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August 26, 2026

Eric Curl
Savannah Agenda
Sent Via Email: eric.curl@savannahagenda.com

Re: ORA Request – Library Property- ORR-1668-2026

Dear Mr. Curl:

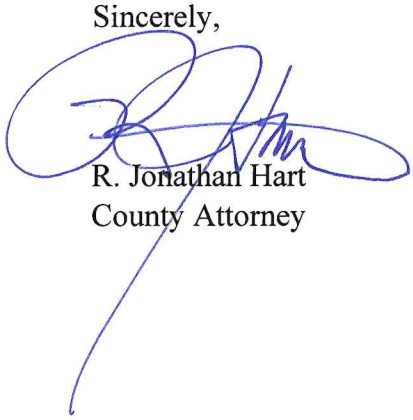
We are in receipt of your open records request and I am forwarding a response which contains relevant documents. The Board of Commissioners of Chatham County set aside funds in its resolution of the Chatham County portion of SPLOST funds. The County was able to acquire a generally rectangular shaped property that has been part of shopping center movie theater and a portion of the parking lot. The shopping center is located on northeast corner of Eisenhower and Waters Avenue. Since the location of the property was across the street from Chatham County citizen center and tag office the intent was to allow this site to be used for library and also a separate structure to house several County departments and functions.

The acquisition of the property was approved by Board of Commissioners as part of SPLOST resolution and subsequent referendum. Given that the funds came from the County portion of SPLOST it was important the County hold title to the property to allow it to proceed with the purchase of the property once property was identified. Further, the County has set aside additional SPLOST funds that were eventually used for design and future construction. The funds for design and construction are a combination of the library SPLOST funds from the county share, County SPLOST funds, state grant funds and federal grant funds. The title being in the name of the County provides the opportunity to use of County Attorney office, Engineering, project managers and purchasing department to provide cost effective service delivery. If need be, this structure also provides the option and ability to float tax exempt bonds to pay for portion of construction and carrying cost.

The design has been completed and is in the process of finishing construction drawings. The County bid process must be followed in selection of general contractor. This ensures there are competitive bids. Once bids are received and secured, there may be a point the project budget in the future to require value engineering.

The County use of this process has completed the major renovation of the Bull Street Library, construction of southside library, Wilmington Island library and Garden City. Just prior to this project the County completely renovated to the original Carnegie Library. Most all these projects were completed on time and within budget. We hope that the combination of this letter and documents provided give you sufficient information.

Sincerely,



R. Jonathan Hart
County Attorney

RJH/