

CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH  
STATE OF GEORGIA

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IN THE MATTER OF:                     )  
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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES         )

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, February 24, 2022  
6:30 p.m.

Port Wentworth City Hall  
7224 Georgia Highway 21  
Port Wentworth, Georgia

Elise M. Napier, CCR-2492

CITY COUNCIL APPEARANCES

- 1
- 2
- 3 THOMAS BARBEE - Council Member At-Large (The Moderator)
- 4 MARK STEPHENS - Council Member District 2
- 5 RUFUS BRIGHT - Council Member District 3
- 6 JO SMITH - Council Member At-Large
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1 THE MODERATOR: May I have your attention, ladies  
2 and gentlemen? May I have your attention, ladies and  
3 gentlemen? can everybody hear me? We're going go  
4 ahead and get started. It's 6:30 by my watch. Does  
5 anybody else has 6:30 p.m.

6 MS. SMITH: Yep.

7 THE MODERATOR: It's just like I announced Monday  
8 at the press release that we was going to have a city  
9 council meeting. We did all the proper precautions for  
10 our meeting. We have a clerk, certified clerk, that is  
11 a certified clerk and she's ready to annotate what  
12 happens at this meeting. We have an officer,  
13 Lieutenant Anderson, he's here to preserve law and  
14 order and it will be a professional city council  
15 meeting. This is our second one.

16 First of all, I will say that there will be public  
17 comments and it won't be three minutes of babbling over  
18 nothing; hopefully it will be something that we could  
19 use as a city and that we could use as a council to  
20 help better our city so we can improve the lives of our  
21 citizens.

22 We're not here for a joke, we take this job  
23 seriously although some of you may not take it  
24 seriously but we do take it seriously. For some  
25 unknown reason many people are going to have push back

1 because of change but change happens each and every day  
2 of your life. You were born, then you crawled and  
3 started walking and running, next thing you know he was  
4 a teenager. After that comes young adulthood, after  
5 that adulthood, some people are stuck in 16 years of  
6 age but we're going to get past that today and we're  
7 going to move forward.

8 I'm Mayor Pro Tem, Thomas Barbee, this is  
9 Councilwoman Jo -- they cut the mikes off and it's hot  
10 in here. If you haven't felt it yet, they cut the air  
11 off, it's 84 degrees, so I thank you for staying but it  
12 won't be too long, trust me. This is Councilman Rufus  
13 Bright and this is the other Councilman, Mark Stephens.

14 And so you will know we have contacted Councilman  
15 Jones and our Mayor Norton and still as of today since  
16 the 27th of January we have not heard, not one phone  
17 call returned, not one text message returned, not one  
18 e-mail returned. we are trying to be professional and  
19 you can't make people do good stuff that's professional  
20 but we have tried. I called 20 times and after the  
21 19th I started wondering maybe he ain't going to talk  
22 to me no more, but we tried. We've invited all the  
23 counsel to be here but, unfortunately, two chose not to  
24 be here.

25 And Mrs. Nelson had her baby and I wanted to

1 congratulate her. I know we're being recorded on there  
2 so I want to congratulate Mrs. Nelson had a baby boy.  
3 Okay. Go ahead and start. We're going to have a  
4 prayer followed by the The pledge of allegiance.

5 MR. STEPHENS: All who have hats on would you  
6 remove them, please, let us pray.

7 (Thereupon, a prayer followed by The Pledge of  
8 Allegiance was done.)

9 THE MODERATOR: We shall have approval of agenda.  
10 I just did rollcall. Okay.

11 MR. STEPHENS: The approval of the agenda I move  
12 to amend the agenda to add the following items. Under  
13 section six, item C, rescind the appointment of acting  
14 city manager; under section 6, item D, accept the  
15 interim city attorney's resignation; under section 6,  
16 item E, appoint an interim city attorney; under section  
17 12, item A, adopt rules and procedures of the city  
18 council. Can I get a second?

19 MR. BRIGHT: Second.

20 THE MODERATOR: Any discussion? Call for a vote.

21 (Thereupon, City Councel members voted on the  
22 motion.)

23 THE MODERATOR: All ayes. Any nays? Motion  
24 passes.

25 MR. STEPHENS: Also on item 4 I move to table to

1 following item until the regular rescheduled March  
2 meeting under section 7 --

3 (Thereupon, residents stated they couldn't hear  
4 what was being said by the council.)

5 MR. STEPHENS: I move to table the following items  
6 until the regularly scheduled March meeting: Under  
7 section 7, item A, the council meeting minutes. Do I  
8 have a second?

9 MS. SMITH: Second.

10 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

11 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
12 motion .)

13 THE MODERATOR: Any nays? The motion passes. Are  
14 there any more additions to the agenda?

15 MR. STEPHENS: Any special guests, do we have any?

16 THE MODERATOR: Do we have any special guests in  
17 the audience tonight? Elections and appointments?

18 MR. STEPHENS: On item A I move to accept the  
19 resignation letter dated January 27th, 2022 of Edwin  
20 Booth at City Manager with his last day on February  
21 27th, 2022 and the placement Mr. Booth on  
22 administrative leave retroactively to February 11th,  
23 2022, the starting date of his announced vacation.

24 THE MODERATOR: Do I have a second.

25 MS. SMITH: Second.

1 MR. STEPHENS: Any discussion?

2 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

3 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
4 motion.)

5 THE MODERATOR: Any nays? Motion passes.

6 MR. STEPHENS: Item B, I move ap point Steve Davis  
7 as Interim City Manager to rescind his previously  
8 suspension without pay and any decision therewith and  
9 to adopt his current employment agreement as Interim  
10 City Manager. Do I have a second?

11 MS. SMITH: Second.

12 THE MODERATOR: Any discussion? Any nays? All in  
13 favor?

14 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
15 motion.)

16 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes.

17 MR. STEPHENS: Item C, I move to rescind the  
18 appointment of or designation of Matt Libby or anyone  
19 to active City Manager position.

20 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

21 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

22 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
23 motion.)

24 THE MODERATOR: Any nays? Motion passes.

25 MR. STEPHENS: Item D, I move to accept the

1 resignation of Joseph Ervin as interim City Attorney  
2 effective immediately. Do I have a second?

3 MS. SMITH: Second.

4 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

5 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
6 motion.)

7 MR. BARBEE: Any nays? Motion passes.

8 MR. STEPHENS: Item E, I move to appoint Scott  
9 Robichaux as interim City Attorney and accept his  
10 representation agreement fore this position. Second?  
11 Do I have a second?

12 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

13 THE MODERATOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

14 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
15 motion.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Any nays? Motion passes.

17 MR. STEPHENS: Okay. Item eight.

18 THE MODERATOR: Are there any communications and  
19 petitions? Nope? There were no committee reports.  
20 The current mayor told the department heads not to  
21 submit committee reports because there wasn't going to  
22 be a city council meeting.

23 (Thereupon, residents stated they couldn't hear  
24 what was being said by the council .)

25 THE MODERATOR: There will be no committee reports



1 because of communication issues. On the consent agenda  
2 do we have anything? Unfinished business? New  
3 business?

4 MR. STEPHENS: Yes. Item A, I move we adopt the  
5 new city council rules of procedures. Do we have a  
6 second?

7 MS. SMITH: Second.

8 A RESIDENT: And what are these rules and  
9 procedures?

10 THE MODERATOR: Once we -- once we have operating  
11 individuals that can type on our facebook page, the  
12 city's facebook page, we will post the rules of  
13 procedures. It's something that normally happens every  
14 knew term of government they adopt the rules of  
15 procedures and it's also in our charter. If you would  
16 like to look it up, the rules of procedure it is under  
17 section --

18 A RESIDENT: In a regular session council meeting.

19 THE MODERATOR: It's under section 214. Thank  
20 you.

21 A RESIDENT: You are trying to pass rules and  
22 procedures illegally.

23 ANOTHER RESIDENT: And there is no city attorney  
24 present.

25 A RESIDENT: There is no attorney, no. We're

1 going blast through this like this. To you are not  
2 going to do it.

3 THE MODERATOR: Let's a call for a vote.

4 A RESIDENT: Regular city council session.

5 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

6 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
7 motion .)

8 THE MODERATOR: Are there any nays? Motion  
9 passes. Any resolution of ordinances and  
10 proclamations? There will be no executive session. I  
11 recommend we move to public topics.

12 Mr. Davis, and Mr. Scott, could you come forward,  
13 please? The next time you hear from them, just escort  
14 them out the building. You'll hear some, trust me.

15 (There are disagreements of the residents and  
16 other discussions taking place.)

17 LIEUTENANT ANDERSON: This is your meeting, this  
18 is your right. You are the citizens of this city;  
19 okay? But can we do it with some kind of order?

20 A RESIDENT: Yes, sir.

21 LIEUTENANT ANDERSON: I'm here to represent the  
22 city, too, but we can do it in an orderly fashion  
23 without bickering and scratching over each other?

24 A RESIDENT: Well, he's completely ignoring the  
25 residents and he shouldn't do that.

1           LIEUTENANT ANDERSON: I understand that. Let's  
2 not to get in the middle of this here. I don't want to  
3 be in the middle.

4           THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Lieutenant Anderson.  
5 Back to the order of business. I'll read the whole  
6 thing and I'm going to say the high part and say your  
7 name and right at the end; okay, sir? I.

8           MR. ROBICHAUX: I, Scott Robichaux.

9           THE MODERATOR: Do solemnly swear that I will  
10 faithfully discharge the duties divulged upon me as  
11 Interim City Attorney of the city of Port Wentworth and  
12 that I will faithfully discharge all the duties  
13 assigned to me or imposed upon me by the Mayor and  
14 council of the city of Port Wentworth, the laws of the  
15 state of Georgia and ordinances of the city of Port  
16 Wentworth to the best of my ability, skill and  
17 knowledge during my continuance therein so help me God.

18          MR. ROBICHAUX: I so swear, so help me God.

19          THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir. It's going to be  
20 a tough job.

21           (There are disagreements of the residents and  
22 other discussions taking place.)

23          THE MODERATOR: All right. Raise your right hand.  
24 I do solemnly swear --

25          MR. DAVIS: Steve Davis.

1 THE MODERATOR: That I will faithfully discharge  
2 the duties divulged upon me as Interim City Manager of  
3 the city of Port Wentworth and that I will faithfully  
4 discharge all the duties assigned to me or imposed upon  
5 me by the Mayor and council of the city of Port  
6 Wentworth, the laws of the state of Georgia, the  
7 ordinances of the city of Port Wentworth to the best of  
8 my ability, skill and knowledge during my continuous  
9 therein so help me God.

10 MR. DAVIS: I solemnly swear.

11 THE MODERATOR: All right. That's your seat and  
12 there is your seat. Thank you and welcome aboard.  
13 It's going to be a tough job. We're a growing little  
14 municipality.

15 MS. SMITH: We appreciate you.

16 THE MODERATOR: We appreciate your time that you  
17 want to get involved with this particular community. We  
18 appreciate you, too, you're doing a great job. You  
19 good? All right. All right. Thank you once again.  
20 We have an acting City Manager and a new City Attorney.  
21 Let's give them a hand.

22 Okay. Try to keep this as orderly as possible.  
23 Any citizens that wishes to come up and to speak, let's  
24 see, hopefully, we'll give you two minutes and you can  
25 come up and speak. We'd like for you to repeat your

1 name and address and speak your piece, two minutes.

2 MR. RAMOS: Hi, my name is Adam Ramos, I live at 4  
3 Hasty Point Road. I've been a resident here in Port  
4 Wentworth for eight years. Clean it up. We are done  
5 with your vendetta tactics, your revenge. We've seen  
6 it, it's been going on four years now. Second time  
7 you're here in the city, huh? Okay. Who you going to  
8 fire this time?

9 All right. We are tired of the dirty nasty crap.  
10 You have a resignation letter from an attorney who said  
11 you are being unethical. You should laugh. You're the  
12 one that threatened him; okay? And let me tell you  
13 something. No. No. No. You're going to give me my  
14 two minutes.

15 THE MODERATOR: Order. Order. What we're not  
16 going to do is act like we're five years. How old are  
17 you, sir?

18 MR. RAMOS: I'm old enough to know better, sir.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay. We still don't know what --

20 MR. RAMOS: You have not given me my two minutes  
21 and you're not going to sit here and ridicule me and  
22 belittle me. You're going to hear what I've got to say  
23 because that is your job.

24 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead.

25 MR. RAMOS: You are an elected official and you

1 are going to listen to me. Do we have that clear?  
2 Thank you. Clean it up all of you. You're an  
3 embarrassment to all of us.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir. Next. That is  
5 it? No more public comments? are we sure? Lieutenant  
6 Anderson, you got something to say?

7 LIEUTENANT ANDERSON: Yeah. I'm just saying for  
8 both sides let's keep it clean, let's keep it to  
9 address your concern but do it in a tactful manner.

10 MS. SMITH: We have another public speaker coming  
11 up.

12 MS. HESTER: I, Janet Hester, live at 440  
13 Mineheart Road, Port Wentworth, Georgia, and I want to  
14 congratulate the council for taking charge of the city  
15 and getting us back to work for the citizens. I want  
16 to thank Mr. Robichaux and thank you so for having the  
17 guts to come in here with this hostile city environment  
18 and do what you have done tonight and accept those jobs  
19 and I want to thank you.

20 MR. ROBICHAUX: Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Ms. Hester. I want to  
22 take the time I want to give each citizen the  
23 opportunity to say their piece. Do we have any other  
24 public speakers that would like to speak? Just state  
25 your name and your address, ma'am, and talk a little

1 loud.

2 MS. QUINONES: My name is Madeline Quinones, I  
3 live at 114 Park Side Boulevard I have two questions.  
4 First, where is our mayor? Second, how many employees  
5 have we lost since the beginning of this year? Can you  
6 answer those questions and why do we have a third City  
7 Manager and now another attorney? What's going on  
8 here? I mean, really, what's going -- the citizens  
9 should know.

10 THE MODERATOR: I'll tell you what --

11 MS. QUINONES: It shouldn't be -- we shouldn't  
12 hear it on facebook, we should know what's going on  
13 here.

14 THE MODERATOR: You are so correct, ma'am.

15 MS. QUINONES: Our Mayor is not here, he should be  
16 here.

17 THE MODERATOR: You are right.

18 MS. QUINONES: And you're not the Mayor.

19 THE MODERATOR: No, I'm not the Mayor, I'm the  
20 Mayor Pro Tem.

21 MS. QUINONES: And who made you that?

22 THE MODERATOR: Unanimous council voted me in.  
23 But let me see if I can answer your question. You  
24 asked five different questions.

25 MS. QUINONES: And where is Ms. Smith?

1 THE MODERATOR: We don't know. We don't know. We  
2 don't know what the Mayor is at. We don't know where  
3 the council --

4 MS. QUINONES: We have three council people here,  
5 three council. How do you hold a meeting with three  
6 council members?

7 THE MODERATOR: We have four, ma'am.

8 (There are disagreements of the residents and  
9 other discussions taking place.)

10 MS. QUINONES: Are you regular council?

11 MS. SMITH: I'm Smith.

12 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. She just got elected.

13 MS. SMITH: I'm Smith.

14 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. QUINONES: She just got elected?

16 MS. SMITH: November 2nd.

17 THE MODERATOR: November.

18 MS. QUINONES: Okay.

19 THE MODERATOR: And it is so important that you do  
20 be informed and engaged to what's going on. That's why  
21 we we constantly preach getting information out.  
22 That's why we wish we had access to the website but we  
23 do not because of circumstances and we're doing our  
24 best and best believe from today forward it will be a  
25 little different because we are the new leadership for



1 the city of Port Wentworth and that's how it is. Have  
2 I answered all your questions? Do you have any more?

3 MS. QUINONES: No. You didn't answer all my  
4 questions. How many employees either walked off or  
5 have gotten fired since January with this new council?

6 THE MODERATOR: Let me correct you, ma'am. This  
7 is the correct information: There is no one that has  
8 been fired, zero --

9 MS. QUINONES: Okay.

10 THE MODERATOR: -- have been fired. Now, there is  
11 one that was leaving, we knew about her and that's  
12 Yolanda. She's the human resources director. She was  
13 already leaving on the 14th of January, I believe. All  
14 of the letters of resignation are out there. I think  
15 the police put out some type of press release with all  
16 their orchestrated letters of resignation and I think  
17 it's six, if I'm not mistaken. Am I correct? Is it  
18 six letters of resignation.

19 MS. SMITH: Yes.

20 THE MODERATOR: And that was about it.

21 MS. QUINONES: So another question, you said going  
22 forward this is going to be our council?

23 THE MODERATOR: Your two minutes is up ma'am.

24 MS. QUINONES: This is going to be our council  
25 going forward; am I correct?

1 THE MODERATOR: Yes. The ones that show up. Yes,  
2 ma'am, but your two minutes are up. Thank you, ma'am.  
3 Thank you. You have two minutes, sir. Please speak.

4 MR. RON: My name is Maurice Ron, I live at 501  
5 Bonny Creek Road. I got one question for each one of  
6 you up there. Where were y'all at 1:00 when the city  
7 employees walked out because I was here and not a one  
8 of y'all showed up and there was -- there were citizens  
9 that were coming up here and nobody to talk to.

10 THE MODERATOR: Could you repeat that question one  
11 more time? I want to make sure we answer exactly how  
12 you asked it.

13 MR. RON: Where were y'all? Were y'all here at  
14 1:00?

15 THE MODERATOR: Were we here at 1:00?

16 MR. RON: When the employees walked out, when they  
17 resigned and left?

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Are you ready?

19 MR. RON: Sure.

20 THE MODERATOR: This is mine. I had no clue that  
21 they were going to walk out but obviously --

22 MR. RON: But the city shut --

23 THE MODERATOR: -- Mayor Jones.

24 MR. RON: -- down before 5:00 and that was four  
25 hours.

1 THE MODERATOR: Mayor Norton knew about it, we  
2 didn't know about it, nobody told us.

3 MR. RON: We were here.

4 THE MODERATOR: Oh, you might have been here --

5 MR. RON: Yeah. I was here.

6 THE MODERATOR: -- but you knew. But we didn't  
7 know.

8 MR. RON: The Mayor was here and so was a few  
9 citizens.

10 THE MODERATOR: But we didn't know. That's why we  
11 wasn't here. We wasn't informed.

12 MR. RON: Okay.

13 THE MODERATOR: We weren't informed. Did we  
14 answer your question?

15 MR. RON: No. I'm not here to be asked questions.

16 THE MODERATOR: Oh, no. You said you're asking  
17 questions.

18 MR. RON: No, I'm asking the questions.

19 THE MODERATOR: We're answering your questions.

20 MR. RON: But you were not here because you were  
21 not informed?

22 THE MODERATOR: So we were not informed because we  
23 didn't know.

24 MR. RON: But that's not okay because between 1:00  
25 and 5:00 I'm sure the word got around. Thank you.

1 THE MODERATOR: You're welcome. Are there any  
2 more public comments? Hold on, ma'am. Just a second.

3 MS. MORRIS: I congratulate everybody and the  
4 courage that you guys have. God bless you because I  
5 wouldn't do it.

6 MR. STEPHENS: Your name?

7 MS. MORRIS: I've been living in Port Wentworth  
8 for 14 years --

9 THE MODERATOR: Ma'am, what is your name and your  
10 address?

11 MS. MORRIS: Katherine Morris, I live on Old Mill  
12 Road.

13 THE MODERATOR: Hold on, hold on, your name and  
14 your address?

15 MS. MORRIS: 13 Old Mill Road and my name is  
16 Katherine Morris.

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

18 MS. MORRIS: Okay.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

20 MS. MORRIS: I have a five year rape case that  
21 Port Wentworth have not solved yet. I want to know  
22 what is going on with that. Also, I commend you  
23 because this is something hard. Everybody is running  
24 around about who is not doing what. To answer his  
25 question, I was here. City Hall was locked up. The

1 doors had a sign on it, I couldn't pay my bill.

2 I talked to Gary Norton myself so I don't want to  
3 hear about a bill. A rape of an 11 year old has not  
4 been solved yet. My home was torn apart. Nothing has  
5 been done yet, so petty stuff, yes, but I have a person  
6 and life is messed up and Mr. Reyes put that same child  
7 on facebook and just scarred her some more. So I'm not  
8 worried about the little petty stuff, I'm worried about  
9 somebody's life, a 12 year old.

10 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, ma'am.

11 A RESIDENT: Grow up.

12 MRS. L. SMITH: Hello, I'm Linda Smith. I think  
13 y'all all know me.

14 THE MODERATOR: What's your address, ma'am? It's  
15 for the clerk.

16 MRS. L. SMITH: Sir, my address is 828 Barnsley  
17 Road. Sir, attorney, how do you spell your name?

18 MR. ROBICHAUX: R-o-b-i-c-h-a-u-x.

19 MRS. L. SMITH: A-u-x?

20 MR. ROBICHAUX: Yes, ma'am.

21 MRS. L. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. The positions  
22 that were filled I'd like to know if they were  
23 advertised and vetted, interviewed and vetted? That's  
24 very important to me. Also, I have two people that I'd  
25 like to know as constituents our council is supposed to

1 live here, not have a residence here but live here.  
2 Mark Stephens, I do believe, is staying with his mother  
3 and Jo Smith is staying up in Marietta and that needs  
4 to be known to the city of Port Wentworth. Now, if  
5 that's not true --

6 MS. J. SMITH: It is not true.

7 MRS. L. SMITH: Excuse me, I'm not through.

8 THE MODERATOR: Let her get it out. Let her get  
9 it out.

10 MRS. L. SMITH: Thank you. Thank you.

11 THE MODERATOR: Let her get it out.

12 MRS. L. SMITH: Yeah. And my husband can read, by  
13 the way.

14 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

15 MRS. L. SMITH: Thank you. Because that's on  
16 video that you asked him in a council meeting whether  
17 he could read or not.

18 THE MODERATOR: That's good he could read.

19 MRS. L. SMITH: Yeah.

20 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

21 MRS. L. SMITH: And there is no more Jim Crow days  
22 like you did another time.

23 THE MODERATOR: Jim Crow? What's Jim Crow.

24 MRS. L. SMITH: You! You got up and said Jim Crow  
25 days, no more Jim crow days. That's what you said in a

1 council meeting. You don't remember that, I do.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay, ma'am.

3 MRS. L. SMITH: But, Jo Smith, I'd like to know if  
4 you have that apartment for a residence here? That'a  
5 all you have it for or are you living here? Also,  
6 Mr. Stephens, whether you live here or not. And also  
7 if the clerk has been vetted and has she been brought  
8 in because she is now sitting as clerk of council.  
9 Thank you very much.

10 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Is there any more  
11 public comments? If not could I get a motion -- you  
12 have something to say, sir? He'll be the last one.  
13 State your name and your address, please.

14 MR. FERGUSON: Trevor Ferguson, 6 Lower Ridge  
15 Court. And I hope I'm not out out of turn. The guys,  
16 the Patels is trying to do the gas station on Highway  
17 30.

18 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

19 MR. FERGUSON: Last time I was here I was told to  
20 contact someone from City Hall to see if we could use  
21 this room here for residents of Lake Shore to meet with  
22 the Patels to have a back and forth. I've been calling  
23 the City Hall, didn't get an answer so I want to know  
24 is anybody here that could give me a data get that set  
25 up?

1 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Davis, make sure you get his  
2 information.

3 MR. FERGUSON: I'll get with you at the end. I  
4 appreciate your time. Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Any more public comments? We've  
6 heard you, ma'am. Come back to the Mike. Come on.

7 MS. QUINONES: What are you doing? You've got in  
8 the hostile work environment?

9 THE MODERATOR: Ma'am, I really -- I don't believe  
10 there was a hostile work environment but this is not  
11 the venue to come up here and ask us about a hostile  
12 work environment. We've never had no paperwork, there  
13 has never been anything filed, never been any type of  
14 hearing or anything about hostile, it's accusations.

15 MS. QUINONES: And when they resigned, they put it  
16 in their letter?

17 THE MODERATOR: Have you seen the letters, ma'am?

18 MS. QUINONES: I've seen one letter. I seen when  
19 the --

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. When you read those  
21 letters, that's the information that you will have.  
22 That's the most informed information. Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. QUINONES: And it does state there is a  
24 hostile work environment here in our City Hall.

25 THE MODERATOR: You can have any kind of



1 accusations that you want to say but that doesn't make  
2 it true.

3 MS. QUINONES: I'm not saying that.

4 THE MODERATOR: Is there anything else that you  
5 have, ma'am?

6 MS. QUINONES: That was my question, what are you  
7 doing to fix it?

8 THE MODERATOR: Let's go. State your name and  
9 your address, please.

10 MS. BULLWARE: Brenda Bullware, 1 Horn Place. I'd  
11 like to know those employees that walked out -- those  
12 employees that walked out my question is were they not  
13 all black females?

14 THE MODERATOR: No.

15 MS. SMITH: No, ma'am.

16 MS. BULLWARE: I just need to know.

17 THE MODERATOR: No, ma'am.

18 A RESIDENT: You were here.

19 MS. BULLWARE: That's the question; okay? It's a  
20 laughing matter. I'm asking you a question. You have  
21 made this a race issue.

22 THE MODERATOR: I haven't made it anything, ma'am.

23 MS. BULLWARE: Yes, you have.

24 (There are disagreements of the residents and  
25 other discussions taking place.)

1 THE MODERATOR: This is.

2 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Are there any more public  
3 comments?

4 MS. BULLWARE: So I'm through?

5 THE MODERATOR: Your two minutes were up.

6 MS. BULLWARE: I have about 20 seconds.

7 MS. BULLWARE: If you have a question. We're  
8 answering questions about personnel.

9 MS. BULLWARE: Okay. All right. So --

10 THE MODERATOR: This is not a court hearing. Go  
11 ahead.

12 MS. BULLWARE: My question -- my question to some  
13 of you folks up here, and if the shoe fits, wear it.  
14 Aren't y'all in the middle of litigation regarding  
15 large, very large sums of money? 310,000?

16 THE MODERATOR: We're not answering those  
17 particular allegations. It's a whole bunch of  
18 allegations out there. Some people still believe that  
19 the world is flat. That's an allegation we don't know.  
20 What we're going to do, ma'am --

21 MS. BULLWARE: Are y'all representing --

22 THE MODERATOR: Do you have something that's --

23 MS. BULLWARE: Are all representing the  
24 constituents --

25 THE MODERATOR: -- directed toward the council?

1 MS. BULLWARE: -- or do you represent yourself?

2 MS. J. SMITH: I'm at large, ma'am.

3 MS. BULLWARE: Yeah. You're at-large? So you're  
4 supposed to represent me?

5 MS. J. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. BULLWARE: Okay. Well, represent me.

7 MS. J. SMITH: Okay.

8 MS. BULLWARE: Who do you represent? You're  
9 at-large?

10 THE MODERATOR: Your two minutes are up. Next.

11 MR. BISCAYNE: My name is Scott Biscayne, I'm from  
12 Bald Eagle Partners, I represent the Rice Hope  
13 Development. I'm blessed with a loud voice so  
14 everybody will be able to hear me.

15 THE MODERATOR: What's your name and address for  
16 the clerk?

17 MR. BISCAYNE: Scott Biscayne, 124 Burke Circle.  
18 Bald Eagle Partners, Rice Hope. I happen to be from  
19 Washington DC so I live with this kind of acrimony  
20 everyday, okay, this is politics. Politics is an ugly  
21 sport, okay, so I'm disappointed but it happens. What  
22 everybody in this room should care about is investment  
23 capital coming into this city; okay? And I came here  
24 tonight to represent investment capital coming into the  
25 city.

1           And guess what we're not talking about? We're not  
2 talking about investment capital coming into the city  
3 to build home and residences for folks to rent and buy  
4 in this city. In my community we don't have a single  
5 home available for sale and that's because we can't get  
6 stuff done so I'm not blaming y'all. I understand  
7 these are complicated matters but our job collectively  
8 one way or the other is to figure out how to move  
9 forward in life because there is no housing out there.

10           THE MODERATOR: Amen. Amen. Could you say that  
11 one more time. I'm moving forward?

12           MR. BISCAYNE: There is no housing left. Your  
13 city can't survive and prosper if you can't build homes  
14 and we can't get homes approved in the city if we can't  
15 have an orderly city council meeting where -- I'm not  
16 the only one, there is many people that are not on the  
17 agenda tonight because the meeting was announced that  
18 it was cancelled.

19           I flew down here to get a job approved that's been  
20 in the works for months and my time and effort is  
21 wasted. But forget about me. Nobody gives a damn  
22 about me; okay? I don't care about me but the hundreds  
23 of millions of dollars that are behind me might move on  
24 and that's a problem.

25           THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir. Okay, sir, we're

1 going to make you the last one. State your name and --  
2 okay. I didn't see you. The pole was blocking you.  
3 Come on up. Go ahead, sir. What's your name and  
4 address.

5 MR. SCHUMAN: Stacey Schuman, 404 Bonny Bridge. I  
6 just want everybody to know that the Mayor is not here  
7 because he's at Captain D. Hollingsworth's funeral.

8 THE MODERATOR: Sir, sir?

9 MR. SCHUMAN: Yes?

10 THE MODERATOR: You need --

11 MR. SCHUMAN: You were told so show your  
12 respect --

13 THE MODERATOR: Are you -- are you going to  
14 address the council?

15 MR. SCHUMAN: Sure.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Well, address the council.

17 MR. SCHUMAN: The Mayor isn't here --

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Address the council. If  
19 you're going to talk to the audience, you can step down  
20 and talk to the audience,

21 MR. SCHUMAN: The Mayor isn't here because he's at  
22 the funeral home showing his respect.

23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you, sir. Sir,  
24 you're the last one.

25 MR. GORDON: Frederick Gordon, Bonny Bridge Drive

1 condos. Congratulations. 1I think you'll be a great  
2 asset no matter what the crows thinks. You're with  
3 Claiborne; right?

4 MR. ROBICHAUX: Yes, sir.

5 MR. GORDON: I think you'll like the city of Port  
6 Wentworth.

7 Mayor Pro Tem, you know, I come from the outside.  
8 I kind of look and it seems like everybody putsd a lot  
9 of the blame on truthfully. You know, man to man I  
10 think that's unfair. I do. I also think that your  
11 passive/ aggressive cavalier attitude probably makes  
12 you an easy target. Truthfully, you know it, I know  
13 it, but, you know, I hope that this town can come  
14 together, and really this beating, I mean, what has it  
15 really done?

16 I'm, seriously -- I mean, I hadn't been ugly to  
17 you, been truthful but you got all these residents in  
18 here, everybody is hooping and hollering, you know, you  
19 got team A and team B, you know, it's really y'all's  
20 just to bring people together. You know, sort of like  
21 a coach on a team, you got to bring your people  
22 together.

23 And I'll be honest with you, I owe nobody here  
24 anything. With your attitude and really and you can do  
25 your facial expressions and it's fine, you know, Emory

1 told me how to read well but I hope y'all can bring it  
2 together because if y'all don't, many other investment  
3 companies will pull out because we're sitting in  
4 Atlanta and you're reading about Port Wentworth. This  
5 town is gold mine.

6 Right here at the Port so many opportunities but  
7 there are probably a lot of people that are going to  
8 want to pull out over it. I know I've wasted my two  
9 minutes. I hope y'all --

10 THE MODERATOR: You've got a minute and 20  
11 seconds.

12 MR. GORDON: I hope that y'all can bring it  
13 together for everybody, for everybody. The people that  
14 like you, the people that don't, the people that  
15 placate to you, whatever it is, you know, if you can't  
16 bring it together. Now, they say that church is one of  
17 the most divided places in America.

18 MR. BRIGHT: If you remember my prayer, I said,  
19 God, bring unity to the city.

20 MR. GORDON: You did. And --

21 MR. BRIGHT: Unity, that's love.

22 MR. GORDON: -- I think everybody heard your  
23 prayer and I'm not quite sure if I agreed with your  
24 prayer because, you know --

25 MR. BRIGHT: Everybody, please, you could have a

1 different God.

2 MR. GORDON: And that's fine, listen, here is the  
3 thing: But I hope that y'all can bring it together.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. GORDON: Congratulations.

6 THE MODERATOR: We appreciate it. Can I hae a  
7 motion to adjourn?

8 MR. STEPHENS: Make a motion to adjourn.

9 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

10 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the  
11 motion.)

12 THE MODERATOR: Motion, adjourned. Thank you,  
13 ladies and gentlemen for coming.

14 (City Council meeting concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA:

COUNTY OF CHATHAM:

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was taken down, as stated in the caption, and the proceeding thereto was reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing pages 1 through 32 represent a true, complete, and correct transcript of the proceeding, and I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the proceeding; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

This, the 4th day of February, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elise M. Napier, CCR-2492

1 COURT REPORTER DISCLOSURE

2 Pursuant to Article 8.B. of the Rules and Regulations  
3 of the Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council of  
4 Georgia which states: "Each court reporter shall tender a  
5 disclosure form at the time of the taking of the deposition  
6 stating the arrangements made for the reporting services of  
7 the certified court reporter, by the certified court  
8 reporter, the court reporter's employer, or the referral  
9 source for the proceeding, with any party to the litigation,  
10 counsel to the parties or other entity. Such form shall be  
11 attached to the deposition transcript," I make the following  
12 disclosure:

13 I am a Georgia Certified Court Reporter. I am here  
14 with no contract/agreement to provide reporting services  
15 with any party to the case, any counsel in the case, or any  
16 reporter or reporting agency from whom a referral might have  
17 been made to cover this deposition. I will charge the usual  
18 and customary rates to all parties in the case, and a  
19 financial discount will not be given to any party to this  
20 proceeding.

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Elise M. Napier, CCR-2492