MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026, 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 Ellis had the meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 2, 2026.

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2. INVOCATION

Chairman Ellis said, good morning. Please bow your heads in prayer with me.

Chairman Ellis gave the following invocation:

> Father, who art in heaven, we come before Thy throne of grace, humble and submissive to Thy holy and righteous will, asking for Thy blessing upon us by the presence of Your Holy Spirit. Let it guide our thoughts, let it control our minds, and Father, God, let it make – give us the right information that we may make decisions for this county. For these and all other blessings, we ask in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Members of the Board and Audience collectively said, Amen.

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3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ellis said, Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Ellis led in the Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United States of America.

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

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4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Ellis said, and the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present:	Chester A. Ellis, Chairman Malinda Scott Hodge, District Two, Vice Chair (arrived at approximately 9:05 a.m.) Dean Kicklighter, District Seven, Chairman Pro Tem Anthony "Wayne" Noha, District One Brian M. Hussey, District Four Tanya Milton, District Five Aaron Whitely, District Six (arrived at approximately 9:03 a.m.) Marsha Buford, District Eight
Also Present:	Michael A. Kaigler, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Janice E. Bocook, County Clerk
Not Present:	Bobby Lockett, District Three

Chairman Ellis said, thank you, ma'am.

Clerk said, yes, sir.

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5. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ellis said, and now at this time I would all – I would entertain a motion that we recess to executive session.

Commissioner Noha said, for what reason?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved.

County Manager Michael Kaigler said, for litigation.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, for litigation.

Chairman Ellis said, for litigation.

Commissioner Buford said, second.

Commissioner Hussey said, so moved.

Commissioner Noha said, motion –

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Got a motion, got a second that we recess into executive session for litigation. Are you ready for the question? Please cast your votes. Okay. We in recess.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved the Board to recess to executive session for litigation. Commissioner Buford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Hodge, Lockett, and Whitely were not present for the vote.]

[NOTE: The Board recessed to executive session at 9:02 a.m.]

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[NOTE: The Board returned from executive session, whereupon the following transpired:]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Ellis said, all right. May I have a motion to – to call the session back to order?

Commissioner Noha said, motion.

Commissioner Hodge said, second.

Commissioner Milton said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, properly motioned and second that we come out of executive session and back into general session. Are you ready for the question? Please cast your votes. I got everybody. All right. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Noha moved the Board to return to the open meeting. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Lockett was not present.]

[NOTE: The regular session was called back to order at 10:06 a.m., whereupon the following transpired:]

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. FIRE FEE LITIGATION

Chairman Ellis said, at this time, let me call on Commissioner Kicklighter for the – a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ellis said, and comments – any comments you want to make –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Chairman Ellis said, – during the same time.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the following comments and all is regarding out fire fee litigation that we have going on right now. Based off the information that we now have, in just a minute, here, I'll be making a motion to actually save the taxpayers of the unincorporated area over a million dollars in interest penalties alone, coming up. Now, because the litigation is still not off of the table, we're not going to elaborate on a lot here, but I will tell you that it is our plan to present to you at the next meeting, a detailed presentation that will tell you exactly why we believe the taxpayers of Chatham County needs us to do exactly what we're about to do. So having understanding – having – understanding that, regarding the fire fee litigation, I will now make a motion to dismiss the motion for reconsideration before the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Commissioner Hodge said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, its been properly motioned and second that we – we dismiss our reconsideration motion. Are you ready for the question? Got a question, Commissioner Noha?

Commissioner Noha said, I just have a comment, please.

Chairman Ellis said, sure.

Commissioner Noha said, if we could, just for the record, I'm not sure that, because we have a meeting this coming Friday, I didn't – I was thinking it was next Friday, it's probably not going to be – that presentation, by this Friday, but at a – at a nearby meeting –

County Manager Kaigler said, yep.

Commissioner Noha said, – at a very soon meeting. I – I don't –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, is that accurate --

Chairman Ellis said, Jon [Hart]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – Mr. Manager?

County Manager Kaigler said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. So – so – not –

County Manager Kaigler said, not – not –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it will not be this Friday?

County Manager Kaigler said, – this Friday, but the following.

Chairman Ellis said, the following Friday.

County Manager Kaigler said, correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so, it's going to be a really amazing presentation.

Commissioner Noha said, that's it. Yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, all right.

Chairman Ellis said, all right, so do I have all unreadiness? All right. Please cast your votes. All right. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved the Board for approval to dismiss the Motion to Reconsider pending before the Supreme Court of Georgia. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Lockett was not present.]

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2. 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.

Chairman Ellis said, and with that, may I have a motion to accept the affidavit?

Commissioner Milton said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Noha said, second.

Commissioner Hussey said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, properly motioned and second that we accept the affidavit. Are you ready for the question?

Commissioner Hussey said, reset the –

Chairman Ellis said, you got to reset it, Janice [Bocook].

Clerk said, oh, sorry.

Chairman Ellis said, all right. Any questions?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I may?

Chairman Ellis said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd just like to politely request that the media, at this point, because it's still under litigation, until it's not, address any of your questions to our county attorney, and he'll be glad to speak with you, okay?

Chairman Ellis said, in case they want any – any statements, okay? Nobody – from up here will be making any statements, all right? Let's cast your votes. All right. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ellis said, may I have a motion for adjournment?

Commissioner Noha said, motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Whitely said, second.

Chairman Ellis said, properly motion and second that we adjourn and – ready for the question? Please cast your votes before you move. Thank you. Have a good day. For the news media, now, you can – you can ask to speak to the Attorney, all right?

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026.

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CHESTER ELLIS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

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JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION