

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chester A. Ellis had the meeting called to order at 9:38 a.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023.

Chairman Ellis said, thank you, and you may be seated at this time. The first thing that I'm going to ask you to do, all right, and this goes for Commissioners as well as the – everybody here, please check your cell phone. Please check your cell phone. Please check your cell phones. I've got two Sheriff Deputies that's being honored, and I got a third one over in the corner, and I like it – I like those jackets – vests that they wearing, 'cause they got pockets on them. They can just slide it in the pocket and go on to the – and you have to go to the Sheriff place of business to get your cell phone back, okay? Please check your cell phone.

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**2. INSPIRATION AND INVOCATION**

Chairman Ellis said, having – having said that let me thank all of you for being here, and I'm going to – because the Vice Chair knows the inspirationist and the invocationist better than I do, I'm going to relinquish that to her, and I said to her, I'm going to get you to introduce Father, 'cause all I can do is introduce him from what I've – have written here about him, but she knows him more personally than I do. And, so, I'm asking Commissioner Stone, if you will introduce our invocationist and our inspirationist. But I will to the – to the audience, when he gets ready to indicate it's time for prayer, that we all re-stand, and then, following the prayer, then we'll have the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Stone as well. Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This gives me a great honor to introduce the minister of our church, who has been with St. John's for quite some time. I would be remiss if I would try to guess how long, and then that would put an age on all of us, so, I won't do that. But, Gavin Dunbar is originally from Canada, and from what I could recall, when he first came to Chatham County, he got off the airplane, and it was the summer, and his glasses fogged up, and he probably thought to himself, what have I done? But, he has endured the heat here. He likes cooler weather. But, more importantly, he has led St. John's for many years in such a positive direction through COVID, through some of the ups and downs, and I'm very proud to be a parishioner of St. John's Episcopal Church. So, I won't say anymore, but I will turn it over to Father Dunbar.

Father Gavin Dunbar of St. John's Church said, thank you, Commissioner Stone. Good morning to you all.

Chairman Ellis said, good morning.

Commissioner Farrell said, good morning.

Commissioner Whitely said, good morning.

Father Dunbar said, I want to offer a very brief reflection on a passage of Scripture and then invite us to pray. So, I want to speak about a passage we think we all know about St. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus and because it is in fact a very profound meditation on the nature of political power and authority. You know, in the decree of Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, we think, well, that's political power, power to tax; power to tell people where to go; to arrange all those resources for the purposes of the state, and Caesar's power seemed absolute. But what does his decree actually accomplish? Well, it brings Joseph and Mary to David's city just in time for the heir to David's kingdom to be born, thus, the reality of Caesar's power turns out to be nothing more than to be the unwitting instrument of divine purpose, divine providence, as testified by the prophets.

Father Dunbar said, and, so, in this story so familiar to us at Christmas, all the pretensions of worldly pomp and power are confronted and dismissed. Here, it is indeed our pride humbled. Here is boasting put to silence. The great voice from heaven said, the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. And the prophet says, the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the young lion and the fattling together, and the little child shall lead them. I ask you now to stand as I pray for the leading of a little child.

Father Dunbar gave the following invocation:

Oh Lord, and Father, You have given us a little child to lead us, even Thine own son, who was born for us, the heir of David’s kingdom. And we ask Thee to humble our pride and still our boasting that we may have grace to follow Him in Thy ways of justice and peace. And for His sake we pray that thou wouldst give to those entrusted with authority in the Office of the County Commission wisdom and strength to know and to do Thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve the people of this county in Thy fear. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, great David’s greater son, the heir of all kingdoms and of the kingdom of God. Amen.

Members of the Board and audience collectively said, Amen.

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**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Ellis said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Ellis said, thank you, and you may be seated.

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**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Chairman Ellis said, Father, Commissioner Stone told me that you being from – you being from Canada, you don’t like the hot weather, and – and whether you made a mistake or not, you overcome that, and – so you have been here for – with us for quite a few – a long time, and we thank you for coming and being with us this morning, and we appreciate you sharing your words of wisdom and sharing your words of comfort with us, especially during this time. We look forward to having you again, all right? Thank you so much.

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**4. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Ellis said, roll call.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Chester A. Ellis, Chairman  
Helen L. Stone, District One, Vice Chairman  
Kenneth A. Adams, District 8, Chairman Pro Tem  
Malinda Scott Hodge, District Two  
Bobby Lockett, District Three  
Patrick K. Farrell, District Four  
Tanya Milton, District Five  
Aaron “Adot” Whitely, District Six  
Dean Kicklighter, District Seven [Departed at approximately 11:05 a.m.]

Also Present: Linda Cramer, Assistant County Manager  
R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
Janice E. Bocook, Clerk of Commission

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**INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION**

Chairman Ellis said, all right. At this time, we’ll call on Commissioner Milton.

Commissioner Milton said, yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am excited today to welcome our new – one of our new Youth Commissioners, and I’m just going to say his first name because I can’t say the last name. I’m going to let him say it --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Vidhaan –

Commissioner Milton said, – but this is Vidhaan –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – Dudani.

Commissioner Milton said, Vidhaan. Oh, so you said it, okay. But Vidhaan has an interest in medicine. He's a junior at Jenkins High School and is thinking about going to Augusta, but that's – you know, when you're a junior, you have a lot more time to think about what the final analysis will be. But, he's already making applications. So, I'm sure he's in – he's interested in – what is it, cellular?

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Vidhaan Dudani said, cellular biology.

Commissioner Milton said, cellular –

Chairman Ellis said, turn – turn –

Commissioner Milton said, – biology.

Chairman Ellis said, – that – turn that mike on so we can hear that.

Commissioner Whitely said, you just tap it real gently.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, cellular biology.

Commissioner Milton said, yes.

Chairman Ellis said, okay.

Commissioner Milton said, cellular biology, and I was – I was like, what is that?

Chairman Ellis said, so – so since she asked you that question, I'm going to have you spend some time telling us what that is. Go ahead and pull the mike closer to you, and –

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, so, what cellular biology is, is basically just the study of how the different cells work and how they react to different viruses and diseases.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Milton said, very good. I think you'll be –

Commissioner Lockett said, Mr. Chairman, may I just say this to him? When you find out, please let me know.

Commissioner Milton said, but welcome to our Commission meeting, and we are hoping that you will gain some knowledge from this that perhaps might help you with your cellular biology, 'cause you'll see we got different personalities. So, I'm sure all of that's connected. Is that correct?

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, [nodded his head in the affirmative.]

Commissioner Milton said, very good. Very good. And if you have any questions, please chime in. Thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, thank you for being here today, and – and – and please be – feel free to take part in the proceedings that go. If – if there's something that you want to say or a question you want to ask, in case I get distracted, just raise your hand, and somebody will let me know that you want to speak, okay? All right. Thank you.

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## **5. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. REVEREND MELANIE LEMBURG AND SENIOR WARDEN ELEANOR FOSTER WILL BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT.**

Chairman Ellis said, proclamation celebrating St. Thomas's Episcopal Church 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Those who are here to represent, if you would come to the podium. I am going to read a portion of this resolution, and then I'll turn it over – proclamation, I'm sorry, and then I'll turn it over to you for comments and anything you might want to say.

Chairman Ellis read a portion of the following proclamation:

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

**WHEREAS**, in December 1922, St. Thomas Episcopal Church was established on the Isle of Hope on two lots donated to the church by Maria Henderson and the historic St. Thomas chapel was completed and dedicated in December 1923; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Thomas Episcopal Church has been, and continues to be, a vital part of the Isle of Hope and Chatham County communities through its service and community outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1997, The St. Thomas Thrift Store has served the community by giving over \$750,000 in grants to community organizations serving the citizens of Chatham County; and

**WHEREAS**, The Unseen Guest ministry, in the last 30 years, has prepared and delivered more than 133,000 meals to the Phoenix House, through Union Mission; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, through its other varied ministries and community outreach, continues to serve this community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Chester A. Ellis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

in recognition of the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the completion of the historic chapel which, in addition to the sanctuary, continues as a place of worship for the St. Thomas and surrounding communities and honor those founding members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church who, in faith, began this work. And we honor all of those, whom, during these many years, have faithfully worked to see that the church continues to grow, thrive and serve this community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

**ATTEST:**

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Chester A. Ellis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

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Gail F. Gordon, Executive  
Assistant to the Chairman

Chairman Ellis said, the floor is yours.

Ms. Eleanor Foster said, thank you.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Reverend Melanie Lemburg said, thank you. Thank you so much. I'm the Reverend Melanie Lemburg. I'm the Rector of St. Thomas, and on behalf of St. Thomas I'd like to thank the County Commission for issuing this proclamation on our behalf. We are looking forward to hopefully at least a hundred more years of ministry here among the people of Chatham County, and I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to invite all of y'all to our street party that's happening tomorrow night starting at 5:30 on St. Thomas Avenue to celebrate. Thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, thank you so much, and – and we – we are – look forward to that. Those of you who are not tied down today and tomorrow like I am, if you would please use your time to enjoy and be a part of them. Would you just turn around so that she can make – make sure that we get the picture in our archives.

[NOTE: A photograph was taken of Reverend Lemburg and Ms. Foster with their proclamation.]

Reverend Lemburg said, thank you.

Ms. Foster said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, thank you so much.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, and we – we appreciate the work that you continue to do for our community.

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## 2. PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING BRIAN HART ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CHATHAM COUNTY STATE COURT.

Chairman Ellis said, the second is a proclamation congratulating Brian Hart. He's here?

Clerk said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, come on, and Judge Sapp – oh, and since I see Judge Sapp coming, let me also say that we have the constitutional officers of Sheriff Wilcher and Commissioner [Sonya] Jackson in the audience with us. But – no, we want you to come on. Yeah. Come on Mr. Hart.

Chairman Ellis read a portion of the following proclamation:



**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to focus attention on noteworthy occasions and individuals, and in that regard it is with great pride we salute the State Court of Chatham County Clerk and Court Administrator, Brian K. Hart; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hart has served the court system in our community for over 32 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hart began as court administrator for Chatham County Records Court before moving to Chatham County Juvenile Court and then succeeding Colonel Carlton Blair as State Court Clerk and Administrator in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hart has been a leader in numerous court projects and initiatives over the years, including invaluable work with the design of the new trial courts building, and the selection and implementation of a new court-wide case database and electronic filing system; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hart's wisdom and advice will be greatly missed by the court system and county government; and

**WHEREAS**, through all his endeavors Mr. Hart has provided a tremendous public service to Chatham County and its citizens but has now decided to retire at the end of his term which expires on December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Chatham County and the Board of Commissioners wish to extend our thanks to Mr. Hart for his decades of service and assistance in the mission of furthering our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Chester A. Ellis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby applaud and salute:

**STATE COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY CLERK  
AND COURT ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN K. HART**

and extend our appreciation and gratitude for his many contributions to the betterment of Chatham County during his tenure as judge and extend wishes of prosperity, good health and happiness during his retirement years.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

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Chester A. Ellis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Gail F. Gordon, Executive  
Assistant to the Chairman

Chairman Ellis said, the mike is yours.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, go ahead, Judge – Judge, speak first.

Chatham County State Court Chief Judge Gregory Sapp said, I – I will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They say there's a season for everything, right, and as I look around the room at a lot of people I know here that I've worked with in government and in the county and the city for a while, I notice that for some of us, there's a lot of snow on the rooftop now, a little gray in our beards, maybe. And what that means is that it's getting that time for some of us, and it's that time for Brian [Hart]. And I know that a lot of folks in this room have worked with Brian for years, and we've all worked with folks in government before, and I'll tell you this, there's not a better, more honest, more ethical, more professional employee that I've ever worked with in government or in business than Mr. Hart. And, so, we're going to miss him. The county's going to miss him. A lot of folks look to him for guidance and for best practices here and around the state.

Chatham County State Court Chief Judge Sapp said, so, I appreciate the Commission doing this. It's an honor for Brian. It's an honor for the State Court system to do that. We always appreciate your support. We're going to miss Brian, and David Wood, is going to be Mr. Hart's successor. So, David's been appointed. [Applause.] I – I say successor 'cause you can't have a replacement for somebody like Mr. Hart, but we have all the confidence in David. So, thank you very much. Brian.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Hart said, thank you, Judge. Thank y'all for this honor. I won't talk too long, you know, try to cover thirty-two years. But, I will say I've been with the county, officially, I guess, eighteen years, but like I say, in the court system thirty-two years. And started in Recorder's Court, which is kind of a unique position to be in because you work with Chatham County and you work with the City of Savannah. So, I got to know Human Resources Director, Mr. Kaigler, at the time. Linda Cramer, which I don't think was even Finance Director. I don't remember what your position title was, but we worked together a lot. And, so, I met a lot of – of county folks, and – and – and the – and the City folks. It's just been an honor to work with those.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Hart said, of course you don't get to be thirty-two years in without having a lot of people around you that have done a good job and support you. I got two folks here, Joann [Darden] and David [Wood], who are being honored for years of service, and then Amy Stewart back here, who has been an Admin, and wears many hats within our organization. I think I got trained and how to manage the jail and pay attention to jail population by – I don't know, were you Captain Wilcher in ninety-one?

Chatham County Sheriff John Wilcher said, yeah.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, Captain Wilcher at the time. So, no, it's – it's been a great experience, and, like I say, getting to know everybody. One thing that was kind of interesting being in Recorder's Court, I like to tell this story, and then I'll get out of here, is Michael Brown at the time asked me to prepare a memo about some issue or something that may have been going on, I don't remember what it was, to – to send to County Manager Russ Abolt, and – so I gave him a few things. He made it his own, signed off on it. About a week later I get a call, County Manager Russ Abolt, asked me if I'd help him prepare a few items to respond to an email – I mean a – a memo from the City Manager. I said, why don't y'all just let me talk with myself, and we'll get this done.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, so, as I recall, it – it worked out just fine, but, again, thank you for the recognition. People have asked me, said, what are we going to do without you? Everybody will be fine without me. I think the question is what am I going to do without all of – all of y'all. So, thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Ellis said, and thank you for –

[NOTE: Photographs were taken with Mr. Hart and Judge Sapp with the proclamation.]

Chatham County State Court Chief Judge Sapp said, we need a better quality camera on our side.

Chairman Ellis said, Mr. – Mr. Hart –

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, yes. Yes.

Chairman Ellis said, Mr. Hart, there are – there are two things, now, we applaud you, and we congratulate you for your retirement, but there are two things you cannot do –

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, okay.

Chairman Ellis said, – all right? One – both of them, you – are a must you must do. Number one, is that honey do list you're going to get, you're going to have to carry that out.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, yeah. I got a porch starting in January.

Chairman Ellis said, but then there's also that cell phone number that you have, you can't change it.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, okay. I'll keep that in mind.

Chairman Ellis said, so, we – we'll be calling on you. Thank you so much.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, thank you.

County Manager Michael Kaigler said, Mr. Chairman, I – from – from the staff perspective, before Brian gets away, you know, contrary to popular belief, dealing with some of the judges over there is not the easiest thing to do, and I really appreciate whenever we had something contentious going on, you know, I could always depend on Brian to call, and we would – would talk it out, and he'd say, well, you know, Michael, I – I'm just the messenger, but, this is what they're requesting, and he would always help me work through it, and we would find a solution. So, I – I want to thank him for his levelheadedness and his ease to work with over the years, and I asked Judge Sapp, you know, the Judges, they – they can write orders, and I said, Judge, can't y'all do an order to kind of keep him? But the Judge said well, that – that wasn't working, they'd already tried that. So, – but, I really want to thank you for your years of service, and – and being able to work with you have made what we do a whole lot easier.

Chatham County State Court Clerk/Court Administrator Brian Hart said, thank you, Michael. Appreciate that.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

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### **3. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS.**

Chairman Ellis said, at this time we'll call on the Manager for employee service awards.

County Manager Kaigler said, yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask our Human Resource team to come forward so we can introduce to rec – help recognize County employees who have served – reached various levels of service to the citizens of Chatham County.

Chatham County Human Resources Benefits Manager Mindy Ramsey said, thank you. So in this season of giving, we are going to recognize employees who are celebrating milestone service awards. Milestone service awards are celebrated at the five, ten, fifteen, and so forth award stage. This is a time that we are celebrating and expressing our gratefulness for employees who have served Chatham County, have served citizens of Chatham County, employees of Chatham County, with a period of their career and sometimes the duration of their career as – as in the case with Brian [Hart]. We are very thankful and very, very grateful to all of you.

Chatham County Human Resources Benefits Manager Ramsey said, so, we are going to begin today with Ms. Thaysheya Curry with the Tax Commissioner's office with twenty-five years of service (applause). Ms. Joann Darden with State Court with twenty-five years of service (applause). Sergeant David Gold with the Sheriff's Office with fifteen years of service (applause). David Wood with DUI Court with fifteen years of service (applause). Lieutenant Isaac Guthrie with the Sheriff's Office with ten years of service (applause). Ms. Marie Lonon with the District Attorney's Office with five years of service (applause). Ms. Natosha Winters with the District Attorney's Office with five years of service (applause).

[NOTE: Photographs were taken with each award recipient, the County Manager, and the recipient's department head or elected official.]

Chatham County Human Resources Benefits Manager Ramsey said, all right. Together this group is celebrating, collectively, one hundred years of service (applause).

Chairman Ellis said, mmm.

Chatham County Human Resources Benefits Manager Ramsey said, thank you from Chatham County.

Chairman Ellis said, on behalf of the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners, we thank all of you for your service, 'cause what you do makes this county runs in the efficient manner that it is being ran in. And, so, we just thank you all for what you contribute to that effort and to those jobs, all right? Thank you so much, and – and we're glad – but let me say this, now, here come the down side of what we're doing, y'all got to go back to work. All right. Thank you all so much. Listen, hey, they know the routine.

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**4. PRESENTATION ON RESULTS OF SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SEDA) WORKFORCE STUDY BY PRESIDENT AND CEO HUGH "TRIP" TOLLISON.**

Chairman Ellis said, all right. At this time, let me call on the President and CEO from Savannah Economic Development Authority who has come to talk to us about the workforce study and then some – I hope you're prepared – I hope Mike [Kaigler] prepared you for other than that, 'cause –

Savannah Economic Development Authority President and Chief Executive Officer Hugh "Trip" Tollison said, he –

Chairman Ellis said, – other than that is coming your way.

Mr. Tollison said, I – I did get a hint, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, okay. All right. All right. I just – I – I – we need to answer some questions and get some things on the right keel.

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, all right?

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, the floor is yours.

Mr. Tollison said, good – good morning, everybody.

Commissioner Whitely said, good morning.

Commissioner Stone said, good morning.

Members of the Board of Commissioners and Audience collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you for having us here today to talk about the results of a comprehensive workforce study. Before I move forward, I just want to thank the Chairman and the Commission for all wonderful help and assistance and leadership, and also the staff, for all of the projects that we've been working on lately. It's been a – an incredible amount of growth over the last five years and couldn't do it without you, sir, and the – and the Commission and the staff. I just wanted to say thank you very much. It's been – it's been unbelievable of all the activity that's going on.

Mr. Tollison said, I'd like to introduce Anna Chafin, Jennifer Collins, Maria Whitfield, and Justin Farquhar, and we'll talk about them in just a moment, but I want to thank them for being here as well, but we're going to introduce them at the – towards the end of the study results, and we'll tell you why they're here.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, I don't know how to get to the Power Point. Do I just hit a button.

Chairman Ellis said, we got – we got you – we got you help for you.

Mr. Tollison said, okay. Thank you. I am presenting the Chatham County seal today.

[NOTE: Public Information Video Producer Robert Catanese loaded the Power Point Presentation.]

Mr. Tollison said, thank you. Appreciate it. So, what I wanted to do today is kind of jump into a little bit of background about the study. We hired a premier consulting firm whose sole purpose is helping communities work through workforce development issues, challenges, things of that nature. So, Wadley Donovan Gutshaw,

they're – they're a nationally renowned firm we brought in earlier this year. They completed a study, and we've gone through the different reiterations of the study, and we've – now prepared to share it with the public. We debated internally about whether or not we wanted to do that simply because some of the results of the study are alarming. Some of the sults – results are not going to be a surprise, but at the same time we knew we had to share the numbers, get people to – hopefully to pay attention, and we're going to need a lot of help, because it's – we have a lot of people to hire and a short time to do it. So, we're going to go through all that, and – and Mr. Chairman, as –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, question.

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, did you decide to share the alarming results after Michael [Kaigler] informed you that these people wanted to – to berate you? I'm just kidding. Go ahead. I'm sorry. I couldn't resist.

Mr. Tollison said, Commissioner Kicklighter, it's been a great meeting. Y'all have a good break.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, break out time.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, go ahead. I'm sorry.

Mr. Tollison said, but before I do, we get a lot of questions about the meta plant. I thought I'd give a quick update, Mr. Chairman, as we go into the study. We're happy to share with some of the – you know, the – the company is now starting to release visuals, and I know, Mr. Chairman, you've seen them, but I thought we'd just kind of give you a update on where we are. The pond in the back was completed this morning. It's a hundred and eighty-acre stormwater retention pond. One of the largest in the southeast for one project, but it was – it – we're glad that that's done, and that was part of the JDA's work. And then you'll look here, you'll see, kind of lay out of the plant. This is kind of a – a – a good visual, if you're looking southeast from – from – if you're looking towards the southeast you'll see the assembly, welding, the paint shop, stamping, parking. There's going to be a great ecological park in the front that parallels I-16. This park is larger than Forsyth Park, and it will be used for the employees and also folks that – it will be open to the public at times as well.

Mr. Tollison said, but everything is underway. It's on schedule. There's an exhibit hall that will be in the front office building, kind of behind that, and you'll see the front of the plant as it – as it faces I-16, and then that building in the back is the battery facility, which we're going to talk more about that in just a moment. The – you can kind of see what it looks like during the day up top and then what it will look like at night. It's going to be probably the most premier manufacturing facility in all of Hyundai's system. They have built forty-two manufacturing facilities, but this is by far the most advanced in technol – with technology; the – the best technology, robotics, you name it. This is another visual of what the – what the facility will look like as you're looking southwest, and then, of course – of course the parking and something happened with that visual.

Mr. Tollison said, and here's some updated photographs. These were taken about a week and a half ago. You'll see that a lot of work has been completed. It's hard to believe that this facility, the – the construction started on January the 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, and they've been able to do all this in the last eleven to twelve months, truly record speed. Here's some other facil – pictures. This is the paint facility. This is probably the – kind of the longest lead time due to the things that go on in there and the weight and the pilings, and the sophistication of the equipment. So, this – this came out of the ground first, and you'll see that all the paneling is – is up.

Mr. Tollison said, the stamping facility is another big part of the operation. Utility site; the battery facility, this is going to be built behind the site, and that is under construction now. You can see that they're putting the footers and pilings in there. Another picture, as you're looking from the – kind of the back of the site towards I-16, and then – that's that. So, I just thought I'd give y'all a quick update. And then they've – I think they've hired about four hundred people so far year-to-date, and they'll be – they'll continue to hire more and more as the process moves forward.

Mr. Tollison said, so, of course, with this project and all of the other manufacturers growing leaps and bounds in our region, we knew we had to come to the table and talk about workforce. And, again, like I said, there's some alarming things in here, and there's some – there's some strengths and weaknesses, and a lot of the stuff, I think you'll certainly be familiar with and things that you've heard along the way. But, the scope of the study really came in and did three things, a market analysis, and it came up with immediate needs and challenges, and then, of course, what we think's probably the most important is a workforce plan of action, which is great, because we – you know, we got the information we needed, and we got to learn where – where our deficiencies are going to be, but at the same time, they said in order to overcome this, this is what you've got to do. So, we do have a plan, and we're going to talk about that in just a moment.

Mr. Tollison said, so, the expansion rates are remarkable. When we did the study, we're glad to report that the – the – the respondents of the study was above average, which is very important. Twenty-two companies that participated, forty other companies did the electronic survey, and this survey was ninety-three questions, and

everybody's so busy, and I was happy to see that response rate, 'cause ninety-three questions, you know, you can get a – you get something in an email and hit delete when you see that kind of stuff. But, it was a great response there. Did nineteen in-person interviews and eleven virtual meetings. We did development organizations; higher education, K through 12; county and municipal leaders; and, of course, local staffing agencies.

Mr. Tollison said, so here are the key takeaways. And by the way, this report is available on line at our website, Savannah J-D-A dot com (savannahjda.com) and so is this summary. So, here are the key takeaways. Overall, again, some of this is not going to be a surprise. The labor supply is extremely tight, and we – we know that. It's not just here. It's all over the United States. We've also noticed the competitive pay and enhancing employee retention have become increasingly important. You know, keeping employees is the name of the game, and companies are having to do a lot of different things that they normally don't do in order to keep the employees. We know that future demand will vary but top needs will continue to be the technical and production roles. And this is – this is the part that's going to really be important for us to focus on.

Mr. Tollison said, And then the workforce development initiatives must work to draw more high school graduates to the table. Instead of, you know, what we got to do is get – do a better job in high schools and getting kids more options on trades and other things that they can learn so they can be hireable right out – right out – right out of high school, instead of the whole notion, you got to go to college – you got to go to college. And when you see what these jobs are paying, and you can graduate from high school at eighteen years old making seventy, eighty, ninety thousand dollars a year, we – we really needed to talk about that, and really – and – and work hard with our school systems.

Mr. Tollison said, one of the things I found alarming, to me, the – the – the – the annual labor that departs the military, that we're not utilizing that the way we should, and from another survey we did recently, shows us that the folks that exit the military, whether it's Hunter, Ft. Stewart, Naval Air Station Beaufort, CRCT, 165<sup>th</sup>, we've got a lot of military assets that we're not doing a good job taking advantage of those folks, and – and – and then – and then the survey we did shows us that at least seventy-five percent of those folks want to stay in the region. They don't want to move. So, we've got to fix that. And then the Savannah region, you know, we got the strengths and weaknesses and then regional employers need to do a – a more active role in addressing the challenges. And, so, we'll talk about that too.

Mr. Tollison said, so when we talk about labor being extremely tight, when you look at the chart on the – on the right side, we've got, you know, our unemployment rate is – is hovering and stays steady around three percent. We expect the population within the four-county JDA to grow at least by twenty-three thousand – twenty-four thousand folks over the next several years, and I think that's low. I think it's going to be more than that. But when you look at the five-year projected change, and then you look at what we've got now, we've got a lot of growth coming with all of these projects. At – at the end of the day, we can go through all the numbers and the statistics, but supply outlook presents the greatest challenge, and by 2025 the industrial labor supply will fall short of meeting demand, and that's – that's what's keeping us up at night. So, we've got – we've got a supply here in place, when you look at the numbers, we've got supply now, but it will quickly evaporate and go away in 2025.

Mr. Tollison said, this chart really causes a lot of concern, and I'm not trying to be over alarming, I'm just putting it on the table for everybody to – to talk about. When you look at 2023 and go out to 2031, the supply balance drastically changes, as I said in 2025 to where we have a de – strong deficiencies in these roles. And, so, we're talking about in 2025 alone, we're going to be negative one thousand four hundred and fifty-four on the supply balance, and that's – that's a problem, and it gets worse and then it slowly gets kind of better, but we're still going to be negative, and that's what you don't want to have in a community when you're bringing in all these jobs. So, the market is really – we're statistically tapped out, and, again, this is not uncommon to other parts of the United States, but we're going to talk about in a moment, how we're going to overcome all this.

Mr. Tollison said, entry hourly production wages are up. That's great. We – we knew that about a year and a half ago fifteen dollars an hour seemed to be part of the conversation, now it's eighteen dollars an hour. So, we're definitely seeing an increase. The Development Authority, when we get into a situation where we apply incentives, we were at fifteen dollars an hour, now we're at eighteen dollars an hour, so, the – those – these numbers are moving up. And then, of course, the turn over piece, when – the – this – this is no secret, but the more you pay the less turn over you're going to get. And, so, that study ob – obviously talked about that as well.

Mr. Tollison said, and then when you're talking about wage offerings for high demand positions, when you look at the study, this – you know, the skilled positions, the low end are at twenty dollars and then kind of the average is at twenty-seven dollars and thirteen cents an hour. So, the – the numbers are going up. You know, a rising tide lifts all boats, and we're seeing that here, but we – we got to find the workers, right? So, when we talk about potential measures to alleviate high turn over, the study recognizes that you – we got to be doing different things, providing better job security. I won't go over all these – progressive bonuses. You know, I don't know what the last one really means, fun at work. That was kind of a generic response, but, hey, let's have fun at work, and then, of course, child care. We talked a lot about child care, and one of the things that we've seen coming out of COVID, that there's only about fifty percent of those child care facilities that have come back. So, we've got a huge deficit on child care. And, again, some of this is probably – this is not new news.

Mr. Tollison said, when we talk about the demand that will – that will – that will vary annually with top needs, it's all about the technical and production roles. And by the way, I want to point out, and I should have said this from the beginning, this study addresses the industrial labor market only. We don't really dive into other sectors of the economy but just the industrial side. But when you – I'm not going to go over the hiring demands, but you look just through 2027, where all of these positions lie, and we're talking about sixteen to seventeen thousand jobs you got to bring online in a short period of time. The initiatives must work to draw more high school graduates. I mentioned that earlier. Eighty-four percent of new hires have no more than a high school diploma, highlighting the emphasis on comprehensive training. That's a big bullet to me. You know, we've got – we've got – I don't know, when you look at the whole region, which we'll talk about in a moment, there's a lot of school systems, a lot of – you know, doing a lot of different things, but what we realized, that we've got this incredible untapped resource – resource of high school graduates that can go straight to work. There are many educational institutions and pathway programs to support local workfor need – workforce needs but the partnership piece is vital. For example, Hyundai's doing a lot of things with different institutions, Gulfstream does a lot of different things, but those partnerships are – are critical in – in getting this through.

Mr. Tollison said, when I touched on the military piece, available labor from annual military separations is underutilized, we see about four to five hundred – anywhere – maybe three hundred and fifty to four hundred folks exit just, you know, alone, at Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, and that is an incredible resource. And, in fact, when we go out bringing projects into our region, we always brag about that pipeline of talent, and we're not using it the way we should, and we're work – we're definitely working on that. And, of course, military spouses, and this, you know, when they grow – when they leave the military, it's important to point out whether they have ten years or twenty years of service and that they start at eighteen, nineteen years old, they still have twenty years left to work; thirty years left, and, so, we're seeing that as a big opportunity.

Mr. Tollison said, when we talk about the strengths and challenges, you know, we've got an amazing port. We've had a lot of great location decisions, growing technology – technology-based jobs in the region. The challenges, of course, we've got to get the high school graduates to trades; high wage inflation, which ends up really creating a tight labor supply; absence of childcare; limited affordable housing; available buildable land for housing; and lack of regional public transportation options. And we're going to talk about that in just a moment too. The regional employers must take a more active role, I mentioned that earlier, with workfor – workforce culture, proper onboarding, alternative labor sources; and in-migration recruitment, and that's going to be big.

Mr. Tollison said, so, that's kind of a summary of what the study shows us, or at least what – what the study tells us, but what are we going to do about it, right? I can't tell you how many studies I've seen that have come across our region that people talk about, and they put on the shelf. We're not going to do that here. There's too much at stake. And, so, one of our initiatives, and we'll talk about in – in just a moment, is getting this plan in motion. In fact, it's our biggest initiative, and it's the most important thing I think that we can do as a community right now. We've got to – we've got to pro-actively address all the key takeaways that we've outlined. Collaboration is key, long-term workforce development strategy, coordination between all the regional partnerships, job seekers, students, and we got to really build on the workforce infrastructure and look at creating new programs.

Mr. Tollison said, we've got to have a principal coordinator and an organization to oversee all of this. This is going to take a lot of work. This is going to be a huge, heavy lift. The study called this new operation Coastal Employers' Forum. We're not going to call it that, which we'll touch on in just a moment, and we've got six task forces that we've got to address, and we've got to really get HR and just about everybody you can think of involved. So, when we talk about that, we've identified six buckets or six areas to where we're going to have to really deploy a lot of resources. And I've mentioned all these, but when you look at this, this – I think this visual really kind of tells a story of what we've got to do. There are a lot of moving parts. There's going to be a lot of people involved, but we're going to put together a – a coalition that's going to be much broader than the JDA four counties. It's going to be hopefully sixteen to twenty counties. We're going to go into South Carolina and work with our partners in Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton County – can – counties. We're going to go down all the way to McIntosh County, over to Evans County, Candler County, and really put a good group together that's going to come together and – and do all this. We have the ability –

Mr. Tollison said, you know, the other thing I liked about the study is they identified certain areas of the United States that are doing wonderful, great things as it relates to workforce, and the study was overwhelmingly positive about Bowling Green, Kentucky. And, so – and, we've heard from several other people about how Bowling Green is more or less a model on really upgrading and plussing up your workforce. And, so, we took about eighteen of us to Bowling Green to visit with all of the folks that do what we do on their end. It – when – and in – and within the JDA, the four counties, we had all four school superintendents with us and the Economic Development folks, and, then, of course, we had Gulfstream, Georgia Power, and, so, we all went to see what's – what's the secret sauce, what's the magic and – and that was a great two days that we spent there, and we – we learned a lot from them, but I think one of the most positive pieces that we got out of that visit was how well aligned that whole region is; how well they worked together; how well they come – come together to – to work on these problems and these issues, and they've done it in a very rapid – or rapid transgression. So, we – I – I point that out that we've, you know, got a lot of things underway already

Mr. Tollison said, so, when we talk about these six buckets, you know, we've got to provide annual listings and guidance and all the things that we need to do with – with the military. Under-represented workforce pipeline, we've got to really focus on that. We need a regional collaborative effort on housing. I know that what Statesboro may find for their housing needs may be a lot different from downtown Savannah. We know that, but we've got to work together as a region creating that data. Where can you go; what's the zoning look like; what's, you know, what's the transportation look like? So, we've got a lot of housing pieces to work on all this. Education resources, I – I can't talk enough about what we need to do in the high schools, and, of course, transportation, again, it needs to be a regional, collaborative effort.

Mr. Tollison said, and then the sixth piece, there, is we could have everything working perfectly with the high school students. We could have everything working perfectly with military, we're still not going to have enough people to take the jobs, so we're going to have to go outside the region and market to certain key areas, like Ohio, I think is an easy story to sell, especially, this time of year in northern Ohio. Illinois was identified; Philadelphia region; western Tennessee. So, this study really went deep on a lot of these areas that we can focus on on trying to bring workers here to – to take some of the jobs.

Mr. Tollison said, and, so, we're going to put a coalition together. We're going to staff it, and we announced earlier this week, that – Miss – Mr. Chairman was at our Board meeting on Tuesday, and, so, the team that's going to be in place to do all this is right here. And, so, Anna Chafin, who is currently running the Development Authority of Bryan County is going to serve as President and CEO. By the way, we don't have a name yet. And we thought about kind of getting all this buttoned up into a perfect package, if you will, and kind of announcing something in February or March, but we don't – we don't have time. We've got to get working now, and, so, getting folks on board, we're going to do all the things we just talked about, and Anna's going to lead that charge, and then we've got Jos – Justin Farquhar, who's also with Bryan County Development Authority, and, of course, Maria [Whitfield], who's been fantastic. She's been on board with us for – for almost a year now, and she's working the four-county JDA piece, and then, of course, Jennifer Collins, who's been with SEDA for quite a while. She's jumping over and going to help with that too. So, I can't thank them enough for being here and if I get something wrong, just please come up here, 'cause I do it all the time. But, they're – I wanted you all to see the team that's going to be led with this charge, a multi-county, a large area, and, like I said, go back to this map, this is really the area of focus. This is where we got to target. This is what we've got to – this is what we've got to do. And we're going – we're starting immediately.

Mr. Tollison said, this is – like I said, these numbers ought to give some pretty good concern. So, Mr. Chairman, I will stop there and open up to any questions. And again, Savannah J-D-A dot com [savannahjda.com] has all the info you need.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Let's start with Commissioner Lockett.

Commissioner Lockett said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, let me just ask you one question. I know you mentioned about the workforce, as far as the high schools. Have you also had a conversation with our local universities, like Savannah State and Armstrong – well, Georgia Southern, as far as preparation for workforce?

Mr. Tollison said, yes. So, we've had ongoing conversations, but it's about to really pick up now that we've got a team on board, but every educational institution in the region is going to be a part of this effort. And, so, we've had conversations with – we've talked to, you know, Savannah State – we talked to everybody, but they don't – this just was announced, and, so, we're about to go deeper, if that makes sense.

Commissioner Lockett said, it did make a lot of sense. Thank you.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, let me say now, to Commissioner Lockett along those lines. University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, have already inked their deals with Hyundai and the others in here. Savannah State is lacking, all right? Just want you to know the truth, all right? I don't know what the lacking is, and they won't let me in the room to talk, okay, but Savannah State is lacking in inking a deal. I'm talking about putting it on the paper so that you – they can take a part of that, okay?

Mr. Tollison said, yeah, what we're encouraging all the academic side to – to the Chairman's point is to make an effort with Hyundai, you know, reach out and – I don't know if that's – I don't know if that's happening at the Savannah State side, but I know that other institutions are doing it, and they're inking these deals. So.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm. All right. Let's go – let's go on to Commissioner Whitely.

Commissioner Whitely said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Tollison, thank you for being here. All right, I got a few questions. All right, so first off, when you talk about principal coordinators that – SEDA is taking that role on?

Mr. Tollison said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, wearing that jacket.

Mr. Tollison said, great – great question. So, we're – we're onboarding the effort. We're going to –

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, – fund it and get it going starting twenty – January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, and our goal is to have Chatham – all the counties come in and participate through some sort of funding model to where we have more participation from different funding sources. We're going to create a 501(c)(3) for companies to donate for the educational side, to really help with the high schools. So, a lot of this stuff is going to be coming out as we go.

Commissioner Whitely said, got you. So, with that being the case, you know, I think about how our SPLOST collections are so high. I know SEDA stands to get a nice, hefty check, 'cause of such, why –

Mr. Tollison said, I wish – I wish –

Commissioner Whitely said, – do we –

Mr. Tollison said, – we got SPLOST money.

Commissioner Whitely said, well, it –

Mr. Tollison said, but we may –

Commissioner Whitely said, yeah –

Mr. Tollison said, – we – we may –

Commissioner Whitely said, SPLOST VII money. You –

Mr. Tollison said, we may get some, if it – I mean the ten million that comes in at the end of the collections. I think that was right.

Commissioner Whitely said, you – you will.

Mr. Tollison said, oh, thank you.

Commissioner Whitely said, yeah. It's – it's – it's – remember the or – there's a MOU that states that.

Mr. Tollison said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, that's what I'm referring to.

Mr. Tollison said, wow.

Commissioner Whitely said, so, you knew that right?

Mr. Tollison said, well, I didn't know the collections were so great.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah, you – you knew that.

Mr. Tollison said, no, I knew – I knew –

Chairman Ellis said, oh, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, – the money was there, but I didn't –

Chairman Ellis said, you knew that money was there. Okay.

Mr. Tollison said, I didn't know the collections were doing so well.

Commissioner Whitely said, oh, yeah, they're – they're killing it. So, with that, though, I – I – I wonder – all right, if we're staffing a organization, right, what about – why would we do that instead of trying to staff some workforce development initiatives?

Mr. Tollison said, that's all on the table.

Commissioner Whitely said, okay. Let's –

Mr. Tollison said, I agree a hundred percent.

Commissioner Whitely said, okay. Got you.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, now, I see that a big focus on the workforce needs are on the mega site, and I know that SEDA has done such a great job, and I'm – I'm not being facetious in saying that, in recruiting organizations to come here, what about the Savannah Manufacturing Center? You know, I know that's filling up fast. They're going to need jobs. We've got warehouses growing – coming up all over the place. Are – are we really only going to focus on the megasite right now?

Mr. Tollison said, no. No. No. That's another – that's another great, important point. This effort is for all industry.

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, all – manufacturing, logistics. We're not – this – now, I will say that Hyundai is really intensifying the effort –

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, but it's for everybody.

Commissioner Whitely said, right.

Mr. Tollison said, everybody – any – any qualifying – any logistics manufacturing company has access to all this.

Commissioner Whitely said, I got you. And then – so, in the – as it relates to the efforts in Bowling Green, and – like what were some ways that their county government got involved –

Mr. Tollison said, so –

Commissioner Whitely said, – to help their efforts?

Mr. Tollison said, so – so, they – one of the things that the – the region has done in – in – and I – I may ask Maria [Whitfield] to come up to explain more of this because what I've seen – the – the level of cooperation is one thing, but they've got programs in place, like *The Leader in Me*, that they brought into elementary school education. It's a program that –

Commissioner Whitely said, mmm.

Ms. Maria Whitfield said, Covey.

Mr. Tollison said, – Covey – the – the Covey program that they started a while back. Things like that have been overwhelmingly positive for that region, and, you know, it's a very diverse region of folks. I think, you know, seventy-two percent of the students are on free or reduced lunch. They got people from all over the world. What's that?

Ms. Whitfield said, the elementary school is –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Ms. Whitfield said, seventy-two percent.

Mr. Tollison said, and, so, they've got people from all over the world. How many languages are they teaching?

Ms. Whitfield said, twenty-six.

Mr. Tollison said, twenty-six languages –

Commissioner Whitely said, in Kentucky?

Ms. Whitfield said, they're – they're not teaching them.

Mr. Tollison said, they're –

Ms. Whitfield said, there are [inaudible as Ms. Whitfield was in the audience and not speaking into a microphone] twenty-six languages that are being –

Commissioner Whitely said, oh, spoken in the –

Mr. Tollison said, in the –

Commissioner Whitely said, I got you.

Mr. Tollison said, in the school, twenty-six different languages.

Commissioner Whitely said, sheesh.

Mr. Tollison said, so –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and they understand one.

Mr. Tollison said, what are some of their larger industries? Do you remember?

Ms. Whitfield said, Corvette.

Mr. Tollison said, Corvette.

Ms. Whitfield said, [inaudible.]

Commissioner Milton said, you might want to bring her to the mike.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah. And we have –

Commissioner Whitely said, don't try to hide.

Mr. Tollison said, – Corvette's there. There's a big battery plant, and – and other things similar to what we're doing that's going on there.

Ms. Whitfield said, yeah. So, one of the reasons why the workforce study actually asked us to go to Bowling Green is because they landed an E/V plant – a Ford E/V plant an hour north –

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Ms. Whitfield said, – and an hour south. In the City of Bowling Green, they just landed a battery plant and Corvette is there. They have a catalytic converter manufacturer there, and there's a military base an hour north and an hour south; about twenty thousand jobs, very similar to us. They're just a little more ahead of us, specifically, because they – as Trip [Tollison] mentioned, had really started to grow homegrown talent from elementary school. Ninety-nine percent graduation rate, which was very interesting to us. They only have two private schools in – in the area, and the – Franklin Covey is actually embedded in first grade.

Commissioner Whitely said, hmm.

Ms. Whitfield said, and they have a pathway where they connect to many of the local employers at third grade, fifth grade, eighth grade, and then they – their senior year, they have a very large expo of all of the industries, regionally, to actually attend.

Commissioner Whitely said, oh, got – well, that sounds good, and I – I know I've personally thought about – and I've heard many conversations about us really getting trades back into the school system.

Commissioner Milton said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, so, I'm – I'm really hopeful that this could be fruitful with that. Now, with this – one of the main points in the – the slide show that you had – and can you email that to us, 'cause that's not what's on the – on the site. It's a –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, – on the –

Mr. Tollison said, we'll get it to you.

Commissioner Whitely said, thank you. When I see – one of the points that was made in the slide was basically the wage challenge, and I think that, you know, aside from a shortage of workforce, we're also going to be – we're on the precipice of a wage equilibrium proc – problem, and where that makes me a little bit nervous is that – is in our first responders. The pool of people that we're looking at, you know, to work in some of these, again, industry, manufacturing, warehousing, and things like that are some of the same people who also could go in, be a fire fighter; can be a police officer. So, is there any plans – or has there been any thought in SEDA maybe

helping with – to ease the wage equilibrium gap? ‘Cause ultimately, you know, if – let’s just say right now we know that Hyundai has their foot – the pedal to the medal when it comes to wages. They’re going to pay folks. Well, that means they’re not going to want to work – people aren’t going to want to work, you know, in some of these warehouses or in the Savannah Manufacturing Center, or in our small businesses here. So, has there been any thought in – put into how we can ease that – that pain, that growing pain?

Mr. Tollison said, yes. That will be a part of this whole effort. Yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, I got you –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, – the whole – so that’s a –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, got you. All right. And then, so, the last thing I had, I understand at the meeting the other day there was discussion of SEDA actually jumping into field stud – film studios, excuse me, or sound stages. Doesn’t SEDA have enough going on now?

Mr. Tollison said, so, one of the things – what we – every three years we do – we review and basically look at our incentive policy, and one of the things that our consultants brought up – brought to our attention is, like, with all the movie and film production activity, and we have not done a good job landing more film pro – production studios, sound stages, and they said, well, you may want to add some incentives to the – to the toolkit –

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, – in order to get them here.

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, and, so, that’s what was discussed on Tuesday is, you know, maybe we look at some property type activity, you know – you know, things of that nature, and that was what – what – what – what was discussed in order to try to bring some more film activity.

Commissioner Whitely said, got you. And then, that’s going to add to our issue, again, right, you know, ‘cause film pays pretty well.

Mr. Tollison said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, and then – so, I – I – I just want to be on record saying that we’re on the – on the front end of a wage equilibrium issue that can get really ugly if we’re not very pro-active in addressing it, and I – I’m not just directing this at you --

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, – I’m saying it to my colleagues also. We’ve really got to be mindful of that. But, thank you for that.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, and, so – last thing, so you were saying, when it comes to those incentives, you’re looking at maybe tax abatements, and – well, the incentives that SEDA already uses.

Mr. Tollison said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, got you.

Mr. Tollison said, the – the – what – the stuff that’s already in our tool kit.

Commissioner Whitely said, right.

Mr. Tollison said, we’re not changing the toolkit, we’re just looking where we can do different things within the tool kit.

Commissioner Whitely said, I got you. Well, thank you all for your efforts. I mean, y’all – again, y’all been doing so good -

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

Commissioner Whitely said, – we got more jobs than people now. Sheesh.

Mr. Tollison said, it's a team effort.

Commissioner Whitely said, man. Thank you all.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Let me go – let me go to the Youth Commissioner.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, you mentioned high school –

Chairman Ellis said, turn your mike on.

Commissioner Whitely said, turn on your mike, Vidhaan.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, you mentioned high schoolers being a untapped source for workers, so how – or how do you plan to draw out these high schoolers that want to work in trades?

Mr. Tollison said, it's to get into the high school – great question. It's to get in the high schools, create more partnerships, and basically, we need to go educate the students on what's available – what's out there, and then to guide those students into whatever direction they choose to go in to get the skill. And some high schools provide that skill now; some don't, and, so, we've got to do a comprehensive analysis on where those skills are, where they need to be, and – and then the – the – the coordination with the technical colleges is also important, and that's going to be part of this – this effort.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, okay. And then – so would a partnership with a high school, would it be like a work-based learning program?

Mr. Tollison said, yes. That would be part of it for sure.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, all right. So, then, my next question is how would you compete with other work-based learning programs, like – 'cause my school has two with Gulfstream and International Paper, and – like how would you compete with them or how would you say, you know, you should come try for this work-based learning than Gulfstream or International Paper?

Mr. Tollison said, I – I wouldn't define it as competing. It's just adding more options, and you – this – let's see, Gulfstream and I.P, had – it's at Jenkins. Are you at Jenkins?

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, yes.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah. So, yeah, those programs are great. And what we would do is compliment those and add more things. We're not going to – we're not going to mess up what's working.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, and then would you add a – 'cause Gulfstream, I believe, has a scholarship at the end of the work-based learning, so, then, would you add that to your work-based learning program to make it more enticing or no?

Mr. Tollison said, that's a great question. We're not there yet. But I would imagine, especially through the private sector and this 501(c)(3) arrangement, there could be avenues like that where you could provide scholarships.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dudani said, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, but, again, we're just getting started. Great questions.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Let's go to Commissioner Milton.

Commissioner Milton said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I'm excited for – for Vidhaan. He – he sound like he's ready to apply for a scholarship right now. He wants the job right now. And I just – I – I – I commend you on taking this challenge on because it's necessary, like you said, not just for the mega plant, it's for – it's for Chatham County, and – and – and I know I go a little further back than you do, even though you got a little bit of hair – gray in your hair –

Mr. Tollison said, I'm trying to be like the Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, that – that’s for me getting on his nerves. That’s why he start graying like me, ‘cause I get on his nerves.

Commissioner Milton said, but – but – but I remember in high school, you know, we had trades that we took. Home Economics, I mean I made my first dress in ninth grade, that I haven’t made anymore, but – but, you know, you had shop –

Mr. Tollison said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Milton said, – where we pre – we produced carpenters and – and – and there were so many people that came out of high school that were prepared to work.

Mr. Tollison said, and we had that too at Brunswick High. I – I – we had shop, and I – and we – we’ve gotten away from that, right?

Commissioner Milton said, yeah. And we got to bring it back.

Mr. Tollison said, I agree.

Commissioner Milton said, because it – it’s very important. It’s very important. I – I – and as I said, I wouldn’t have probably – I did have a sewing machine at home though. So – but I commend you all for taking this role on to fulfill not just the mega plant but for Chatham County, ‘cause we need first responders and – and I – I want to congratulate my Southeast Georgia Leadership classmate, Justin [Farquhar] on his role, because I think he’ll bring a lot to the table. He as very resourceful in class, and he’ll be good now.

Mr. Justin Farquhar said, well, you were a good teammate.

Chairman Ellis said, okay, you ready?

Commissioner Milton said, very good. I’m – that’s – that’s it for me.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Commissioner Farrell.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. I want to circle back for a moment on the childcare issue. How – how does working parents go to work and there’s nowhere to put their child, or it’s so expensive that it costs more to take care of your child than it pays to get in the car and drive up to forty-five or sixty miles to a – to a good job? Do y’all have anything in mind knowing that, you know, that these people that are watching the children, they have to pay their employees enough so that they’ll get good quality people that will look after a person’s most prized possession, is their child.

Mr. Tollison said, we – we are definitely studying and – and I wish I had a great answer for that, but it is definitely something that this coalition’s going to be focused on. The – the – the childcare tax credit, which is being underutilized, we need to do more education and get people to look into that, but it starts with the employers, because the tax credit sits at the employers not the actual parents. And then we need to look at onsite activities, especially for some of these larger operations. One of the things that we’re looking at doing is the – I – I let the cat out of the bag, we’re – at the Savannah-Chatham Manufacturing Center, what – what – what a – it would be awesome if it can carve out some of that property, do an RFP, and bring in a childcare organization that could basically take children, you know, from ages one to four – you know, before Pre-K, where the – where the employees can drop their children off right down the street, and go to work, and pick them up going home. So, these are – these are things that we’re all talking about doing, but it’s a huge concern, and I – I know that y’all hear it every other hour of every day. So – I wish we had a perfect model, but we don’t yet.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I – you know, it’s easier to solve it at a large corporation with in-house care, but your smaller organizations that – that can’t provide that, you know, they have the same quandaries that you’ve got children, you know, how do you balance all that. So, I think that’s a – that’s an issue that’s going to – seems to be getting more difficult for people to – to solve the –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah. I would – I would – on the small business side, I would encourage folks to talk about the childcare tax credit, ‘cause it applies to anybody, any business, and I know that Maria [Whitfield] and I – that’s being greatly underutilized, and it’s – it’s – it’s a credit. I mean, you – the employer mandates –

Commissioner Farrell said, could you –

Mr. Tollison said, the employer does it.

Commissioner Farrell said, could you tell our audience briefly what – what you’re –

Mr. Tollison said, so –

Commissioner Farrell said, – eluding to?

Mr. Tollison said, so, an employer has the option to or provide direct payments to a childcare provider for an employee, and the employee – the employer gets the credit on their – with – with – on their – on their taxes.

Commissioner Farrell said, is this an IRS or the State of Georgia?

Mr. Tollison said, it's an IRS. It's a federal –

Commissioner Whitely said, it's federal.

Mr. Tollison said, there's two of them, right? It's – it's federal, but there's a – there's a – I think the State's looking at doing a subsidy to that. But it's a federal program that is greatly underutilized.

Commissioner Farrell said, so the employers – a – a small business could use these to help their employee –

Mr. Tollison said, correct.

Commissioner Farrell said, – defer the cost of – of childcare.

Mr. Tollison said, is there a threshold on that or do you know?

Commissioner Whitely said, I think it's a fifty –

Ms. Whitfield said, I'm not sure.

Commissioner Whitely said, I think it's fifty – you have to have – it has to be –

Chairman Ellis said, yeah – fif –

Commissioner Whitely said, I think it's only large at this point. I think – I want to say it's like a hundred or – or two hundred employees or something like that.

Mr. Tollison said, we'll – we'll get that threshold, but I know that there – when you talk to a lot of the employers here, they don't know anything about it.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, if you got to have a hundred employees, there's not a whole lot of employees that have that many – employers that have that many –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, there's a lot of small businesses out there that are running this – this country, and this county, and this state –

Mr. Tollison said, I agree.

Commissioner Farrell said, – that – you know, when the goodies – when the man with the goodies comes, by the time it gets to the – to the little guy, there's nothing left in the bag. You know, there's a lot for the – for the big operations, 'cause they can tow – tote bigger numbers and bigger impact, but, the small – the small employers have quite an impact on the functioning of any community. So, you know, that – that's an area that needs a lot of attention. Now, the – the other thing that I wanted to mention for your new team is not only your – your college agreements or your graduates and that sort of thing, but you also have people that start college and find out this isn't for me, and they drop out, not that they're unworthy or what have you or unemployable, they're just, for different reasons, they're just not going to pursue that degree after all.

Commissioner Farrell said, I believe that those people, if they had a – a – you know, if they were recruited right away and say, hey, you might not be the – the medical doctor you sought out to be, but you could certainly do this or, you know, if you're not going to be the English teacher you were going to be, but you could work in our admin or whatever, that your dropouts are – are – are, you know, the people that don't complete their college, and right on down to high school. I mean, some – some of our – in the State of Georgia, you can choose at sixteen to drop out of high school. Well, most of our problems and most of our expenses in our local law enforcement community, a lot of them start, you know, when the – when a child drops out. So, you could do everybody a big favor by figuring out who's – who's leaving high school and have people pay them attention, you know, before a street person gets a hold of them and shows them how to make money illicitly, that, hey, here's some great opportunities. 'Cause there's a job for everybody. If you can walk and talk and speak and, you know, maybe have a driver's license, there's a job out there, and, you know, and you're probably going to make fifteen, eighteen, twenty dollars an hour because the type – the market's that tight.

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, there – there's jobs out there. So, if – if we wouldn't overlook the – the folks that don't finish their high school education and don't finish, you know, if they started at college, I think those would be a prime recruiting pool of – for – for entry-level jobs and – and once they get integrated into coming to work and making money, they can – they can certainly take off from there. There's many success stories of people that started at the bottom and, you know – a friend of mine started at – a teller at the – at a bank, and now he's the corporate CEO. You know, he just – you –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, – work your way up. So –

Mr. Tollison said, I agree. One – one – one thing I forgot to mention, Mr. Chairman, on the education side, is right next to the – as it relates to Hyundai, right next to the plant, is going to be a sixty-five million dollar training center that the State will run and operate through the technical college system. So, we – I know we've got a lot of agreements –

Chairman Ellis said, training system –

Mr. Tollison said, – a lot of institutions doing different things, but I – I – I keep forgetting to point that out.

Chairman Ellis said, its' a training facility.

Commissioner Farrell said, but like I say, even – if they're not wanting to work at a factory or something –

Mr. Tollison said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, – if – if a recruiter could call on these people and say, hey, the guy at the ice cream shop needs somebody; the mechanic needs somebody to change the oil; we need somebody to swing a hammer and tote boards at the construction site to build houses. There's lots of jobs that the – there – there's – like I say, if you – if you can – if you're healthy enough to get up and move around, there's a job out there for you in this – in this area.

Mr. Tollison said, I agree.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Farrell said, so, if we – if we reach them somehow – reach out to those folks and get them – you know, show some attention to them, they'll probably – you know, hopefully, they'll take one of those jobs, and they'll be off on a great trajectory and it will probably solve a lot of our criminal justice problems with people that are floundering and just don't know how many opportunities are out there. Maybe they live in a very small neighborhood that they don't get out much.

Chairman Ellis said, okay? All right, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Tollison, looking at y'all's mission statement on the SEDA website, it says, at the Savannah Economic Development Authority, our mission doesn't get any clearer, it's to help create, grow, and attract new job opportunities and investment in the Savannah region, and that I'll state, y'all have done one hell of a job.

Mr. Tollison said, oh, thank you very much.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you – you – you doing your mission wonderfully.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I – and I mean that. I sincerely –

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – mean that. Here comes my however, however, as an elected official, my job is multi-fold. I not only have to promote economic development and economic opportunities for our citizens, but I think my – one of our main duties as elected officials, is to, at the very least, maintain a certain quality of life for our citizens.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if not enhance the quality of life for our citizens. I believe we have hit a point in time now where we're full. You said the – the – the thing shows the employments low – low employment numbers, all you got to do is drive towards Pooler and back up in that traffic. We have already at this point, we – not being you, you're doing your job, absolutely doing your job, but we – I need – we need you to take another angle on this now. We're at a point where this growth is killing us, because we need y'all up lobbying the State of Georgia, lobbying – lobbying the federal government. Right this second there should be eight lanes going to – past Statesboro on I-16, all the way into Savannah, at the very least, probably to Metter. would probably cover what will be needed by the time everything gets going. That should be underway right now. There should be overfl – passes on Dean Forest Road right now going over 21, over 80, connecting in. That's what has to happen at this point.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, how active are y'all in lobbying for surrounding – I – I – I fear that the focus being so – yet wonderful, I feel as if it's a bit narrow minded. I believe it leaves the part – it – it would leave it out there where you're not able – when you're focusing on one thing, such as just in your mission statement, I think it – it – it somehow – it lets you overlook the – the possible impact it would have on the immediate neighbors, and the – the – just immediate surrounding communities. Good example is this, is some of the mega sites out on the westside, when you're talking a multi-million dollar scheme, I – I've witnessed, and, again, for what y'all's mission statement is, good work, you're doing what you're supposed to do. I've watched an a – attempts for y'all to lure the public in to voting to approve SPLOST, pay millions, obtain the land for one type of laid out industrial thing. You get the City of Savannah to annex you, and then all of the sudden, here comes a upgraded, high end, terrible – terrible request to make the industrial zone a much more dangerous level for all the neighbors and everyone around, and you straying off the plans, the master plans for the community.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, when you once sell it, I think y'all need to stick to whatever you sold to the public, because that's – that's what you're supposed to do. When you tell the citizens we're – we're – we need you to vote for your tax dollars, your sales tax dollars to put a facility in. We're going to try to attract business, it's zoned this, here's the type of – you don't come in and put that battery plant, which thankfully, after people raising cane is going somewhere else and not in west Chatham County. But, we need y'all – if you're going to keep going with this mission, Trip [Tollison], we now – we have to have y'all pushing for the infrastructure improvements. We can't – I mean, what – what else – what are we going to do? These – this shows it, if we've got things here that we can't even get enough people to work on, my God, why do we need to create more traffic in these streets?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I mean we – it's time to join up with the home builders association, too, and let's make sure there's enough houses being built, and there's roads to get you in and out of the subdivisions. And we can't stray off of these master plans. We can't. We're – we're now looking at an industrial – potentially an industrial, just wasteland on much of the beautiful what was once country areas of west Chatham County where people moved out there to do it, and I don't blame them. If I personally owned land, hey, if I had twenty acres, I'd sell it at a million dollars an acre for industrial, for me looking out for me personally. I get it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but, we've got to look out for this whole community, like – like I believe we kind of did with this industrial site. We're like, okay, but that didn't benefit – I mean, that wasn't the direct benefit on this county that it would have been if it was located in this county. But, in the greater good – yeah, yeah. But in the – in – in the – in the attempt to look out for the greater good of our community, you know, I didn't hear anybody opposing it – going there. I mean, it is a good thing. It's a great thing, high paying jobs, but it would have been better that – I don't know if it will ever revert back to their tax base or when it will or whatever, but, they're the ones going to get that money. It would have been major for us to get that money, and we were the ones funding – the local government funding the great majority to y'all, I do believe.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I – I would like for y'all to start respecting the county, and I'm not talking personally, respecting the county's wishes. If you go in, and you develop a multi, multi-million dollar industrial facility, for God sakes, buy out the ten homes sitting next to it. I've got one that I've spoke with you with a million-dollar plus house sitting right next to what's going to be an industrial wasteland, if you have a – if you built yourself a million-dollar house. I mean, buy them. Trip [Tollison], buy them out. Don't do that to the surrounding people. We're all for creating jobs, but don't do it at the expense of – at the expense of our citizens. This is supposed to benefit our citizens. That's our job, and, again, I – I – I – it's – I swear it's not a knock on you. Y'all have done your mission statement, and you do it well, but we need you to expand that, man. It should just state, we're going to increase this but at the most minimal impact to whatever – the quality of life of surrounding – you know, whatever. We need your help, man.

Mr. Tollison said, I agree.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I – I appreciate everything you're doing, but I'm – I'm crying – it's a hell of a time to represent west Chatham County.

Commissioner Whitely said, it's challenging, boy.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, 'cause, hey, it's a hell of a time because they're all upset and understandably so, and, again, I don't fault none of y'all. You're doing your jobs to a tee. You – you – your mission statement is accomplished, but help us get that infrastructure in, Trip [Tollison], to make life not as rough for all the citizens

and help us and buy some of these people. If you're going to put two-hundred acre site somewhere, buy those ten homeowners. It's nothing in the big scheme of that. The first lot, have them – that you sell or have – well, I know how y'all get a lot of them, and you entice them in, but there's got to be the money to take care of these folks around it too, so. I appreciate you listening. And – and – and again, y'all do a great job, I promise you, and I mean that.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you. Oh, I – when – when we talk about the S-C – the Savannah-Chatham Manufacturing Center, we made one mistake, and that was trying to rezone the property to heavy industrial. We dropped the rezoning effort, and stood by our commitment to keep it light industrial. For the record, I do want to point out that that property was rezoned light industrial in 2008. We bought it in 2016, so I understand and I appreciate, and we have been working with the neighbors

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I need –

Mr. Tollison said, – for a long time –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I need you to buy them, Trip.

Mr. Tollison said, but we – we went in there and bought the property as it was zoned. We didn't – we – we – and we have – we've got great – well, we want to have great relationships with them. We've done a good job reaching out to them, and we realize we made a mistake on trying to rezone, and we backed off. We're putting – we're upgrading the buffers and doing the things that we want to do as a good neighbor, but I don't – I want to make sure people understand that we went in there and bought an already zoned piece of property. We didn't rezone; we didn't – you know, we – we did everything –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I know, and they approve – it was approved in SPLOST –

Mr. Tollison said, way before –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – that's – my – my problem was trying to rezone it to a harsher industrial.

Mr. Tollison said, and we quit.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, and I – and I appreciate that – completely appreciate it.

Mr. Tollison said, and we – we are making sure that the companies that go in there fit within the zoning classification, and that they're going to be good neighbors too.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, and all – all – when it comes to transportation and infrastructure, we ask for so much stuff from Atlanta, and not – I'm not trying to turn around the question, but, we need a lot of help other than the development authority making the request. And I think the first big thing we got to do, and we mentioned this at our board meeting on Tuesday, is we got to pass a T-SPLOST. I mean, we – so much – there's so much money in Atlanta that we can leverage by doing that, that we can really take care of our own problems. But we – we – that's a whole 'nother conversation. I didn't mean to get off track, Mr. Chairman, but –

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. Yeah. Don't bring – don't bring that one up, 'cause we tried three times and the rest of them turned it down, so let's move on to that – let's go on to Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that we're running a little behind here, so I'm going to make my comments –

Chairman Ellis said, that's, all right –

Commissioner Stone said, – very brief.

Chairman Ellis said, – we good.

Commissioner Stone said, my question, first, is employment. I know that a lot of people – that young people in their late twenties, early thirties, during COVID, lost their jobs. So those people should apply as well. I mean, they're not coming out of high school; they're not coming out of college, they're just unemployed. And, so, would you encourage them to apply as well?

Mr. Tollison said, absolutely.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. My –

Mr. Tollison said, without a doubt.

Commissioner Stone said, second question or comment is on child care, and the company, I guess – I'm afraid to say it, Chick-fil-A, that my daughter works for, they actually have a daycare center on site – on site, and I'm going to tell you, it is a big drawing card for people now to be able to take their children to the daycare center. The employees encourage them during the day to possibly go down and visit the children at their lunch hour or that kind of thing. So, I think we need to start thinking a little more along those lines and making child care accessible to the parents and want the parents to be employees of – of some of these larger companies. And I'm not talking about the small ones, I'm talking about, like the Hyundai plant. They could easily, easily put a childcare center on site, and I think it would make a world of difference.

Mr. Tollison said, I agree.

Chairman Ellis said, okay. All right. Let's go to the Youth Commission, now.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dundi said, I just wanted to ask, once completed, how many jobs would there be or an estimate on how many jobs?

Mr. Tollison said, at – at Gulfstream or –

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dundi said, at the Mitsubishi – or, sorry, Hyundai plant?

Mr. Tollison said, there will be eighty-five hundred jobs at that particular site, and then there's about another five to six thousand jobs that come with their suppliers.

Chatham County Youth Commissioner Dundi said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Let's – let's go to Commissioner Hodge.

Commissioner Hodge said, I just have one question.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Mr. Tollison said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Hodge said, are we looking at any type of work re-entry programs for –

Chairman Ellis said, yes.

Commissioner Hodge said, – citizens who are –

Mr. Tollison said, absolutely.

Commissioner Hodge said, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, that will definitely be a part of our effort.

Commissioner Hodge said, great.

Chairman Ellis said, okay. All right. Let's go to Commissioner Adams.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh – sorry.

Chairman Ellis said, no. yeah.

Commissioner Adams said, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Ellis said, I – I – I've got you listed.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, I'm coming.

Commissioner Adams said, Mr. Tollison, I was in a conversation with somebody from the Georgia Ports Authority the other day, and we keep talking about high school students, they have a great program for high school students and recruiting. They have an internship in future employment. You guys might need to talk – talk with Georgia Ports about their program, and how they actually get – get into the schools.

Mr. Tollison said, absolutely. We've talked to them. I'm familiar with what you're talking about –

Commissioner Adams said, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, – and we'll definitely be – that will definitely be a part of our –

Commissioner Adams said, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, – our funnel and filter and all that stuff.

Commissioner Adams said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, it's called YES.

Mr. Tollison said, yes.

Chairman Ellis said, that's what Georgia Ports got. All right, let's go – let's go now, back to Commissioner Whitely and then Commissioner –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, can I just say one thing –

Commissioner Whitely said, thank – thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll yield the floor to Mr. --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Whitely said, – Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I'll --

Chairman Ellis said, 'cause he said he had to go.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I've got to leave. I just – before your time, when the mega site was developed behind Triplett Park off of I-16 and Pine Barren Road and all.

Mr. Tollison said, I remember.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, in order to get the Daimler Chrysler plant to come, they wanted to have on/off ramps on I-95 going over – Pine Barren Road going over I-95. That was a – they agreed to do that. The State of Georgia was going to put the on/off ramps there.

Mr. Tollison said, and they never did.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, never did. The – the deal fell apart, but we're now, thankfully, it appears, we're starting to fill that entire site up with – or getting closer and closer, but there's – the infrastructure's not in place to support what's going in there. That's something that SEDA drove, the site. I need SEDA to drive with Georgia them upholding their end of the bargain when they said that, and it was all developed out there. It wasn't Georgia's fault that that deal fell apart, it wasn't your – SEDA's fault, but Georgia can hold up to their end of the deal and help us with our infrastructure on that, and that's not them doing something new for us, that's them doing something they told us they would do. Thank you, and I –

Mr. Tollison said, understood.

Chairman Ellis said, and you asked me at the last meeting to talk to them about that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes.

Chairman Ellis said, so, I had that conversation Monday with the folks from GDOT.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, good.

Chairman Ellis said, okay? And – and – and, also, understand, now, GDOT has for Chatham County, Bryan County, Effingham County, Bulloch County, they have a Coastal Empire study in which GDOT will be going to the legislators this coming legislation to ask for one-point-four or one-point-seven trillion dollars –

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, billion.

Chairman Ellis said, – all right, to do that inter-structure, and that talks about the expansion of the highways and stuff you're talking about, and – and – and I've had conversations Monday with them about getting that put back in there –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, – because it was – it was – and there's some other things –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they could – they could spend half of that –

Chairman Ellis said, – that they took out because –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – within a four-mile range of the mile –

Chairman Ellis said, – they just can't afford it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – Georgia Ports.

Chairman Ellis said, all right – yeah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – and it would help.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. So, now, let's go – let's go back to Commissioner Whitely.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Thank you.

Commissioner Whitely said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, right. All right, now, so, one thing I will – I will just – I want to add three points. One, the discussions with City of Savannah, I know, the big challenge that we have is the zoning issue, right? And, so, I'm just asking to be on the record to ask that whenever there is any type of rezoning that's going to be – or excuse me, a site that's selected for economic development, to work with us, if it's in an area that y'all plan on having annexed, to discuss contiguous zoning, because what has been happening is, you know, the zoning industrial where – excuse me industrial zoning is right next to residential agricultural zoning, and that's kind of why we're having the – those discussions.

Commissioner Whitely said, I also want to just be on record in saying thank y'all for dropping the heavy industrial piece. That was a big – a big move by y'all, and I appreciate that, but just helping us to have that conversation with the City of Savannah and any other municipality in the future that – to make sure that we are really looking at the zoning as it relates to the properties that are adjacent, that are within unincorporated Chatham versus a newly annexed area. One question I have that I'm hoping that we can answer now is how can one apply for one of these eighty-five hundred jobs at Hyundai?

Mr. Tollison said, so, we have a link on our website and Hyundai has several links on their website.

Commissioner Whitely said, okay.

Mr. Tollison said, so, if you – if you Google meta – Hyunda Motor Group Meta Plant America, you'll – you'll see all kind of avenues.

Commissioner Whitely said, all right.

Chairman Ellis said, plus – plus they can go to – if they don't have the – the ability to go to the website, they can go to Georgia Work Source on Skidaway.

Commissioner Whitely said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Ellis said, right across from Memorial Stadium.

Commissioner Whitely said, right.

Chairman Ellis said, and they have the – they have all of the equipment and stuff that they can help, plus they have the advisors there who can help them to get into these – these kinds of jobs that's being offered, all right?

Commissioner Whitely said, right. That's –

Chairman Ellis said, you don't get them job –

Commissioner Whitely said, Work Source Coastal, right?

Chairman Ellis said, it's called – yeah, Work Source Coas – it's called Georgia Work Source –

Commissioner Whitely said, Coastal.

Mr. Tollison said, Coastal.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, okay.

Chairman Ellis said, and – and – and they've got Miss – oh, goodness, her name runs away from me now, but –

Commissioner Whitely said, Vicky Webber?

Chairman Ellis said, no, I was fixin' to call her by her maiden name –

Mr. Tollison said, Danielle –

Chairman Ellis said, – and that's why I stopped.

Mr. Tollison said, Sheron?

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. Sheron. Yeah. I was fixing to call her maiden name, that's why I stopped, all right? Because I've known her that long. But, let me do this, now –

Commissioner Whitely said, oh, Mr. Chairman, I just have one other –

Chairman Ellis said, sure.

Commissioner Whitely said, – point I wanted –

Chairman Ellis said, okay.

Commissioner Whitely said, – to share. When I don't satisfy my gluttony for punishment as a public servant, I serve in – in the childcare industry, and one of the challenges as we talk about this wage equilibrium thing, it's that is a issue with childcare also.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, as you talked about after COVID only fifty percent of the childcare providers came back, and it's getting increasingly more difficult to not charge an arm and a leg and pay our early educators what they're worth, and, you know, a recommendation that I've shared with some of our legislators is to see if there's an ability to allow early educators to tap into the state pension, teachers pension, or maybe even healthcare. But, as we talk about those childcare cred – credits and stuff like that, that wage equilibrium is going to be a issue too, and I want to be clear, you know, the – Commissioner Stone talked about her daughter working at Chick-fil-A. You can go in and work at Chick-fil-A for more than that childcare worker is probably work – making. So, we've got to be really aggressive with that, and I don't just say that 'cause I'm in the business, but because I see that early education is a – a very pivotal in how we develop our workforce and our community at large, and if we're not investing in them and our teachers, we're really shooting ourselves in the foot.

Mr. Tollison said, I hear you, and also, Department of Labor, you can go to the Department of Labor, also –

Chairman Ellis said, right.

Mr. Tollison said, – if you're looking for –

Commissioner Whitely said, for the job? Got you.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Whitely said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Whitely said, I got everybody? I saved me for last.

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, and the reason I saved me for last is because I think there's some – there's some points that this Commission need to know. For instance, the workforce study was driven by Ms. King from Georgia Power.

Mr. Tollison said, she was one of the partner for sure.

Chairman Ellis said, and the – and the rea – what she did was she brought together all the industries that's here now, that included Hyundai, but it wasn't driven by Hyundai, all right? And what they were afraid of is what's going to happen. Hyundai offer all these higher-end paying jobs, folks are going to be leaving International Paper; they're going to be leaving Gulfstream; they're going to be leaving Georgia Ports and going to the higher paying jobs, so that's why the workforce study was kicked in the first place, okay?

Chairman Ellis said, the second thing I want to do is I'm going to toot my own horn, and Ms. Anna [Chaffin] can – and – and that's my favorite person, Ms. Anna, all right, 'cause she's been working with me ever since I've been on the JDA, all right? She knows that the school part has been something that I've been pushing to get our kids trained. We start in ninth through twelfth grade, all right, and – and we still – I'm talking with the Board of Education and others to try to kind of get these dots connected, but she can tell you, and he can tell you, I'm glad to see they're doing – talking about getting it into the school system so that these kids can come out of schools being trained for it, but and – and – and – and – and I said to them, we may start in ninth through twelfth grade, but eventually, we going to have to go all the way down to third grade to get these kids on the right paths. Am I right? All right? See, and they're nodding because I – they – I've been saying this ever since I've been on the JDA, on the board, and I'm – I'm like a broken record, am – am I not?

Chairman Ellis said, and, see, and I'm talking about us having our kids trained to step into these places because – one of the things that drive me as your Chairman is the fact that I look at the poverty rate in Chatham County, all right, and I connect it to the two areas which are predominantly minorities and black that have the highest poverty rate, and that's in Garden City and in the City of Savannah, all right? And, so, if we don't get these kids trained to go and to take these higher end jobs and to be – to train them how to step into those jobs, and, see, that doesn't take away anything from advanced training, and that – what I mean by that, the secondary schools and the – the universities, all right? 'Cause everybody who want to go to college to be an engineer, I want them to go. They want to be a technician of some kind, I want them to go.

Chairman Ellis said, but there are those kids, and – and – and Commissioner Farrell eluded to, there's some people who sometimes get into the middle of it and then decide this ain't for me, all right? And they want another avenue. There are – to Commissioner's Hodges' point, there are folks who are re-entering that we need to trust that they're on the right – to get them into the workforce. These are things that I have been saying from day one, am I correct? And I've been pushing the JDA, and I've been pushing the school board and – Savannah has a – Savannah-Chatham County Public School has a unique opportunity, and I'm going to say it publicly now, 'cause I've said it privately, if they blow it, we going to miss it, all right? And I've had that meeting with them, and I hope to have some more, but let me just say this, now, Monday – no, that was Tuesday I was at your meeting, right?

Mr. Tollison said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Ellis said, all right, so it was Tuesday I was in a meeting with some folks who do economics, and they said to us, and this is what's going to affect us sitting here, when we look at our EMT workers, and we look at our workers for Chatham County, in the next eighteen to twenty-four months, we can expect to look at salaries that start at twenty-nine hun – twenty-nine dollars an hour, not eighteen, not seventeen, not nineteen, but twenty-nine dollars a hour so that we can get over the poverty threshold, all right? Those are just things that were said to me in those meetings, and - and I don't take away from none of them. I go to them –

Chairman Ellis said, but, now, what I wanted to do, Trip [Tollison], is --

County Manager Kaigler said, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, yes.

County Manager Kaigler said, just – I wanted to remind the Board, we've got a --

Chairman Ellis said, yeah, I understand.

County Manager Kaigler said, – hard stop at 11:30.

Chairman Ellis said, okay. I understand. I – I got that too.

County Manager Kaigler said, all right. All right.

Chairman Ellis said, but we got to do this here. This is important too. All right. I gave all of you a copy of a recommendation, Trip [Tollison], because we talked about, and you – you – you hint – you talked about – about tax abatements and tax things that you give for companies that – that are coming –

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, – all right? But we also have to serve the needs of those companies who are already here –

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, – all right? So, I was in the meeting that you all asked me to come to and International Paper asked us to extend a tax abatement that they signed in 2014, and that they need – because they are getting some new equipments and things, they need that tax abatement to go – be extended for another seven years. You -- we on the same page?

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, all right, so if you don't mind sharing with this Commission why that's important for us to do.

Mr. Tollison said, absolutely. So, in 2014, the – let – let me go back. I keep talking about the incentive tool kit that we have that we're able to use to lure businesses in. We're able to abate real property taxes, which is basically land and buildings. We do not have the ability to abate personal property taxes. A lot of development authorities do, but we just – we don't have that ability. There is a provision – a constitutional amendment that was done for Chatham County that allows manufacturers to apply for a one hundred percent abatement on personal property for a manufacturer that meets certain thresholds for a five-year abatement only on County M&O, right?

Mr. Tollison said, not many manufacturers, I don't know of any that have been really taking advantage of that, but what would happen in 2014, International Paper came to us and said, look, we've got X amount of money that we needed to deploy in capital to upgrade our equipment at certain facilities throughout the world. We have identified Savannah as one of those targets, and you know, it's no different than you got a pot of money, do you want to go spend it here, there, there, or there? And they said, look, we're interested in Savannah, but we've got – we got the ability to – to deploy this money to various other facilities to where we get an abatement on that personal property.

Mr. Tollison said, so, we scrambled in 2014, and with the help of the Commission, County Attorney, County Manager, we – we came up with an ordinance that this Commission passed that allows, basically personal property exemption – basically a phase-out schedule over seven years to where you have to deploy at least a hundred million dollars in capital, and you have to at least retain or hire four hundred jobs. So, we're talking large investments. I think we've only used that two or three times, Jon [Hart], since we've had this, and, so, International Paper, again, has come back and says, look, of all of our facilities in Savannah, they've got three different facilities, Gulfstream has, I mean, thirty or thirty-three different facil – I mean there's – I'm – I'm trying to show the scale.

Mr. Tollison said, they came to us and said, we've got – we've got a bucket a money we need to deploy. We need to buy new equipment, and we're looking around the United States where to go. We've identified Savannah. We want to do it at our three properties. Can we use the ordinance again? And we're, like, we've got to go talk to the Commission. So, we started with the staff and the Chairman to see what the feedback would be. We're strongly in favor of it because we want to make sure that – it's all about – when you have old facilities like International Paper, it's all about making sure they have the most up to date equipment, 'cause if they don't, they go away, and we don't want that to happen here. They've got about a thousand employees here with – between the three facilities, and, so, we're – we've come to y'all asking that we please utilize this ordinance again for International Paper so they can buy over a hundred million dollars more of equipment. Does that sum it up?

Chairman Ellis said, and the – and the specifics of that is that they want to invest a hundred and twenty million dollars –

Mr. Tollison said, that's correct.

Chairman Ellis said, – over the seven-year period, and they want to create an additional four hundred jobs, all right? And if you've been watching the commercials like I've been watching the commercials, International Paper using the same thing that they came to us with, they're advertising now for jobs starting at sixty-four thousand dollars a year to a hundred thousand dollars a year. You don't have to be trained. If you come they will train you, all right? And, so, that's what – what I gave you all that should have – you should have gotten a copy of this Tuesday, but you didn't, and I understood that – I found that out last night. So, what I – what I – what – what – what I wanted Trip [Tollison] to do is explain why they were coming to us and asking us to give them the extension – that seven-year extension on that tax abatement for the new equipment. Yes.

County Attorney Hart said, one – one – one other thing that you –

Chairman Ellis said, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, – need to really remember about this, is that this is a hundred and twenty million dollars of new investment –

Chairman Ellis said, right.

County Attorney Hart said, – for new equipment. The existing facilities still pay one hundred percent of the property taxes.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

County Attorney Hart said, so it's not like they're getting a free ride. Just – that's all – only – only point I wanted to make.

Commissioner Milton said, my – my question is how much money is that going to cost us to relieve them of that tax payment?

Mr. Tollison said, Linda [Cramer] have you – I – I could run the numbers and email it, but I don't know if y'all –

Assistant County Manager Linda Cramer said, yeah, I – I tried – I talked to Mark [Sprosty] yesterday –

Mr. Tollison said, okay.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, – and he was going to try to get me a schedule. I mean, if – if you just do the straight math, with the hundred and twenty million at forty percent times our millage rate, etcetera, it's about five hundred thousand a year, but they're not talking about buying it all up front. I mean, I think it's a phased in –

Mr. Tollison said, over three – over two –

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, – purchase over seven years.

Chairman Ellis said, it's over seven years.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, so I – it – it would be less than that based on how they phase it in.

Mr. Tollison said, and that's total taxes. That's school –

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, no, that's just us.

Mr. Tollison said, for just county?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, that's just M&O.

Commissioner Milton said, so, now, is that an extension of what we have been extending them or is that –

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, that would be –

Commissioner Milton said, – or is that going to be something that's going to be less out of our budget?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, it will be –

Chairman Ellis said, it doesn't – our budget at all.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, it will be on new – new equipment. The equipment they have now, they would get, you know, would be eligible for –

Commissioner Milton said, I'm talking about the money –

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, – taxation.

Commissioner Milton said, – that they – I'm talking about the money that the county would receive had they paid the taxes.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, once – once they add that equipment, it would – it would – it's not in our budget now. So, if you add the – as you add the equipment, it – it would just fil – flow through.

Chairman Ellis said, but, now, to answer her question.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, to answer her question, all right, I'm only dealing with her question, if they don't buy the equipment, you're not going to – they're not going to pay taxes –

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, – on it anyway.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, so, you – that means that it's zero, all right?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, what's in our favor is to allow them to buy the equipment, and then let the equipment come in on time and at the end of seven years, they pay the one hundred percent.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, payment – it phases up.

Chairman Ellis said, all right? So, you're talking about – the difference you're talking about is this is a company that's already here.

Commissioner Milton said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Ellis said, we're giving tax abatements to new companies that's coming .

Commissioner Milton said, right. Right.

Chairman Ellis said, they're trying to exist because other places have closed, all right? Other paper markets have closed.

Mr. Tollison said, that's correct.

Chairman Ellis said, what International Paper is trying to do is – they've got a demand to export more paper, but the machine and stuff that they're going to wrap the thing so that's cover – so that it's protected while it's being shipped, all right? So, for us to extend the tax abatement means that – simple math, and like I'm going to just drew the raw numbers. If they put four hundred jobs on the market, all right, and they cover Chatham County, and they're plants are in Port Wentworth and in Savannah, with four hundred jobs, that means four hundred tax payers who make sixty-four thousand dollars a year – I'm going to use that bottom scale. I'm not going to use that top scale, 'cause that commercial says sixty-four thousand to a hundred, let's just use the sixty-four. You get four hundred people that's on the tax roll now who bought houses, buy cars, buy clothes, buy food, paying taxes. We get the benefits of those four hundred people times sixty-four thousand, all right?

Chairman Ellis said, that's the benefit that comes to us, but it's not taking anything from us, because if they don't buy the equipment, they're not going to pay taxes on it anyway. Right now, all the equipment that they have on their facilities, they pay one hundred percent of the taxes. So, therefore, you know, when you look at the large scale things, there's not a detriment to us, because if they don't put the equipment on there, we don't get the money anyway, all right? But if we allow them to put the equipment there and give them abatement, what'd you say? Linda [Cramer] say is about five hundred thousand dollars a year?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, that – that would be the worst –

Chairman Ellis said, that would be the worst.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, – case, I guess.

Chairman Ellis said, all right.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, and then it comes in, all right? Now, one more question. Go ahead.

Commissioner Whitely said, so, I just want to say I like the idea of four hundred jobs.

Chairman Ellis said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Whitely said, but we got a whole bunch of other jobs to fill.

Chairman Ellis said, I – I agree with you.

Commissioner Whitely said, but, aside from that, I think that considering that it's on personal property and not actual property taxes, it would be on something that we're not receiving now. It's not in our digest now. We're already doing good financially. I would like a motion that we approve the –

Chairman Ellis said, no. Uh –

Commissioner Whitely said, I can't do that?

Chairman Ellis said, no. Let me tell you –

Commissioner Whitely said, oh, it's not – oh, it's not on the agenda. It's not on the agenda.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah.

Commissioner Whitely said, touché. Touché.

Chairman Ellis said, don't – don't run too fast, 'cause you running in the wrong race.

Commissioner Whitely said, no, I ain't running in the wrong race.

Chairman Ellis said, let me get you now. Let me get you. Let me get you. The first thing I would like to do now, is there any other questions, now? What – yes, sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, first of all, we got five minutes to wrap this meeting up, but we want to beat this one. I thought we'd just – but, okay, so, I'm – judging from my comments, you're assuming that this international corporation would not invest a hundred and twenty million dollars in order to make more money if – unless we give them a five hundred thousand dollar corporate gift. I mean that –

Chairman Ellis said, I – I'm not assuming that.

Commissioner Farrell said, I – okay. Well, it – it sounded like it was a either/or. We give them this five hundred thousand or not a penny is going to get invested, and –

Mr. Tollison said, that could happen.

Commissioner Farrell said, of course it could.

Chairman Ellis said, that could happen.

Commissioner Farrell said, it could.

Chairman Ellis said, but, see, I'm not assuming that.

Commissioner Farrell said, right.

Chairman Ellis said, okay.

Commissioner Farrell said, but, just –

Mr. Tollison said, the – I – I – I would – if I could add something, Commissioner. They have – International Paper has recently – to the Chairman's point, they've just closed two facilities, one in Florida and one in Mississippi. We're talking thousands of jobs, which would probably get them here, but we – they have these resources to spend at certain facilities, and I tell people about incentives all the time, don't hate the player, hate the game, and it's just – it's a competitive landscape that we're in, and if we don't – if we're not creative in doing things like this, they're going to go somewhere else.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. How many of those plants did they close were sitting next to the busiest seaport for their exporting of their liner board all over the country in those containers?

Mr. Tollison said, the one in Florida, I think was near Panama City port. I think – I think – don't quote me on that. I'd have to go check.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. So, how many – they wouldn't even be considering putting a hundred and twenty million dollars if they weren't going to get a return on investment, and if you look at five hundred thousand over a hundred and twenty million, that's a very small piece. However, I've got constituents that are complaining about their fire fee of two or three hundred dollars, that if they invested this and this money went into the M&O and the M&O started picking up some of the fire costs from tax digest growth, who – who's going to have the more positive impact. So –

Chairman Ellis said, but that's an assumption.

Commissioner Farrell said, lots of things are assumptions.

Chairman Ellis said, that's an assumption.

Commissioner Farrell said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Ellis said, what – what – what we can only deal with is the facts that are presented to us, right? And the facts that invented to – and presented to us was – was IP came and said this is an investment that we're

at the threshold of making, all right? It's going to improve us by four hundred jobs. It's going to improve us to hire folks beginning at sixty-four thousand dollars a year.

Commissioner Farrell said, did it say improve or did it say retain? I mean –

County Attorney Hart said, retain.

Chairman Ellis said, well the facility is already here.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, the people are coming.

Chairman Ellis said, the people – the people will be coming in or the people will be being hired, because the people aren't hired yet, and they're not – and I don't know whether they come from those –

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah.

Chairman Ellis said, – those – those ones that closed down. I don't know where they come from, but one thing I do know, they're going to land in Chatham County.

Commissioner Lockett said, great potential.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, maintain or add.

Chairman Ellis said, see, the potential for them landing in Chatham County is great. So, now, the reason why I brought all this up is because I need a motion from one – from some of you in a second, and I need to get the votes to add this to the agenda. That's the first thing we need to do. Can I get that motion?

Commissioner Stone said, so moved. So moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Whitely said, yeah. So, yeah, we – we do – 'cause it's not on the agenda now.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Chairman Ellis said, right. It's not on the agenda.

Commissioner Whitely said, so, Mister –

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Commissioner Milton said, so, are we going –

Commissioner Whitely said, second.

Commissioner Milton said, – to do something today?

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. All right. Been properly motioned and second that we add it to the agenda. Are you ready for the question? Please vote. All right, I got all votes in? It's added to the agenda. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Tollison said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. That's the end of what we need to do there. All right. Let's move on, so we can get – we're going to get through.

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

Commissioner Stone moved to amend the agenda to add the following item: to amend the Tax Valuation Agreement to authorize and approve International Paper's partial personal property tax abatement on \$120 million of new capital investment for equipment and other improvements in the mill plant and the Port Wentworth plant to ensure these facilities continued competitiveness and maintaining the stability of the employee workforce. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried in a seven to one vote with Commissioner Farrell being the lone no vote. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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#### **6. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

Chairman Ellis said, we don't have any Chairman's item.

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## **7. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS**

Chairman Ellis said, we don't have no Commissioner Items.

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## **8. 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 Ellis said, we don't have no Tabled Items, all right?

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## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Commissioner Farrell said, you didn't vote.

Commissioner Whitely said, Mister –

County Attorney Hart said, you – you got to vote.

Commissioner Whitely said, wait, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, we still need to actually –

County Attorney Hart said, you got to vote.

Commissioner Whitely said, – vote to –

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. I know. I know. I'm coming.

Commissioner Whitely said, and we didn't specify what part of the agenda we were going to put that in now that I think about it. Does that matter?

Chairman Ellis said, no, I can just – can't I just put it –

County Attorney Hart said, you – you – you ought – if – if y'all are going to vote, you need to vote.

Commissioner Lockett said, Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, individual item, right?

County Attorney Hart said, all you've done is add the thing to the agenda.

Chairman Ellis said, to the agenda.

County Attorney Hart said, you haven't decided anything.

Chairman Ellis said, and I can bring it up –

Commissioner Whitely said, right, anything else.

Commissioner Lockett said, the Chairman knows how we do it.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. Yeah. And I'll get it there. I'll get you trust me. I'll get you. All right.

Commissioner Milton said, we're still voting on it today?

Chairman Ellis said, yeah.

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## **9. 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.)

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Items for Individual Action.

1. **REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: 1) IN THE FEDERAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND: A) APPROPRIATE \$415,524 FUND BALANCE TO INCREASE THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR PRIOR YEAR UNEXPENDED FUNDS, B) INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$94,458 FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING; 2) IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$134,008 FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT GRANT; 3) IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TRANSFER \$40,000 CIP CONTINGENCY TO ESTABLISH THE BUILDING SAFETY-SOFTWARE PROJECT, B) TRANSFER \$1,600,000 CIP CONTINGENCY TO THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND WALL STABILIZATION PROJECT.**

Chairman Ellis said, request approval of the following budget amendments and transfer: in the Federal Opioid Settlement Fund: appropriate four hundred fifteen thousand five hundred and twenty-four dollars Fund Balance to increase the operating budget for prior years unex – unexpended funds, increase revenues and expenditures ninety-four thousand four hundred fifty-eight dollars for supplemental fund; 2) in the Multi [sic] Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditure one hundred thirty-four thousand eight dollars for the Victims of Crime Act; 3) in the Capital Improvement Program transfer four hundred thousand – I mean forty thousand dollars CIP Contingency to establish the Building Safety-Software Project, b) transfer one million six hundred thousand CIP Contingency to the Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization Project. Is there a motion?

Commissioner Whitely said, motion to approve the item as stated, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, it's been properly motioned and second that we approve the Individual Item. Are you ready for the question? Please cast your votes. All right.

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

Commissioner Whitely moved for Board approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the Federal Opioid Settlement Fund: a) appropriate \$415,524 Fund Balance to increase the operating budget for prior year unexpended funds, b) increase revenues and expenditures \$94,458 for supplemental funding; 2) in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures \$134,008 for the Victims of Crime Act Grant; 3) in the Capital Improvement Program transfer \$40,000 CIP Contingency to establish the Building Safety-Software Project, b) transfer \$1,600,000 CIP Contingency to the Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization Project. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 9.1**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Amy Davis, Finance Director

### **ISSUE:**

Request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the Federal Opioid Settlement Fund: a) appropriate \$415,524 Fund Balance to increase the operating budget for prior year unexpended funds, b) increase revenues and expenditures \$94,458 for supplemental funding; 2) in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures \$134,008 for the Victims of Crime Act Grant; 3) in the Capital Improvement Program transfer \$40,000 CIP Contingency to establish the Building Safety-Software Project, b) transfer \$1,600,000 CIP Contingency to the Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization Project.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. To date, the Board has accepted a total of \$415,524 from the Federal Government as lawsuit settlement funds to fight the Opioid Crisis within Chatham County. Chatham County has been awarded an additional \$94,458. These funds will be used to educate individuals, family members, and health professionals; and increase awareness of the negative impact of opioids. The Finance Director requests Board approval to appropriate \$415,524 Fund Balance for prior year unexpended funds and increase revenues and expenditures \$94,458 for supplemental funding received. See Attachment I (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file) for funding details.
2. Chatham County has been awarded \$134,008 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) Grant. This grant is used to fund one full-time advocate and one part-time advocate that are crucial to Chatham County being able to follow the requirements of Marsy’s Law, by notifying victims of case status and allowing for their input on the prosecution. The Finance Director requests Board approval to increase revenue and expenditures within the Multiple Grant Fund \$134,008, pending Board approval to accept the grant on December 15, 2023. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file).
3. The Program Implementation Manager is requesting \$40,000 to establish a CIP project for the purpose of a Citizen Self Service Business Management Software to be used by the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Department. There is currently a time-consuming, manual process for permitting and licensing. This software will give the citizens an online option to file and pay for permits, business licenses and renewals. The Program Implementation Manager requests Board approval to transfer \$40,000 from CIP Contingency to establish this project within the CIP Fund. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file).
4. The County Engineer is requesting \$1,600,000 to increase the Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization Project, making the total project budget \$12,400,000. These funds will be used to pay for costs associated with reconstruction on the Slip 2 wall and plaza on Hutchinson Island. The County Engineer requests Board approval to transfer \$1,600,000 from CIP Contingency to the Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization Project within the CIP Fund. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file).

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life - transparency in government

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the Federal Opioid Settlement, Multiple Grant, and Capital Improvement Program Funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

That the Board approve the following:

**FEDERAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND**

1. Appropriate \$415,524 of Fund Balance to increase the operating budget for prior year unexpended funds.
2. Increase revenues and expenditures \$94,458 for supplemental funding.

**MULTIPLE GRANT FUND**

1. Increase revenues and expenditures \$134,008 for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant (Project #2502246).

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND**

1. Transfer \$40,000 from Contingency (3509000-7-579000) to establish the Building Safety-Software Project (3502422-Z-542400).
2. Transfer \$1,600,000 from Contingency (3509000-7-579000) to Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization Project (3502308-7-541400).

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

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**ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Ellis said, now, two independent.

2. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TAX VALUATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SEDA) AND THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ALLOW FOR PARTIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS FOR INVESTMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL PAPER'S MAIN MILL PLANT AND ITS PORT WENTWORTH PLANT. THE EXEMPTIONS ARE BASED UPON \$120 MILLION OF NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND THE CREATION OR MAINTENANCE OF 400 JOBS. SEDA, UPON COUNTY AUTHORIZATION, WILL TAKE TITLE OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION.**

Chairman Ellis said, request Board approval of a Second Amendment Tax Verification [sic] A – Agreement between the Savannah Economic Development Authority, SEDA, and –

Commissioner Stone said, didn't we remove it? We –

County Manager Kaigler said, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Stone said, we removed it.

Commissioner Whitely said, no, listen, y'all, he – he's – he –

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Commissioner Whitely said, he got it.

County Manager Kaigler said, okay.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Commissioner Whitely said, go ahead, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, we ready?

County Manager Kaigler said, go – yeah. Go ahead.

Chairman Ellis said, and the Chatham County Board of Commission to allow partial personal property tax abatements for investment in the International Paper main mill and its Port Wentworth plant. The exemptions are based upon a hundred and twenty million dollars of new capital investment and the creation or maintenance of four hundred jobs. SEDA, upon Chatham County's authority will take title of the personal property during the seven year abatement period to allow for the partial exemption. Is there a motion?

Commissioner Whitely said, motion to approve the item as stated, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Lockett said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, it's been properly motioned and second that we approve the item. Are you ready for the question? Hearing none, all – please cast your votes.

Commissioner Whitely said, that was pretty smooth, Mr. Chairman. You had everybody nervous.

Chairman Ellis said, you does what you do. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Whitely moved for Board approval to amend the Tax Valuation Agreement to authorize and approve International Paper's partial personal property tax abatement on \$120 million of new capital investment for equipment and other improvements in the mill plant and the Port Wentworth plant to ensure these facilities continued competitiveness and maintaining the stability of the employee workforce. Commissioner Lockett seconded the motion and it carried in a seven to one vote with Commissioner Farrell being the lone no vote. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 9.2**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a Second Amendment Tax Valuation Agreement between the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) and the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to allow for partial personal property tax abatements for investments in International Paper's main mill plant and its Port Wentworth plant. The exemptions are based upon \$120 million of new capital investment and the creation or maintenance of 400 jobs. SEDA, upon County authorization, will take title of the personal property during the seven-year abatement period to allow for the partial tax exemption.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County in 2014 created an ordinance to encourage large scale new capital investment and growth to add or maintain the local employee workforce. IP intends to invest \$120 million for new capital improvements and equipment to the main IP mill and its Port Wentworth mill facility. The purpose of this investment is to ensure a continued competitive edge and maintain the growth of the workforce which now exceeds 1,000 employees. In 2014, the County granted a partial abatement for the then investment of new capital equipment and facilities. The partial abatement is requested for a seven-year period, and the amount of the abatement will diminish in value each year over the seven-year period. At the end of the seven-year period, the new investment will be taxed at 100% of assessed value.

It should be recognized that IP's partial abatement would only be on new capital investments in the equipment and facilities with the now existing plant and equipment continuing to pay personal property taxes at 100% of assessed value during the term of the partial abatement. The revenue to the County will not diminish as each year on January 1 the personal property would then again be reassessed and may very well be increased in value. Further, the value of the partial abatement will be reduced. SEDA upon authorization of the Commission, will take title to the personal property for partial tax exemption purposes.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The County in 2014 created an ordinance that provided tax abatements and exemptions to significant local employers that added new capital investments of at least \$100 million, and increased or maintained 400 jobs. In 2014 the Board of Commissioners approved partial property tax abatements for IP under the ordinance.
2. IP now intends to invest \$120 million in new capital improvements and equipment at its main IP mill and its Port Wentworth mill facility. The purpose of this investment is to ensure a continued competitive edge that will contribute to growth and stability in IP's local workforce, IP's current local workforce exceeds 1,000 employees.
3. IP is requesting a partial property tax abatement for a seven-year period on new capital investments in its two Chatham County facilities. Current equipment will not be included in the abatement. The abatement amount will decrease each year so that at the end of the seven-year period, the new investments will be taxed at 100% of assessed value.
4. It should be recognized that IP's partial abatement would only be on new capital investment for equipment and facilities at IP's two plants. SEDA will take title to the property during the abatement period. At the end of the seven years, the property will pass back to IP, and personal property taxes will be collected on 100% of the assessed value.
5. A Second Amendment to Tax Valuation Agreement is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file) for Board approval.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Chatham County anchors a thriving business friendly regional economy in which workers are prepared for quality jobs which will improve the quality of life.

**FUNDING:**

No funding required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approval of a Second Amendment Tax Valuation Agreement between the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) and the Chatham County Board of

Commissioners to allow for partial personal property tax abatements for significant investments in International Paper’s main mill plant and its Port Wentworth plant. As part of the agreement, SEDA will take title of the personal property during the term of the abatement period.

2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Economic development agreements with local employers and with SEDA assist in bringing high quality and stable jobs to the local area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative No. 1.

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**10. 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 Ellis said, all right. Let’s move on. Now, nobody expressed anything to take anything off the Action Calendar. So, we may I have a motion to accept the Action Calendar in its entirety?

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I’ll – I’ll make the motion with the change to the minutes for my absence –

Chairman Ellis said, yeah, I’m coming to that.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. Hold on. Y’all don’t – take your foot off the accelerator, please.

Commissioner Milton said, did you do two?

Chairman Ellis said, no, we took two off, remember?

Commissioner Stone said, took two off.

Chairman Ellis said, we dropped two in the – in the – in the – in the pre-meeting. All right? We got the motion. We got the second to accept the Action Calendar in its entirety?

Clerk said, we don’t have a second.

Commissioner Whitely said, I don’t think – I’ll second that motion.

Clerk said, thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, okay. Any questions? Please cast your votes. All right. Now, let’s go on to First Readers.

Chairman Ellis said, all right, properly motioned and second that the Action Calendar be accepted in its entirety. Are you ready for the question? All right, all unreadiness, please cast your votes. All right. Votes are in.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval of all items on the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 12 and under Item 12 Items A through K. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 1, 2023, AS DISTRIBUTED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 1, 2023, as distributed with the correction that Commissioner Stone was a meeting of the National Association of Counties, not the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY NOVEMBER 23, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2023.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved the Board to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period of November 23, 2023 through December 6, 2023, in the amount of \$4,313,793. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 BUDGET ADOPTION AND MILLAGE LEVY ADOPTION CALENDAR.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved the Board for approval of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget adoption and millage levy adoption calendar. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.3**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** Amy Davis, Finance Director

**ISSUE:**  
Request Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Adoption Calendar.

**BACKGROUND:**  
The Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Adoption Calendar are approved by the Board each fiscal year to facilitate timely adoption of the budget and millage levy.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**  
1. The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 (July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2025) Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Calendar contains the following major dates:

<b>October 2, 2023</b>	<b>Human Resources process begins</b>
<b>October 9, 2023</b>	<b>CIP process begins</b>
<b>January 8, 2024</b>	<b>Distribute budget input information to departments</b>
<b>February 16, 2024</b>	<b>Departmental budget requests due to Finance</b>
	<b>Blueprint grant process opens</b>
<b>March 26 - April 23, 2024</b>	<b>Budget review with Manager and Team</b>
<b>May 24, 2024</b>	<b>Board receives proposed budget</b>
<b>June 7, 2024</b>	<b>Hold Public Hearing on proposed budget</b>
<b>June 13, 2024</b>	<b>Hold 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing on millage levy</b>
<b>June 28, 2024</b>	<b>Hold 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing on millage levy</b>

June 28, 2024

**Adoption of FY 2024/2025 budgets and Tax Year 2024 millage rates for the General Fund, SSD and CAT**

- 2. The Board may elect to hold a Budget Goals Session/Retreat early in the budget process where the Board’s goals and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year can be developed. States goals and priorities will be utilized by the County Manager to develop the FY 2024/2025 proposed budget.
- 3. Approval of the calendar does not preclude the Board from scheduling additional workshops prior to budget adoption or amending the target adoption date.
- 4. The State of Georgia may enforce penalties against counties who do not submit their digest by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – transparency in government

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Approve the FY2024/2025 Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Adoption Calendar.
- 2. Amend the Calendar.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law requires that an annual budget be adopted by the Board for the General Fund and all Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds while project-length budgets should be adopted for construction in progress funds. The calendar also provides for levy millage rates to allow for timely submission of the tax digest to the Department of Revenue generally in August.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,810 AS A DIRECT FEDERAL PAYMENT AND REVISE THE PROJECT BUDGET.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval to accept Opioid Settlement funds in the amount of \$66,810, as a direct federal payment and revise the project budget. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.4**

**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Tara Jennings, Strategic Planning Administrator  
Michael G. Sarhatt, Director

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval to accept Opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$66,810 as a direct federal payment, and revise the project budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County is represented by a local attorney, Mark Tate, in the lawsuit to hold the opioid industry accountable for the impacts of opioids on American communities. The Board accepted the initial settlement pay on March 20, 2023, and a subsequent payment on May 12, 2023.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. For years, the opioid addiction crisis has overwhelmed community resources from police to medical personnel to additional recovery centers.

2. Nationwide settlement funds come from a multitude of lawsuits, most notably a \$26 billion settlement resulting from more than 3,000 cities, counties, and states suing manufacturer Johnson & Johnson and distributors McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardin Health for their roles in the opioid crisis.
3. Payments from the case began in late 2022 and will continue for 18 years, through an array of distributions. Some payments have been made directly to cities and counties, some payments were made directly to the states, and other funds were provided to federal departments for competitive grant process.
4. The Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team (CNT) has and is responding to current and emerging threats that the opioid epidemic presents to the citizens of Chatham County. CNT has established an Overdose Death Investigation Unit using two existing CNT agents. These agents track and investigate the OD related deaths in Chatham County and attempt to make criminal cases against the dealers and suppliers of these dangerous narcotics.
5. Through collaborative efforts, CNT has provided educational opportunities to youth and parents, as well as local civic organizations over the past couple of years. CNT was instrumental in developing a support group for caregivers and family members of those who died by drug overdose.
6. Starting in 2021, CNT has established a comprehensive opioid program. Part of the program is tracking and investigating every overdose death that occurs within Chatham County. In 2021 CNT identified 44 opioid-related overdose deaths and 56 in 2022, and year to date (December 1, 2023), the data shows 80 individuals have died due to opioids in 2023.
7. CNT currently supplies Narcan/Naloxone to all State and Local law enforcement officers in Chatham County. Along with supply, CNT provides training to the officers in deployment of Naloxone. As of December 2023, CNT has trained over 800 officers in the use of this life saving medicine.
8. CNT has developed an education and awareness outreach program targeting both public and private schools in Chatham County. To date, CNT has presented this platform to over 1400 individuals.
9. In late October of 2023, CNT unveiled their Adult Drug Awareness Platform (ADAP). This platform is a 28-foot trailer that has been outfitted to resemble the average teenager’s bedroom. CNT personnel then outfitted this room with all the “Red Flags” that should alarm a parent that their child is using drugs. Most of the items the average parent would see and never give another thought. As the adult tours the trailer a guide walks them through the bedroom pointing out the various “Red Flags” and explanation as to the significance of the item, along with showing the adult the hiding spots that CNT has found drugs in a teenager’s room in the past. The tour emphasizes the dangers of opioids and fentanyl. As of December, CNT has provided over 100 tours to adults during three events which were held in various sites in Chatham County.
10. Currently, CNT is working closely with the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools (SCCPS) in developing a “Positive Peer Influencer Program.” This program is a train the trainer format in which CNT, the Peer Mediation Center, and SCCPS personnel will train 60 high school students in the dangers of drug with an emphasis on opioids and fentanyl. These 60 students, after receiving the training, will give presentations at the middle schools that feed their specific high school on the same topic. This program will begin in mid-December of 2023.
11. County staff have reviewed the allowable uses of the funds and established a budget to focus on education of individuals and family members, education of health professionals, and increase awareness of the negative impact of opioid. The Board recently approved agreements with three local providers for recruitment and retention incentives of dual diagnosed counselors and doctors.
12. The amended budget of \$509,982 is shown below:

Object Code		
523300	Advertising	\$108,500
523700	Education & Training	\$44,451
523900	Other Purchased Services	\$297,031
531310	Catered Meals	\$15,000.00
542500	Other Equipment	\$45,000.00

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Chatham County citizens achieve a superior quality of life with a safe, active, and healthy environment.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval to accept additional opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$66,810 in direct federal payments and update the project budget.

- 2. Provide staff with other direction.

**FUNDING:**

General Ledger: #250-22019

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to support safe, cost effective, and environmentally responsible operations, while diversifying funding streams.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Alternative 1.

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANT FOR FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$134,008. (NOTE: NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS REQUIRED).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval to accept the Victims of Crime Act grant for funds in the amount of \$134,008. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.5**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** Sheryl Jones, Director  
Jennifer Haire

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval to accept the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant for funds in the amount of \$134,008. (NOTE: No additional funding is required.)

**BACKGROUND:**

This is for approval to accept the continuation of VOCA Grant to fund 1 full time advocate and 1 part-time advocate in the amount of \$134,008.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. The VOCA grant award would be for \$134,008 for salary and benefits.
- 2. The VOCA grant will run October 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2024. VWAP has received VOCA grants since 2009.
- 3. No additional funds from the County are required.
- 4. All match required is through in-kind volunteer hours and salary match.
- 5. These salaries and positions would be funded as long as this VOCA grant is funded.
- 6. The funding allows for 1 full time Victim Advocate and 1 Part Time advocate.
- 7. These positions are crucial to our office to follow the requirements of Marsy's Law by notifying victims of case status and allowing for their input on the prosecution of criminal cases.
- 8. Victims of crimes have a right to be involved in the criminal justice process as stated in Marsy's Law. It is also imperative for prosecutors to have input from the victims to effectively prosecute criminal cases.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Chatham County citizens achieve a superior quality of life within a safe, active and healthy environment and reduce crime, particularly abuse and violence.

**FUNDING:**

No additional County funds are required. Any match required is in-kind with volunteer hours and salary match.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approve to submit application for the VOCA grants through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

- 2. Board not approve application for the VOCA grants through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board of Commissioners has been the recipient of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds for the past 14 years and in prior years as well. This additional grant requires no additional funds from Chatham County or match. The personnel position ends if no additional funds are secured from grant sources.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

=====

**6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #1 TO A PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED COASTAL INCENTIVE GRANT FROM THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO EXTEND THE GRANT TO MARCH 31, 2024. [ALL DISTRICTS.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval of Amendment 1 to a previously accepted Coastal Incentive Grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to extend the grant to March 31, 2024. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.6**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of Amendment #1 to a previously accepted Coastal Incentive Grant from the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources to extend the grant to March 31, 2024. [All Districts.]

**BACKGROUND:**

The mission of the Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) as part of the Georgia Coastal Management Program is consistent with goals of Chatham County’s Stormwater Management Program. The target for this particular grant is Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development (GI/LID). Advances in GI/LID in recent years have proven to be an effective way to decrease pollution loads from non-point sources in stormwater and increase quality of life in urban/suburban areas. GI/LID relies on the use of native vegetation to do the job of capturing, detaining and moving stormwater in systems that used to be constructed of concrete, brick, and other hardscape. This “Greening” of the infrastructure can be less costly to operate and maintain when done correctly. This Grant will allow the following:

- Development of presentation materials for two community meetings and one training event;
- Assistance to County staff in reviewing and updating our GI/LID Program, and;
- Development of GI/LID inspection/operations/maintenance guide for County staff.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. Unincorporated Chatham County is required to write and adhere to a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) per its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm and Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Chatham County Engineering Department will use CIG to fund projects in one area of the NPDES MS4 Permit, Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development (GI/LID) as these structures assist in various levels of stormwater quality and quantity.
- 2. The County was awarded the grant. An extension is required to complete the work as specified in the grant from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.
- 3. The grant funds will be used for consulting services and the match for the grant will be provided by in-kind staff time.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Chatham County citizens achieve a superior quality of life with a safe, active, and healthy environment.

**FUNDING:**

Matching funds of \$70,709 will be provided with staff time and possibly volunteer time. No additional funds are required for the extension.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Amendment #1 to the Coastal Incentive Grant awarded by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to extend the grant award period until March 31, 2024.
2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Alternative 1 is recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative #1.

=====

7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER FOR USE OF THEIR FACILITY PRE- AND POST- EMERGENCY DISASTER. THE FACILITY CAN SERVE AS A COMMUNITY FEEDING SITE, A POINT OF DISTRIBUTION, A DONATED GOODS CENTER, A VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTER, A VOLUNTEER HOUSING SITE, AND A DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER, IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER. (NOTE: THIS IS A CONTINGENCY MOA AND NO FUNDS ARE REQUIRED UNLESS ACTIVATED.)**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for use of their facility pre- and post- emergency disaster. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.7**

**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Dennis Jones, Director, CEMA

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for use of their facility pre- and post- emergency disaster. This facility can serve as a community feeding site, a point of distribution, a donated goods center, a volunteer reception center, a volunteer housing site, and a disaster recovery center, in the event of a disaster. (NOTE: This is a contingency MOA and no funds are required unless activated.)

**BACKGROUND:**

In the event of a hurricane or any other disaster occurring in Chatham County, it is imperative to establish a designated facility that can efficiently provide essential services to the affected citizens. This strategic collaboration with the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer not only furnishes a centralized hub for the distribution of vital resources and the operation of a donation center during times of crisis but also serves as a pivotal community feeding center when disaster strikes. Situated on Wilmington Island, this location is exceptionally well-positioned to expedite the distribution of essential supplies to residents residing on the island. Moreover, the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer will be used as a volunteer reception center and housing site, enabling volunteers to offer their invaluable assistance to those in distress. Following the conclusion of the disaster event, it will continue to play a pivotal role by transforming into a dedicated disaster recovery center.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Citizens may be without food or water and needing supplies for daily living.

- 2. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer has the space and is willing to support Chatham County volunteers during times of crisis.
- 3. This location is well-suited to allow for a rapid response as soon as conditions allow.
- 4. The included MOA defines the requirements and conditions for each party if the MOA is activated.
- 5. This is a contingency MOA and funding is not required unless the MOA is activated.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

This is a contingency MOA and funding is not required unless the MOA is activated. Funding will be determined at the time of the emergency/disaster event.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for use of their facility pre- and post- emergency disaster.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to review and approve Memorandums of Agreement for County entities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

=====

**8. REQUEST BOARD TO TERMINATE THE OWNER’S WARRANTY AGREEMENT FOR NATALIE’S PLACE SUBDIVISION, RELEASE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND COMBINE THE THREE LOTS HELD AS THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE WITH THE EXISTING NATALIE’S PLACE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT RATE DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval to terminate the Owner’s Warranty Agreement for Natalie’s Place subdivision, release the Financial Guarantee, and combine the three lots held as the Financial Guarantee with the existing Natalie’s Place streetlight assessment rate district. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.8**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

Request Board to terminate the Owner’s Warranty Agreement for Natalie’s Place subdivision, release the financial guarantee, and combine the three lots held as the financial guarantee with the existing Natalie’s Place streetlight assessment rate district. [District 4.]

**BACKGROUND:**

Natalie’s Place Subdivision is a single-family detached residential subdivision located on the east side of an un-named county canal between Cobb Road to the south and Betz Creek to the north. Natalie’s Place consists of 24 single-family detached lots on 7.34 acres. Paving and street drainage will be maintained by the County. Water and sanitary sewer are owned and maintained by the City of Savannah.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. The Engineer of Record, Mark Boswell, P.E., request for the Developer, Bobby Chu Construction Company, Inc. (Developer), to terminate the twelve-month warranty period for the subdivision improvements, and release the financial guarantee.

2. The Developer completed the construction of Natalie's Place Subdivision and requested the County record the plat and accept the Owner's Warranty Agreement. The required site improvements are complete. The twelve-month warranty expired on September 2, 2023. The improvements were re-inspected and found to be acceptable. The Developer submitted the Owner's Warranty Agreement to withhold 10% of the available lots (3 lots of 24 total lots), labeled as Lots 14, 15, and 16. As a result, the twelve-month warranty period has expired, and the Developer requests the twelve-month warranty be terminated for Natalie's Place and to release the financial guarantee.
3. Georgia Power installed nine streetlights for Natalie's Place. The initial assessment per lot will be \$297.00 (Street lighting Rate 12). Chatham County collects the assessment to maintain the streetlights.
4. An Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

1.4.2.4. Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board terminates the Owner's Warranty Agreement for Natalie's Place, release the financial guarantee, and combine this phase with the existing Natalie's Place streetlight assessment rate district.
2. Do not approve the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission adopt Alternative No. 1.

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9. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR A PERMIT TO DISPENSE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR A SPECIAL EVENT IN CHATHAM COUNTY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023. PETITIONER: SUZETTE F. LOWERY HOSTING A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD AT 5975 OGEECHEE ROAD, SAVANNAH, GA 31419 (PARTY BLING EVENT CENTER). [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request of Petitioner Suzette F. Lowery, for a permit to dispense alcoholic beverages for a birthday celebration on Sunday, December 31, 2023, at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Georgia. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.9**

**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Marcus Lotson, Assistant Director, Building Safety and Regulatory Services

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval for a permit to dispense alcoholic beverages for a special event in Chatham County on Sunday, December 31, 2023. Petitioner: Suzette F. Lowery, hosting a Birthday Celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Georgia 31419 (Party Bling Event Center). [District 6.]

**BACKGROUND:**

Ms. Lowery requests approval for a temporary liquor pouring license in connection with a birthday celebration. The special event meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. A Birthday Celebration, through applicant Suzette F. Lowery has requested for approval to dispense alcohol at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center). The applicant has the intent to dispense alcoholic beverage(s) at the event.
2. Section 17-201 of the Chatham County Business/Occupational Tax Ordinance requires approval of the Board of Commissioners to dispense alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility.
3. The ordinance grants the Board of Commissioners discretion to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a special event held any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

**Quality of Life: Goal 4** - Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve request for permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event for 2023 for a Birthday Celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center).
2. Board deny request for permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event for 2023 for a Birthday Celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center).

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Alcoholic Beverages Code prohibits the sale, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility without approval of the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

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- 10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR A PERMIT TO DISPENSE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR A SPECIAL EVENT IN CHATHAM COUNTY ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024. PETITIONER: JACQUELINE PARKER HOSTING A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD AT 5975 OGEECHEE ROAD, SAVANNAH, GA 31419 (PARTY BLING EVENT CENTER). [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval of the request of Petitioner Jacqueline Parker for a permit to dispense alcoholic beverages on January 12, 2024, for a birthday celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Georgia. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.10**

**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Marcus Lotson, Assistant Director, Building Safety and Regulatory Services

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval for a permit to dispense alcoholic beverages for a special event in Chatham County on Friday, January 12, 2024. Petitioner: Jacqueline Parker, hosting a Birthday Celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Georgia 31419 (Party Bling Event Center). [District 6.]

**BACKGROUND:**

Ms. Parker requests approval for a temporary liquor pouring license in connection with a birthday celebration. The special event meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. A Birthday Celebration, through applicant Jacqueline Parker has requested for approval to dispense alcohol at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center). The applicant has the intent to dispense alcoholic beverage(s) at the event.
- 2. Section 17-201 of the Chatham County Business/Occupational Tax Ordinance requires approval of the Board of Commissioners to dispense alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility.
- 3. The ordinance grants the Board of Commissioners discretion to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a special event held any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

**Quality of Life: Goal 4** - Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approve request for permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event for 2024 for a Birthday Celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center).
- 2. Board deny request for permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event for 2024 for a Birthday Celebration to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center).

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Alcoholic Beverages Code prohibits the sale, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility without approval of the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

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**11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR A PERMIT TO DISPENSE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR A SPECIAL EVENT IN CHATHAM COUNTY ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023. PETITIONER: LATARSHA NOTTAGE HOSTING A HOLIDAY PARTY TO BE HELD AT 5975 OGEECHEE ROAD, SAVANNAH, GA 31419 (PARTY BLING EVENT CENTER). [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request of Petitioner Latarsha Nottage for a permit to dispense alcoholic beverages for a special event in Chatham County on December 25, 2023. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.11**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Marcus Lotson, Assistant Director, Building Safety and Regulatory Services

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval for a permit to dispense alcoholic beverages for a special event in Chatham County on Monday, December 25, 2023. Petitioner: Latarsha Nottage, hosting a Holiday Party to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Georgia 31419 (Party Bling Event Center). [District 6.]

**BACKGROUND:**

Ms. Nottage requests approval for a temporary liquor pouring license in connection with a birthday celebration. The special event meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. A Holiday Party, through applicant Latarsha Nottage has requested for approval to dispense alcohol at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center). The applicant has the intent to dispense alcoholic beverage(s) at the event.
2. Section 17-201 of the Chatham County Business/Occupational Tax Ordinance requires approval of the Board of Commissioners to dispense alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility.
3. The ordinance grants the Board of Commissioners discretion to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a special event held any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

**Quality of Life: Goal 4** - Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve request for permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event for 2023 for a Holiday Party to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center).
2. Board deny request for permit to allow the dispensing and consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with the requested special event for 2024 for a Holiday Party to be held at 5975 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31419 (Party Bling Event Center).

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Alcoholic Beverages Code prohibits the sale, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property or within any County-owned building or facility without approval of the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

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**12. 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:**

Commissioner Stone moved for Board approval to award bids 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.) Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Construction contract to provide asphalt repairs on various Chatham County Roads	Public Works	APAC Atlantic, Inc. Savannah, GA www.apacatlantic.com	\$131,644	CIP – Public Works
B. Purchase of one (1) Honda Pioneer Deluxe Crew for Chatham County Police Department	Fleet Operations	RideNow Powersports Irving, TX www.ridenow.com	\$28,310	Restricted Court Fees – Police

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
C. Purchase of one (1) Ford F-550 Super Cab XL Crane Body truck	Fleet Operations	Wade Ford, Inc. Smyrna, GA www.wadeford.com	\$206,755	CIP – Vehicle Replacement
D. Change Order No. 3 to the emergency procurement for repair work associated with the Slip 2 Bulkhead failure on Hutchinson Island, to include Phase II	Engineering	TIC – The Industrial Company Savannah, GA www.ticus.com	\$4,164,255	CIP – Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization (Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)
E. Purchase of three (3) video surveillance camera storage servers for the new Chatham County Trial Court Building	I.C.S.	Dell Technologies Atlanta, GA www.dell.com	\$70,593	DSA Bonds – Judicial Courthouse
F. Deductive Summary Change Order to the contract for McQueen’s Trail Phase III project, to reflect final quantities and a 439 day extension	Engineering	E & D Contracting Services, Inc. (WBE) Savannah, GA www.edcservicesinc.com	(\$17,940)	No additional funding required.
G. Purchase of 50 replacement desktop computers for Sheriff’s Office and Detention Center	Sheriff’s	Dell Marketing, L.P. Atlanta, GA www.dell.com	\$68,300	•I.C.S. Computer Replacement •General Fund/M&O – Detention Center
H. Reassign the annual contract for executive recruitment services with GovHR USA	Human Resources	MGT of America Consulting, LLC Tampa, FL www.mgtconsulting.com	N/A	No additional funding required.
I. Purchase of a Citizen Self-Service Business Management Suite for EnerGov/EPL software for Building Safety & Regulatory Services	Building Safety & Regulatory Services	Tyler Technologies, Inc. Dallas, TX www.tylertech.com	\$36,000	CIP – Building Safety Software (Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)
J. Deductive Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract to provide medical and prescription drug benefits and stop loss insurance, to accept more favorable stop-loss pricing and addition of plan programs for the 2024 plan year	Human Resources	United Healthcare Atlanta, GA www.uhc.com	(\$88,611)	Health and Wellness Fund – Health Insurance
K. Construction contract for the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Expansion and Improvements Phase II project	Engineering	Paul S. Akins Company, Inc. (WBE) Statesboro, GA www.akinsco.com	\$2,525,484	SPLOST (2020-2026) – Mighty Eighth Museum

**AGENDA ITEM: 10.12 A-K**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

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

**ITEM A**  
**FROM: William Wright, Public Works Director**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval to award a \$131,644 construction contract to APAC Atlantic, Inc., for asphalt repairs on various Chatham County roads.

**BACKGROUND:**

Staff has identified two (2) sections on President Street and one (1) section on Laroche Avenue that have damaged asphalt requiring repairs. The damaged sections of asphalt roadway are larger than Public Works staff can repair in house, therefore the services of a qualified contractor are necessary to make the needed repairs.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Locations for repairs will be President Street (Eastbound Near Railroad Tracks), President Street (Westbound near intersection of Runaway Point), and Laroche Avenue (Intersection of Raleigh Drive).
2. An Invitation to Bid was publicly advertised and opened on November 21, 2023. Bid responses are as follows:
 

APAC Atlantic, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$131,644
J K and B Management Group, LLC Rome, GA	Non-responsive
3. J K and B Management Group, LLC, was deemed non-responsive since they altered the bid sheet by adjusting the quantities and units of measure.
4. Staff reviewed the bid of \$131,644 submitted by APAC Atlantic, Inc., and believes the bid to be fair and reasonable.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

CIP – Public works  
(3504100 – 541400 - 3502017)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award a \$131,644 construction contract to APAC Atlantic, Inc., for asphalt repairs on various Chatham County roads.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low, responsive, and responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM B**

**FROM: Calvin Turner, Fleet Director**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a \$28,310 purchase of one (1) 2023 Honda Pioneer 1000-6 Deluxe Crew from RideNow Powersports for Chatham County Police Department.

**BACKGROUND:**

This will be multipurpose equipment utilized for search and rescue, evidence recovery, and events to maneuver through large crowds.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. An Invitation to Bid was publicly advertised and opened Nov 15, 2023. Bid responses are as follows:
 

RideNow Powersports Irvin, TX	\$28,310
** Planet Holdings, Inc. Pembroke Pines, FL	\$34,132
Honda Yamaha of Savannah Savannah, GA	\$34,524
* 4 Seasons Capital, Inc. Charlotte, NC	Non-Responsive

\*MBE  
\*\*WBE

- 2. 4 Seasons Capital, Inc., was deemed non-responsive since bid specifications stated that bids from re-sellers would not be considered.
- 3. Staff believes the price of \$28,310 from RideNow Powersports, to be fair and reasonable.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life and Goal 4 - To provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

Restricted Court Fees - CCPD  
(2173200 - 542500)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of a \$28,310 purchase of one (1) 2023 Honda Pioneer 1000-6 Deluxe Crew from RideNow Powersports for Chatham County Police Department.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low, responsive, and responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM C**

**FROM: Calvin Turner, Fleet Director**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a \$206,755 purchase of one (1) Ford F-550 Super Cab XL Crane Body Truck from Wade Ford.

**BACKGROUND:**

This vehicle will be utilized for the repairs of our Heavy-Duty equipment such as Amphibious Excavators, and Marsh Master for the Dredge Material Containment Area. The Army Corps of Engineers reimburse Chatham County for the repairs and fuel for this truck.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. An Invitation to Bid was publicly advertised and opened November 14, 2023. Bid responses are as follows:
 

Wade Ford	\$206,755
Smyrna, GA	
Roberts Truck Center	\$211,899
Garden City, GA	
Freeland Chevrolet	Non-Responsive
Antioch, TN	
Knollwood, LLC	Non-Responsive
Douglas, GA	
** Technology International, Inc.	Non-Responsive
Lake Mary, FL	
- \*\*MBE
- 2. Freeland Chevrolet was deemed non-responsive as their proposed truck did not meet minimum specifications.
- 3. Knollwood, LLC, and Technology International, Inc., were deemed non-responsive as bid specifications stated that only bids from dealership would be considered, neither bidder is a dealership.
- 4. Bid specifications stated award may be contingent upon delivery since this purchase will replace a truck that has been deemed surplus due to age and condition. That was the only truck that Mosquito Control had to perform repairs of their heavy equipment. Wade Ford stated their delivery schedule will be 120/150-days.
- 5. Staff believes the pricing of \$206,755 from Wade Ford, to purchase (1) one Ford F-550 Super Cab XL Crane Body Truck to be fair and reasonable.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life and Goal 4 - To provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that the processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

CIP – Vehicle Replacement  
(3501567 - 542200 - 3501954)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$206,755 purchase of one (1) Ford F-550 Super Cab XL Crane Body Truck from Wade Ford.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low, responsive, and responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM D**

**FROM: Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of Change Order No. 3 to the emergency procurement with TIC-The Industrial Company for \$4,164,255 and 120 days for repair work associated with the Slip 2 Bulkhead Failure rebuild on Hutchinson Island.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County owns a strip of land on Hutchinson Island that generally includes the bulkhead for Slip 2. The bulkhead failed in June. TIC completed demolition of the wall and plaza area and installed a pile foundation system.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The bulkhead around Slip 2 on Hutchinson Island experienced a failure on the morning of June 18, 2022, that required the entire slip and surrounding area to be closed. Emergency repair work was required to first stabilize the wall and then to repair the wall so that the slip can be opened for public use. The emergency procurement with TIC allows them to continue to work to stabilize and repair the wall in a timely fashion. The demolition is complete and reconstruction has begun.
2. TIC has continued to work while final construction plans were developed and approved. The reconstruction was divided into two (2) phases. Phase I, consisting of pile and concrete work below the proposed relieving platform, is complete. Phase II will include the relieving platform, final grading, landscaping, electrical, drainage and construction of the stairs providing access to the landing. Staff reviewed the change order request and finds the costs to be fair and reasonable.
3. Contract History:

Original Contract (07/08/22)	\$ 2,927,000
Change Order No. 1 (11/04/22)	\$ 486,299
Change Order No. 2 (01/27/23)	\$ 3,838,355
Change Order No. 3 (pending)	<u>\$ 4,164,255</u>
Revised Contract Amount	<u>\$ 11,415,909</u>

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

CIP – Hutchinson Island Wall Stabilization  
(3501575 – 541400 - 3502308 – 7 – 541400)  
(Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 3 to the emergency procurement with TIC-The Industrial Company for \$4,164,255 and 120 days for repair work associated with the Slip 2 Bulkhead Failure rebuild on Hutchinson Island.
2. Provide staff with other directions.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM E**

**FROM: Andrew Cree, Director, ICS**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a \$70,593 purchase from Dell Technologies for three (3) video surveillance camera storage servers for the Chatham County Trial Court Building.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County currently has over 700 surveillance cameras spread across multiple sites and approximately 25 camera servers that store the recordings from the cameras. Three new camera servers will be needed to support the cameras at the new Chatham County Trial Court Building.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The new camera servers will store the surveillance data for 197 surveillance cameras, over 64 cameras per server, for the new Chatham County Trial Court Building.
2. Dell is the standard server hardware platform for Chatham County.
3. The servers will be purchased through the State of Georgia Enterprise Infrastructure Agreement. State purchasing awarded this contract through a competitive process based on requirements and specifications of the Georgia Technology Authority.
4. Staff believes the total cost of \$70,593 to be fair and reasonable.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Consistent with Quality of Life – Goal 4: Providing effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

DSA Bonds – Judicial Courthouse  
(3704980 - 3706022 - 8 - 542500)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$70,593 purchase from Dell Technologies for three (3) video surveillance camera storage servers for the Chatham County Trial Court Building.
2. Provide staff with other directions.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of necessary hardware needed for the day-to-day operations of Chatham County.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM F**

**FROM: Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a (\$17,940) Deductive Summary Change Order to the construction contract with E&D Contracting Services on the McQueen's Trail Phase III Trail Repairs and add 439 days to the contract time. (District 4)

**BACKGROUND:**

Hurricanes Matthew and Irma caused extensive damage to the McQueen's Trail System, located north of Highway 80, near Fort Pulaski. Chatham County obtained a Public Assistance Program grant to assist with the repairs which include replacing bridge crossings and large quantities of trail materials and construction of rip-rap and bulkhead shore protection to prevent future erosion and loss. The project consists of the installation of timber bulkhead and rip-rap shore protection to prevent further erosion of the McQueen's Island Trail.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. McQueen's Trail is a popular public facility that is subject to coastal erosion and storm damage. The trail is located in an extremely exposed area and is subject to erosion from tide, storm and boat wake action. Additional damage occurred after the design was completed; additionally, substitutions for certain building materials were made to the plans in order to use more suitable and cost effective materials. In order to complete the improvements specified in the original contract, it became necessary to reconstruct a portion of the trail to the east of the midpoint due to tidal and storm erosion as addressed in Change Order No. 3. It was determined at the end of the project that the midpoint culvert need not be removed in this phase and therefore E&D Contracting Services (E&D) has agreed to a rebate of (\$27,640).

- 2. E&D brought a transcription error to the attention of the County in which the original Bid amount given by E&D was \$1,466,372, however the Contract was awarded for \$1,456,673. Neither party noticed the error at contract signing. This resulted in an increase of \$9,700, making the total deduction (\$17,940).
- 3. The contract for construction was awarded as a unit price contract. This Change Order represents measurements of final quantities to be installed as a line-item, lump-sum cost; that Change Order also specifies more suitable and cost-effective materials for the bridge replacements and extends the completion time by 439 days.
- 4. Contract History:
 

Original Contract (December 07, 2018)	\$ 1,456,673
Change Order No. 1 (April 25, 2019)	\$ 213,455
Change Order No. 2 (September 13, 2019)	\$ 437,704
Change Order No. 3 (February 21, 2020)	\$ 464,243
Change Order No. 4 (February 25, 2022)	\$ 27,640
Deductive Summary Change Order (Pending)	<u>\$ (17,940)</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$ 2,581,775

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Goal 2: Promote and provide neighborhood connectivity and build environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles through the strategic placement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, public parks, enforcement of road regulations and education about health benefits.

**FUNDING:**

No additional funding is required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of a (\$17,940) Deductive Summary Change Order to the construction contract with E&D Contracting Services on the McQueen’s Trail Phase III Trail Repairs and add 439 days to the contract time.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM G**

**FROM: John Wilcher, Sheriff**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a \$68,300 purchase of fifty (50) computers from Dell Marketing, L.P., for the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office and Detention Center.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office is working on upgrading aging computer hardware used throughout the data network system to reduce potential security risks.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. To ensure that all network systems are operating effectively and optimally, intermittent hardware and software updates are required.
- 2. The last system hardware update was completed over five (5) years ago.
- 3. Upgrades are a necessary part of our data network management to reduce risks of data loss.
- 4. The purchase price requested for the fifty (50) Dell OptiPlex All-in-One (Plus 7410) desktop computers will include ProSupport next business day onsite IT warranty and ProSupport 7x24 Technical Support for four years.
- 5. Due to the current computers’ age and capacity, the PC upgrade is necessary for staff to perform essential duties.
- 6. Staff believes the total cost from Dell Marketing, L.P., of \$68,300 to be fair and reasonable.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

•I.C.S. Computer Replacement (6051535 – 542400)	\$42,500
----------------------------------------------------	----------

•General Fund/M&O – Detention Center (Computers) \$25,800  
(1003326 – 542400)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$68,300 purchase of fifty (50) computers from Dell Marketing, L.P., for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center.
2. Provide staff with other directions.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary hardware to maintain the information systems for law enforcement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM H**

**FROM: Shannon Williams, Interim Human Resources Director**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval to reassign the current annual service contract for Executive Recruitment Services, with GovHR USA to MGT of America Consulting, LLC.

**BACKGROUND:**

GovHR has been acquired by MGT of America Consulting, LLC.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Board approved an annual service contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to GovHR USA at their meeting of May 12, 2023.
2. The Notice to Proceed was issued on June 22, 2023.
3. Staff was notified by Laurie Pederson, Senior Vice President, of GovHR USA, of the acquisition by MGT of America Consulting, LLC. The acquisition is effective December 8, 2023. (See attached letter (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file)).

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

No additional funding required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to reassign the current annual service contract for Executive Recruitment Services, with GovHR USA to MGT of America Consulting, LLC.
2. Provide staff with other directions.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to amend contracts that require any changes made to the name, terms, and conditions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM I**

**FROM: Gregori Anderson, Director, Building Safety and Regulatory Services**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a \$36,000 purchase to Tyler Technologies, Inc., for EnerGov/EPL Citizen Self-Service Business Management Suite.

**BACKGROUND:**

On September 9, 2016, the Board approved a contract to Tyler Technologies, Inc., for Business License and Permitting System for Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Currently, there is a manual process for Building Safety permitting and licensing that is time-consuming. The payee manually fills out a paper document and remits the payment via mail or hand delivery.
2. The Building Safety department needs an online option to receive citizens' payment where the customer can file and pay for their permits, business license fees and renewals.
3. The benefit for Building Safety customers is they will have an option to complete transactions electronically or to come to the office to pay their fee. Citizens can create an account and monitor transactions in a real-time environment.
4. The Citizen Self-Service Business Management suite for Permitting and Licensing will assist cashiers and staff in balancing, reviewing payments, inquiries, and report generation.
5. This suite is an addition to the already utilized EnerGov software.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Providing effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

CIP - Building Safety Software  
(3507210 – 542400 - 3502422-Z-542400)  
(Pending Board Approval of Budget Transfer)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$36,000 purchase to Tyler Technologies, Inc., for EnerGov/EPL Citizen Self-Service Business Management Suite.
2. Provide staff other directions.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary software maintenance for the using departments.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM J**

**FROM: Shannon Williams, Interim Human Resources Director**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1 in the deductive amount of \$88,611, to the annual contract to provide medical and prescription drug benefits and stop loss insurance, with United Healthcare, Inc., to accept more favorable stop-loss pricing and addition of plan programs for the 2024 plan year.

**BACKGROUND:**

After a competitive bid process, the Board awarded United Healthcare a \$1,493,938 annual contract to provide employees and pre-65 retirees with healthcare coverage. This contract was awarded on August 25, 2023, for a January 1, 2024, inception date, and contained options to renew for four (4) additional one (1) year terms.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Part of this annual contract is a premium for individual stop-loss coverage. Stop-loss limits are threshold claim amounts that Chatham County will be liable for before third-party re-insurance provisions apply. Our stop-loss threshold is \$350,000 and our negotiated rate for this coverage is \$41.27 per employee per month. (PEPM).
2. During contract negotiations, United Healthcare agreed to lower this stop-loss rate when a higher-cost claimant offboarded the plan before January 1, 2024. This has occurred and United Healthcare has agreed to lower our stop-loss rate to \$35.89 PEPM (just over 13%) – a saving of \$103,167 for our 2024 plan year. Stop-loss is quoted annually and this reduction in liability will continue to have a positive financial effect on our rate quote in coming years.
3. Staff agreed to mirror the plan design of the Anthem plan when developing the plans with United Healthcare, Inc. To do so, staff requested to add the plan elements listed in Addendum A (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file), to our plan which includes Neonatal Resource Services and Bariatric Resource Services for a total combined increase of \$14,556 for additional programming.
4. Staff believes the more favorable stop-loss pricing and addition of noted plan elements are appropriate, financially responsible, and in the best interests of Chatham County.

5. Contract History:	
Original Contract (08/25/23)	\$1,493,938
Change Order No. 1 (Pending)	(\$88,611)
Revised Contract Amount	\$1,405,327

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

Health & Wellness — Health Insurance  
(6501596 – 552100)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1 in the deductive amount of \$88,611, to the annual contract to provide medical and prescription drug benefits and stop loss insurance, with United Healthcare, Inc., to accept more favorable stop-loss pricing and addition of plan programs for the 2024 plan year.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with the Board’s policy to provide health insurance coverage to employees and retirees in a cost-effective manner to the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

**ITEM K**

**FROM: Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer**

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval of a construction contract with Paul S. Akins Company, Inc., for \$2,525,484 for the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Expansion and Improvements project, Phase II. (District 8)

**BACKGROUND:**

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is a facility dedicated to preserving, for all Americans, stories of the courage, character and patriotism displayed by the men and women of the Eighth Air Force. The original building was constructed in 1996 with a total footage of 81,260 square feet. Over the years growth in attendance, displays and events have driven the need for additional space. This addition will greatly enhance and improve the Museum’s ability to support community requests and events.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The scope of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Expansion and Improvements Phase II project’s forthcoming phase focuses on site/civil work and construction of the shell of the metal building that eventually will house back-of-house functions, program and event space, and collections storage operations. The building expansion, which includes the slab, walls and roof, and second floor. The project consists of an apx. 19,734 square feet two-story addition of the existing Museum.
2. An Invitation to Bid was publicly advertised and opened on November 15, 2023. The results are as follows:

** Paul S. Akins Company, Inc.	\$2,525,484
Statesboro, GA	
John E. Lavender & Associates, Inc.	\$2,795,846
Statesboro, GA	
Dabbs-Williams General Contractors, LLC	\$2,895,000
Statesboro, GA	
- \*\*WBE
3. Staff believes the bid from Paul S. Akins Company, Inc., is fair and reasonable.
4. The contractor will have 240 days to complete the work after the Notice to Proceed issued.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life - Goal 4: To provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

SPLOST (2020-2026) – Mighty Eighth Museum  
(3276012 - 2 - 521200)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a construction contract with Paul S. Akins Company, Inc., for \$2,525,484 for the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Expansion and Improvements project, Phase II.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

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**11. FIRST READINGS**

Chairman Ellis said, now, let’s go onto First Readers, all right?

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO UPDATE THE WAITING PERIOD FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT PLAN.**

Chairman Ellis said, request Board approval to update the waiting period for participation in the Chatham County Employees’ Retirement Plan.

**AGENDA ITEM: 11.1**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Shannon Williams, Interim Human Resources Director

**ISSUE:**

Request Board approval to update the Waiting Period for participation in the Chatham County Employees’ Retirement Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

It is the policy of Chatham County to provide a retirement plan for full-time regular employees and County Officials as outlined in the Pension Plan Ordinance of Chatham County. This Ordinance established the Chatham County Employees’ Retirement Plan, effective July 1, 1971.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Section 1.39 of the Chatham County Employees’ Retirement Plan defines “Waiting Period” as follows:

*The period of County employment that an Employee must satisfy before being eligible to participate in the Plan, accrue benefits, and make Required Contributions.*

2. Section 1.39 (2) establishes our current Waiting Period:

*For persons who became Employees on or after December 1, 2004, the Waiting Period ends the day before the first day of the month coincident with the next following thirty (30) days after the date an Employee becomes eligible to participate in the Plan.*

3. On July 1, 2023, Chatham County moved our benefit eligibility to the date of hire for all new employees. This policy includes the Chatham County Employees’ Retirement Plan. For this reason, we propose an update to the Pension Ordinance, adding Section 1.39 (3) as follows:

*For persons who become Employees on or after July 1, 2023, there is no Waiting Period to participate in the plan. Employees are eligible on the date of hire.*

- 4. This update will bring our document in alignment with our internal practices.
- 5. Section 1.39 is restated to reflect the change in the attached Addendum A (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file.)

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life – Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

No additional funding is required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval to update the Pension Plan Ordinance of Chatham County to reflect a revised waiting period for participation in the County’s defined benefit pension plan.
- 2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

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**2. AMEND THE PURCHASING ORDINANCE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2024, AS IT RELATES TO THE “LOCAL PREFERENCE” PROVISION.**

Chairman Ellis said, amend the Purchase Ordinance as of January 5, 2024, as it is related to the “Local Preference” provision.

**AGENDA ITEM: 11.2**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

**ISSUE:**

Amend the Purchasing Ordinance as of January 5, 2024, as it relates to the “Local Preference” provision.

**BACKGROUND:**

The current Purchasing Ordinance was adopted in 2016 and has undergone three previous amendments. The first amendment was approved on December 18, 2020, addressing a change to signing authority, the second amendment approved on August 13, 2021, recognizing the inclusion of certain Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requirements for Local Administered Projects (LAP), and the third amendment approved October 6, 2023, expounding upon the current “Special Procurements” provision.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. This amendment expounds upon the current provision of the “Local Preference” to allow for greater flexibility under certain procurement conditions.
- 2. Bolded below would be the change to the current ordinance.
  - I. **Local Vendor: A business or supplier shall be considered a “local vendor” if it meets the following requirements:**
    - 1. **The bidder or vendor operate and maintain a regular place of business within the six counties’ radius of Chatham County, the six counties are Jasper County and/or Beaufort County, Souther Carolina; Effingham County, Bulloch County, Bryan County, and Liberty County, Georgia; and**
    - 2. **The bidder or vendor must have a current Business Tax Certificate issued by a county or municipality within the six-county radius of Chatham County which was issued at least six (6) months prior to bid opening date;**

- 3. The vendor or bidder has a staffed, physical business located and operating within the six-county radius of Chatham County, and has been doing business at that location for at least six (6) months;
  - 4. If the bidder or vendor is located within Chatham County, all real and personal property taxes owed the County must be paid prior to any award of a contract or purchase.
3. Part 3 – PROCUREMENT METHODS, Section I – Authorized Procurement Methods A. Competitive Sealed Bidding, (7) Award, (b). Local Preference.

The following provisions shall apply in the procurement of supplies and services: In the event that the lowest bid among those provided by responsive and responsible local vendors is within **two (2) percent** of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is not a local vendor, the lowest responsive and responsible local vendor shall be afforded the opportunity to match the bid submitted by the nonlocal bidder. If the lowest responsive and responsible local vendor agrees to match the lowest bid, then the contract shall be awarded to the local vendor. This provision shall not apply to construction projects.

- 4. Part 3 – PROCUREMENT METHODS, Section I – Authorized Procurement Methods, C. Small Purchases, (4) Local Preference.

The following provisions shall apply in the procurement of supplies and services: In the event that the lowest bid among those provided by responsive and responsible local vendors is within **two (2) percent** of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is not a local vendor, the lowest responsive and responsible local vendor shall be afforded the opportunity to match the bid submitted by the nonlocal bidder. If the lowest responsive and responsible local vendor agrees to match the lowest bid, then the contract shall be awarded to the local vendor. This provision shall not apply to construction projects.

- 5. This change is being initiated out of a need to expand our consideration of operations who do business with Chatham County but are not locate within the physical county lines.
- 6. This amendment would be effective upon Board approval.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life, Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Amend the Purchasing Ordinance as of January 5, 2024, as it relates to the “Local Preference” provision.
- 2. Provide Staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Amendments to the Purchasing Ordinance must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Alternative No. 1.

=====

**3. AMEND THE CHATHAM COUNTY CODE BOOK AS OF JANUARY 5, 2024, AS IT RELATES TO THE “LOCAL VENDOR PREFERENCE” PROVISION.**

Chairman Ellis said, amend the Chatham County Code Book as of January 5, 2024, as it relates to the “Local Vendor Preference” provision. That’s read into the record. We’ll have the Second Reading at our next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM: 11.3**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager  
**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

**ISSUE:**

Amend the Purchasing Ordinance as of January 5, 2024, as it relates to the “Local Vendor Preference” provision.

**BACKGROUND:**

The current Code Book was adopted in 1984, and the section to which the current amendment applies has been amended September 6, 1996 (as to the Prevailing local wage rate), January 24, 1997 (as to sealed bids method and quotations/informal bids selection method), and March 27, 1998 (as to adding paragraph 6 - the Local Vendor Preference).

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. This amendment expounds upon the current provision of the “Local Vendor Preference” to allow for greater flexibility under certain procurement conditions.
2. Bolded below would be the change to the current ordinance.
  - I. **Local Vendor: A business or supplier shall be considered a “local vendor” if it meets the following requirements:**
    1. **The bidder or vendor operate and maintain a regular place of business within the six counties’ radius of Chatham County, the six counties are Jasper County and/or Beaufort County, Souther Carolina; Effingham County, Bulloch County, Bryan County, and Liberty County, Georgia; and**
    2. **The bidder or vendor must have a current Business Tax Certificate issued by a county or municipality within the six-county radius of Chatham County which was issued at least six (6) months prior to bid opening date;**
    3. **The vendor or bidder has a staffed, physical business located and operating within the six-county radius of Chatham County, and has been doing business at that location for at least six (6) months;**
    4. **If the bidder or vendor is located within Chatham County, all real and personal property taxes owed the County must be paid prior to any award of a contract or purchase.**
3. Four of the counties referenced are included in the Savannah Harbor - Interstate 16 Corridor Joint Development Authority (Chatham, Bryan, Bulloch and Effingham).
4. This change is being initiated out of a need to expand our consideration of operations who do business with Chatham County but are not located within the physical county lines.
5. This amendment would be effective upon Board approval.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Quality of Life, Goal 4: Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Amend the Purchasing Ordinance as of January 5, 2024, as it relates to the “Local Vendor Preference” provision.
2. Provide Staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Amendments to the Purchasing Ordinance must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Alternative No. 1.

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Chairman Ellis said, now, when we adopt the Action Calendar, we changed from ACCG to NACo for Commissioner Stone, all right? See, all we need to do is give instructions there. We didn’t need to. We already voted it, and we – we straightened it out in – in thing.

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**12. SECOND READINGS**

*Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written format 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 discussion only by Commissioners will be heard.*

*Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at a meeting at which a vote is to be take on one of the following listed items.*

None.

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**13. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairman Ellis said, all right, information, Mr. Manager.

County Manager Kaigler said, no, sir. Other than the report – the information item from the Parks and Recreation Department, we don't have anything else. All right.

\*\*\*\*\*

Commissioner Whitely said, Mister – Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Whitely said, if I could just make a –

Chairman Ellis said, sure.

Commissioner Whitely said, let me check, just an announcement, for the District 6 citizens, I will be hosting a Town Hall meeting tomorrow at Mosaic Church, ten a.m.. Mosaic Church is at 7 Canebrake Road, and we'll be discussing a lot of hot topics. So, if you are a 6<sup>th</sup> District resident, please join me at Mosaic Church tomorrow ten a.m.. Look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Anything else?

\*\*\*\*\*

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, yes, sir.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, it's at y'all's discretion. We've got some items for executive session, but there's nothing that can't –

Chairman Ellis said, can't wait?

County Attorney Hart said, can't wait.

Chairman Ellis said, all right.

County Attorney Hart said, but that's up to y'all.

Chairman Ellis said, okay.

Commissioner Lockett said, we'll wait.

County Manager Kaigler said, we need time to flip the room for our legislative luncheon, so we need to –

Chairman Ellis said, so, at twelve.

County Manager Kaigler said, at twelve o'clock, yes, sir.

Chairman Ellis said, all right.

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**1. PROGRESS REPORT ON FY2024 GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

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**2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$24,999 (See Attached.)**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: 13.2**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Annual maintenance and service agreement for courtrooms 1A, 4D and 4E audio/visual equipment	State Court Judges	Stage Front Presentation Systems	\$15,167	General Fund/M&O – State Court
Remove and replace flooring at Police Precinct 5	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Eckards Flooring Design Center	\$3,950	SSD – Police
Officials for youth soccer games	Parks and Recreation	Greater Savannah Soccer Association, Inc.	\$3,700	General Fund/M&O – Parks and Recreation
Additional outfitting for newly purchased law enforcement vehicles for Sheriff's Office	Fleet Operations	West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc.	\$6,908	CIP – Vehicle Replacement
Officials for youth baseball games	Parks and Recreation	South Georgia Association	\$3,080	General Fund/M&O – Parks and Recreation
Striping of the curve on Garrard Avenue to improve safety	Engineering	Peek Pavement Marking, LLC	\$6,995	SPLOST (2020-2026) – Garrard Avenue Improvements
Audio/visual system upgrade for District Attorney's Grand Jury Room	I.C.S.	NetPlanner Systems, Inc.	\$7,784	General Fund/M&O – District Attorney
Remove and replace aviation fuel tank sump and adaptor to comply with Georgia EPD	Mosquito Control	Petroleum Services Group	\$11,675	General Fund/M&O – Mosquito Control
Repair water leaks, on stainless steel piping and provide rust repair, in lap pool room at Chatham County Aquatic Center	Parks and Recreation	Consolidated Contracting and Consulting, Inc.	\$5,210	General Fund/M&O – Aquatic Center
50 cases of Hornady ammunition	Sheriff's	Gulf States Distributors	\$11,130	General Fund/M&O – SWAT
Audio/visual system upgrade for Shooting Range training room	Sheriff's	JSC Systems, Inc.	\$11,918	•General Fund/M&O – Sheriff's •General Fund/M&O – Detention Center

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Restripe faded lane lines of various roads on Tybee Island	Public Works	Peek Pavement Marking, LLC	\$19,542	SSD – Public Works
Annual fuel master maintenance renewal for Mosquito Control, Detention Center and Varnedoe Drive stations	Fleet Operations	Syn-Tech Systems, Inc.	\$3,825	General Fund/M&O – Fuel Management
Preventative maintenance agreement for audio/visual equipment in courtrooms 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 4A, 4B and Jury Assembly Room	Court Administration	Stage Front Presentation Systems	\$4,769	General Fund/M&O – Court Expenditures
Emergency plumbing services to remove and replace damaged plumbing line in Purchasing and Contracting Department	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Victory Plumbing, LLC	\$7,512	General Fund/M&O – Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Annual subscription for a compliance management platform and training/evaluation software for Chatham County Police Department	I.C.S.	PowerDMS, Inc.	\$15,192	SSD – Police
Drug test kits and evidence protection supplies	C.N.T.	Sirchie Finger Print Lab, Inc.	\$4,625	General Fund/M&O – C.N.T.
Five (5) Cisco network expansion modules for switches	I.C.S.	CDW Direct, LLC	\$8,331	I.C.S. Computer Replacement
Purchase and installation of drinking fountain and bottle filling station on Tybee Pier	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Victory Plumbing, LLC	\$10,125	SPLOST (1993-1998) – Pier / Pavilion
Dehydrator for Westside Radio Tower	CEMA	Eupen Cable USA, Inc.	\$3,214	General Fund/M&O – CEMA
Eight (8) multifunction printers for Tax Commissioner’s Office	I.C.S.	Insight Public Sector, Inc.	\$3,992	General Fund/M&O – Tax Commissioner
Annual renewal of service plan and software support for the Data Center uninterrupted power supply	I.C.S.	Critical Components, Inc.	\$21,011	General Fund/M&O – I.C.S.
Installation of concrete driveway and two (2) additional sidewalks at the SWAT Building	Sheriff’s	Terry Wright Masonry, Inc.	\$16,850	General Fund/M&O - SWAT

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**3. PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH INFORMATION ON CHATHAM COUNTY FY25 BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROCESS.**

A status report was given for information.

**AGENDA ITEM: 13.3**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Tara Jennings, Strategic Planning Administrator

**ISSUE:**

Provide the Board with information on Chatham County FY25 Blueprint Implementation Grant process.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 2018, Chatham County has invested in programs that address data driven needs in our local community. As part of the annual budgeting process, Chatham County will begin accepting letters of intent for FY25 Blueprint Implementation Grants on January 19, 2024.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Blueprint grants are intended to support non-mandated programming and initiatives that directly align with the Chatham Community Blueprint and the priorities of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.
2. Chatham County invests in programs that address a data driven need of Chatham County residents. Program applications that align with the Blueprint and the Board’s priorities will be reviewed and competitively scored by a Review Committee composed of County staff and representatives from key Chatham County stakeholder organizations. Evaluation of each eligible proposal will include, among other criteria, the organization’s financial sustainability and the program’s demonstrated capability to deliver measurable outcomes. The Review Committee will make recommendations to the County Manager for funding programs that are diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all Chatham County residents and communities, and effectively meet the County’s strategic priorities.
3. The County Manager will present the funding recommendations to the Board as part of the County’s annual budget process; the final funding decisions will be made by the Board as part of its adoption of the County’s annual budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year. Awards will vary in amount and are subject to budget constraints. Award acceptance will require an execution of a one-year service contract between the applicant organization and the County – effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 – whereby the organization is to agree to a defined set of deliverables in return to the County’s financial investment.
4. For FY25 the process will begin with a Letter of Intent from the applicant that will be submitted by February 5, 2024. These letters will be reviewed by the committee. Selected programs and projects will then be INVITED to submit a complete grant application due on March 15, 2024.
5. Additional information will be made available on the Chatham County website, under Strategic Planning.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**

Blueprint grants provide support to programs that align with the Chatham Community Blueprint.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

N/A - For Information only.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is the Board’s policy to review and approve funding requests for programs that align with the Chatham Community Blueprint through the application process.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information only.

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**4. PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH A SUMMARY OF CHATHAM COUNTY GRANTS.**

A status report was given for information.

**AGENDA ITEM: 13.4**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2023**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Michael Kaigler, County Manager

**FROM:** Tara Jennings, Strategic Planning Administrator  
Vicki Center

**ISSUE:**  
Provide the Board with a summary of Chatham County Grants.

**BACKGROUND:**  
In FY18 Chatham County executed a contract with eCivis to increase access to federal, state, and foundation grant opportunities. Staff have attempted to secure funds for projects which align with the Chatham Community Blueprint and the Board’s priorities, diversifying the funding stream for many new initiatives.

- FACTS AND FINDINGS:**
1. As of December 2018, Chatham County grant awards were at \$4 million. Due to the legislative allocation through COVID-19 Relief and the American Rescue Plan Act Chatham County grants increased tremendously with \$67.76 million as of December 2021. In 2022 the grant award was \$40.66 million and in 2023 the grant award is \$22.69 million.
  2. The increase in 2021 was a direct result of the federal allocation along with pass-through grants of which the County serves as the fiscal agent.
  3. In 2023, staff have diversified funding with intent toward capital improvement opportunity. Meanwhile, there are various pending grant applications with potential for an additional \$15.5 million.
  4. Staff track grant awards per year by grant type such as recurring awards: *those which renewannually as long as the performance metrics are accomplished*, competitive awards: *those which require a grant application to be submitted and implementation of potentially a newinitiative*, Federal and State allocation: *grants which are awarded to Chatham County because of legislation or formula allocation*, Pass Through: *grants that Chatham County serves as the fiscal agent*.
  5. Grants are also tracked by categories like health and welfare, safety, judicial, recreation, etc.

**BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:**  
Quality of Life – Provide effective and efficient government services while ensuring that processes and procedures are planned and executed with transparency.

**FUNDING:**  
For information only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**  
N/A

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**  
As directed by the Board, staff continue to explore diversification of funding streams to support the implementation of projects and programs that directly impact the Community Blueprint and align with Board priorities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
For information only.

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**3. COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATE.**

A status report was given for information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Ellis said, but, now, we are going into executive session, because there’s one appointment we need to take care of.

County Manager Kaigler said, oh.

Chairman Ellis said, all right? So, there is a need for us to go into executive session for appointment, all right? The other things the Attorney said can wait. So, we'll take all them off except the appointment. We'll just meet in executive session, and the meanwhile, while we're in executive session, they will transform the room.

Commissioner Stone said, Mister – Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Stone said, we're going to make that appointment, but I would imagine if there's time, can we just go ahead with any items that the County Manager might have until twelve o'clock.

Chairman Ellis said, well, he said he didn't have any.

County Attorney Hart said, I – I can –

Chairman Ellis said, you're talking about in executive session.

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

Commissioner Whitely said, right.

Commissioner Farrell said, we've got twenty-five minutes.

Chairman Ellis said, all right.

Commissioner Stone said, just to – just – if we –

Chairman Ellis said, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, if we've got time.

Chairman Ellis said, yeah. Why – well, listen, I'm going by what – what was said to me.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand.

County Manager Kaigler said, we'll have personnel –

Chairman Ellis said, we're going to adjourn to executive session for personnel --

County Manager Kaigler said, litigation.

Chairman Ellis said, litigation, and acquisition --

County Manager Kaigler said, land acquisition.

Chairman Ellis said, all right, is there a motion? Don't move. Don't move.

Commissioner Adams said, so moved.

Chairman Ellis said, is there a move – there's a motion.

Commissioner Whitely said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, so moved. There's a second. All in favor, please cast your votes. All right. We're adjourned. We're going to executive session.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Adams moved to recess to executive session for the purposes of litigation, personnel and land acquisition. Commissioner Whitely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

The Board recessed to executive session at approximately 11:35 a.m.

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**ITEMS AFTER 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.**

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

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m..

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**APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF JANUARY , 2024.**

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**CHESTER A. ELLIS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF  
 COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY,  
 GEORGIA**

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