannah to contribute or just Savannah?

Dr. Buck said, we have not asked them for anything, right.

Commissioner Center said, just an idea, also.

Dr. Buck said, thank you, sir. I'm -- I'm willing to ask anybody.

Commissioner Center said, well, it -- it -- it's a county-wide program.

Dr. Buck said, no, you're right. Sure.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just kind of want to echo what Commissioner Stone said. I think it's a great program, but it is an education program, and basically, this triple dips on the City of Savannah's residents. They pay Savannah City taxes, Board of Education taxes, and then if this is approved, they're paying it once again through the County, so that's it.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but great job, and you need the money, I know, but -- but I -- I think it would be best served through the education -- through the Board of Education also.

Chairman Scott said, there are no further questions, Dr. Buck. Thank you.

Dr. Buck said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, the next person who's requested to speak is Mr. Varnedoe.

Mr. Gordon Varnedoe said, good morning. I'm Gordon Varnedoe, representing the Coastal Jazz Association and the Savannah Jazz Festival, and I started with this organization last year, and I came to Chairman Scott and asked for some funding, but it was August, and he said, you're too late. He said you've got to start earlier, and our year cuts off July 1<sup>st</sup>. So I started earlier, and several months ago wrote a letter requesting funding for our festival and copied all the Commissioners, copied the County Manager, the person in charge of finance.

Mr. Varnedoe said, what we're asking for is \$50,000 to supplement what the City gives us of \$50,000, and what we raise ourselves of \$50,000, so this would be a three-way partnership, and the feeling is that this festival

provides one of the greatest opportunities for unity in this community. It is an event that is free and open to all members of Chatham County, and people come, and pack the entire Forsyth Park from the stage all the way to the tennis courts. All ages, religions, sexes, races, it is an all-inclusive event, and one of the -- probably one of the best unifers we have in the community. We've been doing this for 35 years, and like everything, the costs keep increasing. The cost of sound and lighting, the cost of security, the cost of portable toilets. All that keeps going up, so in order for us to keep a quality event for our community, we would like to get funding from the -- Chatham County to help us in that regard.

Mr. Varnedoe said, the importance of cultural events in the community adds to the quality of life as well, and I looked at the budget, and this is something that Chatham County needs to begin to recognize and help us with these cult -- cultural events. I would consider this partnership to be an investment in the community, and I request that you consider \$50,000 to go for our Savannah Jazz Festival. Any questions?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner --

Mr. Varnedoe said, and Mr. Chairman, I'm well under five minutes.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner from the 5<sup>th</sup> District has a question.

Mr. Varnedoe said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Shabazz.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning, sir. Good morning.

Mr. Varnedoe said, good morning, Commissioner Shabazz.

Commissioner Shabazz said, how long has the Savannah Jazz Festival been in existence?

Mr. Varnedoe said, 35 years.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and all of the events -- how many days does the festival --

Mr. Varnedoe said, goes all week. It goes for a week.

Commissioner Shabazz said, a week?

Mr. Varnedoe said, but -- but it concludes at Forsyth Park. That's the finale. That's the biggest event.

Commissioner Shabazz said, so, all of the festivities, are they free to the public?

Mr. Varnedoe said, they are all free and open to the public, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Have you ever considered charging or a ticket charge? A door charge?

Mr. Varnedoe said, well, our arrangement with Coastal Affairs with the City, they give us a grant of \$50,000, which tends to prohibit or inhibit the charging of admission.

Commissioner Shabazz said, well, what about --

Mr. Varnedoe said, also, in my opinion, that would be very difficult to charge admission to an event in Forsyth Park.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. That's -- that's another question I have. The event in Forsyth Park can be a free event, but there are other venues that you can use to charge, is that right?

Mr. Varnedoe said, there would be, but this is obviously, the sort of center piece of Savannah and it has a stage already built, so there'd be no cost of building a stage. The area is just -- it really is perfect for a -- for a jazz festival. So I don't think we have considered -- and -- and most of the people who come to it, I think would be very disappointed if we moved to another place, such as Grayson Stadium or -- or something like that.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I'm -- I'm not asking that the Savannah Jazz Festival move from Forsyth Park, what I'm saying in addition to the event in the park, the free event in the park, I think that the Savannah Jazz organization should try to look at other places to hold a venue -- hold a event.

Mr. Varnedoe said, right.

Commissioner Shabazz said, where you can have -- charge to defray the costs --

Mr. Varnedoe said, correct.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- of putting on this event.

Mr. Varnedoe said, yep.

Commissioner Shabazz said, the whole event because the reason -- one of the reasons why I say that is the Savannah Music Festival.

Mr. Varnedoe said, yes.

Commissioner Shabazz said, they charge and -- and they get tremendous turnout.

Mr. Varnedoe said, correct.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and they have big names that come through Savannah.

Mr. Varnedoe said, correct.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and I think that with you being in existence for this long--

Mr. Varnedoe said right.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- that you can attract big names as well, but you don't have to -- you have to pay those individuals, and -- and Savannah will rise to the occasion, I think.

Mr. Varnedoe said, right. I -- I can speak to that, in that we are a non-profit organization.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Mr. Varnedoe said, and we have all volunteer staff. Savannah Music Festival has a factory of people turning out -- on salaries to turn out the event and produce an amazing brochure, and they are a great part of Savannah. They truly are, but we are a non-profit organization trying to do the best we can. And the thing also that is true about this is that our festival is in the fall and the music festival is in the spring, so the two things do help the community in both -- both directions.

Commissioner Shabazz said, that was just a suggestion, sir.

Mr. Varnedoe said, okay. I'll -- I'll take that.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner --

Mr. Varnedoe said, I'll take it back to the board.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you very much.

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

Commissioner Holmes said, good morning.

Mr. Varnedoe said, good morning, Coach.

Commissioner Holmes said, I attend that festival every year, and every year I come to it, I enjoy it. Not knowing how it have grown over the last ten years, but in the last of couple years, how many youth that y'all had involved were participated in the jazz?

Mr. Varnedoe said, excuse me now. Repeat the question.

Commissioner Holmes said, the youth

Mr. Varnedoe said, young people.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes. Didn't y'all add a young group?

Mr. Varnedoe said, yes. We actually give scholarships to young people.

Commissioner Holmes said, and --

Mr. Varnedoe said, with -- with some of the sur -- surplus we raised selling t-shirts, selling beer --

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Varnedoe said, all the money that we, ourselves, raised in addition to the grant from the City.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Varnedoe said, we give scholarships and we teach youth people and -- and there is to kick off the festival three high school bands that play to start the festival, not in Forsyth park but at other venues.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. That -- that's where I was going to.

Mr. Varnedoe said, correct.

Commissioner Holmes said, is -- I think any time --

Mr. Varnedoe said, South Effingham -- I think I know that ones that are coming this year, South Effingham and maybe the Arts Academy --

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Varnedoe said, and one other one that they talked about at the board meeting, but there are three high school bands, local high school bands.

Commissioner Holmes said, but you did have a -- a -- a -- a young jazz group that performed.

Mr. Varnedoe said, yes, correct.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Mr. Varnedoe said, yep, and we encourage that. That's where the future is.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you.

Mr. Varnedoe said, all right. Okay.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, Mr. Varnedoe.

Mr. Varnedoe said, I have been known to add humor to most of my events, so here it is.

Chairman Scott said, this is a very -- this --

Mr. Varnedoe said, did you hear about the kidnaping?

Chairman Scott said, this -- this is a very serious -- this is a very serious event here, Mr. Varnedoe.

Mr. Varnedoe said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Next we have, Mr. William Griffin.

Mr. William Griffin said, no comments. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Griffin passes. Next on the list if Mr. Paul Fisher.

Mr. Paul Fisher said, good morning all. I'm Paul Fisher, 9 Calico Crab Retreat here in Savannah, and I'm representing the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation. Most of you probably recognize that we've been in front of this august body before, and you might recall that the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation has launched an endeavor. First it's driven by the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs of Savannah, and they've launched an endeavor that aimed at breaking the cycle of crime and poverty in our community within a generation. We don't deal with crime or poverty, per se, but our three years of research led us to focus on what is the root cause, and the root cause and the program is designed to enhance parenting skills for parents of children birth to three, and birth to three is a very important stage of life because all the science suggests that that's where the vast majority of brain development occurs.

Mr. Fisher said, so without healthy environments at that stage of life, children simply aren't prepared for child centric models that they attend later, like pre-k, kindergarten and school. Since we last met, the community blue print has been finalized. I appreciate all of your hard work and others in the community. I think it's a fine, visionary, strategic document, and -- and it serves us all well to -- to follow its guidance. We're prominently represented in the blue print. You might -- it might be intuitive to think that in the educational pillar is where we're represented most. Goal one, as a matter of fact, describes Early Learning College. I -- I -- I forgot to save it, the endeavor partners with Michael O'Neal and Parent University, and with -- with his help we designed a special module for the parent enhancement skills of children -- or parents of children birth to three called Early Learning College.

Mr. Fisher said, so in goal one, Early Learning College is described and the content that the blue print suggests is indeed delivered and more in the early learning college sessions. Goal two refers to Early Learning College again. Goal three states as a matter of fact the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation goal, and that is all children prepared for school, and we even have that goal of ours in our strategic plan and captured in our logo. So, we track very well the strategic -- vision, the strategic vision of the educational pillar.

Mr. Fisher said, we're also represented in the health pillar. The doctors of the Children's Hospital at Memorial teach classes in Early Learning College, professionals from the regional public health district, and county extension from UGA also provide health content and teaching at Early Learning College. And the quality of life pillar, we're trying to enhance parents' ability to create safe, nurturing, language-rich environments for the youngest, for the infants and toddlers, and at full buildout our intent is to offer Early Learning College in nine neighborhoods in Savannah of the most need. As parents learn how to create safe, nurturing, language-rich environments in their home, we expect to have a response from parents in each neighborhood where we actually would reach what we call critical mass of a number of parents that actually would work together to create safe, nurturing, language-rich environments in their neighborhoods, extrapolate from the home to the neighborhood and improve quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Mr. Fisher said, and we're even represented in the economy pillar because the idea is to break the cycle of crime and poverty through a better educated workforce. We're in the launch and expand mode now. We're in three neighborhoods today. We've had 480 parents attend Early Learning College sessions in those three neighborhoods to date. The response from parents has been so overwhelming that we are building -- trying to build capacity to accommodate 2,000 to 2500 parents each year. So 480 parents in three years, to 2,000, 2500 every year in those nine neighborhoods. Since our inception we've raised \$500,000 to pay for it, because all of this is free to parents. Eighty percent of that half a million dollars has been raised by the private sector. We are in the budget for the second year with the City. They've contributed -- and we've affirmed that we're in so far in the school budget for the second year, and we are here to make a request for consideration from the County Commissioners for \$50,000 to invest in this community changing endeavor, unless, of course, you chose to invest more money and help us accelerate this program even more. So with that, I would open to questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Fisher, I do appreciate all the work that you do, and I believe I asked you this question last year, have you contacted Albert Grandy with the Curtis V. Cooper Foundation? They're doing a whole parenting class, and it would be great if some of this could be incorporated with their program, because they have a very captive audience of young people coming in, first time pregnancies. Because Chatham County has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the state and the third in the nation. So this is something that we really need to address from where the individuals are coming and seeking help.

Mr. Fisher said, the -- you're absolutely right. What -- what we're finding is that Michael O'Neal specifically because he has special credibility and trust with the parents that we serve has created an engagement with parents like we've not seen anywhere else in the community. In fact, community resources that already exist that have an offering for our parents, but feel that their offering is under utilized, are actually reaching out to us and using us as a portal through Early Learning College to reach parents. We have had some initial outreach to -- to Curtis [V. Cooper]. We have not succeeded in partnering yet, but that is in deed an -- an excellent program to stitch together with the endeavor that we have.

Commissioner Stone said, well, my concern is I asked this last year, and -- and I sit on that on that board, and I've seen what they're doing towards helping young people plan for children and take care of their children, and so I -- I think this is a huge missed opportunity here.

Mr. Fisher said, we should re-double our efforts there. Michael [O'Neal] is the one that reached out, so, yes. We will re-double our efforts.

Commissioner Stone said, I -- I'll be happy to assist in any way possible.

Mr. Fisher said, thank you very much.

Chairman Scott said, any further question? Commissioner Brady of the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Brady said, good morning.

Mr. Fisher said, good morning.

Commissioner Brady said, have you already identified the nine focus areas? Could you tell us what they are? I mean, the neighborhoods.

Mr. Fisher said, yes. There's lots of ways to define neighborhoods in Savannah.

Commissioner Brady said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Fisher said, we chose to use the boundaries of elementary schools.

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, so they are -- let's see if I can get them here. East Broad, Shuman, Spencer, Gadsden, Brock, Haven, Juliette E. Low. How many have I listed?

The Clerk said, that's seven.

Commissioner Brady said, I'm sorry. I wasn't counting.

Mr. Fisher said, I'm -- I'm coming -- I'm going from memory.

Commissioner Brady said, that -- that --

Mr. Fisher said, but it's kind of the contiguous area that surrounds --

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, -- historic Savannah.

Commissioner Brady said, okay. Thank you.

Mr. Fisher said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, the -- Commissioner Shabazz of the 5<sup>th</sup> District has a question.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning, sir.

Mr. Fisher said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, you mentioned something that kind of stuck out with me, you said the root causes of crime. In your estimation, what are those causes at?

Mr. Fisher said, what we're finding if you look at the assessments of the kindergarten classes in these elementary schools, for instance, is that we have a significantly high number of children that simply aren't ready for school, and the -- the brain development work that has been concluded over the last decades suggests that if a child is not born into a safe, nurturing, language-rich environment at home or in the neighborhood, brain development occurs that programs itself to be defensive, to being alert to danger, to being wary, distrustful, versus a safe, nurturing, language-rich environment would tend to have the brain program itself to be curious, to be outgoing, to want to learn. So at no fault of the child, and not because of lack of love with the parents, but simply lack of knowledge on -- on the parents' behalf, we find children living in these circumstances and simply are not ready for school.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. You mentioned the nine neighborhoods, and then you say currently today, you're in three neighborhoods.

Mr. Fisher said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz asked, what are those neighborhoods?

Mr. Fisher said, we are at East Broad, Shuman, and Brock.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Any reason why you chose those? What was the criteria for choosing the nine neighborhoods?

Mr. Fisher said, well, the nine neighborhoods represent the -- the contiguous geography where --

Commissioner Shabazz said, when you say contiguous?

Mr. Fisher said, well, they're -- they're all connected together. They're --

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, they're not outliers.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, like a spot over here and a spot over here.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, they're kind of the --

Commissioner Shabazz said, all right.

Mr. Fisher said, -- continual geography.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, where kindergarten school readiness data show the most need.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, we started with East Broad. That was a suggestion by the schools. By the time we were there the first year and started expanding, we had principals coming to us and parents coming to us and asking when are you bringing Early Learning College to my neighborhood? And after the second year, we responded directly to one of those requests and expanded to Brock.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Fisher said, but we are -- as money avails itself, we -- our plans are to expand to all nine.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you, sir.

Mr. Fisher said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions? I'll just mention one, does any of these parents live in Garden City, Port Wentworth, Pooler, Thunderbolt or Bloomingdale?

Mr. Fisher said, I can't tell you off the top of my head that it's true. We do have -- take detailed attendance records, so we could go back and check.

Chairman Scott said, would -- would you please?

Mr. Fisher said, likely not.

Chairman Scott said, would you please -- would you please look at it. In the advent of bussing, I suspect, they're coming from some place, and why is it the Parent U have not gone before the City Council's of those communities and tried to expand the program?

Mr. Fisher said, well, we're just in the launch stage. We know that there are pockets of need elsewhere than these nine neighborhoods, and as we expand and get the full build-out and have that opportunity, we will. We -- we -- not -- money is not the only issue. Human capital is an issue as well. We need to expand the number of people involved in putting on an Early Learning College. So it isn't just money. Until we get enough humans to offer Early Learning Colleges beyond these nine, likely we won't be able to, but our intention is to get wherever there is a need in the -- in the long run. But we're focused on these nine now.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Thank you.

Mr. Fisher said, mm-hmm. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we have a representative from Awwin? And rather than me messing up your name, would you please introduce yourself when you come forth. You've given us a P.O. box. If you live in Chatham County, would you please tell us where your organization or where you are located.

Ms. Sarahlyn Argrow said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Ms. Argrow said, to the County Chairman and count -- Commissioners. My name is Sarahlyn U. Argrow. I run a non-profit organization entitled Awwin, Inc., which was established here in Savannah, Georgia. We have been in existence for the last 16 years this August. We are an organization that assists single, working women and their children. We provide anything that you possibly think of. Our main focus is on professional development, which is work force development as well, and I have with me a couple of people, Destiny Bradshaw, who is a partner of ours, my bishop, who is a partner of ours, which is -- actually provides us office space in Pooler, Georgia, and then we have someone that needs to test -- give a testimony, a brief testimony as well.

Ms. Argrow said, we are asking for \$50,000 to expand our program and to keep it growing, and for the first time, to be able to have something to really start with before we begin our next session with the women. And when we look at the women that we're going to be servicing, we did a holiday 2016 -- 2015 on last year, so we already have the women in mind in which we will be supporting through this program as well.

Ms. Argrow said, and I think I did, if we did the 15 women, that would be 3,333 per woman, which is something -- it's not a very large amount of money to invest into any female that is the head of her household, and I can say I do know that it works because I am a product of that. I worked formerly for Chatham County, moved up from Chatham County to become the executive director of Awwin, Inc., but within that also became the EDI coordinator of Carson Products, which is L'oreal, USA. So I know that the program works again because I am a product of that. We assist women that have gone through domestic violence, women that have been put out of their doors, women that migrate to our communities as well, and I know again I am a product of domestic violence. I almost lost my life and three of my daughters' lives, so I know that there is a great need and if you

can give a woman a hand up versus a hand out, that is what Awwin exists for. So I'm going to let one of our past clients, Henrietta Williams, who is a 2002 graduate of the professional development, but because of Henrietta's tenacity, we were able to keep up with her and from time to time due to certain illness that she has, she has somewhat stepped back and has made a -- a u-turn in going back into poverty, but because we had some dollars and cents, we were able to assist her with her medicines, keeping her rent paid and different things, and today, I am proud to say that Henrietta will be graduating tomorrow with a Master's degree, and I'm just going to let her tell you a little something about what we've done in her life.

Ms. Henrietta Williams said, good morning everyone.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Ms. Williams said, my name is Henrietta William -- Henrietta Williams. I am a product of Awwin, Inc. I am an example of young women who wants to do better, not looking for a handout but we're looking for encouragement, which Sarahlyn Argrow has done for me and others. I have been -- I worked at -- all my life. I worked in the system of -- the public school system as a paraprofessional for 14 years. When I got to that stage in my life, I knew it was time it me for me to do more. I only had a high school education, and when I -- how I found out about Sarahlyn [Argrow] was by being home over the summer on vacation from the public school system, and she talked about helping me with her computer skills. At that time, my skill was very low on computer skills. I had the basics, but when I came into her program, I learned how to utilize the computer; I learned how to speak in front of an audience; I learned how to dress for success; I learned how to be encouraged by her teaching us that we can achieve where we are now, and by her help -- and with -- with her help and her organization, she and other agencies that work with her gave us the encouragement, knowledge, skill to be able to go out in the workforce and get better jobs.

Ms. Williams said, when I came through program, I had got no job, now and still is, I work at the Department of Juvenile Justice as a Administrative Assistant II. This is my 13<sup>th</sup> year working at the Department of Juvenile Justice. Now, while I'm still there at the Department of Juvenile Justice, I went back to college, through Sarahlyn [Argrow], I went to the meeting we had at the Mighty Eighth, and they were one of the top ten women was there, was speaking on her school, was St. Leo University, one of the advisors. After I gave my testimony to -- to the audience, she gave me a card and advised -- and invited me to come to her school. With her help, I came to the school -- took her advice, went to the school, learned about it, and got my degree in criminal justice, minor in psychology in 2013. Lord -- well, it was good, it helped me to learn more about my job and helping young people. I see them every day for 13 years at the Department of Juvenile Justice. Now, with that -- with that zeal and help with my education, I was allowed to go back to college at St. Leo University, and tomorrow I'm graduating with my Master's degree in criminal justice and minor in pub -- in legal studies. With her encouragement from time to time, even though I was sick -- when I was sick I could call her if I needed help. I ran out of leave when I was -- when I was out on sick. I'm a diabetic, and I had gotten sick and I used -- I used up all my leave that I have. I was off work for ten and a half months, and with her funding and her assistant -- I ran out of leave, and I needed help to continue to keep my bills and things going till I got back to work so I could continue to have my job when I got back. With her organization, it helped me -- helped me standing so I knew I had a job to go back to and to be able to achieve what I have achieved.

Ms. Williams said, there are a lot of people that wants to go on, but when you don't have no one to encourage you, thinking that you are at a standing point, and you realize that there's more out there if you really want it, but when you got other organizations like hers that help you, assist you along, to give you the zeal to keep on going knowing what you can achieve, I am proud of myself and for others that I -- I am around that you can succeed. I went back to college -- I went to college at age of 47, and I got finished with my minor in three and a half year 'cause I -- once I got there I knew there was so much more I could gain at that age, but tomorrow, I am proud to say that I will be graduating with my Master's at St. Leo University, and the program has really and still is -- helped me with food, shelter and with -- even with Christmas time when I couldn't afford to buy my daughter no Christmas. She will hook you up with families who will help you to have a simple Christmas holiday. She will go way out and beyond, and I -- I am a product of her organization. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Ms. Argrow said, thank you, Henrietta [Williams]. She may have to leave before we complete it because she has graduation practice as well. Also, we have Ms. Zandrea Brown --

Chairman Scott said, you --

Ms. Argrow said, who is a more recent --

Chairman Scott said, -- you don't -- you -- you only have one minute left.

Ms. Argrow said, okay. Well, we'll do one minute with Ms. Zandrea.

Ms. Zandrea Brown said, hello. I'm Zandrea Brown. I'm also a product of Awwin. I graduated in 2013 with my Master's degree in Business Administration and all the community ties that are here that are supposed to help new graduates enter the workforce, nothing had helped me until I met Sarahlyn Argrow with Alwin -- Awwin. And with meeting her, and the community ties that she has and the funds that she has, she has not only helped me as a working woman, single parent, maintain my bills, working three jobs and still not making ends meet,

with her ties to the community and her funding, I was able now to get a district manager position at Savannah Morning News.

Commissioner Shabazz said, all right. Very good.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any --

Commissioner Holmes said, may I --

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Any members of the Commission have any questions? Commissioner Holmes of the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Holmes said, congratulation on your --

Chairman Scott said, his questions is not included in your time. So you --

Ms. Argrow said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, how long y'all been in exist?

Ms. Argrow said, it will be 16 years this August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Holmes said, and do you have any pamphlets? Any handout?

Ms. Argrow said, no, sir, I don't have any handouts today, but we do have a website.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Ms. Argrow said, which is A-W-W-I-N dot O -- dot O-R-G -- dot org, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Holmes said, A what?

Ms. Argrow said, A-W-W-I-N dot O-R-G. We save the paper now.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. All right. Thank you.

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

Commissioner Shabazz said, I don't have a question, I just want to congratulate you and tell you to keep up the good work.

Ms. Argrow said, thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, it's amazing. It's a -- it's a ministry what you're doing there, along with your staff, and I appreciate the testimonies of your participants in your program. I think they need to keep up the good work and go forward from here.

Ms. Argrow said, yes, sir. Thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Where are y'all located? You said in Pooler?

Ms. Argrow said, we have an office in Pooler which is a partnership with my church. We actually have a Grace Cares Ministry that we do that Awwin partners with. I'm the outreach pastor at my church, as well, and with that -- it's 100 Commerce Court, Pooler, Georgia.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Ms. Argrow said, we cannot afford to pay any type of rent, any kind of utility bills, so my pastor is gracious enough to allow me to conduct Awwin within my office.

Chairman Scott said, okay. You said you've been in -- in operations for 16 years?

Ms. Argrow said, yes, sir. It will be 16 years this August? We have had offices, physical offices before.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. And what have been your funding source over the past 16 years?

Ms. Argrow said, we've had grants from UPS Foundation, TJX Foundation, the City of Savannah. UPS, did I say UPS?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Ms. Argrow said, then we have various fundraisers. Our main fundraiser is the Awwin Top Ten Working Women of the Year awards gala in which we honor women that have made it possible for other women to move forward and give back to their community, and then, we in turn invite women that cannot afford to come, so it has a two-fold. And then United -- well, no, not a United Way grant, but we have been funded for a contract of a work force development by Ms. Destiny Bradshaw, and that's the United Way funding that we received.

Chairman Scott said, so you are receiving some United Way funding?

Ms. Argrow said, no, sir. This was in the past.

Chairman Scott said, past funding.

Ms. Argrow said, yes, sir. We are -- we do have a grant writer now that is actually writing grants. That's why we're submitting the one we're submitting now. So we have an official grant writer on board now.

Chairman Scott said, can you tell me why the United Way is no longer funding?

Ms. Argrow said, they never really funded us. The funding came through Ms. Destiny Bradshaw with the Ready to Connect, it's a total -- it's an entity within the United Way, but because she knew the work that I did when it came to teaching women with the professional development, that was a \$50 an hour contract for -- I think we did it for -- for -- for my services for one year. The United Way has never funded us. We have actually petitioned, but we never received funding from them.

Chairman Scott said, okay. And what is your current level? Since you -- you outlined some past funding, what is your current funding source?

Ms. Argrow said, my current funding will be the fundraiser that we have. It's going to literally whatever business associates that I know. We work well with the Georgia Power as far as calling and making arrangements to pay women light bills. We work with the mortgage companies. We work with any company that would allow us the time to get the funds, and sometimes getting the funds means me literally going to my family and friends, and if there is something that I have, then putting it back into the organization as well. And we are again, like I say, we finally have a grant writer that's not literally overcharging us to write the grants now.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any further questions? Okay.

Ms. Argrow said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you so much. Next we have a representative from the Frank Callen Boys Club. Is it Vince Delmorte?

Commissioner Holmes said, Delmorte.

Chairman Scott said, Del what?

Commissioner Holmes said, Delmorte.

Chairman Scott said, Delmorte? Okay.

Mr. Vince Delmorte said, good morning. I'm Vince Delmorte, the executive director of the Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club. And with me I have one of our Board members, Mr. James Green, who is also a product of the club and one of our extreme success stories. For 99 years the Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club has been a leader in positive youth development, and we have the bragging rights of being the oldest club in the State of Georgia. Great futures start here is the model of boys and girls clubs used to describe the influence clubs have on today's young people. Our programs are provided to over 1,000 youth, 51 weeks a year. Our after school programs and summer programs are geared toward building confidence, self-worth, and a sense of belonging. We serve at-risk kids in the greater Savannah community of which many are considered to be from environments of great, great risk. Our main stay programs focus on academics, success, sports and fitness, character building and life skill training. All of these programs and initiatives combined with our extensive hours make the Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club truly the positive place for kids.

Mr. Delmorte said, the Frank Callen Club located at 510 East Charlton Street has many features, including a gymnasium, teen center, game room, computer room, and art room. Unfortunately, these facilities are outdated making it a challenge to operate effectively. Hampered by an aging, about 1950 infrastructure, and landlocked without adjacent green space, the facility can no longer meet our needs or the need -- the needs of our children. It is our belief that the youth of Savannah deserve the best facility that affords them the best opportunities. Our goal is to build a new 30,000 to 40,000 square foot boys and girls club. This facility will allow us to expand our programs by introducing new and advanced technology and learning capacity, a year-round swimming facility and outdoor athletic venues. The new club will become a community resource offering first class programs for members and importantly their families. Our visions also include partnerships with several other agencies located at the facility that would offer for seniors counseling services, early childhood learning and other wrap around services.

Mr. Delmonte said, as we enter coming into our 100<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary, this is a very opportune time for us to begin a capital campaign. We realize that we're going to have to raise a minimum of \$4 million. We're still in negotiations and conversations with a couple of entities of which we would lo -- locate the new facility, but it will be near children. It will be open to all kids. It's not going to be a neighborhood facility. We plan to have an extensive busing program coordinating that with our Board of Education. We've had great success so far, and we look forward to enhancing that even if we have to provide our own fleet. We're here to ask the county to support this capital campaign. Our original request is for \$50,000 over four years for a total of \$200,000, but of course, we would gladly accept an enhanced amount as well. We're very, very proud of what we're doing, and we think that Savannah really deserve -- the kids of Savannah really deserve the best that we can offer to them.

Chairman Scott said, is there any questions for Mr. Delmonte? Okay. The Commissioner from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Delmonte. Being a product of Frank Callen Boy and Girls Club I have to say this, that you only get one chance to celebrate 100 years. And 100 years in Savannah serving the youth, I don't want to begin going through the -- the roster and what it looks like. But we did that on very minimal and at no budget at all. I think for the last ten years, Chatham County have supported Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club. For the 100-year celebration, I'm quite sure this is the reason why you're coming before us now.

Mr. Delmonte said, there was not a better time.

Commissioner Holmes said, to help with your celebration for 100 year.

Mr. Delmonte said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Holmes said, now the 100-year celebration's going to begin when?

Mr. Delmonte said, it will begin January 2017.

Commissioner Holmes said, six month from now.

Mr. Delmonte said, yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. And your plans are to build that facility?

Mr. Delmonte said, well, we'll have our capital campaign kicking off during our --

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Mr. Delmonte said, -- celebration years.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Okay. Okay. Okay.

Mr. Delmonte said, we anticipate that will take the year and then hopefully a year to build.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Delmonte said, well --

Commissioner Holmes said, thanks for coming before us. You make me very proud.

Mr. Delmonte said, you're welcome.

Commissioner Center said, I have a question.

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

Commissioner Center said, and it may be for the County Manager. Commissioner Holmes says we support them now, what do we do now?

Commissioner Holmes said, no. We supported them 10 -- 10, 12 years ago.

Mr. Delmonte said, yeah. No recent.

Commissioner Center said, oh, okay. Thank you. I misunderstood.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Thank you.

Mr. Delmonte said, thank you very much.

Chairman Scott said, that was before the law was changed in SPLOST as to where you can put money.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, you can no longer give money to non-profits. The -- the next presenter we have is Mr. Norman Luten.

Mr. Norman Luten said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Luten said, I would like to greet all the Commissioners, and I hail from the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Chatham County, and I'd like to greet my Commissioner, Ms. Stone, as well, and all the other Commissioners. It's been a theme today of asking for \$50,000. Originally this request was for \$75,000, but let me get on with the introductions. Today I'm asking the Commission to see about funding the Chatham County Historic Commission office. The reason that I'm asking this is because Sandfly Community Betterment Association, as well as Sandfly, we were mandated by the MPC to start our local historic designation ordinance. This occurred during a rezoning request back in 2014. A Commissioner -- a petitioner requested a rezoning of some property for some commercial -- for some commercial use -- business use. It was denied. I argued the case, and at that particular time, our struggles to get our historic designation approved was then brought to the forefront.

Mr. Luten said, we submitted our draft and all our paperwork back in July of 2015. I was informed by a representative from the MPC that the Chatham County Commissioner failed to fund the office of the Chatham County local historic preservation office, and that held up all the progress that we made thus far on our local historic designation ord -- ordinance and our design stand -- standards. It's not something that we take lightly because we put in many hours of -- of work. We had to do all the aspects of the local historic designation, and we -- we had to get property owners to sign. We had several meetings in our community to discuss all the aspects of -- of the local historic designation and it's been a while, and I understand that this is the process to go through to see about getting our local historic designation approved.

Mr. Luten said, if it was not mandated by the MPC and if it was not encouraged by the Chatham County Historic Preservation Office, we would have just, you know, thought that we didn't have any type of need for local historic designation, but in -- in the Sandfly area, you know Sandfly is a old, historic -- historic African -- African American, you know, community, and we think it's time for us to -- to achieve some type of hist -- historic designation or designation for our history in our particular location. Now, if per -- per chance, if we can do or we can get some type of confirmation today if the office needs to be funded or if we can present our local, historic designation before the Commission for approval, either way, it will be a victory or it will satisfy, not only me, but all the residents of Sandfly.

Chairman Scott said, does anyone have any questions of Mr. Luten? I see the Commissioner from the 1<sup>st</sup> District, Commissioner Stone; Commissioner Center of the 3<sup>rd</sup>; Commissioner Shabazz of the 5<sup>th</sup>. In that order, please.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, in all due respect, my question -- I want to commend Mr. Luten for his work, but my question really is to the County Manager, if -- if I need to wait and let the others ask of Mr. Luten first.

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

Commissioner Center said, good morning, Mr. Luten.

Mr. Luten said, good morning.

Commissioner Center said, your -- your last comment, you were asking for funding or approval of historic designation or what?

Mr. Luten said, well not -- and/or.

Commissioner Center said, I -- I don't mean and/or, but you said you would be happy with one of the two or happy with both, I'm sure.

Mr. Luten said, well, happy with both. I understand that someone from the office said that the person who would man -- man this particular office would have a dual -- dual capacity. Not only would they have -- have responsibilities for granting neighborhoods local historic designation, but they would be doing other services as well in that particular office. And I -- they need that particular funding to -- to do the things that they have to do to -- to help neighborhoods like my neighborhood, you know, with the paperwork and -- and all the other aspects of -- of -- of the ordinance. I understand that there's a -- there's a -- a -- a requirement for a certificate of appropriateness from this particular office and it has to be funded by someone with the -- the qualifications and requirements, you know, to grant that. Now either or -- either or I would -- I would really be happy if we could get some type of a confirmation today. I would like to see the office funded, but if perchance that we can get that authorization from someone who is qualified to grant that and come before the -- this Commission and get approval, it will be all right today.

Commissioner Center said, and the amount you -- is still \$75,000?

Mr. Luten said, well, it was originally \$75,000, but they said that, you know, they probably can get by, you know, with 50.

Commissioner Center said, who's they?

Mr. Luten said, it's a representative here from the MPC.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

Mr. Luten said, all right.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and Mr. Chairman, we -- we -- you did say, we're not going to take any action of any of these today. Will you clarify that?

Chairman Scott said, that's correct. Okay.

Commissioner Center said, we're -- we're not entitled to. We're just listening today.

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

Commissioner Shabazz said, this historical department within the county, is it in existence or is it null and void? I mean, what -- what's -- what's going on with that?

Mr. Luten said, well, my understanding of it, Mr. Shabazz, is this, it was in existence, but during the last fiscal budget, it was not funded.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Luten said, and by not being funded, all -- all our paperwork, all our efforts, have been put on hold. Personally, we had several meetings. We -- we had to -- to go to each particular property owner and get them to approve all of these design standards. It was nothing that was -- it took due diligence because, you know, we had to interview people. We had to talk to contractors, sub-contractors to see if all of our building standards and stuff like that would be -- would be acceptable by the residents and stuff like that under the -- all the aspects of the local, historic, you know, the design standards. Each individual, you know, community has a different type of architectural design, you know, and we tried to -- not to be generic, but we tried to be fair to each particular, you know, property owner understanding all the aspects of it because each particular property or building that's already in existence, you know, we had to kind of, you know, they were -- they were kind of like grand fathered in, but any new existing buildings or structures are -- contributing -- contributing structures have to come under the local historic, you know, design standards.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mr. Luten said, so we had to be very, very, very, you know, specific, you know, with those.

Commissioner Shabazz said, Chair -- Chairman, I -- can I ask a question of the Manager?

Chairman Scott said, not while Mr. Luten is speaking.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, is there any other questions of Mr. Luten? Hearing none, thank you so much, Mr. Luten.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, all right. Commissioner Stone has a question of the Manager in -- in relationship to Mr. Luten's request and Commissioner Shabazz has a question of the Manager as it relates to Mr. Luten's request.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very distressed to hear this. I know that Mr. Luten and that group did a whole lot of work to obtain these signatures, to go out into the community. They had several meetings, and I'm just curious to know what happened here? Who dropped the ball? And why were we not notified?

County Manager Smith said, I don't think anybody dropped the ball. The MPC has asked for additional funding for some time, but they have existing personnel that should be able to do this in our opinion.

Commissioner Stone said, but, I mean, they're being held hostage while -- not getting their historic designation completed while this is being sort of battled out if you will, and I -- and I don't think that's fair.

Chairman Scott said, I -- I don't think that's a fair statement either Commissioner because I believe that the process on the historic designation is proceeding.

Commissioner Stone said, is it proceeding?

County Manager Smith said, that's my understanding.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. Well, then I'm -- I stand corrected. It's just that I -- when he came up here he made it sound like it had come to a stop, so -- Mr. Luten, and I hope that's good news.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Shabazz has a question of the Manager.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. So she really cornered my question as well to the Manager, but I want to know when will he receive this historical --

County Manager Smith said, I have no idea. That would be up to the MPC.

Commissioner Shabazz said, you say that they have enough staff to do that?

County Manager Smith said, I believe they do.

Commissioner Shabazz said, without re-implementing the historical department, whatever this --

County Manager Smith said, I believe they do.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Can we find out?

County Manager Smith said, well, we've asked them and told them they need to put emphasis on this, and as an MPC board member, and as Manager, I believe they have -- do they have everything they want? Probably not, but I believe they have enough to do something like this 'cause this is one designation. So I believe they have the staff that can do it. They may need to shuffle projects around, but I believe they can do it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chairman?

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. What -- what -- what do we need to do to make sure that this gentlemen and this community --

County Manager Smith said, then we need to contact the MPC and make sure they're doing what they're supposed to be doing.

Commissioner Shabazz said, he needs to contact them?

County Manager Smith said, we can verify that, but we can verify that. Yes.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Thank you.

County Manager Smith said, sure.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter, you raised your hand.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir. Question, Manager. Do we fund the MPC equally with the City of Savannah?

County Manager Smith said, yes, with the exception of -- there is some additional funds, I believe, and I'll -- I'll make sure I'm right by the next meeting, but I believe they this year put in a little more money in SAGIS --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

County Manager Smith said, -- for a position, but it's equal. It's supposed to be equal as far as the operations of MPC.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, is it safe to say that a lot more work takes place for the City of Savannah within the MPC than for the unincorporated area of Chatham County?

County Manager Smith said, basically, as an MPC Board member, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Then if they won't do it, we -- we should actually look into making the budget more representative of the work that they actually do for Chatham County.

County Manager Smith said, and that's something the City Manager and I are talking about now, looking at what services we receive and what services should we be receiving, and what is our -- as the -- as a Board, what is your preference.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. We -- we request very little from them, and if they can't come through with one thing like that, I think we need to look at reducing their budget.

Chairman Scott said, do you -- do you have a question of the Manager in -- in relation to this?

Commissioner Holmes said, Manager, yes.

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

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Lee, it -- it -- it appears to me, what I'm hearing now, after Mr. Luten made his presentation.

County Manager Smith said, mm--hmm.

Commissioner Holmes said, that we want it to go forward. Could I ask that to be expedite as fast as possible?

County Manager Smith said, I can request that of the MPC, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Commissioner Stone said, please do. Thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, and let's just repeat that the MPC is not funded entirely by the County, and it's funded equally and the employees over there to my knowledge are City employees, they are not county employees.

County Manager Smith said, that's correct.

Chairman Scott said, and I just want to make that clear to -- to folk, and -- and all Mr. Luten want is his designation. He doesn't -- he doesn't want to get caught in the -- the spider web of how it's funded or anything else, to his defense. But for the members of the Commission, do understand that it's a 50 percent funding deal, and they are city employees, not county employees, and even if we were to put money in the budget, it doesn't mean that the city would increase the staff level.

Chairman Scott said, with that, is there anyone else who wish to speak on the budget in the audience? I've completed the list of names. Hearing none, I hereby declare this public hearing closed, and we'll move on to our regular agenda

[NOTE: The Public Hearing was closed at 10:58 a.m.]

**AGENDA ITEM: *Public Hearing on FY 2017 Budget***  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

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

**ISSUE:**

To hold a Public Hearing on the Chatham County fiscal year 2017 budget as required by State Law.

**BACKGROUND:**

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

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1) A Public Hearing was advertised on June 3, 2016 in the *Savannah Morning News* to be held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2016.
- 2) On a date at least one week before adoption, Chatham County is required to hold a public meeting. The budget adoption must be advertised at least one week in advance.

- 3) The budget adoption was advertised on June 2, 2016 in the *Savannah Morning News* for Friday, June 24, 2016 budget adoption.
- 4) The budget for fiscal year 2017 covers the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Proceed with the public hearing on June 10, 2016 and adopt the FY 2017 budget on June 24, 2016.
2. Reschedule the hearing and adoption of the FY 2017 budget and re-advertise within limits established by State Law.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**Georgia Law 36-81-5.(f)**

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

**Georgia Law 36-81-6.(a)**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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**CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION**

Chairman Scott said, and with that in mind, I will recognize the Commissioner from the first, our Pro Tem, for the purpose of introducing the Youth Commissioners who are here today, who can now participate in the remainder of the agenda.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Youth Commission today. We have Aliyah Dorsey, who is our Chairwoman elect. Raise your hand, please. We have Morgan Dent, who is our Vice-Chairman -- Chairwoman elect. And we have Lydia Poole, who is our Secretary elect. Welcome.

Chairman Scott said, thank you all, and please feel free if you have any questions and -- and anything that's on the agenda, at the appropriate time, if you wish to ask questions or comment, if you raise your hands, I will recognize you at the appropriate time.

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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS****1. PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup> RECITAL OF MARILYN YOUNG'S SCHOOL OF DANCE**

Chairman Scott said, the next item on our agenda is proclamation and this is a request by Commissioner Kicklighter of the 7<sup>th</sup> District. And the proclamation is -- and I will read a portion of it.

Chairman Scott read a portion of the following proclamation:

  
**The County of Chatham**  
**Georgia**  
**Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, it is befitting that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners pay homage to the memory of individuals that have touched the lives of many and in that regard we take a moment to pay tribute to the memory of the late Marlin Youmans; and

**WHEREAS**, Marlin Youmans was a longtime resident of Savannah who had a passion for dancing, so much so that as a teenager, she opened her own dance studio, Marlin Youmans School of Dance, which has become a landmark in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, she also studied the anatomy of the body to learn how we moved to assist in her teaching and in years past, doctors sent their polio patients to her to help with their walking disability; and

**WHEREAS**, many generations have walked through the very same doors of her dance studio on 37th Street where she taught many more lessons in life than just how to point toes and tap heels as she loved, inspired, and mentored all of her students.

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

**MARLIN YOUMANS**

for sharing her passion to dance with the students she taught and extend congratulations as the 80<sup>th</sup> dance recital of the Marlin Youmans Studio is celebrated.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.

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

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Kicklighter, Commissioner  
District 7

Chairman Scott said, is there anyone here from the Youmans School of Dance to accept this? And members of the Commission who wish to join me, please feel free to do so.

[NOTE: Members of the Commission presented Ms. Megan Cox and Ms. Marilyn Jacobs with the proclamation.]

Chairman Scott said, we didn't read the proclamation in it's entirety but everyone can attest to what the dance studio has meant to the community. When we were sitting there talking about it, one of the Assistant County Manager's mentioned how that studio has (inaudible) and the recitals that she has gone to over the years. So it is with great pleasure that we present you with this proclamation.

Ms. Megan Cox said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, and if you wish to make any comments, we will allow you to do that.

Ms. Cox said, we will. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, so much. Introduce yourself before you --

Ms. Cox said, I'm Megan Cox, a lifelong dancer with the Marilyn Youmans School of Dance, and this is Marilyn Jacobs, she's Marilyn Youmans' granddaughter. We do have our 80<sup>th</sup> recital this year. As it was stated, Marilyn did start the studio when she was just a teenager and had her first dance recital when she was 16 years old, and unfortunately, she did pass away this past year at the age of 96. So this would have been her 80<sup>th</sup> recital that she would have put on for -- for the community, and -- and as -- as was said as well, she did do a -- a great

job in touching the lives of many people throughout our community all of those years that she did run the studio. So, we appreciate the recognition and thank you all for having us here today.

Ms. Marilyn Jacobs said, thank you.

Ms. Cox said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

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## **2. GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION CLASS OF 2016.**

Chairman Scott said, we didn't get a recital with this presentation, so now we'll move to item 2 and perhaps we'll get a recital here. We have the graduation ceremony of the Chatham County Youth Commission, the class of 2016, and at this time I'll recognize Mr. Van Johnson.

Mr. Van Johnson said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen of this Honorable Commission, good morning. It is with great pleasure that we gather here this morning for a right of passage that we have observed annually for the past 24 years to celebrate the accomplishments of 11 very special young people. Young people who have gone above and beyond their peers, the Chatham County Youth Commission class of 2016. It needs to be said, and these young people understand why, that there were many who started on this journey with them, even as recently as last month, but could not finish, adding credence to the saying that it's not about how you start, but it's definitely about how you finish. We believe as you do that all of our young people are not out doing bad things, and you have constantly chosen to accentuate the positive in our community, young people working hard, sacrificing, serving and achieving, and over these nine months, these young people have made you proud. Certainly in March during their annual tour, they were treated to a two-hour meeting with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who was absolutely wonderful in engaging our young people and encouraging them to work and not to make excuses in their lives. And as you hosted Chatham County -- excuse me, as you hosted County Commissioners from across Georgia during the Association of County Commissioners' meeting in April, the Chatham County Youth Commission also hosted 100 students from Fulton County, Macon-Bibb County, Clayton County, Dougherty County here in our second annual ACCG youth caucus, where your peers recognized Chatham County as -- as the pace setter as the best practice in terms of youth engagement. And Chairman Scott, certainly, you remember how these young people distinguished themselves, not only among their peers, but also among yours.

Mr. Johnson said, they have been involved intimately in the Coastal Indicators' blue print, because we realize this blue print, inasmuch as it is for them, it is also for those that come behind them. And we celebrate the second year of our partnership with the Rotary Club of Savannah East as one of this county's first interact clubs. And we hosted Rotarians from across the country last month during the district conference. Through their collective efforts, the members of the Chatham County Youth Commission have earned thousands, literally thousands of hours of community service in a little over nine months. So thank you again, as I always do, for making these young people a priority. Certainly you have set the bar by engaging these young people. Thank you for interacting with them. Thank you for getting to know them, and thank you for patiently asking them to ask questions and then responding to their questions. I thank you for your support of this 24-year endeavor. To think about it, the Youth Commission existed before these young people were born.

Mr. Johnson said, as Dr. Priscilla Thomas winds down her extraordinary career of public service, and I know she's watching, one of her lasting legacies is over the 500 young people now some of them almost 40 years old who have completed this right of passage called the Chatham County Youth Commission. I thank our County Manager, Mr. Lee Smith; my director, Carolyn Smalls; department heads; and the wonderful team of Mrs. Marilyn Labridor; Ms. Octavia Brown; Ms. Linda Polite Gordon; and Ms. Sala Menaya, who assist me in engaging these young people. And we thank our -- our partners in progress as we like to call them. Our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, big mommas, nanas, pop-pops who -- who trusted their young people to us. We cried with them during the bad times and we celebrated with them during the good times. They allowed us to -- to challenge their young people. We -- they allowed us to hold them accountable. They allowed us make them mad, sometimes very mad, but they also allowed us to help them to grow, to face their fears, to aspire and to dream. And we're going to ask all the parents and family members of our graduates to please stand so they can be recognized. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, I think you can clap a little bit better for your parents and grandparents. [Applause,]

Mr. Johnson said, and -- and -- and -- and -- and finally to -- to -- to our children, my children, I offer the words of a very famous song: if you believe within your heart you'll know that no one can change the path that you must go. Believe what you feel and know you're right because the time will come around when you say it's yours. Believe there's a reason to be; believe you can make time stand still; and know from the moment you try, if you believe, I know you will. Believe in yourself right from the start. You'll have brains and you'll have a heart. You'll have courage to last your whole life through. If you believe in yourself, if you believe in yourself, if you believe in yourself as I believe in you.

Mr. Johnson said, Mr. Chairman, would you come join us as we salute our graduates? And as he's coming down, would all of our graduates wave for Dr. Thomas. I know she is watching and know she is heartbroken she cannot be here. So, y'all show Dr. Thomas some love, please.

Mr. Johnson said, and as we call the young people, we're going to ask their parents to come join us as well. Mohammad Abdallah.

Chairman Scott said, I'll also ask the other members of the Commission who wish to join me please come down.

Mr. Johnson said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, as well as the County Manager and Assistant County Managers.

Mr. Johnson said, Mohammad Abdallah is in his third term. He is our Chairman. He graduated from Woodville Tompkins High School, and he is going to be an eagle at Georgia Southern University. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, Lindsey Mitchell is a third term Chatham County Youth Commissioner. She graduated from Windsor Forest High School, and she will be going to the University of Georgia. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, Jamiliah Hilliard is a third term Chatham County Youth Commissioner. She graduated from Savannah Christian, and she will also be going to Georgia Southern University. [Applause.] Get your momma and daddy in the picture too.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. You better get them.

Mr. Johnson said, they're funding all of this. Shakayla Bush could not be with us 'cause she's at Georgia Southern University today for orientation. She graduated from Groves and she is a three term Youth Commissioner. We can clap for Shakayla though. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, Caylen Johnson is a two term Youth Commissioner graduated from Savannah Arts Academy, and she will be attending Mercer University. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, Isis Howard is a two term Youth Commissioner. She graduated from Islands High School, and she will be attending Augusta University. [Applause.] Shameless.

Mr. Johnson said, Kennedi Cunningham, is a three term Youth Commissioner who graduated from Woodville Tompkins. She will be going to one of the most prestigious universities in the world, Savannah State University. [Applause.]

Commissioner Shabazz said, that's right. That's right.

Mr. Johnson said, you can get anywhere from there, anywhere. Ariel Bland is a three term Youth Commissioner. She graduated from New Hampstead High School, and she will be going to the College of Coastal Georgia. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, Victoria Brown could not be with us due to death in the family. She graduated from Savannah Christian, and we want to let her know we're thinking about her and her family. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, Trinity Mason is a three term Youth Commissioner who graduated from Islands High School, and she will be right here in Savannah at the Savannah College of Art and the Design. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, and certainly last but not least, Ms. Jada Tyson, is a first term Youth Commissioner. She graduated from Woodville Tompkins, and she will also be going to Georgia Southern University. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, let's give a big round of applause for the class of 2016. [Applause] And we promise you that you will expect to see great things from these young people. Just a few comments, Ladies and Gentlemen. This young man has distinguished himself as being our first two term Chairman in almost 20 years. In addition to being an outstanding student, he was also recognized on a state level by DECA and currently works in his chosen field of endeavor, logistics. Our Chairman, Mr. Mohammad Abdallah. [Applause.]

Youth Commission Chairman Mohammad Abdallah said, good morning County Commissioners, Youth and parents. On behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, our founder, Dr. Priscilla Thomas, and our director, Van Johnson, I would like to thank you for supporting us and the opportunity to learn, work and change within our community. I know you're watching this, but thank you, Dr. Thomas, not just for your hard work but for your heart. I would like to thank you for founding the Youth Commission and being an example for youth such as myself. I still remember the times when I didn't know a lick of English and you still had seen me a leader when a lot of people didn't.

Youth Commission Chairman Abdallah said, to my family, thank you -- thank you for taking me to my events, and a special thanks to my parents for supporting me the day one when it came to Youth Commission. To my dad, who would take the blurriest pictures and my mom, who would check on me every five minutes. The Youth Commission journey has its ups and downs, its smiles and its tears. The room that we stand in today is like

a home away from home for some of us, as if you belong here every second Wednesday for every meeting. My message to the next generation of youth is you are here to make a difference in our community. You are here to be strong student leaders providing safe and exciting opportunities for youth. You are here to be yourselves and yourselves are great. We all have potential, but potential stays still. We need more kinetic youth. We need more volunteers. We need more people like Mr. Johnson and Dr. Priscilla Thomas.

Youth Commission Chairman Abdallah said, Mr. Johnson, thank you for helping me with every step in my journey, from the lady that trapped me up in a shoe store, for every time you tried to speak Arabic. So, to my Chatham County Youth Commission journey that started in this room, it ends in this room. Like the old saying goes, once a Youth Commissioner, always a Youth Commissioner. Thank you for your time. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, and I can speak some Arabic.

Commissioner Center said, as-salamu alaykum.

Mr. Johnson said, wa alaikum salaam. This young lady makes me feel very, very old. I -- I knew her as a baby and knew she was headed for great things when she launched an all out campaign to become the student government president at Bartow Elementary School, and I was invited out there to witness this happen. In addition to being an international baccalaureate student at Windsor Forest High School, she was a cheerleader, and as the young people say, she slayed at her prom, earning her the title of prom queen. Ladies and Gentlemen, our Vice Chair, Lindsey Mitchell. [Applause.]

Youth Commission Vice Chair Lindsey Mitchell said, good morning. The Youth Commission has a great deal to do with who I am today. It has taught me to be responsible in all of my actions and taking responsibility of all of my actions has bettered my character in every way, inside of school, at home, and even in my community. With Mr. Johnson there, I had no choice but to do my best and excel and -- with every task that I took on, and I greatly appreciate him for that. My new found responsibility allows me to be focused, aware and courageous.

Youth Commission Vice Chair Mitchell said, I have had some incredible experiences while being on the Youth Commission. Some of them include -- include going to conferences and attending youth programs where I was able to speak with youth around the nation in one area at one time. Doing this not only allowed me to open up my mind, but also gave insight that the youth around the nation experience the same issues and problems that we do here in Chatham County, and that it is -- it is up to us to voice our opinions and make changes. Talking to the youth from other communities also gave way to great sharing experiences where we were able to foster creative ideas. It is good to see what is happening outside of your city, but the real work has to be done in your community that you live in because that is where you will be greatly affected.

Youth Commission Vice Chair Mitchell said, meeting faces young and old I have been able to network and have valuable discussions that I will always take with me. I did my best to learn from the opportunities I had. I was able to see the practical side of public policy initiatives that I was passionate about. It was an experience that was transformative. I can't thank you, Chatham County Commissioners, enough for the investment that you have made in me.

Youth Commission Vice Chair Mitchell said, my fellow Youth Commissioners, those that have graduated before this Youth Commission class and those that will graduate in the coming years, thank you again for his invaluable opportunity. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, and now two brief presentations of our annual awards. Isis Howard will -- will present the Beverly M. Whitehead award.

Youth Commissioner Isis Howard said, okay. The Beverly M. Whitehead Award has been -- is named in honor of Chatham County's first Human Resource Director, who passed away in 1998. This award does recognize the organizations or individuals who have provided exceptional service to youth throughout Chatham County -- throughout the Chatham County Youth Commission. Our recipient this -- is a leader in health care, dental and insurance. We came in contact with them during NACo conference and discussed ways to partner in order to improve the health outcomes from Chatham County youth. Our first partnership was in April, and they served as the -- as the title sponsor of our 20<sup>th</sup> an -- annual youth rally. We are proud to -- to look forward in to working to -- with -- more in the future. It's my pleasure to present this year's Beverly M. Whitehead Award to Aetna Health Care. [Applause.]

Youth Commissioner Howard said, okay. Well, Aetna could not be here this morning, but Ms. Angela Ramsammy of Aetna has sent us a message. On behalf of Aetna I want to thank the Chatham County Youth Commission for the honor of being a recipient of the Beverly M. Whitehead Award. I am proud -- proud to have had this opportunity to work with such amazing young adults. You -- your drive to success academically, all while being mindful of giving back and helping others will lead you to success -- a success -- a successful career and will guide you in making significant strides in improving our community as well. I ask you to continue on our -- your journey that always remember how important good health will be. Always remember to have a active choice to stay healthy and improve the community you serve. Thank you again. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, and finally our Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the year award. Caylen Johnson and Ariel Bland.

Youth Commissioner Caylen Johnson said, good morning.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning.

Youth Commissioner Johnson said, the Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year Award is named in honor of a young man who exemplified the core values of the Youth Commission. I am told that Brandon was a unique person who loved the Youth Commission and was active even in his graduation. When Brandon passed away in 2004 at the age of 21, his passing left a void that still exists today. This award is presented to the Youth Commissioner who during the year has exhibited the six core values of the Youth Commission, respect, success, influence, integrity and leadership. This year we had a tie. Our first recipient came to us after working with us as a student on the Savannah Youth Council. She is a quiet but steady presence. She attends our events, fills in wherever she is needed and is well liked and respected by everyone. She was recently elected to the executive board where we know she will do an outstanding job. It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year award to Tia Grant. [Applause.]

Youth Commissioner Ariel Bland said, our second recipient is completing her first term on the Chatham County Youth Commission after completing her candidacy term with perfect attendance. Besides being a great student, she attended over -- she attended our events and has shown great leadership in her first year. We look forward to greater things to come from her. It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner -- Youth Commissioner of the Year Award to Bryanna Pachecho. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, that's momma, so that's -- okay. Momma was trying to work a cell phone camera. Thank you all so much for this -- your time. I will tell you hopefully, you understand your continuing investment in Youth Commission pays dividends. Although a line item in the budget, it -- it -- it makes a difference in the lives of young people who we want to be respectful adults. And I will tell you that we've had young people to contact us who graduate this year with Bachelor's, Master's, and even Doctor degrees, that are serving all over this nation and some in other areas across the world. So thank you all so much, and we have a new generation coming up. Would the candidates -- new candidates please stand? So, we'll give them a round of applause. [Applause.] And, we'll see if -- if -- if this summer -- how this summer goes and see if they survive. If they survive, you might very well see them in September. Again, thank you all so much.

Commissioner Holmes said, congratulations.

Commissioner Center said, Mr. Chairman? May I just make a comment?

Chairman Scott said, in reference to that?

Commissioner Center said, yeah.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center wanted to make some comments in reference to the Youth Commission.

Commissioner Center said, I want to congratulate -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to congratulate the graduates and their parents. I particularly want to congratulate our colleague Dr. Priscilla Thomas who's not here with us, on founding this Youth Commission and -- and her colleague and our employee, Van Johnson, for the hard work y'all put into it. It's -- we notice it, and it shows in the graduates you put forward. Again, congratulations to all of you and thank you very much Van [Johnson] and Priscilla [Thomas] for y'all's work. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, and on behalf -- on behalf of the entire Commission, we really appreciate the parents being here and the parents' involvement, and we hope that you will volunteer throughout the years to participate with the Youth Commission activities as chaperones and etcetera and again, thank you for being here.

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### **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Scott said, the next item on our agenda, but before I get to it, we've got a couple what I call Commissioners want to be, and -- in the person -- I'll let the crowd clear out so -- we have the 3<sup>rd</sup> District democratic nominee for County Commissioner in Bobby Locket who's in the back. Bobby, it's good to see you; and then we have the democratic nominee, and since he is unopposed in November, essentially Commissioner-elect, in the person of pastor Chester Ellis.

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### **3. BRIEFING BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING HWY 204/KING GEORGE AND SPUR 204 BRIDGE OVER SKIDAWAY NARROWS ROAD PROJECT.**

Chairman Scott said, now, we have a briefing from Georgia Department of Transportation regarding the -- or an update really regarding the 204/King George and Spur 204 bridge over Skidaway Narrows.

County Engineer, Leon Davenport, said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Board. Yes, sir, Cory Knox, who's the District Construction Engineer is going to come up and give you a briefing on each project individually and answer any questions you have. Also, Mr. Rob McCall, who's the assistant district engineer, is here. Brad Saxon, the district engineer couldn't be with us today, so Rob's sitting in his place. But, if you will let Cory give you a little bit of a briefing on the projects.

Mr. Cory Knox said, good morning Chairman and Commissioners.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Knox said, I'll give you a briefing on the Spur, what we call Skidaway Narrows Bridge. The bridge was completed and we opened to traffic in October of 20 --

Chairman Scott said, just pull the mikes up.

Commissioner Thomas said, pull the mikes up.

Mr. Knox said, okay. Excuse me. We opened the new bridge to traffic in October of 2013. When we then proceeded with removing the old bridges. We did a final inspection in February of 20 -- 2015 when we noticed some cracks in the caps and in the deck of the -- the new structure, which is a little uncommon, more -- more than was common at the time for that type of structure. So we did some in depth investigation. The -- between the Department and the contractor we hired a third party engineering consultant to investigate all the cracks in the structure itself, and what we found is although the bridge is safe for travel, and is -- carries the load and the traffic that it was designed to. It does not meet our -- our standards as far as long-term maintenance and stuff like that, so what we're doing is we're keeping the contractor on the hook until we get what we paid for.

Mr. Knox said, so what we've done is we have four enhancements that we're doing, and we've completed some, would be the -- we worked on the columns down near the water. We've strengthened columns up. We have worked on the caps. We're getting ready to strengthen the caps up so there will be another -- about another month worth of work to get the bridge into the shape that we would expect. We have some work on the deck. There's some cracks on the deck that we're going to work on, so we have probably another month's work of traffic interruptions and interferences to the traveling public, but our goal is to be out of there in about a month or so, and when we get done, we'll have the bridge and the structure that we -- we intended from the beginning.

Mr. Knox said, 204 at King George overpass is approximately 50 percent complete. We have shifted traffic to the detour as you probably are aware. The project is -- original completion date was January of 2017, but I am reporting that it is behind schedule approximately four or five months due to weather and other planning discrepancies. We -- we do notice that we had some traffic back ups when we did the initial shift. We have made some improvements we think to those situations, and our hope is to open up the northbound on ramp to 204 which will also alleviate some traffic that we're having there coming from the southside. It is expected that we'll be totally complete summer of next year. Those are the briefings, if you have any questions in particular.

Chairman Scott said, the Commissioner from the 6<sup>th</sup> District, Commissioner Brady, in that -- and then we'll go down the line.

Commissioner Brady said, I represent that area that you're talking about. It's represented by two of us. I represent one side and Commissioner Shabazz represents the other side. I have received more phone calls in reference to the traffic issues out there. Tell me and the audience, 'cause this is on TV, so that the citizens can hear this. What improvements have you made to -- to try to deal with the traffic issues out there?

Mr. Knox said, for King George?

Commissioner Brady said, King George, yes, and --

Mr. Knox said, well, as you are aware, the traffic on King George before we did anything was -- was rather congested, and the idea of this project is to take 204 traffic over King George.

Commissioner Brady said, I -- I understand that.

Mr. Knox said, we've been working on it for about two years now, and as part of building the bridge over 204, we -- we have to take traffic off of 204. I mean we're -- we're maintaining all the lanes that we had before. So, we've made improvements to the detour itself. We've adjusted some timing of the signals, and again, I say we're going to try to open up the northbound ramp to 204 eastbound, which will further improve the traffic flow out of the subdivision and the southside. Other than that we're -- most of our work is outside of traffic. We do our interruptions during certain times of the day. We -- we don't work early in the mornings or in the afternoons, things like that.

Commissioner Brady said, well, can -- and -- and I -- and I'm -- my concern has always been the traffic that was actually on 204 and -- and King George, but 204 more important than King George Boulevard, just simply

because of the amount of traffic on 204. There are times when traffic was backed up to the Savannah Mall going towards 95 and just the opposite on the other side of the road was back up, you know, as well. Now I have seen some improvement there, but there continues to be complaints about that traffic. Should we see some improvement in those numbers as far as -- because emergency vehicles -- there was a time where emergency vehicles would have had a difficult time to even get out there.

Mr. Knox said, well, we have more work to do on 204, and it will require some lane closures and things that -- like I say, we try to do at off peak hours and at night. So that's really all we can do at this point. There is a lot more work to be done on 204 and on the railroad bridge. So, there's going to be some more interruptions, some more -- you know, until we get finished, it's just pardon our progress, but that's part of doing business, I guess is --

Commissioner Brady said, well, and, sir, I -- I understand that, but -- but the problem here has been because of all this, and I appreciate, you know, that y'all are out hereon this project, is that -- and -- and I don't want this to sound disrespectful in any way, but these citizens believe that we are responsible for what, you know, has happened out there, and I've tried to say this is a, you know, Georgia Department of Transportation project, and, -- and, of course, I work from my side to try to, you know, calm their fears and try to -- try to tell them what's going on. So I don't know if -- if there's anyway, and -- and I can talk to you about this further 'cause I don't want to delay everything, so that we can keep that population at least -- at the very least in the Georgetown area -- I mean it's a huge population out there -- informed about what's going on.

Mr. Knox said, yes, ma'am. We'll work with the county as closely as we can to -- to make further improvements. Like I say, we've tried to -- we've listened to the complaints, we've tried to make adjustments on King George itself. There is more work on 204, but we'll try to do that as off peak hours as -- as possible, but we've got to, you know, finish the job now, what we started, and there is a lot of traffic on 204. If there's any alternate routes that people could take, you know, that would certainly help. You're going to see a lot of progress. I mean, we're building a rather large bridge, and it's just going to take a few more months to get that complete, and like I say, we'll be done, maybe by summer of next year.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell of the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. A couple of questions. Since we're talking about 204, I'll ask that one first. It's my understanding that before the United State government took over the airport -- the municipal airport and renamed it Hunter and made it a army base, that there was a road called Middleground Road that connected the southside of Savannah, Montgomery Crossroads to Highway 17, and has anybody looked at the possibility of working with the United States government and re-opening that artery? 'Cause what they forced us to do when that road was closed back in the World War II was to move all our traffic in other places, and we're going through a marsh called 204 and going over a bridge, and we've been pushed way out where there's a -- a land route that's -- that's encompassed by a base. So, has anybody thought about the future of Chatham County and how we get around or are we just going to every 10 or 15 years going to add more lanes to 204? Because there doesn't seem to be a lot of alternatives in a -- in a marshy environment that we live in Chatham County to -- to go other places.

Mr. Knox said, yes, sir, I understand the question. I'm not aware of any plans to -- of any new roads, you know, going across 17 in that manner. The county has, you know, got it's own planning, Metropolitan Planning Commission that may address that, but I'm not aware of anything at this point.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, I might suggest that some thought be given to that -- the original route that connected that end of the community. Knowing that's a difficult hill to climb when you're going against an army base and the federal government, but it -- it -- it could be possibly just a corridor through there. Anyway, the -- the main question I wanted to ask is the roebling bridge, and you said it was going to last about another month for the inspections and then that was -- you anticipate that to be the end of it or is there other steps that will be taking place further into the future?

Mr. Knox said, well we had four enhancements that we're trying to do to get complete and one of those was to strengthen the columns, which we've already done. We've already done some work on the bearings, which the caps sit on. The deck sits on the caps and there was some movement there that we had to account for, so we had to do some maintenance there. The -- the ceiling of the deck, which has yet to be done will probably be done later this month or earlier in July, and the strengthening of the caps is yet to be done, which that work will probably start next week. Our hope is to be done towards the end of July with all the work.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. Now, to this point, you've been able to use the -- to reroute the traffic with -- by using cones and keeping two-way traffic. Do you anticipate that to continue or?

Mr. Knox said, we have been able to shift traffic to one side and work and shift it back over, and I think last night we shifted it -- split it around the middle. When we do the cap work, there will be some times where we'll have to close the lane down because of the equipment. It's just too large to get two-way traffic across. We're going to do that work at night, starting about 9:00 o'clock, to try to lessen the impact.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. Yeah, because -- the --

Mr. Knox said, and it will take, you know, about a week or so.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. Lane closures at night, we've had a lot of experience with that with the -- with the bascule bridge, when we had to do periodic repairs here at the county level, and that's worked out really well. I encourage your department to -- to -- to communicate with -- with our staff. We have a very good network out there of emails where the citizens can be notified ahead of time. The main ones, you know, 90, 95 percent of the citizens that actually use the bridge on any given day can get a -- a -- a message -- a direct message, and it -- and it works for -- for everybody to the best because if somebody knows that you're going to be closing down a lane, they can at certain times, they can alter when they come and go to a large extent so it lessens the amount of traffic that -- that -- that has to be dealt with, and it also increases their convenience of being able to use both lanes. 'Cause when that -- when that bridge goes to one lane, it very quickly, almost at any time of the day can back up. It doesn't -- you know -- doesn't have to be rush hour.

Commissioner Farrell said, so I -- I -- I applaud you for scheduling that work for the lane closure at night, and -- and encourage you to continue communicating ahead of time with -- with our department and our department can deal with the neighborhood associations on Skidaway Island, and there's a great, convenient network to communicate that, and -- and with good communication -- the county used to put up temporary signage several days or a week ahead of time of when the lanes were going to close for those that are not connected to that email list, and that worked really well. So everybody knew ahead of time when the lanes were going to close, and they could alter their comings and goings accordingly, if they so desired, or be prepared for the inconvenience of a single lane at that time. So, I -- I think that's -- worked really well when the county was doing it, and if -- if y'all could follow that blue print to some degree, that would really work out well. Thank you.

Mr. Knox said, yes, sir. We have a communications staff that alert all the media and do a media blitz on a daily basis on what's going on, along with county officials, I think. So we're trying to get the word out ahead of time. A lot of times, the -- you know, due to weather and other circumstances, the -- the news changes, so -- and we will also try to use message boards in advance of the work to let people know what's fixing to happen.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes, did you have a question?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir. How often do we inspect bridges?

Mr. Knox said, every two years.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. You -- you -- we opened that one up in 2013, you said, and you inspect it in 2015.

Mr. Knox said, we did a final inspection on the whole project as a whole when -- when the old bridge was removed and all the other work was complete, and it's still under the care of the contractor, when it's still under contract. So -- but we have had our department inspectors and the outside consultant inspectors --

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm,

Mr. Knox said, -- on that bridge, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, so, when you inspect it in 2015, that was a routine time to inspect?

Mr. Knox said, well, it was a routine final inspection for the project as a whole.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir.

Mr. Knox said, and then due to some of the issues we were discovering, we had more than routine inspections occur, yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, yeah, that's -- that -- that what alarm me, when you said you found some unexpected conditioning. Did -- would -- would you like to kind of share that with us, what -- what was that you found?

Mr. Knox said, well, we had some -- some cracking in the caps and in the deck structure that was a little more than usual. I mean concrete in itself will crack a lot of times.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Knox said, but we've had a few more cracks than we were, you know, expected. It's not something that is a structural integrity or the -- the load capacity, it's just a long-term maintenance --

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Mr. Knox said, -- issue that we were trying to deal with.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone, did you have a question?

Commissioner Stone said, no, sir.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you may or may not be able to answer this, and if not, that's fine. I'm actually excited about the improvements y'all are going to do on I-16 and I-95, and you're having a public hearing on Tuesday, I believe in Garden City.

Mr. Knox said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and could you kind of -- I mean, I don't know if it takes the whatever out of it, could you kind of brief us quickly on what y'all are planning on doing?

Mr. Knox said, well there is a -- a -- there will be a lot of information and -- and diagrams and visual information you can see at the public hearing, but widening the 20 -- I-16 will be from four to six lanes, of course, and the interchange at I-16 and I-95 will be a -- a vast improvement where the -- over the loop ramps and things we have now. I mean, the ramps will basically fly over the main line, so it won't be the -- it will be -- it will be totally different than what you're experiencing now.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's --

Mr. Knox said, but I encourage you to go to the public hearing and -- and look at the visuals and the pictures and you'll -- and you'll -- I'm sure you'll be impressed of what, you know, is going to occur.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir. And we -- we on the westside, and as the westside rep, I -- I can't thank you enough, 'cause it's -- it's definitely needed. So.

Mr. Knox said, right. The I-16 widening is pretty routine inside and outside, you know, we just go in there and widen the road, and that will be -- it will take some time and a lot of traffic interruptions as well, but.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, if -- if you find yourself with an abundance of money, feel free to go ahead and six-lane Pooler Parkway for us too.

Mr. Knox said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that would be -- that'd be a great thing. So, thank you, though, very much.

Chairman Scott said, for -- for those of you who may not know, the county is participating with funding in the widening of 16 because we're providing design money for that particular project. Mr. Manager, do you have any questions?

County Manager Smith said, no, sir.

Chairman Scott said, no further questions. Thank you, and we appreciate you taking the time and the only -- the only thing I would comment on -- on 204, and -- and I will relay this through the engineering department, but perhaps for the community out there, there could be some sort of bi-monthly or quarterly updates.

Mr. Knox said, we'll work with the county engineering department, and, of course, our communications office. I -- I believe she's on tv at least two or three times a week now as it is updating the public on our projects and our progress, so thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

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

### **1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILLAGE LEVY PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 16, 2016 AT 9:30 AND 6:00 P.M., AND ON JUNE 24, 2016 AT 9:30 P.M.**

Chairman Scott said, under Chairman's items, I want to make a couple of announcements. One is that we'll have a millage levy public hearing that's scheduled for June the 16<sup>th</sup>, and it will be at 9:30 a.m. There will be two of them. The second one will be at 6:00 o'clock p.m. to afford anybody who cannot get to the early morning one. And then on June the 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a third one that will take place at 9:30 a.m., and that's just for informational purpose for those who are in the audience and who may be listening to this broadcast that we will have those hearings. And again, they're June 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

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**VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS**

None.

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**III. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS**

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

Chairman Scott said, we don't have any tabled items.

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS: 1) IN THE BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES BUDGET APPROPRIATE \$12,000 NET ASSETS FOR MERIT RAISES AND 2) IN THE COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND APPROPRIATE \$162,490 NET ASSETS FOR SOFTWARE LICENSES AND YEAR END ENCUMBRANCES.**

Chairman Scott said, Items for Individual Action. Item 1 is the request approval of the following budget amendments: in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services budget appropriate \$12,000 net assets from the merit raise and 2) in the Computer Replacement fund appropriate \$162,490 net assets for software licenses and year end encumbrances.

Commissioner Stone said, so --

Commissioner Holmes said, move for approval..

Commissioner Stone said, -- moved. Second.

Chairman Scott said, moved any second. Any discussion? Any unreadiness? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Motion carries.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Holmes moved for approval of the following budget amendments: 1) in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services budget appropriate \$12,000 net assets for merit raises and 2) in the Computer Replacement fund appropriate \$162,490 net assets for software licenses and end of year encumbrances. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1****AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager**FROM:** Amy Davis, Finance Director**ISSUE:**

To request approval of the following budget amendments: 1) in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services budget appropriate \$12,000 net assets for merit raises and 2) in the Computer Replacement fund appropriate \$162,490 net assets for software licenses and year end encumbrances.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. A transfer of \$12,000 from net assets is requested to cover merit increases in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

2. The ICS Director has requested an amendment to the Computer Replacement Fund to appropriate \$149,100 net assets for software licenses. Year end encumbrances from FY2015 were \$13,390 for a total amendment of \$162,490. Correspondence and a resolution are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file).

**FUNDING:**

The budget amendments will establish funds in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services and Computer Replacement Funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the following:

**BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES FUND**

- A) Appropriate \$12,000 net assets.
- B) Increase salaries and benefits \$12,000.

**COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND**

- A) Appropriate \$162,490 net assets.
- B) Increase computer software \$162,490.

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:**

Staff recommends Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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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, we’re now on the Action Calendar. There was a request that item A under 8 -- 8 A be voted on separately.

Commissioner Center said, are you ready for a motion?

Chairman Scott said, also, item E was removed from the calendar. It will be voted on at our next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and with that I would entertain a motion that we approve the Action Calendar with the exception of Item A, on page 7, Item 8, 8 A.

Commissioner Center said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that we approve the Action Calendar as stated in the motion. Any unreadiness? Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries. At this time I’ll entertain a motion on 8 A. We need a motion to approve. I so move. Is there a second?

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any discussion? Recognize the Commissioner from the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Farrell said, I would like to ask the County Manager the -- the -- the format of this particular item seems to bypass the bid process for work done and if you crunch the numbers over a five-year period, it appears to bypass the -- the competitive bid process to the tune of \$3,750,000 maximum, and I would like to start with an explanation of why it’s in the best interest of the tax payers that the bid process be worked around for something of that magnitude of money over a period of time.

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Manager, the question was to you.

County Manager Smith said, yeah, I’m going to ask the engineer to come up because they were the ones who made the recommendation but to go through why we need to do this.

Mr. Davenport said, as -- as the Board -- in the past we have awarded a lot of these on call contracts if you will. We have done transportation, drainage, surveying, environmental services, as was discussed at the last

meeting. We still do an RF -- a -- a QBS-type process with these firms. This is not, as you quote, a bid. We don't do bids on professional services. Any time we do any type of contracting for professional services, we take proposals from the consultants, we score those proposals, once those scores come in, then we -- whoever the highest scoring forms are, we take those firms, and then we negotiate a scope and fee with those consultants, after we've selected the most qualified firms, if you will. This is not circumventing that process. We would do this individually on these projects if we needed to. What this does do is keep us from having to go through an do an RFP or process for every project that we do. Some of these projects are smaller projects, most of them are. Some of them are slightly larger projects.

Mr. Davenport said, as you did point out, it is an -- a not to exceed amount. It's \$250,000 for each consultant in a given year, and for the most part, we've had these projects -- these on call contracts in place for my entire tenure here, actually it was here before I came on board, and, you know, we've continued to work this way. We've had these projects -- I don't remember any of those projects -- most of them run out of time before we've run out of money on projects -- on these on calls. So the 250 that you see, odds are we're not going to get anywhere close to those. It's a -- it's a net, if you will. It allows my department to be more responsive to your -- to your requests. You ask us to go look at a project, and we can go straight to one of these on call con -- consultants, talk to them, find out what we need to do, and move forward with the project. Obviously, if we construct that project, then we go through the bid process. We advertise that project and it comes before this Commission again for you to vote on the construction contract.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, I've been here before this was here, and I've been here since it's been here. Now, one of the things that the previous County Engineer was -- was under the constraints of a \$10,000 cap, and so, you know, with great hesitation, the Board that I sat on -- with at the time went along with it. Now you've got a -- a -- all the departments have a \$25,000 cap.

Chairman Scott said, no, the Manager has a \$25,000, not the departments.

County Manager Smith said, they have to have approval, basically.

Commissioner Farrell said, so, does the Manager have certain projects he does outside the department heads?

Chairman Scott said, the Manager has to approve -- he can approve expenditures up to \$25,000.

Commissioner Farrell said, that bubble up from the department heads.

Chairman Scott said, that comes up from the department heads.

County Manager Smith said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Farrell said, right.

Chairman Scott said, it still has to require the Manager's signature.

Commissioner Farrell said, right.

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

Chairman Scott said, if it gets over that, it has to come to me.

Commissioner Center said, wait. I guess for a point of information because of his question. So, if the County Engineer wants to exercise the option under this, the County Engineer goes to the County Manager, and the County Manager makes the decision. Is that what you're saying?

Chairman Scott said, that's -- that's -- well, he has to sign off on it.

Commissioner Center said, okay. I understand.

Chairman Scott said, yes.

County Manager Smith said, yes. So there's a check and balance.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. Well, recently, you know, there was some design work under the existing arrangement, which this I assume is a extension of this arrangement. Is that correct? Of --

Mr. Davenport said, it's -- the only change that's being made, Commissioner, is -- is that, as requested by the Board at the last Commission meeting, it was asked that we keep those at 25,000, and anything above that had to come back to -- to the Board for approval. Previously, on all the other contracts and the -- and the votes that were made and the staff reports written, that restriction was not in place.

Commissioner Farrell said, right.

Mr. Davenport said, it was no different than you awarding me a \$250,000 design contract to a firm to go do work on whatever project we happened to have.

Commissioner Farrell said, right.

Mr. Davenport said, so we implemented the change that you requested on this staff report and with this consultant group.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. Because a lot of work was done exceeding \$25,000 that the Board did not have any oversight on because this was carte blanc, blank check type of thing. So -- the other concern I had, and correct me if I'm wrong, I see three firms listed as sources. How many engineering firms would you say are out there that are capable of doing the different tasks that -- that would fall under this particular item?

Mr. Davenport said, within the county? Within the State? I mean, if you're asking if it's within the county, I mean, there are multiple firms within the county. There are hundreds of firms within the state that are capable of doing the work. They could all submit proposals, but our goal in this is to narrow that down to the best, most qualified group, and that's why you have the three that are listed for you today. I don't know exactly how many did present -- submit proposals on this last round, but I know it was more than three.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, that's kind of the point I'm making. This -- this thing conceivably will last from this day for the next five years, is that correct?

Mr. Davenport said, that's correct. It's a one year contract, renewable up to four times.

Commissioner Farrell said, and we historically renew them, so I'm going to for -- for conversation purposes, I'm just going to say this is in all likelihood a five-year contract. What -- what I see is -- is we've got three wonderful firms here that get to have first -- first dibs, if you will, on whatever work may be generated out of the engineering department to the exclusion of the dozens or hundreds of other engineering firms that -- that may at some point in the next five-year period come up with more competitive rates, may be hungrier, the -- the economy changes. We saw drastic changes when the economy changed and the interest in certain projects -- we had to cancel a project that I'm thinking of in my District because at the time the economy was so hot that nobody would bid on it, and the one person that bid on it threw a number out there for multi millions more than -- than we could possibly even think about paying, and then the opposite happens during other parts of the time. So, to -- to -- to limit ourselves to three firms, you know, maybe they all get real busy, and then all the sudden they're not real competitive. So I -- I think there's some inherent structural flaws in this request in that we're eliminating competition with other firms over a long period of time. What would you say to that?

Mr. Davenport said, first of all, I'd respectfully disagree due to the fact that, you know, when we talk about rates, you know, we're out here to find the three best firms that we could do the work.

Commissioner Farrell said, today.

Mr. Davenport said, and -- today. And these firms, short of them doing something that we don't like, they're not providing a good product, we'll continue to work with them. As you stated, it is a one year contract with four renewals. If I get into the first year of this contract with a firm, and again, we take a task, we sit down with that firm, and we negotiate a scope and fee, and that's what we do, is we weed those fees to make sure that we're getting what we need for the best fee possible, and -- and it has nothing to do with a hungry firm and cheaper rates. I'm here to give you the best product I can, and the -- whichever firm that I believe can propose the best project and design it for you, that's what I want to do.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, in the competitive business world, it just -- you know, when you -- when you take hundreds of potential cut -- providers of a -- of a service, and you narrow it down to three, I think inherently over time you may have some inflation in the -- the pricing that we're getting, and I've got a concern about that.

Mr. Davenport said, well, this doesn't extend to every project that this department does. These are for some smaller projects. If we do another project, say a Benton Boulevard, that we recently brought to the Board or the 307 widening -- interchange improvement projects that the Chairman spoke to earlier, then we go out and do -- we do an individual project on that -- individual RFP and have those firms submit again. It doesn't exclude anybody at that point. Now those other hundreds that you were talking about that are excluded because of this one contract have ample opportunity to come before this Commission and submit proposals, let's review them and -- and come back to you and say who the most qualified is for that project. I -- that's -- you know, we're not excluding the other firms from any other project this -- this county does. We've got a lot of SPLOST projects that are coming forward that, you know, we're putting out stuff every day, whether they're vertical, road, drainage, doesn't matter.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, here's a concern, you know, all right, so the first -- so one of the -- one of your -- one of the firms -- one of the three firms starts doing 40 and 50 and \$70,000 worth of work. All of the sudden, he's so much into this project, and I've heard it before, on the police station we're building right now, we need to go to this certain firm because they've got a history here. So you're kind of building in possibly some history, so that when it does come to a larger project, because -- so I -- I -- I just have some concerns along those lines.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want clarification on -- if I could ask -- for clarification I'd like to ask -- let me finish this one number on here, please. Times three -- okay. Is it 250,000 approval, per year, per engineering company listed?

Mr. Davenport said, that's correct, and at the end of the year, if we've used \$50,000 of that, that 200,000 doesn't roll over.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Mr. Davenport said, it starts over with another year that same 250 base again.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so this then just quick math appears to be giving approval for three engineers -- engineering companies to receive a total of \$11,250,000 over a five-year period?

Mr. Davenport said, no, sir. You've got --

Commissioner Center said, three seven five oh.

Commissioner Farrell said, 3,750,000. If -- if the -- (Inaudible).

Commissioner Kicklighter said, wouldn't that be -- not -- if -- if the max out is 250,000 --

Chairman Scott said, the question is to the Engineer.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- per company. 250,000 for let's take the first one, Hussey, Gay and Bell on that. If you multiple that times five, they receive 3,750,000. You have the same opportunity here with this approval for EMC. I'm asking that question. Can we do the same thing? You would get approval --

Mr. Davenport said, no. I -- I -- if I could clarify that. It's -- it's 250 a year for five years.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Davenport said, so that's \$1.25 million for that one firm over five years if we exhausted every bit of the 250 every year with them. Then the next firm would be the same 1.25 and the third would be 1.25, so the number that Commissioner Farrell quoted earlier of 3 -- 3.75 is the correct figure for all firms if we use them the whole 250 with them every year before their year of calendar was out.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that would be per firm, though, the three million.

Mr. Davenport said, no, that's for all three of them.

County Manager Smith said, no.

Commissioner Farrell said, all three.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Mr. Davenport said, it would be one point --

Chairman Scott said, 1.5 per firm.

Mr. Davenport said, 1.25 for each firm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. So we're giving permission with this for 3,750,000 then.

Mr. Davenport said, at a -- at -- at an extreme, yes.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's a lot of money just --

Commissioner Center said, thank --- thank you, Mr. Chairman. A -- again, I -- I follow the math, but I have two questions. One, why are we -- why do you need the year by year? Why can't you just come back every year and ask for this? Why do we have to have four one year extensions? As -- 'cause if I follow Commissioner Farrell, perhaps, one of these firms will go belly up or get so much work they want to do it, and are we locked in with -- we're bringing it -- go to -- go to firm number four and take firm number two out. So my question is why does it have to be four year extensions? Why can't you just come back every year and ask to do this?

Mr. Davenport said, well, if the Board would -- if the Board wants us to come back, we can ask for a renewal of the contract every year. I mean we evaluate the contracts every year and decide whether we want to move forward with that firm or not, and it is -- it's a renewal, and it's something that purch -- you're authorizing purchasing can do, but -- at our request because purchasing and contracting handles that aspect of it.

Commissioner Center said, so the renewal is at the County Commission's option, not at the firm's option.

Mr. Davenport said, the -- the renewal is at -- the county's option, yes.

Commissioner Center said, all right.

Mr. Davenport said, we -- we're not -- or we're not tied in if you will to renew them for up to five years.

Commissioner Center said, all right. So, I'm -- and if -- if -- if we pass this as suggested, and say two years down the line you find out that one of these three you don't want to do business with, do you have to come back and ask the Commission can we swap one out or do you have that option?

Mr. Davenport said, well, obviously, the first thing I'd do would be say, we're done with that firm, we would not renew their contract, and if we felt like that we needed additional services, another firm and brought -- brought them in, the number four, as you will, that scored originally on the proposal, then we'd have to come back to the Board and say, I can't do that -- the contract -- we can't just swap out that contract.

Commissioner Center said, okay. All right.

Mr. Davenport said, the County Attorney can correct me if I'm wrong, but that's -- we'd have to stay there.

Commissioner Center said, and that may have answered my second question. You've limited your source to the three, so essentially, year by year you can change your sources, and if you needed to, you'd come back and ask the Commission's approval.

Mr. Davenport said, that's correct, but this is for one portion of projects. You know, I kind of -- like I eluded to earlier, the Board has approved my department to be able to do transportation on calls, drainage on calls, surveying on call, the environmental that you talked about last -- last term, and now we're asking for the miscellaneous civil services. The only thing that we are putting in there, per the Board's request from the last meeting was -- is that 25,000 threshold. So the only way that you're --

Commissioner Center said, threshold or cap?

Mr. Davenport said, well, it's a threshold because if -- the way that it's written, the staff report's written is, is if I've got a single task that I need to put to that firm, say the first firm on the list, and it's \$27,000, I've got to come back to the Board and say, okay, look, I'm going to have one task order to -- to the consultant that we approved for that \$27,000.

Commissioner Center said, all right. So, if -- if it's not more than 25, then you can -- you could take Hussey, Gay and Bell and -- and do ten projects with them.

Mr. Davenport said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, in -- in one year.

Mr. Davenport said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, okay. Make -- may -- before I follow up with that. So now, and I apologize, tell me, I'm not clear with these engineering terms, why this benefits the county, and I know particularly your department to do it this way?

Mr. Davenport said, it's -- it's nothing more than a time issue for us. We have a lot of smaller projects that -- let's just say an intersection, a signal is messed up, and we need to go look at that signal. I can go task a firm and grab that firm, and say, okay, guys, look, I've got a general task order, if you could come in here and give me a -- a -- a study on this intersection so we can improve the congestion issue. If I don't do that, and I need to procure services every time, then we have to do our advertisements. We have to bring in the proposals. We have to review the proposals, then we have to -- after we've scored them, then we have to sit down and come back to the Board and -- and negotiate scope of fee with that guy and come back to the Board with that fee. So instead of me being able to walk out the door and in two weeks go to work on a project, now, you're talking about three, four months before I can do that, and it's all going to depend upon many things, getting proposals in, and we're going to do that for the larger projects. This is not for everything that I do, and as we talked about, you know, that -- that \$25,000 threshold, you're going to know about whenever we need something that's bigger than -- bigger than that.

Commissioner Center said, well, you explained it very well to me. And -- and another question I have that occurred as you were answering. As Commissioner Farrell pointed out, you said there's a number of qualified firms. You never want to have all your eggs in one basket. Do we as a matter of policy make sure that we -- 'cause we do a lot of engineering work, that we make sure that no one vendor or company we're doing business with puts us in a situation -- I hate to use analogies, Wal-Mart has over its suppliers, where they control us. Do we spread that out or look at that?

Mr. Davenport said, if you go back and look at the on call task work contractors -- or consultants that we have now, it's a vast number. I mean, you're probably talking about a dozen, 15 con -- consultants, doing different types of work. They all have their specialities if you will, things they are better at. Some are better at transportation, some are better at drainage. You know, surveying, obviously, those are different companies than the consultants, although there are a couple of consultants, I think that we have, that are doing survey work for

us. T and H is one I can -- I -- I can think of. So, you know, it's -- it's -- it's a pretty spread -- pretty good spread on it.

Commissioner Center said, so -- so we balance it so no one has control over us.

Mr. Davenport said, yeah. There's -- there's -- there's a lot of -- we have a lot of firms under -- under this process.

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

Chairman Scott said, any further -- any -- is there any further discussion on this?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I -- I have a question.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Was the -- this type of request utilized to move forward with the presentation before the request to three-lane Quacco Road? Did you pay someone to put something together?

Mr. Davenport said, no, sir. I brought that individually to the Board.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. So you --

Mr. Davenport said, the staff report that we did last year to the Board, which was the phase one part of that project.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Mr. Davenport said, that -- that was an individual one that we actually went out on RFP and reviewed those proposals separate from this process.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was -- I was just curious. I didn't know if that was on that or not. And by the way, I see what I did with my calculator real quick, so, you know, sorry about that.

Mr. Davenport said, well, I -- I done -- I was off by a factor of ten when y'all me a question last time. So that's --

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any further questions? I recognize the Commissioner from the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Farrell said, I want to ask that we table this item till the next meeting, and give me some more time to research and --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- ask some questions about it.

Chairman Scott said, okay. We got a motion that we table this. We also have a motion that we pass it. So we're going -- we're going to carry the motion that we table it, and if it passes, then it's on the table, and at the next meeting, you'll have a motion to deal with to pass it. All in favor of tabling it -- any discussion? Any unreadiness? All in favor of tabling it, indicate by voting yes, opposed no. We'll discuss it at our next meeting. The motion to table carries. That completes our Action Calendar.

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

- a. Commissioner Center moved to approve all items on the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 8 and under Item 8 Items A through D with the exception of A. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]
- b. Chairman Scott moved to approve Item 8 A, request Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. No vote was taken on this motion.
- c. Commissioner Farrell moved to table Item 8 A, request Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried in a 5-2 vote with Commissioners Stone, Center, Farrell, Brady and Kicklighter voting yes and Chairman Scott and Commissioner Holmes voting no. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioner Shabazz 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 MAY 27, 2016, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2016, as mailed. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 19, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2016.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period of May 19, 2016 through June 1, 2016, in the amount of \$8,885,393. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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- 3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR RECURRING GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000 FROM AUTISM SPEAKS TO THE AQUATIC CENTER FOR SWIMMING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved for Board approval to apply for recurring grant in the amount of \$2,000 from Autism Speaks to the Aquatic Center for swimming scholarships for children with autism. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Robert W. Drewry, Director, Public Works and Park Services

**ISSUE:**

Request approval from the Board of Commissioners to apply for recurring grant in the amount of \$2,000 from Autism Speaks to the Aquatic Center for swimming scholarships for children with autism.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Chatham County Aquatic Center has previously applied for funding through Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks has granted funding in the amount of \$2000 for scholarships for children with autism in the past.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Aquatic Center offers swim lessons for children with special needs. The majority of those clients are children with autism.
2. Children with autism sometimes require one on one private lessons to allow them to become comfortable in the water.

3. Autism Speaks provides opportunities for children to learn various sports by granting funding for facilities that work with special needs children.
4. Currently staff is working with 14 autistic children in a one on one setting and there is a waiting list to get into the program.
5. The goal of this program is to teach the children how to swim and to move to our special needs swim team, Angel Fish.
6. This grant was applied for online through the new E-Civis software.
7. It is Staff's request for the Board to approve this application for the year so staff doesn't have to bring this to the Board for approval each and every application.

**FUNDING:**

This will be funding for \$2000 from Autism Speaks on a quarterly basis. This is not a matching grant.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is Board policy for staff to seek grants for Parks and Recreation programs.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Apply the grant.
2. Provide the staff other guidance.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board follow Alternative 1.

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR CHATHAM COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES TO APPLY FOR THE 2016 ACCG HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS GRANT AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE GRANT APPLICATION AND ITS SUBSEQUENT AWARD.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved for Board approval for Chatham County Human Resources to apply for the 2016 ACCG Health Promotion and Wellness Grant and authorize the Chairman to sign any documents related to the grant application and its subsequent award. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Carolyn A. Smalls, Human Resources Director

**ISSUE:**

To request Board approval to apply for the 2016 ACCG Health Promotion and Wellness grant and authorize the Chairman to sign any documents related to the grant application and its subsequent reward.

**BACKGROUND:**

For the past eleven years, Human Resources has applied for and received grant funding from ACCG for wellness programming. Grant funds have been used to purchase items that encourage employees to lead healthy lifestyles.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The premise of the ACCG grant is to promote worksite programs designed to enhance the health and wellness of County employees and family members. Awards are made to members of ACCG based on a County's commitment to employee health and demonstrated collaboration with other community groups and organizations engaged in health promotion.
2. The Board of Commissioners has demonstrated strong support for the health and well-being of employees through the adoption of a formal wellness policy during its October 3,

2008 meeting. To further support employee health, during the June 26, 2013 meeting, the Board approved the establishment of the Chatham County Employee Health Center.

3. Previous ACCG grant funds have been used to purchase incentives such as water bottles and pedometers, as well as educational materials that promote healthy living.

**FUNDING:**

No match required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to apply for the 2016 ACCG Health Promotion and Wellness grant and authorize the Chairman to sign any documents related to the grant application and its subsequent reward.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It has been the Board's policy to support programs and funding that enhance the health and well-being of Chatham County employees.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) FOR THE COUNTY'S UTILITY RELOCATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND'S EXPRESSWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.  
[DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved for Board approval to authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the County's utility relocations required for the construction of the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Leon Davenport, P.E., County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

To authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the County's utility relocations required for the construction of the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County is sponsoring the preliminary engineering for the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project. The County has water and sanitary sewer facilities that are in conflict with construction and that are required to be relocated. GDOT is funding construction of the project in Fiscal Year 2017 in the amount of \$34,327,989.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Chatham County entered into a Project Framework Agreement (PFA) with GDOT on November 30, 2012. The PFA states that Chatham County is responsible for all reimbursable utility relocation costs.
2. The MOU will allow for the County's utility relocations associated with the bridge tender hut on the existing bridge to be part of the construction contract that will be let by GDOT.
3. The MOU was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney as to legal form.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the County's utility relocations required for the construction of the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project.
2. To not authorize the Memorandum of Understanding.

**FUNDING:**

No funds are required at this time.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board must approve all Intergovernmental Agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve Alternative No. 1.

District 3

Prepared By: Nathaniel Panther, P.E.

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- 6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT (WUM) AND THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) FOR WUM'S UTILITY RELOCATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND'S EXPRESSWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.  
[DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved for Board approval to authorize the Chairman to execute Memorandum of Understanding with Water Utility Management and the Georgia Department of Transportation for Water Utility Managements' utility relocations required for the construction of the Island's Expressway bridge replacement project. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**

**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Leon Davenport, P.E., County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

To authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Water Utility Management (WUM) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for WUM's utility relocations required for the construction of the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County is sponsoring the preliminary engineering for the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project. WUM has water utilities that are in conflict with construction and that are required to be relocated. GDOT is funding construction of the project in Fiscal Year 2017 in the amount of \$34,327,989.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Chatham County entered into a Project Framework Agreement (PFA) with GDOT on November 30, 2012. The PFA states that Chatham County is responsible for all reimbursable utility relocation costs.
2. The MOU will allow for WUM's utility relocations to be part of the construction contract that will be let by GDOT.
3. The MOU was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney as to legal form.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Water Utility Management (WUM) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for WUM's utility relocations required for the construction of the Island's Expressway Bridge Replacement project.
2. To not authorize the Memorandum of Understanding.

**FUNDING:**

No funds are required at this time.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board must approve all Intergovernmental Agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve Alternative No. 1.

District 3

Prepared by: Nathaniel Panther, P.E.

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**7. REQUEST FROM JAMES BARR FOR THE COUNTY TO DECLARE A PORTION OF THE UN-OPENED EAST BOULEVARD RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) AS SURPLUS AND TO QUITCLAIM THE ROW. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved for Board approval of a request from James Barr for the County to declare a portion of the un-opened East Boulevard right of way as surplus and to quitclaim the right of way. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-7**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

To present to the Board a request from James Barr for the County to declare a portion of the un-opened East Boulevard right of way as surplus and to quitclaim the right of way.

**BACKGROUND:**

The petitioner owns the parcel (PIN 1-0099-11-005) adjacent to the ROW. The Board approved a request to quitclaim this portion of right-of-way to Mr. Barr's parents in 2007. The deceased Barrs did not complete the deed and payment process to complete the quitclaim. Mr. Barr, as heir, would like to complete the process at this time. The right-of-way includes a dirt path which is used to access several parcels. The petitioner agrees to maintain an access easement on the drive way.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1) The location of the request is shown on the map attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file). The petitioner requests quitclaim of approximately 30' of the East Boulevard ROW adjacent to his property located on East Boulevard.
- 2) There were several quitclaims of East Boulevard in the past which left a few remnants. The requested quitclaim is one of those remnants. Staff evaluated the ROW and determined this portion is of no use to the County.
- 3) The petitioner was notified of the quitclaim consideration and advised as to the date and time of this meeting.
- 4) If approved, the petitioner must pay the County the fair market value for the ROW to be determined by a professional appraisal or the tax assessed value, and provide the necessary appraisal, deed, and plat at his expense. The appraiser is selected by the petitioner and must be certified as a professional appraiser by the State of Georgia. Staff will review the submitted appraisal, deed, and plat for completeness and reasonableness.

before the deed is sent to the County Clerk of processing and the fair market value payment check is sent to Finance for deposit.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To approve a request form James Barr for the County to declare a portion of the un-opened East Boulevard right of way as surplus and to quitclaim the ROW.
2. Do not approve the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board must declare County property surplus and approve all quitclaim actions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 4

Prepared by: Suzanne Cooler, P.E.

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$25,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Center moved for approval to award bids as follows except Item A: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$25,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.) Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]
- b. Chairman Scott moved to approve Item 8 A, request Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. No vote was taken on this motion.
- c. Commissioner Farrell moved to table Item 8 A, request Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried in a 5-2 vote with Commissioners Stone, Center, Farrell, Brady and Kicklighter voting yes and Chairman Scott and Commissioner Holmes voting no. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; Commissioner Shabazz was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-8 A-D**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**

**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 three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects.

**BACKGROUND:** There are small to medium projects that can be done by a variety of professional engineering companies that have demonstrated their ability to accomplish quality and timely work for the County. Projects to be considered to be miscellaneous civil would include parks, recreational facilities, site design and other similar work.

**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 and schedules determined by the solicitor of the services. The contracts shall have a one year term and may be automatically renewed for up to four additional one year terms under the same conditions.
2. The companies listed in this report are not intended to be inclusive of all "qualified" companies. Their selection was evaluated through a quality based selection process. Nine proposals were reviewed and scored. (See attached matrix on pages 3 and 4 for detailed scoring) The following firms were the highest rated from the list of proposers and are recommended to receive contract awards in the amounts indicated.

Hussey, Gay, Bell Savannah, GA	(NTE \$ 250,000)
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EMC Engineering Services Savannah, GA	(NTE \$ 250,000)
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Wolverton and Associates Savannah, GA	(NTE \$ 250,000)
--	------------------

3. Any on-call task orders that exceed \$25,000 will require Board approval.

**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), Special Service District (SSD) and the Land Bank Account.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award professional services contracts to the highest scoring firms.

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

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

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an \$8,605 annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms for preventive maintenance and repair of diesel engines and emergency generators for various Chatham County facilities to Power Pro-Tech Services, Inc.

**BACKGROUND:** This agreement will establish preventive maintenance and repair cost of diesel engines and emergency generators for various Chatham County facilities.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Bids were properly advertised and opened on May 11, 2016. The bids were evaluated by staff and the results are as follows:

Power Pro-Tech Services, Inc. Altamonte Springs, FL	\$8,605
--	---------

Cummins, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$9,283
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Energy Systems Southeast, LLC Birmingham, AL	\$9,350
---	---------

W.W. Williams Savannah, GA	\$10,704
-------------------------------	----------

Yancey Power Systems. CAT Pooler, GA	\$11,691
---	----------

TAW Power Systems, Inc. \$12,630  
Pooler, GA

3. Staff believes the bid of \$8,605 from Power Pro-Tech Services Inc., to be fair and reasonable.

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

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an \$8,605 annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms for preventive maintenance and repair of diesel engines and emergency generators for various Chatham County facilities to Power Pro-Tech Services, Inc.
2. Provide staff with other directions.

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

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

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

**ITEM C**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to “piggy-back” on the City of Savannah’s solicitation for an annual contract not to exceed \$400,000 with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Staples Advantage as a supplier of office supplies for various County departments.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Savannah issued an RFP for office supplies. Three firms responded. The City evaluated proposals on the basis of qualifications and experience, distribution capability, a user friendly website, discount pricing and rebates, references and local presence. Staples was the highest ranked proposer and was awarded the contract by the City on March 31, 2016.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Staples will provide a \$20,000 signing bonus upon contract execution along with discounts for the most frequently ordered items, office supplies at 67%, paper at 78-84.54% along with discounts for furniture, ink and toner. Staples offers a \$6.00 credit for every order over \$200.00. Additionally, the County will be issued a rebate annually based on volume.
2. The Staples program offers on-line ordering and desk top delivery. Their software ordering system contains the ability of supervisors to monitor or approve at user level and includes the ability for Purchasing to monitor/approve/disapprove orders. Restrictions are placed on such things as equipment (over \$2,500), computers, printers, software and furniture (over \$2,500).
3. Staples will provide training to County users as needed.
4. The Purchasing Ordinance allows the County to piggy back from other agencies’ competitive solicitations when deemed to be in the County’s best interest.

**FUNDING:** •General Fund/M&O - Various  
•SSD - Various

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to “piggy-back” on the City of Savannah’s solicitation for an annual contract not to exceed \$400,000 with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Staples Advantage as a supplier of office supplies for various County departments.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve contracts that are in the best interest of the County.

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

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

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to negotiate and award an annual contract, with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to CorrectHealth, LLC, of Atlanta, Georgia for a not to

exceed first year cost of \$6,973,725 to provide inmate health care. Negotiations are needed to refine the staffing, scope of work, contract terms and final annual cost.

**BACKGROUND:** The Detention Center currently processes approximately 18,000 inmates per year. Contracted services are required to provide inmates with on site healthcare and dental services.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. This solicitation was handled as a two (2) step process. A request for qualifications was issued in Phase I. Five (5) responses were received and four (4) of the respondents were selected to advance to Phase II. A request for proposals was issued for Phase II. The proposals were scored by an evaluation committee consisting of staff from the Sheriff's office, Assistant County Manager, Assistant County Attorney, the Executive Director of Safety Net Planning Council and consultants from Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS.) Interviews with the four (4) respondents were conducted and scored.
2. The evaluation scoring matrix is attached as page 9. Costs were requested for the first three (3) years with a maximum escalation percentage for future years. The respondents and their respective three (3) year costs for catastrophic coverage were as follows:

<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Three Year Cost</u>
CorrectHealth	\$21,448,562
Correct Care	\$22,881,819
Corizon	\$24,568,829
Armor	\$26,994,893

3. Staff recommends award to CorrectHealth, LLC, pending final negotiations. CorrectHealth received the highest combined score for Phase I and Phase II and also submitted the best cost proposal.
4. CorrectHealth, LLC, in accordance with our Community Blueprint proposes to utilize the following local partners:
  - Curtis Cooper Primary Healthcare Clinic
  - Gateway Behavioral Health
  - Quick RX Pharmacy
  - Coastal Health Solutions
  - Memorial Health
  - Judco LLC
5. Negotiations will be finalized in the next few weeks with an anticipated contract start date of August 1, 2016.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O- Detention Center  
(1003326 - 52.12006)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to negotiate and award an annual contract, with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one year terms, to CorrectHealth, LLC, of Atlanta, Georgia for a not to exceed first year cost of \$6,973,725 to provide inmate health care. Negotiations are needed to refine the staffing, scope of work, contract terms and final annual cost.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the highest ranked firm.

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

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

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Coastal EMS with a first year cost of \$875,000 to provide Emergency Medical Coverage for Zones 3 & 4. Coastal EMS proposes to reduce the County's subsidy throughout the contract period resulting in a 5 year cost of \$3,375,000.

**BACKGROUND:** The contract for Emergency Medical Coverage for Zones 3 & 4 expired in February and has been extended with Southside Fire/EMS through August 11, 2016 to allow time to complete the

RFP process:

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. An RFP was issued and publicly advertised on October 26, 2015. Proposals were received from four (4) respondents on December 3, 2015. A selection committee was established consisting of staff from Metro Communications, Metro Dispatch, CEMA Director, County Senior Budget Analyst and a representative from St. Joseph's/Candler. The four (4) respondents and their respective cost proposals were:

<u>Vendors</u>	<u>5 Year Cost Proposal</u>
Coastal EMS	\$3,375,000
American Medical	\$3,981,852
Southside EMS	\$4,616,000
Central EMS	\$6,500,000

2. The selection committee interviewed the top three (3) proposers resulting in the scores shown in the evaluation matrix on page 11.

3. Coastal EMS scored highest on the initial evaluation as well as the interviews and offered the lowest cost proposal.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Emergency Medical Services  
(1003600 - 52.39001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Coastal EMS with a first year cost of \$875,000 to provide Emergency Medical Coverage for zones 3 & 4. Coastal EMS proposes to reduce the County's subsidy throughout the contract period resulting in a 5 year cost of \$3,375,000.

2. Provide staff with other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the highest ranked firm.

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

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

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

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**XI. FIRST READINGS**

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

- 1. THE PETITIONER, SCOTT MONSON, AGENT FOR INDIGO HALL, II, IS REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO CREATE SECTION 4-14 OF CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW PUD ZONING DISTRICT (VILLAGE AT SKIDAWAY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT). THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. Z-160512-00050-1 [DISTRICT 4.]**

Chairman Scott said, we have -- we have a -- a First Reader. Scott Monson, Agent for indo -- Indigo Hall, II, is requesting an amendment to create Section 4-4 [sic] of Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to establish a new PUD Zoning District (Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development). The MPC Recommended Approval. It is MPC File No. Z-160512-00050-1.

**AGENDA ITEM: XI-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**



## CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER**

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

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

**Scott Monson, agent for Indigo Hall, II, is requesting an Amendment to Create Section 4-14 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to establish a new PUD zoning district (Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development). The MPC recommends approval.**

**File No. Z-160512-00050-1**

**ISSUE:**

The request is to establish a new Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning district, Village at Skidaway.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Village at Skidaway is an existing 69-acre development located on Skidaway Island at the northwest corner of Diamond Causeway and McWhorter Road. The Village was zoned PUD-B-N (Planned Unit Development - Neighborhood Business) in 1980 to allow for a neighborhood-oriented commercial development with a mix of retail, office and institutional uses.

The PUD-B-N district is a sub-classification of the PUD-B (Planned Unit Development-Business District). Uses permitted in the PUD-B-N district are those permitted in a third zoning district, B-N (Neighborhood Business).

The Village is also within an Environmental-Overlay (E-O) zoning district. This district has some requirements that are in addition to or that may be more restrictive than the underlying base zoning district. The E-O district is not proposed to be eliminated.

In addition to the creation of the PUD, the property is also proposed to be rezoned from its current zoning classification to the proposed Village at Skidaway PUD (File No. 16-0420-00041-1) is also on the May 17 Planning Commission agenda.

A neighborhood meeting was held on May 10, 2015 at Messiah Lutheran Church in the Village. Approximately 50 people, including an MPC staff person, were in attendance.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The proposed PUD district will allow for a zoning district that supports the vision of the Village of Skidaway. Uses, uses conditions development standards and other site standards would be specific to the Village unlike the PUD-B-N district. The PUD was spurred by a desire to allow uses not presently permitted in the PUD-B-N district and to limit their locations within the Village. The PUD text is attached.
2. The applicant seeks to develop a continuing care retirement residence, which would include independent living and assisted living to allow residents to "age-in-place." A "memory care" unit will also be offered. For zoning purposes, this portion of the residence is proposed to be classified as a personal care home. Watchful oversight will be provided for residents who do not require nursing care.

The zoning ordinance does not specifically address this type of residential development, either collectively or individually. The closest use would be a "Home for the Aged and Children, which is not defined but is permitted in the B-N district. It is assumed that this use does not allow for an independent living component. Independent living allows residents to live within their own dwelling without assistance and an opportunity to participate in the activities and amenities provided by the retirement facility. As health needs change, residents can move into assisted living on the same property.

As proposed, the continuing care retirement residence and personal care home would be limited to Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 shown on the master plan. The Commerce Street right-of-way, from Lake Street to the western boundaries of Parcels 3 and 8 may be quit-claimed to be included in the area to be developed.

- 3. Definitions are proposed for “continuing retirement care facility” and “assisted living facility.” The “memory care” portion of the retirement residences would be a personal care home, for zoning purposes, which is also defined. Other definitions for proposed uses are also provided. Nearly all of the definitions are new for the zoning ordinance and were developed during the drafting of the New Zoning Ordinances (New ZO). Ideally, these definitions should be placed in the definition section of the zoning ordinance, but the unusual formatting of that section and time constraints did not allow staff that opportunity.
- 4. Upper-story residential is also a proposed limited residential use that does not exist in the zoning ordinance. Such use would have to be located over a ground floor non-residential use. The master developer, Lewis Broadcasting Corporation, believes there may be an opportunity for this type of development east of Lake Street in the more retail portion of the Village. A standard is proposed to limit upper-story residential to this area.
- 5. The proposed PUD ordinance is clear that for any specific standards not identified within the PUD, the standards of other applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance will apply. Furthermore, the PUD standard will apply if there is any conflict with another section of the Zoning Ordinance.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Approve the PUD as provided.
- 2. Approve and amended PUD.
- 3. Deny the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Village of Skidaway PUD provides a zoning district that is specific to the existing development and that includes proposed uses and development standards. No existing uses would become nonconforming. The PUD also allows limited residential uses for those of retirement age and that facilitates their ability to “age-in-place” and to be within walking distance of good and services.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Planning Commission recommends Approval of Sec. 4-14, Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development district.

PREPARED BY: Gary Plumbley, Director  
Development Services

May 17, 2015

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**  
*“Planning the Future – Respecting the Past”*

----- MEMORANDUM -----

DATE: MAY 17, 2016  
TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
SUBJECT: MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**

Text Amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance  
RE: Amendment to Create Section 4-14 (Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development)  
Indigo Hall, II, LLC, Applicant  
Lewis Broadcasting Corporation, Master Developer  
Scot Monson (Thomas & Hutton), Agent  
File No. Z-160420-00041-1

**MPC ACTION:**

Approval of Section 4-14, Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development district.

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approval** of Section 4-14, Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development district.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 10 + Chairman

Tanya Milton, Chairman  
 Joseph Welch, Treasurer  
 Travis Cole  
 Joseph Ervin  
 Lacy Manigault  
 Linder Suthers

James Overton  
 Shedrick Coleman  
 Ellis Cook  
 Timothy Mackey  
 Lee Smith

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

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

Tanya Milton  
 James Overton  
 Joseph Welch  
 Shedrick Coleman  
 Travis Cole  
 Ellis Cook  
 Joseph Ervin  
 Timothy Mackey  
 Lacy Manigault  
 Lee Smith  
 Linder Suthers

None

\*Stephanie Cutter  
 \*Tom Woiwode  
 \*George Woods. III

FOR APPROVAL: 11

FOR DENIAL: 0

ABSTAINING: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
 Executive Director

**Sec. 4-14. Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development.**

**(a) Established.**

The Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development (Village at Skidaway PUD) is hereby established to support the development of the Village at Skidaway with a mix of planned neighborhood business, office, institutional and limited residential uses. The Village at Skidaway PUD will help to sustain the existing neighborhood business uses and will allow for limited compatible residential uses within the district.

**(b) General Provisions.**

**(1) Conflicts.**

In the case of any conflict between a specific regulation set forth in this Section and any regulation set forth elsewhere in this Chapter or this Code, including the Environmental Overlay (E-O) District (Sec. 4-12), the regulation in this Section shall apply.

**(2) Measurements.**

All measurements shall follow the specific standard required by this Chapter unless otherwise specified below:

i. **Residential Density.** Density shall be measured as the required area of land per dwelling unit for a given housing type, if any, divided by the total lot area.

ii. **Building Setbacks.** The setback for any principal use building shall be from the property line. Accessory buildings shall comply with Sec. 3-6.

**(c) Administration and Enforcement.**

Administration and enforcement of this Section shall follow the process described in Sec. 9 (Administration and Enforcement) of this Chapter.

**(d) Master Plan.** The land area and parcels included in the master plan is provided on the last page of this Section.

**(e) Permitted and Prohibited Uses.**

**(1) Permitted Uses.**

Table 1 identifies the permitted uses, including use conditions, where applicable. Any use not

specifically listed is expressly prohibited unless the Zoning Administrator determines that the use is similar to a permitted use. However, the Zoning Administrator cannot approve the uses or activities specifically prohibited in Sec. 4-14(e)(2).

Use (X) = Permitted (-) = Not Permitted or No Condition	How Permitted	Use Conditions See Sec. 4-14 (3)(2) for prohibited uses and activities
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>		
Continuing Care Retirement Residence	X	See Sec. 4-14(e)(3)(I)
Upper Story Residential	X	See Sec. 4-14(e)(3)(ii)
<b>CIVIC</b>		
<b>Park/Open Area</b>		
Community garden	X	--
Park	X	--
Personal Care Home, Congregate	X	See Sec. 4-14(e)(3)(I)
<b>Community Services</b>		
Library/Community Center	X	--
Police/fire station or substation	X	--
Post office	X	--
<b>Day Care Services</b>		
Child/adult day care center	X	--
<b>Educational</b>		
School, K-12	X	--
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
All places of worship	X	--
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>		
<b>Office</b>		
Office, general	X	--
Office, medical	X	--
Studio, multimedia production center	X	--
<b>Recreation</b>		
Indoor sports facility	X	--
Theater/cinema/performing arts	X	--
<b>Retail Sales</b>		
		See Sec. 4-14(e)(2) for prohibited Retail Sales uses and activities
Retail, general	X	--
Art/photo studio or gallery	X	--
Convenience store	X	--
Fuel/gas station	X	See Sec. 4-14(e)(3)(iii)
Food-oriented retail, including grocery	X	--
Pharmacy	X	--
<b>Services</b>		
		See Sec. 4-14(e)(2) for prohibited Service uses and activities
Services, general	X	--
Animal services, indoor	X	--
Bank	X	--
Business support services	X	--
Instructional studio or classroom	X	--
Laundromat	X	--
Personal service shops	X	--

Use (X) = Permitted (-) = Not Permitted or No Condition	How Permitted	Use Conditions See Sec. 4-14 (3)(2) for prohibited uses and activities
Repair-oriented services	X	--
Vehicle service, minor	X	--
<b>Eating and Drinking Establishments</b>		
Restaurant (with or without alcohol sales)	X	--
<b>Communications</b>		
Wireless Telecommunications Facilities	X	See Section 16.
<b>Utilities</b>		
Utilities, Minor	X	--
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Accessory Uses</b>		
Home Occupation	X	See Sec. 2-28, definition for home occupation for uses and standards
<b>Temporary Uses</b>		
Temporary Uses	X	See Sec. 4-14(e)(3)(iv)

**(2) Prohibited Uses and Activities**

The following uses and activities are not permitted:

- i. The sale of adult-oriented material.
- ii. Adult-oriented entertainment.
- iii. Pawn shops.

**(3) Use Conditions.****i. Continuing Care Retirement Residence and Personal Care Home.**

- a. A continuing care retirement residence and personal care home are limited to Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. A portion of Commerce Street as shown on the master plan adopted on [insert date of adoption of this ordinance] may be included in the development if the area is quit-claimed.
- b. The independent living portion of a continuing care retirement residence shall be limited to one or more multi-family buildings.

**ii. Upper Story Residential.**

Upper story residential is limited to the area east of Lake Street.

**iii. Fuel Station.**

- a. The fuel canopy shall conform to the setback requirement of the parcel district but can be no closer than 15 feet to any property line.
- b. The only portion of the canopy that can be backlit is the area behind any canopy signage.

**iv. Temporary Uses.**

- a. The following uses are permitted on a temporary basis: 1) Construction offices and construction storage units are allowed during the time of active construction; 2) outdoor religious services and , 3) the sale of seasonal produce and other seasonal items; and, 4) events, such as art shows, car shows or other similar shows if approved by the master developer with written approval provided to the zoning administrator.

**(f) General Development Standards.**

The following general development standards are specific to the Village at Skidaway PUD and are in addition to the standards provided in this Chapter and elsewhere in this Code. Where there are two standards for the same general development standard, the standard in this Section shall apply.

**(1) Residential and Non-residential Development Standards.**

Use	Lot Area Per Dwelling Unit (min)	Lot Width (min)	Yard Setbacks (min)	Building Lot Coverage (max)	Height (max)
<b>Residential</b>					
Multi-family	2,400 sf	n/a	Front: 20 ft Side: 15 ft Rear: 25 ft	70%	45 ft.
Upper Story Residential	2,400 sf	See Non-residential	See Non-residential	See Non-residential	See Non-residential
<b>Non-Residential</b>					
Non-residential	n/a	n/a	Front: 20 ft Side: 15 ft Rear: 25 ft	70%	45 ft.

**(2) Screening and Buffers.**

Screening and buffering shall be required as provided in Sec. 3-12 (Visual Buffers and Screening) of this Chapter with the exception of the following:

- a. Where a non-residential use, mixed use or multi-family use shares a property line with a non-residential, mixed use or multi-family use, no screening or buffering shall be required except for the screening of service and parking areas.

**(3) Signage.**

Signage shall comply with the requirements of the Neighborhood-Business (B-N) District and the Environmental Overlay District with the exception of the following standards for freestanding signage:

- a. Freestanding signs shall be limited to monument signs with a height not greater than eight (8) feet and a sign area not greater than 40 square feet.

**(4) Off-Street Parking and Loading.**

Off-street parking and loading shall comply with the requirements of Sec. 6 (Off-street Parking and Loading Requirements) with the exception of the following standards for required off-street parking:

- a. Continuing Care Retirement Residence:
  - i. Nursing Home: No off-street parking required.
  - ii. Assisted Living Facility: 0.5 off-street spaces per dwelling unit.
  - iii. Independent Living: 1.5 off-street spaces per dwelling unit.
  - iv. Employees: One (1) off-street space per employee.
- b. Upper Story Residential: 1.25 off-street spaces per dwelling.
- c. Personal Care Home: One (1) off-street space per employee.

**(G) Definitions.**

The following definitions are specific to the Village of Skidaway PUD and are in addition to definitions provided in Sec. 2 (Definitions) of this Chapter. Where there are two definitions for the same word, the definition in this Section shall apply.

**Animal Services, indoor.** Animal grooming, shelter, kennel, day care, veterinary clinic or similar service where the animal care service is provided entirely indoors.

**Assisted Living Facility.** A facility that provides or arranges for the provision of housing, food service, custodial care and activities for ambulatory adults who may or may not require some degree of medical assistance but who do not require full-time nursing care. Individual living spaces within the facility are self-contained and include, at minimum, a living area, kitchenette, bathroom and sleeping area that may be shared by no more than two (2) persons. Common areas for socializing and a central kitchen and dining room are required. Each unit shall count as one-half (0.5) unit for the purposes of calculating density.

**Business Support Services.** Includes such uses as photocopy or blueprint service, package shipping, printing and publishing, and mailbox rental.

**Child/Adult Day Care Center.** A facility that provides care and supervision for more than six (6) children or adults and that is licensed by the State of Georgia. This use is not permitted within a dwelling.

**Continuing Care Retirement Residence.** A residential development that provides a choice of housing options, continuing care and other services for persons through a contractual relationship, which may include the linesman of the resident. At least two (2) of the following housing options must be provided: independent living, assisted living or nursing facilities. The various housing options allow residents to remain in the community and receive a continuum of care as health-related needs change. For the purpose of this definition, independent living includes all single family, two-family, multi-family housing types and upper-story residential. Density is based on the individual use; an individual independent living unit is the equivalent of dwelling unit.

**Convenience Store.** A retail establishment of up to 5,000 square feet of floor area that primarily sells food products, beverages, candy, tobacco items, newspapers and magazines, limited personal, household and car care items, and that may include limited on-site food preparation.

**Food-oriented Retail.** An establishment primarily engaged in the sale of food products for off-premise consumption. This term includes grocery stores, butcher shops, fish and seafood markets, bakeries, produce and fruit markets and similar establishments. This term does not include restaurants, convenience stores, catering establishments, farmer's markets, or package stores.

**Indoor sports facility.** Include athletic, racquet, swim or health club, gymnastic facility, or similar uses. This term does not include firearm ranges.

**Instructional Studios or Classroom.** The instruction of dance, yoga, martial arts, music, or similar disciplines in a classroom or studio setting. This term does not include educational sites that are part of a college, university, seminary, primary or secondary school, trade school, or vocational school.

**Mixed Use.** Any development or building that includes residential and nonresidential principal uses.

**Multi-family Residential.** A residential building containing five or more dwelling units.

**Nursing Home.** A state-licensed facility that admits patients by medical referral and for whom arrangements have been made for continuous medical supervision. It maintains the services and facilities for skilled nursing care and rehabilitative nursing care, and has an agreement with a physician and dentist who are available for an emergency and who are responsible for the general medical and dental supervision of the facility as required by Georgia Administrative Code Chapter 290-5-8. Nursing homes typically provide care for bed patients on a long-term basis. For the purposes of this Ordinance, this term includes traumatic brain injury facilities, which are regulated by Georgia Administrative Code Chapter 290-5-53.

This term does not include hospices, hospital, intermediate care facilities, personal care homes, assisted living facilities, or any other type of facility that may be permitted under this Chapter as a nursing home unless it meets the definition of nursing home as set forth in the Georgia Administrative Code and is state-licensed as a nursing home.

**Office, general.** An establishment generally providing professional services where tangible products are not produced or sold. This term does not include medical offices.

**Office, medical.** A health care facility in which a doctor, dentist, psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or similar licensed medical provider treats or counsels patients. Also includes birthing centers, urgent care center and ambulatory surgical centers. This term does not include general offices.

**Personal Care Home.** Any residence or group of buildings, whether operated for profit or not, which undertakes through its ownership or management to provide or arrange for the provision of housing, food, service, custodial care and activities for two (2) or more ambulatory adults who do not require nursing care and who are not related to the owner or administrator by blood, marriage or adoption. The primary goal of this use is to enable residents to live as independently as possible in a watchful and family-like environment. Watchful oversight includes but is not necessarily limited to a daily awareness by the management of the resident's functioning, his or her whereabouts, the ability and readiness to intervene if a crisis arises for a resident, supervision in areas of nutrition, medication and the provision of transient medical care, with a 24-hour responsibility for the well-being of the resident. A congregate personal care home has more than 14 people.

**Personal Service Shop.** Includes, but is not limited to, such uses as hair salon, barber shop, beauty salon, nail salon, tanning establishment, massage therapy, acupuncture and day spa. This term does not include any service uses that are identified separately.

**Pharmacy.** An establishment primarily engaged in the preparation and dispensing of prescription medications and the sales of non-prescription medications, medical supplies and equipment.

**Place of Worship.** Any non-profit religious organization facility operated for worship or promotion of religious activities, including churches and other places of worship and classrooms for religious instruction; and accessory uses on the same site, including living quarters for clergy and child care facilities operating during services/events sponsored by the organization. Other establishments maintained by religious organizations, including full-time educational institutions, day cares, hospitals and other potential related operations (e.g., a recreational camp) are classified separately.

**Repair-oriented Services.** An establishment offering repair services for personal items such as appliances, bicycles, canvas products, clocks, computers, jewelry, musical instruments, office equipment, electronics, shoes, watches, clothing, locks and furniture. The repair of internal combustion engines, such as those found in lawnmowers, chainsaws, outboard motors, or vehicles are prohibited.

**Retail, general.** An establishment that sells, leases, or rents new or used products, including wholesaling. This term does not include any retail uses that are identified separately in the Use Table and does not include the sale of products identified in Sec. 4-14(e)(2).

**Services, general.** An establishment generally providing personal, business or financial assistance to customers where tangible products are not customarily or principally produced or sold. This term does not include personal service shops and any services identified in Sec. 4-14(e)(2).

**Theater/Cinema/Performing Arts.** An establishment devoted to the showing of motion pictures or live performances. Does not include adult-entertainment establishments.

**Upper Story Residential.** One or more residential dwelling units located on a floor above a ground-level non-residential use.

**Utilities, Minor.** All utility facilities not considered major, including, but not limited to neighborhood-serving facilities such as pump stations, telephone exchanges, community wells, and lift stations.

**Vehicle Services, Minor.** A facility engaged in the repair and servicing, as described herein, of passenger vehicles for fewer than 15 persons, light and medium truck and other small consumer vehicles, including motorcycles, scooters, mopeds and golf carts that produce relatively low levels of noise, vibration and fumes. Permitted services and repairs include: maintenance; air conditioning, starting and charging services; brake services; oil changes, fluids replacement; exhaust system work; electrical work; shock absorber, spring and strut replacement; tire sales, balancing and installation, wheel alignment; glass services; tune-up services; audio systems and other repairs and services of a similar nature.

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2. **THE PETITIONER, SCOTT MONSON, AGENT FOR INDIGO HALL, II, IS REQUESTING TO REZONE A 69-ACRE SITE FROM PUD-B-N (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT - NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS) TO A PROPOSED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (VILLAGE AT SKIDAWAY PUD) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-160420-0041-1  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Chairman Scott said, the second First Reader, Scott Monson, Agent for the Indigo Hall, II, LLC, is requesting to rezone a 69-acre site from PUD-B-N, or Planned Unit Development - Neighborhood Business, to a proposed Planned Unit Development at the Village at Skidaway PUD Zoning Classification. The MPC Recommended Approval. The MPC File Number for those who might want to look at it is number Z-160420-0041-1.

**AGENDA ITEM: XI-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2016**



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

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

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

Scott Monson, agent for Indigo Hall, II, LLC is requesting to rezone a 69-acre site from PUD-B-N (Planned Unit Development-Neighborhood Business) to a proposed Planned Unit Development (Village at Skidaway PUD) zoning classification. The MPC recommends approval.

**File No. Z-160420-00041-1.**

**ISSUE:**

A request to rezone a 69-acre site from PUD-B-N (Planned Unit Development-Neighborhood Business) to a proposed Planned Unit Development (Village at Skidaway PUD) zoning classification.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Village at Skidaway is an existing 69-acre development located on Skidaway Island at the northwest corner of Diamond Causeway and McWhorter Road. The Village was zoned PUD-B-N (Planned Unit Development - Neighborhood Business) in 1980 to allow for a neighborhood-oriented commercial development with a mix of retail, office and institutional uses.

The PUD-B-N District is a sub-classification of the PUD-B (Planned Unit Development-Business District). Uses permitted in the PUD-B-N District are those permitted in a third zoning district, B-N (Neighborhood Business).

The Village is also within an Environmental-Overlay (E-O) zoning District. This district has some requirements that are in addition to or that may be more restrictive than the underlying base zoning district. The E-O District is not proposed to be eliminated.

A text amendment to create the Village at Skidaway PUD is also proposed (File No. Z-160512-00050-1) and is scheduled for the May 17 Planning Commission agenda. The text amendment must be approved in order for the property to be rezoned to the proposed classification.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. **Public Notice;** All property owners within 300 feet of the subject property were sent notices of the proposed rezoning on April 29, 2016. Public notice was also posted in various locations around the site. A neighborhood meeting was held on May 10, 2015 at Messiah Lutheran Church in the Village. Approximately 50 people, including an MPC staff person, were in attendance.
2. **Existing Development Pattern:** The subject property is 69 acres and includes a variety of retail, office and institutional uses. Portions of the Village are undeveloped. The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject site include:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Zoning</u>
North	Single-Family (The Landings)	PUD-R/E-O [1]
South	Diamond Causeway/Single-Family Residential	PUD-R/E-O
East	McWhorter Drive/Single-Family Residential (The Landings)	PUD-R/E-O
West	Religious Institution	R-1-A/E-O [2]

[1] Planned Unit Development-Residential

[2] One-family Residential

3. **Existing PUD-B-N (Planned Unit Development Neighborhood) Zoning District:**
  - a. **Intent of the PUD-B-N District:** The PUD-B-N District does not have an intent statement.

However, it is a sub-classification of the PUD-B District that has the following "definition": "A planned, multi-use development classified as either a neighborhood, community, or regional shopping business center or Waterfront Urban Center, Pursuant to the designations identified in Subsection C of this section. A PUD-B development which will consist only of a single use is not permitted within a PUD-B district."

- b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the PUD-B-N District are those permitted in the B-N zoning District. The list of uses is attached.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the PUD-B-N District appear in the attached table (Table 1). The PUD-B-N District does not permit more than 4,500 square feet of development (per zoning ordinance Sec. 4-6.69), which is rather limited for a 69-acre development that has not yet been built-out. The total building square footage has already been exceeded.
4. **Proposed Village at Skidaway PUD Zoning District:**
- a. **Proposed Intent of the PUD District:** The proposed intent is "The Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development (Village at Skidaway PUD) is hereby established to support the development of the Village at Skidaway with a mix of planned neighborhood business, office, institutional and limited residential uses. The Village at Skidaway PUD will help to sustain the existing neighborhood business uses and will allow for limited compatible residential uses within the district.
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses proposed within the PUD District are limited residential, institutional, office and retail. A list of the proposed uses and related use conditions, where applicable, are provided with the attached PUD text.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards proposed are unique to the property and are shown in Table 1.
5. **Land Use Element:** The Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property as Commercial-Suburban. The classification is defined as: "Intermediate scale business districts supporting shopping centers and corridor commercial uses."
- A more appropriate future land use designation would be Planned Development, even if the property is not rezoned. The definition of Planned Development is: "Areas accommodating cluster development, neo-traditional development, or mixed use development under a unified development plan. A mix of residential, commercial, light industrial, civic, and recreational uses may be appropriate. Such developments are characterized by internal or external linkages among components. This category includes Amenity Communities, Village Centers, Town Centers, and existing residential Planned Unit Developments."
6. **Public Services and Facilities:** The property is served by the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Police Department, Southside fire protection, and by Utilities, Inc. water and sanitary sewer.
7. **Transportation Network:** The subject site has frontage on Diamond Causeway and McWhorter Drive. The main street within the development, Lake Street, is a private street owned by The Landings that also provides access to residences within The Landings.

#### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the petitioner’s request as presented.
2. Deny the petitioner’s request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

A rezoning to the proposed PUD would allow for the continued development of the Village of Skidaway in a manner that is consistent with existing development patterns and permitted uses while allowing for limited residential uses. The existing and proposed development would be more consistent with the Planned Development Future Land Use Map classification, therefore a re-designation from Commercial Suburban is appropriate.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The MPC recommends **Approval** of the request to rezone the subject property from PUD-B-N (Planned Unit Development Neighborhood Business)/Environmental-Overlay (E-O) District to a Village at Skidaway Planned Unit Development/E-O District. Also, **Approval** of a Future Land Use Map classification from Commercial-Suburban to Planned Development.

PREPARED BY:  Gary Plumbley, Director   
Development Services

May 17, 2015

Gregori Anderson, Director   
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

**Table 1: Development Standards for Existing PUD-B-N and Proposed PUD Districts**

	Existing PUD-B-N	PUD District
Minimum Lot Area	No requirement	Residential: 2,400 sf (min) Non-Residential: n/a
Minimum Lot Width	No requirement	N/A
Front Yard Setback	Residential and Non-residential (as measured from the right-of-way)  Arterial Street: 35 Collector Street: 30 Minor Street: 30	Front: 20 ft
Minimum Side Yard Setback	Only required when adjacent to a residential zoning district.  Buildings: 50 ft Parking Areas: 25 ft	Residential & Non-residential 15 ft

Minimum Rear Yard Setback	Only required when adjacent to a residential zoning district.  Buildings: 50 ft Parking Areas: 25 ft	Residential & Non-residential 25 ft
Maximum Height	Two stories (the number of feet within a story is not provided)	45 ft
Building Coverage	No requirement	70%



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

*"Planning the Future – Respecting the Past"*

----- MEMORANDUM -----

**DATE:** MAY 17, 2016  
**TO:** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
**FROM:** METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
**SUBJECT:** MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**

Petition of Indigo Hall, LLC  
Lewis Broadcasting Corporation, J.C. Lewis Investment Co., LLC and The Village at Skidaway Island Commercial Association, Property Owners  
Scott Monson (Thomas & Hutton), Agent  
Village at Skidaway  
Northwest corner of Diamond Causeway and McWhorter Drive  
File No. Z-160420-00041-1

**MPC ACTION:**

**Approval** of the rezoning from PUD-B-N/EO to Village of Skidaway PUD/EO. **Approval** of a Future Land Use Map Classification from Commercial Suburban to Planned Development

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approval** of the rezoning from PUD-B-N/EO to Village of Skidaway PUD/EO. **Approval** of a Future Land Use Map Classification from Commercial Suburban to Planned Development

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 10 + Chairman

Tanya Milton, Chairman  
Joseph Welch, Treasurer  
Travis Cole  
Joseph Ervin  
Lacy Manigault  
Linder Suthers

James Overton  
Shedrick Coleman  
Ellis Cook  
Timothy Mackey  
Lee Smith

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

Tanya Milton  
James Overton  
Joseph Welch  
Shedrick Coleman  
Travis Cole  
Ellis Cook  
Joseph Ervin  
Timothy Mackey  
Lacy Manigault  
Lee Smith  
Linder Suthers

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

None

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

\*Stephanie Cutter  
\*Tom Woiwode  
\*George Woods. III

FOR APPROVAL:  11

FOR DENIAL:  0

ABSTAINING:  0

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
Executive Director

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

Chairman Scott said, we have no Second Readers.

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**XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairman Scott said, everything else is informational purposes.

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: June 10, 2016**

**List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$24,999  
That Do Not Require Board Approval**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Two (2) year software license for I.C.S.	I.C.S.	Skillsets Online Corporation	\$4,995	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Parts and labor to replace bearing in parking deck elevator	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Otis Elevator Company	\$4,021	Parking Garage
Conceptual design work for updating the Civil Rights Museum	County Manager	Stough and Williams Design Consultant	\$13,800	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Robe and mannequin installation at the Civil Rights Museum	County Manager	Coastal Heritage Society	\$2,634	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Artifact display for Robe at the Civil Rights Museum	County Manger	Coastal Heritage Society	\$3,415	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Currency counter/ scanner and related supplies	CNT	Cummins-Allison Corporation	\$5,639	General Fund/M&O - CNT
Complete health assessment for 16 CNT lab responders	CNT	Candler Wellness Center	\$6,862	General Fund/M&O - CNT
T-shirts for Mud Run	Sheriff's	Imprint Warehouse	\$4,063	50% Drug/Sheriff

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Scott said, and at this time I will recognize the Commissioner from the 6<sup>th</sup> District for the purpose of a motion.

Commissioner Brady said, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a motion that we have an executive session in reference to litigation and personnel.

Chairman Scott said, is there a second?

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second that we recess into executive session for the purpose of litigation and personnel. Hearing the motion, any unreadiness? Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

The Board recessed at approximately 12:15 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 Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shabazz and Thomas were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Scott said, if there's nothing else to come before the Committee, this Commission stand adjourned.

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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**APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF JUNE, 2016.**

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

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