

CITY COUNCIL APPEARANCES

THOMAS BARBEE - Council Member At-Large (The Moderator)

MARK STEPHENS - Council Member District 2

RUFUS BRIGHT - Council Member District 3

JOELLEN SMITH - Council Member At-Large

STEVE DAVIS - City Manager

SCOTT C. ROBICHAUX - City Attorney

(NOTE: The following was transcribed from a digital recording. Notations of "(inaudible)" indicate individuals speaking over each other and "(unintelligible)" indicates that an individual is either speaking too rapidly or too softly so as to not be intelligible.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Let's
2 keep it rolling right along. Pledge of allegiance and
3 our prayer. Take off your cap, please. Let's go to
4 our Heavenly Father.

5 (Thereupon, a prayer followed by The Pledge of
6 Allegiance was recited.)

7 THE MODERATOR: I would ask you to please rise
8 again. There was a between the time that we've met and
9 tonight we've lost a couple members of our Port
10 Wentworth family, Officer Hollingsworth and Deacon
11 Leroy Ben, Sr. (phonetics). I ask for a moment of
12 silence to honor those two men. Thank you.

13 Thank you ladies and gentlemen. We have the
14 approval of the agenda. We'll do that. Okay.
15 Approval of the minutes from our last meeting, which
16 was February 24th.

17 MR. STEPHENS: Okay. Okay. I'll do that. I make
18 a motion to approve the agenda for tonight.

19 MR. BRIGHT: Second.

20 THE COURT: All in favor?

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

23 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Approval of
24 the minutes from the February 24th?

25 MR. BRIGHT: I'll make a motion to approve the

1 motion.

2 MR. STEPHENS: I'll second.

3 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

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

6 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Are there any
7 recognition of special guests tonight? Moving on to
8 elections and appointments. I recommend that we clump
9 these two together. Do we have a motion?

10 MR. STEPHENS: I'll second it. Oh, I'm sorry,
11 I'll make a motion to set Mr. Barbee's recommendation
12 that we combine A and B.

13 MS. SMITH: Second.

14 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

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

17 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Moving on down
18 to our consent agenda: A, payment request for number
19 two for the interim roadway improvements project of the
20 San Mill Construction in the amount of \$43,000.

21 MR. STEPHENS: I make a motion to combine them not
22 to attach them, not a motion to pass it.

23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. All right.

24 MR. STEPHENS: I'll make the motion to pass items
25 A and B.

1 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

2 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

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

5 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes on both of
6 those. The human resources director and an interim
7 finance director appointed. And if I'm mistaken, I
8 think that will round out our individuals that have
9 left the city and I think there is one more we can hire
10 and fully, fully operational again as a city.

11 Do you have any comments, Mr. City Manager?

12 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. This does round out all the
13 appointments and hires for the city manager position,
14 the only remaining position is the City Clerk that's a
15 city council appointment but it's been a tough couple
16 of weeks but the staff downstairs and everyone has come
17 together to keep the city running and back open and we
18 are fully functional and operational in all departments
19 as of tonight.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. I'd like to give our
21 City Manager a hand for doing an outstanding job.
22 Sometimes being in the spotlight is a tough job but
23 somebody has to do it.

24 Okay. Moving on to our consent agenda. A pay
25 request for the atrium road improvements and also a pay

1 request for the Red Robin Court Road improvements. Do
2 I have a motion to a prove.

3 MR. STEPHENS: I have a motion to combine A and B.

4 MR. BRIGHT: I second. All in favor?

5 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

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

8 THE MODERATOR: Motion is approved to combine A
9 and B.

10 MR. STEPHENS: Okay. I make a motion that we pay
11 the percentage of A of \$43,857.47 and for Red Robin in
12 the amount of \$48,340.85.

13 THE MODERATOR: Do I have a second?

14 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

15 THE COURT: All in favor?

16 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
17 motion.)

18 THE MODERATOR: The motion is approved.
19 Unfinished business, is there one here to speak for
20 this alcohol beverage license application submitted by
21 Susan Muller (phonetics)? Are you here, ma'am?

22 MS. MULLER: Yes. Good evening. How are you?

23 THE MODERATOR: Pretty good, no complaints. This
24 public hearing is open. Is there anyone to speak
25 against this? Okay.

1 MS. MULLER: Hi. The barbershop is next to the
2 new Moe's on 21.
3 MS. BENTON: To the new what?
4 MS. MULLER: The new Moe's Restaurant on Magnolia
5 Boulevard.
6 THE MODERATOR: Okay.
7 UNKNOWN MALE: Oh, the Moe's. Okay.
8 MS. SMITH: The Moe's --
9 UNKNOWN MALE: (Unintelligible).
10 MS. MULLER: Yes. I have a barbershop in Pooler
11 as well and we have our liquor license there. We have
12 no issues. They get on beer when they come in to get a
13 drink and we pass it out ourselves.
14 THE MODERATOR: And you came before the planning
15 and zoning and --
16 MS. MULLER: I did. And it already got approved.
17 THE MODERATOR: And it looks like here unanimous
18 decision.
19 MS. MULLER: Absolutely.
20 THE MODERATOR: Awesome. Yes, Ms. Benton. Go
21 ahead, Ms. Benton.
22 MS. BENTON: This license the way it's written,
23 the way it is written and the way I'm looking at it, we
24 have got a barbershop that's going to sell beer and
25 wine.

1 MS. MULLER: We don't sell it, we just give
2 everybody one beer when they walk in if it's a man of
3 age or a woman of age.

4 THE MODERATOR: And I would -- you're checking
5 their IDs and all that stuff?

6 MS. MULLER: Absolutely.

7 THE COURT: You passed through our planning and
8 zoning; correct?

9 MS. MULLER: Yes.

10 THE COURT: I would imagine looking at the minutes
11 here a few of the commissioners asked you a bunch of
12 questions?

13 MS. MULLER: Yeah. Actually, one of the ladies
14 that was on there she comes to our Pooler one all the
15 time and she commented on there and I didn't know who
16 she was, I didn't cut her hair but she keeps coming so
17 she said you never even know that people are drinking
18 really there.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So it's just a -- just to
20 make sure I get --

21 MS. MULLER: Go ahead.

22 THE MODERATOR: It's just a barbershop; right?

23 MS. MULLER: It's a barbershop but we also do
24 women and we color. It's kind of a full service
25 barbershop.

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

2 MS. MULLER: Uh-huh.

3 THE MODERATOR: And it's like you don't do any
4 food or anything like that? It's just --

5 MS. MULLER: No. No. So like we can't sell, we
6 can't give beer away on Sundays in Pooler.

7 THE MODERATOR: Right.

8 MS. MULLER: That's a Georgia rule.

9 MS. BENTON: (Unintelligible) one in Port
10 Wentworth. We're talking about Pooler. Would this
11 license that we're giving her would that allow her to
12 sell it or she has to get another license?

13 MS. MULLER: I don't know. We just give it away,
14 we don't sell it.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I've got a question. So
16 how does your business make money?

17 MR. STEPHENS: Haircuts.

18 MS. MULLER: Haircuts.

19 THE MODERATOR: It's kind of like an incentive.

20 MS. MULLER: It's an incentive to come in. We
21 really don't give a lot away.

22 THE MODERATOR: In Pooler where is that business
23 located at?

24 MS. MULLER: We are at -- by Savannah Quarters
25 right across the street from the new Costco.

1 THE MODERATOR: And what is it called?

2 MS. MULLER: Chop Barbershop.

3 MR. BRIGHT: Question. So it's like anybody that
4 comes in they get a complimentary beer or --

5 MS. MULLER: They get a complimentary. It's just
6 like nail salons they give complimentary wine and beer
7 as well. Nail salons do it, too.

8 MR. BRIGHT: It's a limit on how much they get to
9 drink?

10 MS. MULLER: One. That's it.

11 MR. BRIGHT: Just one?

12 MS. MULLER: Yep. And it's a can of beer.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MS. MULLER: It's not draft or anything, it's just
15 one can.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

17 MS. MULLER: Just one.

18 MR. BRIGHT: Mr. Barbee, I think you have a
19 question.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

21 UNKNOWN MALE: Do you allow the patrons to be
22 accompanied by their children?

23 MS. MULLER: They can be accompanied by --
24 children come in.

25 UNKNOWN MALE: And is there a time limit in which

1 you hold them?

2 MS. MULLER: What do you mean?

3 UNKNOWN MALE: After they drink.

4 MS. MULLER: It's just one beer. It takes a half

5 an hour, 45 minutes to do a haircut.

6 UNKNOWN MALE: I want to speak --

7 MS. MULLER: Yeah.

8 UNKNOWN MALE: -- for myself.

9 MS. MULLER: I understand. Go ahead.

10 UNKNOWN MALE: I can have one beer. And I don't

11 cross the Savannah road so I've got a buzz.

12 MS. MULLER: I'll call an uber for you. If we

13 feel like there is something wrong --

14 UNKNOWN MALE: Well, that's the thing --

15 MS. MULLER: We would not let you leave.

16 UNKNOWN MALE: People are not going to let you do

17 that.

18 MS. MULLER: Yeah. But we would not let you leave

19 with one beer.

20 UNKNOWN MALE: And it's going to be get a haircut,

21 have a beer and pretty much they are not going to be

22 talked about, you know, or how high they are or how

23 high they aren't, and if they have got their children,

24 that's going to be an issue. And you do understand you

25 would be liable?

1 MS. MULLER: Oh, absolutely. I mean, I have --
2 this is -- well, my license is in Pooler as well so I
3 normally --

4 UNKNOWN MALE: Well, I mean, I understand in
5 Pooler.

6 MS. MULLER: I understand that.

7 UNKNOWN MALE: But this is not Pooler.

8 MS. MULLER: Right. I understand. I understand
9 but I'm totally liable for it. It's under my name and
10 everything.

11 UNKNOWN MALE: I don't know whether to address --

12 MS. MULLER: Right.

13 THE MODERATOR: -- you guys or address her, so...

14 MS. MULLER: It's under my name. I get it.

15 THE COURT: No. Either/or is fine.

16 MS. MULLER: I totally get it.

17 THE MODERATOR: Either/or is okay. We understand
18 reluctance of it.

19 MS. MULLER: Right. I get it.

20 UNKNOWN MALE: I think there should be some
21 stipulations on it.

22 MR. STEPHENS: But how long have --

23 UNKNOWN MALE: The times of old people if it's
24 given to them in which to have a beer and walk out
25 because I can get a haircut in ten minutes.

1 THE MODERATOR: Right. A possibility. How long
2 have you been in business in Pooler, ma'am?

3 MS. MULLER: A year and two months.

4 THE MODERATOR: Fairly new. And you've had zero
5 incidents?

6 MS. MULLER: Nope.

7 THE MODERATOR: None.

8 MS. MULLER: Not in Georgia. We have ten other
9 shops in Florida.

10 THE MODERATOR: In Florida?

11 MS. MULLER: (Unintelligible), Florida, in
12 Jacksonville, Florida and Alabama.

13 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

14 MR. BRIGHT: They're getting heavy questions.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Is there any --

16 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Yeah. You have a state license
17 to do this?

18 MS. MULLER: Yeah. We have a state license for
19 the barbershop.

20 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Not for the barbershop, a state
21 license for alcohol.

22 MS. MULLER: We don't have to have a state
23 license.

24 UNKNOWN FEMALE: You're not going to tell me there
25 is not a state license to serve alcohol. There is a

1 lawyer right there. Aren't you a lawyer
2 (unintelligible)? Okay.

3 THE MODERATOR: You're correct. He is a lawyer
4 but remember this is just a can, it's not pouring out
5 of a keg or anything.

6 UNKNOWN FEMALE: It doesn't matter.

7 THE MODERATOR: It's a can.

8 UNKNOWN FEMALE: You got to have a state license
9 in Georgia to serve alcohol.

10 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Muller?

11 MS. MULLER: Yeah.

12 THE MODERATOR: You've done your homework;
13 correct?

14 MS. MULLER: Yeah. You don't have is to have a
15 state license.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

17 MS. MULLER: We're not serving it from a draft
18 we're just giving you a can of beer. It's like going
19 to your house.

20 THE MODERATOR: Exactly. That's what I --

21 MS. MULLER: You're getting a can of beer out of
22 your house.

23 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

24 MS. MULLER: Like you have company. Go ahead,
25 sir.

1 MR. BRIGHT: An average haircut takes about how
2 long?

3 MS. MULLER: About a half an hour.

4 MR. BRIGHT: A half hour to 45 minutes?

5 MS. MULLER: Uh-huh.

6 MR. BRIGHT: So you're figuring that if that
7 person is getting their haircut, you talk to them and
8 they're telling you how they want their hair cut.

9 MS. MULLER: Absolutely.

10 MR. BRIGHT: So if they get out of that chair,
11 you're watching them; right?

12 MS. MULLER: Absolutely. If they got to pay, they
13 have got to come up and pay for haircut afterwards.

14 MR. BRIGHT3: Do you can make an assumption if
15 they are intoxicated or they are not able to or capable
16 of driving.

17 MS. MULLER: Absolutely. And most of the time
18 they're getting their beer when they first walk in and
19 they're waiting ten, 15 minutes before we even get to
20 them.

21 MR. BRIGHT: Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So basically we're talking
23 about --

24 MR. BRIGHT: About an hour.

25 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. About an hour.

1 MR. BRIGHT: Before you could get a haircut and
2 depending on the crowd that day.

3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. We've got one more, one
4 more question. Go ahead.

5 (Someone was speaking but they were too far from
6 the microphone.)

7 THE MODERATOR: Ma'am? Come to the mike and let
8 us know your name and your address. Yes, ma'am. Come
9 up to the mike, please. It's okay. Go ahead.

10 MS. PURVIS: Sabrina Purvis, 13 Lower Lane,
11 everybody know it's Port Wentworth. So my question is
12 you get a customer come in you give them a can of beer,
13 one of them Old Schlitz. You give them a Schlitz and
14 they sit down again so they don't drink it right away
15 and they, can they take it with them --

16 MS. MULLER: No. They cannot. It has to stay in
17 the shop.

18 MS. PURVIS: That's what I wanted to find out.

19 THE MODERATOR: Huh, that's good.

20 MS. PURVIS: So if they don't drink it, they can't
21 nurse it.

22 MS. MULLER: Yep. Yep. They have to stay in the
23 shop to drink it.

24 MS. PURVIS: So if they are not finished with it,
25 maybe they open it and --

1 MS. MULLER: They have to throw it away.

2 MS. PURVIS: They have to throw it away.

3 MS. MULLER: Yeah.

4 MS. PURVIS: Okay.

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I think this gentleman has
6 a question. So you have a followup question?

7 MR. SHRONG: Well, I was still kind of hung up --
8 I'm sorry, Larry Shrong (phonetics), 501 Bonnie Bridge.
9 Just for the simple fact that I know that I am, I'm not
10 a drinker. I don't know how many people here drink and
11 I got no opposition to people drinking. It's just a
12 timeframe in which somebody is drinking when they are
13 going to be leaving and know that they are leaving
14 because you don't hang around at a barbershop, you get
15 your haircut and you go. And, as you said, that's the
16 perk for coming in and it's sold with the haircut.

17 MS. MULLER: Right.

18 MR. SHRONG: Well --

19 MS. MULLER: But most people --

20 MR. SHRONG: -- your business plan may be enticing
21 to some but as a society as a whole the idea of alcohol
22 and driving is something that's really, really frowned
23 upon.

24 MS. MULLER: You don't have to take a beer, we
25 have soda. We have --

1 MR. SHRONG: Right. I mean, they can turn it
2 down.

3 MS. MULLER: Diet Coke and we just don't have beer
4 we have soda as well.

5 MR. SHRONG: Right. But you're implying to give
6 beer away.

7 MS. MULLER: If they want it. I mean, some take
8 it, some don't.

9 MR. SHRONG: Right.

10 MS. MULLER: You as a grown man should know that,
11 ooh, I can't drink this in a half an hour, I don't want
12 to be buzzed --

13 MR. SHRONG: Right.

14 MS. MULLER: -- that you would say no. I mean, as
15 a grown man you think that you would say that; okay?

16 MR. SHRONG: But as a grown woman running a
17 business.

18 UNKNOWN PERSON: (Unintelligible).

19 MR. SHRONG: And I'm not trying to be --

20 MS. MULLER: No. I get it.

21 MR. SHRONG: -- condescending or anything.

22 MS. MULLER: I get it.

23 MR. SHRONG: But the idea of offering people
24 something to drink knowing that they are going to be
25 leaving within 30 minutes to 45 minutes --

1 MS. MULLER: Right.

2 MR. SHRONG: You know, you have to think about
3 that. Thank you.

4 MS. MULLER: You're welcome.

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Actually, we have got
6 someone sitting back there. Can you come up to the
7 mike, please? Sir? Sir?

8 MS. MULLER: Can you come up to the mike?

9 MR. FERGUSON: I'm Frederick Ferguson and I live
10 at 113 Ferguson Road. So my question is what size can
11 rather is it alcohol or if it's wine, what size can?
12 What size bottle?

13 MS. MULLER: It's just a regular 12 ounce can.

14 MR. FERGUSON: It's a regular and that's still
15 almost like you're going to drink before you drive.
16 Bottom line. That's -- and I think that's what, that's
17 kind of what everybody is thinking in their head that
18 might not be a good idea. No offense to it.

19 THE MODERATOR: Let me ask you, Ms. Muller, if
20 they open the can, they have to -- it has to stay
21 within the store; correct?

22 MS. MULLER: Absolutely.

23 THE MODERATOR: They can't take, ones they open
24 the can they can't go out?

25 MS. MULLER: No.

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you, ma'am. Is there
2 any --

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Can I ask a question, please?

4 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am. Come to the mike,
5 please.

6 MR. ABRAHAM: Abraham (unintelligible), Lovelock
7 Lane. I can understand people concern about her
8 business and what she want to do but at the same point
9 people go to a bar and restaurant, sit down, eat and
10 drink. You don't know how long they're going to be.
11 One or two drinks, they may have four or five drinks
12 and they may not have an alcoholic tolerance that they
13 would go over spending the time in the restaurant.

14 So she's saying if somebody come had her bar have
15 one can or one wine and stays 30 or 40 minutes, it
16 should be a bigger concern, you know, concerning about
17 drinking at a bar or restaurant. That's my opinion.

18 See, my thing is that she should have the right as
19 to do that as long as she only limit it to one drink,
20 one beer or one wine. Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: We have time for one more.

22 MS. HESTER: Janet Hester, 440 Meinhard. Okay.
23 He took half of my point. The restaurant everyday and
24 have a margarita or have a beer or have something,
25 okay, ans they leave in a reasonable amount of time;

1 however, I feel like if we could get the officer to
2 weigh in on this matter regarding what a DUI would be,
3 you've got an attorney here. Would one beer make you
4 drunk enough to do that? And that's -- I don't drink
5 and drive and so I don't know how to answer that
6 question.

7 THE MODERATOR: It may vary but we're getting off,
8 the train is going off the tracks. Is there anymore?
9 I don't see no more hands. Ma'am, thank you for your
10 time.

11 MS. MULLER: Thank you.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you for wanting to do
13 business in Port Wentworth.

14 MS. MULLER: Thank you.

15 THE MODERATOR: Can I get a motion to close the
16 meeting? I'm sorry, this public hearing on this
17 particular situation is closed. Can I get a motion?

18 MS. SMITH: I move that we grant the alcoholic
19 beverage license application to Susan Muller for the
20 Chop Barbershop in Magnolia Boulevard.

21 THE MODERATOR: Do I have a second.

22 MR. STEPHENS: I'll second.

23 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

24 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
25 motion.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Opposed? Motion passes. Okay.
2 New business contract extension with Tyler
3 Technologies. City Manager, I think that's one of
4 yours. Go ahead, sir.

5 MR. DAVIS: Yes. There is a contract extension
6 for our accounting software it's in code in Tyler
7 Technologies. It's expired December the 31st, 2021 and
8 we got a notice this past week on March the 1st of
9 termination because of a past due bill. We paid that
10 bill and we need this contract extension. It's urgent,
11 it's critical for the moving of the city and doing all
12 of our accounting.

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Davis, am I hearing you right
14 that this is for something that expired in December?
15 It's March now. Is that --

16 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

17 THE MODERATOR: What's been going on?

18 MR. DAVIS: This probably should have been on the
19 December or one of the previous agendas but it did
20 expire but they have granted us, we called them and
21 told them we were having this meeting tonight and they
22 granted us an extension until tomorrow.

23 MS. SMITH: Thank you for doing that.

24 THE MODERATOR: You know, is there any other -- is
25 there no contracts or bills that are similar to this

1 that are past due?

2 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. I mean, not at the moment.
3 We're capping up on them but is there was numerous
4 bills of major accounts of ours that were past due
5 since November and December including our cell phone
6 bills, our power bill was \$150,000 in past due.

7 THE MODERATOR: What?

8 MR. DAVIS: There was our water billing system was
9 past due. There was numerous other ones but is this
10 isn't something that just happened over the term when
11 the City Hall was closed but this is something that
12 happened over the last several months.

13 We've also had contractors that haven't been paid.
14 It seems to be a systematic issue but, you know, we're
15 trying to get it all taken care of right now. I also
16 would like to point out want that I didn't make that
17 phone call, that Captain Straw (phonetics) made that
18 phone call to Councilman Smith so just so you know.

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

20 MR. DAVIS: And got that extension for us. So,
21 you know, we're doing what we can to catch up and we're
22 training new people there. So our accounts payable is
23 getting back in order.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I have a couple more
25 questions. In light of this -- wow. The only thing

1 that really comes to mind is active sabotage, you know.
2 You know, what -- well, I mean, the thing is that had
3 we not had the meeting back in February we -- we can,
4 you know, literally be in the dark right now; is that
5 correct or, I mean...

6 MR. DAVIS: Well, I don't know that we would be in
7 the dark but we certainly would be handcuffed without
8 accounting software and network, water billing system,
9 so and those aren't the only things that we've faced
10 and the challenges we've faced over the last two weeks
11 since I've been here.

12 So process manuals have been missing so a new hire
13 that came in, you know, we're trying to teach him how
14 to do utility payments. We weren't able to do that.
15 We had to get with their customer service
16 administrative rights to a lot of the software has been
17 deleted with no new administrator so we've had to go
18 through the customer service process on numerous
19 accounts trying to get them back in order.

20 THE MODERATOR: Wow.

21 MR. BRIGHT: Excuse me, Mr. City Manager, so what
22 you're telling me is that before we came in all these
23 bills were due that were not paid?

24 MR. DAVIS: I wouldn't use the word all but
25 numerous.

1 MR. BRIGHT: Numerous bills were not paid?

2 MR. DAVIS: And I will point out that -- well,
3 actually I can't point that out, but there is one of
4 the personnel was out for a period of time for medical
5 leave and came back during that and it hadn't been done
6 since she left.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Was there anything else
8 deleted from the computers?

9 MR. DAVIS: There is, you know, all the document
10 files templates for, you know, just this agenda itself,
11 we had to repiece together so there has been -- it's
12 been active and it's pervasive throughout to City Hall,
13 and, you know, we're doing the best we can and it was
14 difficult to get this agenda out. We had to reproduce
15 all these documents.

16 THE MODERATOR: I see what you're saying. So it's
17 safe to say that some of the people that left sabotaged
18 the city on the way out?

19 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Okay. Anymore comments
21 from council?

22 MR. BRIGHT: Good evening, my name is Councilman
23 Rufus Bright. I represent the third district. I ran a
24 clean slate. I'm the voice of the third district. I
25 was elected by the third district people to represent

1 the third district. I ran a clean race, I didn't call
2 anybody names, I didn't point any fingers. I ran on
3 good merits. I didn't call anybody names, I didn't
4 point any names. I didn't call anybody anything. I
5 did everybody truthfully did right by them. To come in
6 a city of Port Wentworth caliber, I love the city
7 that's why I ran.

8 To hear all the things I'm hearing now and the
9 things that are separating in city, it horrifies me.
10 Why? Because I think the city is bigger than what it
11 is. The people can be more united than they are. The
12 things that are happening shouldn't be happening. It's
13 more like I want to be a dictator.

14 It's not a dictatorship. The people made their
15 voice known. They elected who they wanted to represent
16 them. I was one of their representatives. I was
17 placed in office by the voters. Now, we have people
18 that are running to try to break up this city because
19 they lost power. Power is an awesome thing. It can
20 cripple, it can hurt, it could damage.

21 The city of Port Wentworth is bigger than that.
22 The people are bigger than that. Yeah. You have some
23 people that are undermining. I don't want to even say
24 their name because I'm a minister and I don't say
25 things to hurt people, I say the truth. You know who

1 you are. But I say this tonight you cannot hide
2 because God sees you and you call yourself Christians.
3 how can you sleep at night when you're doing the city
4 the way you're doing it? May God have mercy on your
5 sole. I'm done.

6 THE MODERATOR: Anymore comments from council?
7 Can I get a motion to approve the extension of the
8 contract with the Tyler Technologies?

9 MR. BRIGHT: I make a motion to approve --

10 MR. STEPHENS: Actually, hold on a second. I
11 think someone wants to comment from the audience.

12 THE MODERATOR: On the contract about Tyler
13 Technologies?

14 MR. STEPHENS: No.

15 THE MODERATOR: We'll be doing public comments and
16 hopefully you've registered?

17 MR. STEPHENS: Yeah. He did.

18 THE MODERATOR: Was that motion again?

19 MR. STEPHENS: Yes. I'll make a motion to approve
20 the contract extension fore Tyler Air Technologies in
21 code.

22 MS. SMITH: Second.

23 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

24 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
25 motion.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Motion approved. Next item on B
2 is a subdivision application submitted by Neil McKinnis
3 (phonetics) P and E Coleman Company, Incorporated on
4 behalf of BEP Rice Hope, LLC for PIN Number 790604091.
5 Do we have someone here to speak for?

6 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir. Neil McKenzie, I'm here
7 on behalf of Bull Legal (phonetics) Partners to request
8 council approve the plat for 65 lots out at in Rice
9 Hope Plantation. This is part, this is the third phase
10 of the Mulberry Tract, which is a continuation of the
11 approved master plan.

12 The infrastructure constructed as part of this
13 project will be turned over to the city and this plan
14 is in -- it has been completed in accordance with the
15 master plan and the conference of the storm water
16 study. With that I'll be glad to answer any questions.

17 THE MODERATOR: My only question is what was the
18 decision from the Planning and Zoning Department?

19 MR. MCKENZIE: It was approved.

20 THE MODERATOR: Was it unanimous?

21 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir, it was.

22 MR. BRIGHT: Uh-huh.

23 THE MODERATOR: I got a question. I was looking,
24 I thought it was here but I thought it was the same PIN
25 number on number C.

1 MR. BRIGHT: I think it was.

2 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir, it is.

3 MR. BRIGHT: It was --

4 MR. MCKENZIE: It was for the plan and this is the
5 plans are next.

6 MR. BRIGHT: Yeah.

7 THE MODERATOR: So we can combine these together
8 because it's actually one project; correct?
9 Recommendations of one of the people from council?

10 MR. BRIGHT: We combine --

11 THE MODERATOR: Keep it separate? Okay. All
12 right. Anybody else to speak for or against, or
13 against?

14 MS. BENTON: Georgia Benton, 135 Saussy Road.
15 Now, I have a problem with the word preliminary.
16 Always have a problem with the word preliminary. You
17 either got a plat, a plan or you don't have one so what
18 is this preliminary plat supposed to look like? I do
19 not know. And you're saying as Rice Hope is over there
20 by the school; correct?

21 THE MODERATOR: Can you put it up on the screen,
22 please?

23 MS. BENTON: Okay. Yes.

24 THE MODERATOR: We do have the technical drawings
25 if you would like to see them, ma'am.

1 MS. BENTON: Yeah. I want to see what I'm looking
2 at.

3 MR. MCKENZIE: And you also know, ma'am, that on
4 the website that there is a new tab on there that
5 includes the technical drawings and they are separate
6 from the agenda packets and we're going to do that
7 moving forward so people can get to the items on the
8 agenda.

9 MS. BENTON: Is this anywhere near the school?

10 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, ma'am. So putting it in
11 context of where we are: So this is the tract of land
12 that's if you know where the school is that roundabout,
13 you take a left at the roundabout and this goes behind
14 Publix so this is all behind there.

15 MS. BENTON: Thank you very much.

16 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. SMITH: Mr. McKenzie?

18 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. SMITH: Hi. I just -- I just want to ask you
20 this has already been and has always been part of the
21 master plan overlay for the neighborhood so it's been
22 known and has been part of the plan from the beginning;
23 correct?

24 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, ma'am. Absolutely.

25 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

1 THE MODERATOR: Sir?

2 MR. PUCKER: My name is Eddie Pucker, I live at 34
3 Corset (phonetics) Circle. As a traffic study also
4 been done for that particular project.

5 MR. MCKENZIE: So for this phase this project was
6 approved I think in 2005. So when the first part of
7 this was laid out, that's when all improvements of the
8 traffic and everything were pointed out. This does
9 have multiple access points, there is a light, there
10 are two lights actually: On 21 that control access in
11 and out of this, you know, master plan this
12 (unintelligible). So it's enclosed on its own. It's
13 controlled by one light at Publix and then there is
14 another access point just south of that and there is no
15 light, that's just a (unintelligible).

16 MR. PUCKER: So the DOT and all that that brings
17 all this together to validate the traffic movement and
18 all is all --

19 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes.

20 MR. PUCKER: -- being taken care of already?

21 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PUCKER: It's been already done?

23 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir.

24 MR. PUCKER: Does it have to be added to as the
25 years -- you say years ago --

1 MR. MCKENZIE: So this is all part of the -- this
2 is all predetermined and preapproved so everything
3 that's borderline by this master plan the traffic light
4 that's there at Publix is, does have the capacity to
5 handle all of this development.

6 MR. PUCKER: And how many houses (again?

7 MR. MCKENZIE: So this is 65 lots.

8 MR. PUCKER: What's that meeting place?

9 MR. MCKENZIE: I'm not 100 percent sure. I would
10 say a guess at it but I probably be wrong. I don't
11 want to misquoting anybody.

12 MR. PUCKER: Thank you very much.

13 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Ron.

14 MR. RON: Maurice Ron, 501 Bonnybridge. The --
15 and I'm speaking to counsel here. The drainage and
16 outflow you said this was done in 2005 and as we know,
17 that area is inundated and the city only has so much
18 capacity of outflow. Do y'all know what the outflow
19 area is and has that been engineered with a total
20 outflow number?

21 THE MODERATOR: You could go ahead but I believe
22 that's already been done. Our engineers have met with
23 them.

24 MR. MCKENZIE: So we recently have had a
25 comprehensive master plan approved for the storm water

1 for this entire development that was actually approved
2 just after the holidays where we -- you know, it was
3 not my company but another engineer completed this
4 master plan study and looked at all the areas that
5 drain to Rice Hope and then out to Knox Water
6 (phonetics) Creek, which is the ultimate outcome so
7 that has been studied and that has been approved by the
8 (unintelligible).

9 MR. RON: Okay. So what was the gain in the
10 Knoxboro?

11 MR. MCKENZIE: I'm not sure.

12 MR. RON: And the engineering of Knoxboro Creek,
13 which I'm just going to say it has been not clean and
14 clear just like because my creek, Augustine Creek has
15 not been engineered and cleared and dredged since 1978.
16 Yeah.

17 MR. MCKENZIE: Well, that's Corps of Engineers
18 issue I think not under the jurisdiction of the Port
19 Wentworth.

20 MR. RON: Right. But it becomes everybody's issue
21 after everything is built.

22 MR. MCKENZIE: Sure.

23 MR. RON: And then everybody has got water in
24 their yard.

25 MR. MCKENZIE: So add to this property does but

1 not for a creek, so that is a gain, so everything else
2 falls from those properties directly.

3 MR. RON: To the creek?

4 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir.

5 MR. RON: Okay.

6 THE MODERATOR: No one else? Thank you, sir.

7 This public hearing is now closed. Do we have a
8 motion?

9 MS. SMITH: I motion that we accept the
10 subdivision application for PIN 7090604091 Mulberry
11 Road, Mulberry Boulevard in Mulberry tract phase three.

12 THE MODERATOR: Do I have a second?

13 MR. STEPHENS: I second.

14 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

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

17 THE MODERATOR: Motion passes. Moving on to C,
18 site plan review application submitted by I see the
19 same individual. Welcome back. That was a long to
20 seek development site plan to allow residential
21 subdivision Mulberry tract phase three of the master
22 plan, which has already been approved overlay.

23 Do we have anyone that's for it besides this young
24 man right here? Anyone at all? Okay.

25 BALD EAGLE PRINCIPAL: I'm one of the principals

1 in Bald Eagle Partners and I certainly am for it. With
2 respect to the storm water management issues these two
3 phases will actually mitigate and improve the storm
4 water management on the West Side of the Rice Hope
5 master plan. Included within these construction
6 drawings are ditches and culverts and other
7 arrangements that will actually make drainage better
8 flowing west to east, which has been a historical issue
9 in Rice Hope.

10 One of the most fervent advocates of improving
11 drainage, a man by the name of Vince Thompson is
12 recently communicated to us and to the director of
13 development services at Port Wentworth how pleased he
14 was with these proposed improvements.

15 In addition, in the last 30 days we have
16 constructed two crossing storm water management
17 crossings over the IND lines that were blockading storm
18 water from flowing west to east. Since those two
19 crossings were constructed the pond elevation in one of
20 the storm water detention ponds has gone down by 16
21 inches so these plans are not only approved as part of
22 our general development plan but they are a responsible
23 reaction to solving storm water drainage problems from
24 the west to east raised by many citizens in Port
25 Wentworth. Thank you for your consideration.

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. There is no one else?
2 Public hearing is closed. Can I get a motion?

3 MR. STEPHENS: I make a motion to approve the site
4 plan review application submitted by Neil McKenzie PIN
5 7, dash, 0906, dash, 04, dash, 091, Mulberry Boulevard.

6 MS. SMITH: Second.

7 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

8 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
9 motion.)

10 THE MODERATOR: Motion approved. Moving on to D
11 site plan review application submitted by Phillip
12 McCorkle, Phillip McCorkle, Johnson and McCoy, LLC on
13 behalf of the LRC Crossgate North, LLC for PIN number
14 7003501, dash, double 07, northwest corner of Crossgate
15 Road and Jimmy DeLoach Parkway for general development
16 site plan to allow a warehouse development in a P1 plan
17 industrial zoning district. Is there anyone here to
18 speak for it?

19 MR. MCCORKLE: Yes, sir, Mr. Barbee. Phillip
20 McCorkle.

21 THE MODERATOR: How are you doing this evening,
22 sir?

23 MR. MCCORKLE: I'm doing great. How about you?

24 THE MODERATOR: Fantastic. No complaints.

25 MR. MCCORKLE: Neither do I. This is not a

1 rezoning, it's just a site plan and the site plan has
2 been approved in 2019 when this property was rezoned.
3 it's on Crossgate Road between Jimmy DeLoach Parkway
4 and town. So at the time of the rezoning was, well,
5 excuse me, reviewed, thought out but when we rezoned
6 the property, we had a site plan that showed three
7 buildings, which is the bottom of this piece of paper I
8 just passed out.

9 And now we have a site plan that shifts two
10 buildings and so in case that event, we require to come
11 back. I think we probably should have been okay going
12 straight to the specific development plan because I
13 think this is consistent to what we got approved before
14 but we were asked to come back for this re-approval of
15 this new general development plan.

16 The three issues that come up at all plans and,
17 again, this is not a rezoning, it's just a site plan --
18 or can you see it? If you can, it look like, can you
19 hear it, and the traffic light. And this plan from the
20 nearest residence is on Gordon Street you can't see
21 those buildings at all at six to 700 feet away to the
22 closest building.

23 That would have been the site plan for all of the
24 projects way back in 2016 when the zoning for this
25 whole development was started. We did the zoning of

1 three different phases and what we show, what I've
2 shown here and what I've handed you is in 2019 we
3 rezoned this property and the property where Amazon was
4 is now today, and you can see at the bottom of that
5 sheet of paper.

6 In 2019 we thought it was going to be two
7 buildings on that property where Amazon is and ended up
8 being one building. So you never know exactly what
9 your development plan is going to be like but it's
10 always been warehousing. It was zoned for warehousing
11 and so we've been very careful to take care of the
12 three issues that I just raised.

13 So you're not going to see these buildings from
14 any homes in Port Wentworth, we'll have heavy
15 landscaping along Crossgate Road because how it looks
16 on Crossgate Road has always been very important to
17 people who live in the old part of Port Wentworth.

18 We had a sound study done in 2016 which we've
19 updated recently. You will not be able to hear any
20 activity because of the distance at the nearest homes
21 which are a Gordon street. You know, the ordinance
22 says you can only have 55 decibels of sound at the
23 property line of the adjoining property and that's
24 halfway between a humming of a refrigerator and a
25 normal conversation so it's fairly quiet and we don't

1 55 decibels at the backyard in any of the homes, so the
2 sound is good.

3 On the traffic, we've updated the traffic study
4 just in the last few months and actually the traffic on
5 Crossgate is better than was opened when the Crossgate
6 development's project first started. It's not as many
7 trucks coming from Dynacraft, for example, or Amazon.

8 Amazon has a lot of vans, not many trucks so it's
9 not a lot of trucks on Crossgate. These two buildings
10 would add four trucks in the morning peak hour and
11 critical issue for traffic is a.m. peak hour and p.m.
12 peak hour, people leaving for work, coming home from
13 work, so it will add four trucks in the morning, three
14 in the afternoon.

15 At the current level of service on Crossgate at
16 21, which is the critical intersection, is B in the
17 morning and C in the afternoon, which are good levels
18 of service, acceptable levels of service. If this
19 development was not built, they would remain B and C.
20 If it is built, it will be B and C so there is no
21 impact at all on the traffic. So traffic would be
22 fine, you won't be able to see it, you won't be able to
23 hear it and they are going to be nice buildings that we
24 would appreciate approval of this modified development
25 plan.

1 THE MODERATOR: I've just got a question about the
2 buffers. Looking at the tree lines you're going to
3 leave a bunch of the natural vegetation there?

4 MR. MCCORKLE: All of that, six or 700 feet of it.
5 Yeah.

6 THE MODERATOR: How about it looks like, say, it's
7 about six, 700 feet of trees.

8 MR. MCCORKLE: Correct.

9 THE MODERATOR: It's a lot of trees.

10 MR. MCCORKLE: It's a lot of wetlands in that are
11 so it's easy for us to leave it and we will leave all
12 that. And we've got a unanimous recommendation for
13 approval by Planning and Zoning on one of them.

14 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. I noticed that. It was
15 unanimous; correct?

16 MR. MCCORKLE: Yes, sir. My recollection it is.

17 THE MODERATOR: It was. Okay. I like the staging
18 area. I notice you made it, wow, pretty long. Is
19 there like a guard shack at one of those entry points?

20 MR. MCCORKLE: You have to have those this day and
21 age for warehousing. You know, if the security is very
22 poor, that's why you see them all fence and guard
23 shacks so there will be guard shacks.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Is there any questions?
25 No? Is there anyone?

1 MR. MCCORKLE: A picture of one of the buildings
2 just to give you an idea of what they will look like.
3 All concrete, all masonry reconstruction, you know, no
4 aluminum or anything of that nature, nice looking
5 buildings.

6 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

7 MR. MCCORKLE: Just like Amazon, just like
8 Dynacraft, those type ones.

9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Awesome. Anyone else like
10 to speak? Okay. This public hearing is now closed.
11 Can I get a motion?

12 MR. STEPHENS: I'll make the motion to approve the
13 site plan application submitted by Mr. McCorkle,
14 Crossgate North for PIN 7, dash, 0035, dash, 01, dash,
15 double 07.

16 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

17 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

18 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
19 motion.)

20 THE MODERATOR: Motion passes. Okay. We have
21 some resolutions and ordinances and proclamations A, B,
22 C and D. City Manager, I think that is your ballpark
23 there.

24 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem. The first
25 one is the first reading for an ordinance to go to an

1 administrative approval of the final plat. Currently
2 it goes from planning and zoning and then it comes back
3 to City Council after it's already been here twice.
4 Many other cities do this.

5 It was brought at the request of Council Member
6 Smith and I did some preliminary research and sent it
7 over to the attorney who sought out all the different
8 sections that that applies to and you have before you
9 there. It's got one, two, three four, five, six
10 different sections that basically changed the language
11 from Mayor and council to the City Manager for the
12 final approval. I think that administratively this
13 will put down some of the delay time for the builders
14 and the developers out there.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

16 MS. BENTON: May I say something?

17 THE COURT: If the manager says you can speak, you
18 can because this is his time.

19 MR. DAVIS: I was turning it back to you,
20 Mr. Mayor Pro Tem. I think here it's for your
21 discussion and then how you call your --

22 THE MODERATOR: You guys got any discussion?

23 MS. SMITH: No.

24 THE MODERATOR: Actually, I would like to hear
25 what Ms. Benton has to say. Ms. Benton, you have the

1 floor.

2 MS. BENTON: Huh?

3 THE MODERATOR: You have the floor. Come speak.

4 MS. BENTON: Okay. I Georgia Benton 135 Saussy
5 Road. I just want to make sure I fully understand what
6 was said is that if a plat is presented, that the City
7 Manager will have the final say on it. Am I
8 (understanding that correctly?

9 THE MODERATOR: No. No.

10 MS. BENTON: Straighten me out, please?

11 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Harvey's office is doing an
12 excellent job and what developers come to the city for
13 is to come with a plan.

14 MS. BENTON: Okay.

15 THE MODERATOR: And once they come with a that
16 plan currently right now they have to come before the '
17 like twice. You know what? We'll let Ms. Councilwoman
18 Jo Smith explain it. It's just administrative.

19 MS. BENTON: I don't understand this
20 administrative part because I have a real big complaint
21 that on part.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

23 MS. SMITH: Sure. It's only for the final plat.
24 It's developers who have already come like the
25 gentleman before you for various phases that they need

1 to get approved by council and they go to the Planning
2 and Zoning and then they come here and then go to
3 Planning and Zoning and they come here and they deal
4 with the development office and when the development
5 office basically says, all right, I have a checklist,
6 you have to do such and such to make it perfect, they
7 do the checklist, they give it back to the development
8 department then they have to come back again to
9 Planning and Zoning and, again, to the city council
10 just to say basically, you know, the development
11 department is happy with the checklist and it will take
12 a lot of -- a lot of excess burden off the development
13 department also. Our neighboring cities all do it this
14 way. Not many but most of our neighboring cities do it
15 this way because it's already been approved a couple of
16 times.

17 MS. BENTON: Okay. I cannot speak for the
18 neighboring cities but I can speak for Port Wentworth.
19 Now, down Barren (phonetics) Road we got a building
20 look almost like a garage for repair. The city said it
21 was a residence but the application doesn't show how
22 many bathrooms, bedrooms or any of that in there.

23 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Benton.

24 MS. BENTON: Wait a minute. Let me just --

25 THE MODERATOR: We're about, talking about the

1 resolution for the final plats.

2 MS. BENTON: But on that plan the well permit was
3 granted by the City Manager so I don't know -- I don't
4 want the City Manager getting into something of that
5 nature because, first of all, in my book, that's not a
6 residence down there; okay? Second, when the did the
7 City Manager get into the business of issuing a well
8 permit?

9 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Benton?

10 MS. BENTON: Yes, sir.

11 THE MODERATOR: This actually wasn't the proper
12 venue for this particular situation that you're talking
13 about. I understand your concerns but the meeting
14 tonight would talk about final plan from a developer
15 who has came before this council twice.

16 MS. BENTON: Oh, and they done been to y'all
17 twice.

18 THE MODERATOR: Twice.

19 MS. SMITH: Yes. It doesn't take the power away
20 from the city council.

21 THE MODERATOR: It's not taking anything away from
22 the council, it's just making it a little bit more
23 smoother for the developers who have wasted -- not
24 really wasted, but who have spent their time coming to
25 this council twice. They done came here twice, they

1 done went to the developmental services, developmental
2 services and our engineers signed it off, yes, they did
3 good or, no, we got to go back and fix this. Okay. We
4 fixed that, is it still good? Yes, we're good. If
5 they done did that twice, we don't have to see them
6 again.

7 MS. BENTON: Okay.

8 THE MODERATOR: The City Manager say, hey, I
9 looked at this, I've called Brian Harvey, he's talked
10 to him. He said, yep. Our engineer is blessed, we're
11 good, we're good to go. That's what we're talking
12 about right now is final plan.

13 MS. BENTON: All right.

14 THE MODERATOR: Just the final plat. That
15 building that you're talking about has been built for,
16 I don't know how long but it's been there at least more
17 than a year; correct?

18 MS. BENTON: Yeah. It wasn't this administration.

19 THE MODERATOR: Exactly wasn't.

20 MS. BENTON: And what's the --

21 THE MODERATOR: That's why we're talking about the
22 final plats under the new administration.

23 MS. BENTON: The Manager some kind of way approve
24 for the building to be built and that's the one I got a
25 problem with.

1 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

2 MS. BENTON: (Unintelligible).

3 THE MODERATOR: We understand and we will address
4 it at a later date but right now we're talking about
5 final plats, a resolution for final plats moving
6 forward.

7 MS. BENTON: All right. Now, excuse me.

8 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. BENTON: What's the new City Manager's name
10 and the lawyer's name? I don't see no plaques up
11 there.

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. They are still working on
13 it. This is Steve Davis.

14 MS. BENTON: Steve Davis.

15 THE MODERATOR: And this is Scott.

16 MR. ROBICHAUX: Robichaux.

17 THE MODERATOR: I don't want to butcher his last
18 name but I know it's R something-something.

19 MR. ROBICHAUX: Robichaux.

20 MR. DAVIS: Robichaux.

21 MS. BENTON: Okay. So y'all telling me I don't
22 have to go look for them?

23 THE MODERATOR: Exactly. Once this meeting is
24 over I will text you their name, their contact
25 information and their e-mail address and you will have

1 it. And, trust me, they are waiting on your calls and
2 concerns.

3 MS. BENTON: Okay.

4 THE MODERATOR: We have panned them well and they
5 are doing a good job a good job so far. Are there
6 anymore concerns about the final plat? Okay. Can I
7 get a motion?

8 MR. STEPHENS: I make a motion to approve.

9 THE MODERATOR: Oh, sorry.

10 UNKNOWN MALE: This is the first reading. It
11 still has to go to the planning commission and
12 (unintelligible).

13 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I'm sorry, I see it on
14 here, too. My fault. It is first reading. Okay. So
15 we're done with that. Moving on to resolution B, City
16 Manager.

17 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. There was some question
18 about how everything went down and we wanted to get
19 some clarification out on what all the resignations
20 were and what they were for and the timeline that it
21 was it went through, so we asked the City Attorney to
22 put this together with the information that was given
23 to us prior to our arrival.

24 But its just spells out when everyone left, how
25 they left and what reasons they gave left, if they gave

1 any reasons at all. I would like to point out that
2 throughout this you will see who they gave their
3 resignations to and the time that they gave them. That
4 doesn't necessarily mean that's the time that all of
5 you found out. Most of them are the 27th, 28th of
6 January and they were hidden from city council by the
7 previous City Manager and until they actually locked
8 the doors and left City Hall.

9 So if you've got questions about any specific
10 things in there and it's literally a timeline of what
11 happened and why it happened.

12 THE MODERATOR: And this is also available for
13 public information; correct?

14 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

15 MS. SMITH: Mr. City Manager, I have a question.
16 All these people who left do they all say they left
17 because of hostile issues?

18 MR. DAVIS: No, ma'am. They did not. The City
19 Manager and the City Clerk both cited that in their
20 resignations but the general staff, you know, generally
21 thankful for having the jobs and such as that. Why it
22 was all timed like it was, I don't know.

23 I will also point out the interim City Attorney
24 that when he left, he cited it as well, but for the
25 employees of the city it was just the two, the City

1 Manager and the City Clerk.

2 THE MODERATOR: I got a question. In your
3 research I know it has been a lot of allegations thrown
4 around and news reporters and papers writing articles.
5 Has there been any paperwork submitted for any type of
6 hostile work environment? Has any person completed a
7 process?

8 MR. DAVIS: Not that I could find, sir. I did go
9 through the HR records so with another individual
10 present and there was no complaints, no citations in
11 any of the files from any of those individuals.

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So there is no -- no
13 nothing but the allegations are still out there it was
14 a hostile work environment going on but no one took the
15 time to fill out anything on paper, it's just a lot of
16 allegations.

17 MR. DAVIS: Not that I'm aware of, sir.

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody got anything else?
19 And, I mean, just repeating any questions from earlier,
20 all this was going on while bills not being paid, jobs
21 were not being done; is that correct?

22 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

23 MS. ASHCRAFT: Tracy Ashcraft (phonetics), 601
24 Bonnybridge.

25 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. ASHCRAFT: My question is there was a gap in
2 between employments; right, so would anybody else have
3 access to the files?

4 THE MODERATOR: I think I could answer that. The
5 Mayor actually took all the keys and locked up City
6 Hall.

7 MS. ASHCRAFT: Okay.

8 THE MODERATOR: And didn't talk to anybody. No
9 council person, nobody so nobody had access to it.

10 MS. ASHCRAFT: Okay.

11 THE MODERATOR: And he could tell you that himself
12 if he was here he's not here tonight and we did extend
13 an invitation to him and Mr. Jones to be here but as of
14 today no reply back from any e-mail, phone call pr text
15 message.

16 I think we're going to start sending out letters
17 also so that way you could have a send receipt. You
18 know when you send a letter, you've got sign it and get
19 it back so that way a person will not be able to say
20 you guys never tried, but we do try.

21 Okay. Is there any questions about the
22 resolutions of the staffing variances that happened
23 within the city of Port Wentworth for any citizen that
24 would like to see the resolutions that we have? A copy
25 of it will be provided on our website. I think it's

1 already posted; isn't it correct?

2 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. It's all on the website.
3 Yes. Actually, it's a question.

4 THE MODERATOR: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Frederick Ferguson, 601 Ridge
6 Court. I know you're talking about staff.

7 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

8 MR. FERGUSON: Is this tonight ask questions about
9 the bills that the City Manager was talking about or
10 come back in a few minutes?

11 THE MODERATOR: He could address them if he wants
12 to, sir.

13 MR. FERGUSON: I could come back.

14 MR. DAVIS: We can do that now.

15 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. I'm trying to follow when
16 you were saying about bills wasn't paid.

17 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

18 MR. FERGUSON: You said there were several. You
19 said the water bill wasn't paid for. How long?

20 MR. DAVIS: It wasn't the water bill, it was th
21 water billing system --

22 MR. FERGUSON: The water bill system?

23 MR. DAVIS: -- where we send out the payment
24 notices to everyone. That was several months behind
25 and when we tried to process, which took several days

1 to try and figure out how to process it because we
2 didn't have a manual to do it. When it finished it and
3 they tried to send out the payments, it wouldn't allow
4 them to go to the next step because the bill wasn't
5 paid so we had to pay that bill as well.

6 MR. FERGUSON: Okay.

7 MR. DAVIS: And that's just one example but there
8 was numerous ones.

9 MR. FERGUSON: Yes. Yes. That's why I came up --

10 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

11 MR. FERGUSON: -- because when you say numerous,
12 I'm now interested in what numerous is so I don't know
13 if you previously said in this type forum to where
14 bills owed, what's the other numerous stuff you're
15 talking about?

16 MR. DAVIS: I don't have an exact number.
17 Obviously, I was focused on the main ones that kept the
18 city running and when those were, you know, obviously,
19 we're up to date on those so the city is functioning
20 and we can use our software to do critical services.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. Mr. Barbee?

22 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Yeah.

23 MR. FERGUSON: You were on the City Council during
24 this timeframe so who would have been responsible for
25 those items not being taken care of?

1 THE MODERATOR: I believe that would have been
2 former City Manager Ed Booth and the head of the city,
3 Gary Norton, the old administration basically.

4 MR. FERGUSON: So anybody going to be held
5 accountable for this? Because I'm paying my water bill
6 for the past 12 months. If I didn't get my water bill
7 or just happened to look, I came up here to get it paid
8 because I wasn't sure what was going on. Citizens are
9 being held accountable for not doing what they supposed
10 to do and even though they say y'all work for the
11 people, who hold y'all accountable when y'all don't do
12 the right thing?

13 THE MODERATOR: That's a very good question, sir.
14 That is a good question. Oftentimes we hold ourselves
15 accountable because we have to file an ethics complaint
16 on each other.

17 MR. FERGUSON: I guess you hold yourselves
18 accountable but --

19 MR. DAVIS: I would say, sir, you also hold them
20 accountable at the ballot box.

21 THE MODERATOR: Most definitely.

22 MS. SMITH: Can I add something in response to,
23 I'm sorry, what's your name, sir?

24 MR. FERGUSON: Ferguson.

25 MS. SMITH: Ferguson. The way the charter is laid

1 out is the City Council does not run the day-to-day
2 minutia of the city in terms of paying the bills and
3 making sure the lights are on. That is done by the
4 City Manager and his staff.

5 MR. FERGUSON: So really just like my little small
6 brain, the you said the City Manager.

7 MS. SMITH: Any old City Manager and any City
8 Manager we have.

9 MR. FERGUSON: So nobody on the council double
10 checks and triple checks?

11 MS. SMITH: We're not supposed to. We're not
12 supposed to micromanage their --

13 THE MODERATOR: Actions.

14 MS. SMITH: -- actions. No. Which is how the
15 charter lays it out. It's a council and City Manager
16 government and he, the City Manager is supposed to run
17 the day-to-day functions of the city and we set policy
18 for them to follow.

19 MR. FERGUSON: But this went on for a few months,
20 nobody -- nobody knew about it for a few months.

21 MS. SMITH: I wasn't here. I don't know.

22 THE MODERATOR: No. We didn't. And no one was in
23 City Hall to take a look at it because the Mayor at the
24 time took all the keys and locked the doors.

25 (There was an outburst from the audience.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. But the answer to your
2 question is --

3 MR. FERGUSON: I know what you're talking about.

4 MR. DAVIS: I don't think the City Council they
5 would come to the staff and administration, so unless
6 something happened and someone contacted a City Council
7 member, you know, I just don't know how they would know
8 unless they are told by either staff or some outside
9 source to contact them, you know, such as a contractor
10 that might or might not be getting paid so they are
11 going to contact the elected officials not just the
12 administration to get their pay.

13 MR. FERGUSON: So you being the City Manager now,
14 the system is set up in a way where if you want to run
15 afoul for some reason, nobody else would know about it?

16 MR. DAVIS: Sir, we are hiring a finance director
17 tonight and this man has got an exceptional background
18 and we're going to look at the financial policies and
19 the procedures and put in double check systems within
20 the accounting software.

21 I've got a lot of work ahead of me but, you know,
22 there is going to be more checks and balances as we
23 move forward to make sure that this doesn't happen
24 again. We'll also have redundancy in the system to
25 make sure there is multiple people that can do the same

1 job so when someone leaves the next time, we will be
2 able to maintain and have a continuation of government.

3 MR. FERGUSON: Accountability basically?

4 MR. DAVIS: Absolutely. That's exactly what I'm
5 referring to, sir.

6 MS. SMITH: Thank you, sir.

7 MS. CARRIE SMITH: Hello. How are you? I'm
8 Carrie Smith.

9 UNKNOWN PERSON: There is a man ahead of you.

10 MS. CARRIE SMITH: Sorry.

11 UNKNOWN MALE: (Unintelligible). I'm trying to
12 understand what just transpired in the last ten or 15
13 minutes. So you were saying as a new City Manager when
14 your predecessor are you going to do an audit of the
15 City's budget to see if there is malfeasance of the
16 money or just not going to worry about that because you
17 say bills is being paid?

18 MR. DAVIS: We're absolutely going to do a
19 forensic audit, sir, of all the finances of the city.

20 UNKNOWN MALE: And what is the time span on that?
21 Do you have an idea?

22 MR. DAVIS: No, sir. It will to be determined.
23 I'm going to get a finance director in place first to
24 make sure we have our policies and procedures in place
25 and the checks and balances to operate forward and

1 moving forward will be engaging an audit firm for them.

2 UNKNOWN MALE: So how far back are you going back
3 just with the predecessor, his term in office or his
4 predecessor? How far back do you plan on going through
5 the audit?

6 MR. DAVIS: I'm not sure yet, sir. I mean, I
7 think we'll follow where it takes us.

8 UNKNOWN MALE: Okay. I guess when you get to that
9 point, we'll have more questions. Thank you.

10 MS. SMITH: Uh-huh. Thank you, sir.

11 THE MODERATOR: I just got one question. I heard
12 you say a forensic audit. Is that going to be
13 something done by an independent outside agency?

14 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Ma'am. Yeah. Ms. Smith,
16 I'm sorry.

17 MS. CARRIE SMITH: In lieu of multiple community
18 questions and feedback, is there a process for the
19 community to contact City Manager or council to offer
20 feedback questions if they are not comfortable to ask
21 before the council tonight and is there a process for
22 that and I'm sure this information as a forensic audit
23 is being will be transparent to the community was my
24 question.

25 MR. DAVIS: Not during the audit but the finding

1 certainly will be made public. Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. CARRIE SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. SMITH: And, Ms. Smith, just to let you know
4 from my understanding I believe that it takes a number
5 of months to do a forensic audit because of the
6 granular nature of the investigation.

7 MS. CARRIE SMITH: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very
8 much.

9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Is there one in the -- yes.

10 UNKNOWN FEMALE: I was just wondering what bills
11 were sent out like for the water bill because I didn't
12 miss one and honestly because I ain't rich. I got all
13 my rent things, too, so I don't know what didn't go
14 out.

15 MR. DAVIS: They went out, they were just a few
16 days late. They went out three days late I think but
17 they went out.

18 UNKNOWN FEMALE: But I still got it before the
19 times were cut off.

20 MR. DAVIS: And just for general knowledge out
21 here the late payments for last month and this month
22 have been waived. If there is any due to either
23 receiving the bill late or not having access to City
24 Hall to pay your bill.

25 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Is there anymore concerns

1 about the resolution regarding staffing vacancies of
2 City Hall? None? Let's get it. Can I get a motion
3 well, actually I'd like to have it read into the
4 record. Say that again.

5 MR. DAVIS: Do you want to read it into the record
6 or the resolution will be in the record.

7 THE MODERATOR: Oh, okay. It will be public
8 record.

9 MR. DAVIS: Entirely.

10 THE MODERATOR: And citizens will be able to
11 download it and read it for themselves. Okay. Okay.
12 Can I have a motion to approve?

13 MR. STEPHENS: I have a motion to approve.

14 MS. SMITH: Second.

15 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

16 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
17 motion.)

18 THE MODERATOR: Motion approved. C, resolution
19 opposing this -- this -- the dissolution of the city.
20 Resolution opposing the dissolution of the city.

21 UNKNOWN PERSON: We oppose.

22 MS. SMITH: We should add to dissolving the city.

23 MR. DAVIS: There is a movement -- you want to
24 explain or do I?

25 THE MODERATOR: We'll let the City Manager explain

1 it.

2 MR. DAVIS: Basically this resolution has got
3 basically a statement. It's a statement from the City
4 Council and the majority of the council stating that
5 they want to continue as a city and not dissolve the
6 city. There is an apparent movement out there to
7 dissolve the city between the Mayor and a couple of
8 state legislators so this is unequivocally stating that
9 the City Council is opposed to that motion, you know,
10 and the City Attorney and I will be personally
11 delivering this to legislators tomorrow.

12 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Benton.

13 MS. BENTON: Georgia Benton, 135 Saussy Road.
14 Now, I don't know who put what in whose mind about
15 dissolving our city. One, it does not belong to them,
16 it belongs to us, the citizens.

17 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

18 MS. BENTON: Okay? Now, if such an event would
19 occur, our legislature should not approve nothing
20 unless it's on the ballot box for us to make that
21 decision.

22 MS. SMITH: Ms. Benton?

23 MS. BENTON: Yes.

24 MS. SMITH: I agree with you and I just want to
25 tell you what the process is. This actually will not

1 be on the ballot box it actually is if it goes through,
2 will just be voted on by the local legislators who
3 represent Chatham County.

4 MS. BENTON: One thing for sure as citizens, we
5 can make a difference.

6 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

7 MS. SMITH: Please make your voice known.

8 MS. BENTON: I don't know about what the
9 legislature is going to do because I've been through
10 that. I went through that when we were fighting for
11 water and sewage I dealt with the legislature; okay?
12 But it was the citizens that made the decision; all
13 right? So now if them legislators think they want to
14 stay in office, it's up to us.

15 MS. SMITH: I think you should call your
16 legislature, ma'am.

17 MS. BENTON: Look a here, I got them all on speed
18 dial.

19 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

20 MS. BENTON: But what I'm saying Ron Stevens and
21 them I don't advise them to get into us; okay? Because
22 we dealt with Ron Stevens, Carter and the rest of them
23 before and there is a way you do it. So how you going
24 to dissolve my city --

25 MR. BRIGHT: Come on.

1 MS. BENTON: -- without my consent?

2 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

3 MS. BENTON: On my permission. I have that right.
4 Y'all I have the right to annex us in and we did that
5 by the ballot; okay? So if you want to dissolve us
6 we're going to do that by the ballot.

7 MS. SMITH: I agree.

8 THE MODERATOR: I agree.

9 MS. SMITH: Ms. Benton, may I just give you some
10 information? There is a belief that I believe is
11 mistaken on behalf of proponents of dissolving the city
12 that it will be charter will be dissolved and then a
13 couple of years later they will come back and they will
14 vote in the city.

15 It's in my experience, and I suggest that you
16 Google this and read it and I suggest that everybody
17 reads it on their own. It's not going to happen. This
18 once the city is dissolved, it's dissolved. It has to
19 go through another legislative vote and there are
20 cities that have been fighting for years to be
21 constituted as cities if they are currently
22 unincorporated.

23 For example, Buckhead in Metro Atlanta where some
24 of the most influential wealthy people in Georgia live,
25 they have even gotten national news, they still can't

1 pass it so the chance is once the city is dissolved,
2 the city ever being reconstituted are close to zero and
3 Chatham County will absorb everything in our bank
4 accounts, they will absorb all the properties and then
5 you will no longer have local representation on the
6 city level.

7 THE MODERATOR: And regretfully in this shortsided
8 attempt there are city employees jobs on the line
9 because of this.

10 MS. SMITH: They have been told they are not going
11 to be fired but the city will not exist. They will
12 lose their jobs eventually because the city won't
13 exist. It will become unincorporated Chatham County
14 and I ask you do you think Chatham County ever wants to
15 give up this city back to making it into a city again?
16 I think it would be a heck of a fight.

17 THE MODERATOR: And one thing that I researched
18 which every citizens should know, Chatham County right
19 now has the highest taxes, I believe it's 18 something
20 mills. Right now Port Wentworth is only 4 mills. Four
21 into to 18 is, what, 14 mills?

22 MS. SMITH: Wow.

23 THE MODERATOR: Your taxes would go up if the city
24 was dissolved fo' sho'.

25 MS. SMITH: And the person representing you would

1 not be living in Port Wentworth.

2 MS. BENTON: Oh, I know that.

3 THE MODERATOR: Ron Stevens don't even live in
4 Port Wentworth.

5 MR. DAVIS: I would like to point out that the
6 bill has not been dropped so it has not been submitted;
7 however, they have put in today's newspaper notice of
8 intent to do this.

9 MS. BENTON: Then we need to get together with our
10 team.

11 MR. DAVIS: And I would also like to point out the
12 state of this city is very strong, we are financially
13 sound and over the last two weeks we have restored all
14 services 100 percent. Every department is open,
15 payroll has gotten out, bills are being paid, police
16 and fire are still happening and, you know, God forbid
17 if this does happen but, you know, it's very rare. It
18 would be very unusual especially the efforts that go
19 into creating a city are immense. The studies that go
20 into --

21 MS. SMITH: The time.

22 MR. DAVIS: -- the shared services, the impact
23 studies, the financial studies that go into doing that,
24 to do that by legislative fiat and do away with it
25 without, you know, public input would be a shame.

1 MS. SMITH: And it would be a herculean effort to
2 reconstitute this city. It's just not a vote, it is
3 the county is going to fight it mostly likely, my
4 personal opinion, and then everything that the City
5 Manager just said has to be redone. The city will
6 disappear and that's it.

7 MR. DAVIS: Including the police department.

8 THE MODERATOR: Right. And to those who think
9 that revoking this charter and dissolving the city is a
10 good idea, you're deluding yourselves, period. Stop.
11 Go ahead, sir.

12 MS. SMITH: You will put your homes at risk
13 downtown.

14 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. So let me ask the city
15 locals this: The city was established in 1957 and so
16 from 1957 to 2022 we have arrived to this condition.
17 What has changed from 1957 to now? Also the other
18 thing I want to understand is that could we assume that
19 the city council member and the Mayor is not here, are
20 they the people behind this proposal or you don't have
21 no -- you don't know who is behind your proposal?

22 MS. SMITH: They are in support of it and the
23 public meeting that was taped they are in support of
24 it.

25 MR. FERGUSON: All right. Thank you.

1 MR. ROBINSON: J.P. Robinson, 225 Grant Road.
2 Now, I am really, really upset. I've been living in
3 this area for 42 years and it has come to this. It's
4 just like the gentleman previously said 1957 to 2022
5 and we still can't get together? Something is wrong.

6 Something is definitely wrong. You know, the
7 growth of this city goes far beyond Old Port Wentworth.
8 they don't like to say that. They don't say that Old
9 Port Wentworth, they want to say it's all Port
10 Wentworth. Now, we're understanding that it's not all
11 Port Wentworth.

12 I saw something on my video today someone called
13 me told me that was on there, and I sit down and I
14 observed that video. And I'm just going to leave it
15 right there because it kind of like remind me of old
16 times. I'm going to leave it there. But now if the
17 city is not a city anymore, do everything go to the
18 county?

19 MS. SMITH: Yes, sir. Including the money in the
20 bank.

21 MR. ROBINSON: Now, in order for them to should I
22 say forgot about establishment that 1957 they are
23 willing to do that? Just for the sake of leadership?

24 MS. SMITH: It's a shame.

25 THE MODERATOR: Definitely a shame.

1 MR. ROBINSON: For the sake of not accepting what
2 the people have said?

3 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. That's about it. It would
4 abolish the police, it would abolish the fire
5 department.

6 MR. ROBINSON: And that's what you spoke earlier
7 about people losing their jobs?

8 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

9 MR. ROBINSON: You know what I mean? And that's
10 senseless. That is senseless and --

11 MS. SMITH: Because there would a be redundancy of
12 services.

13 MR. ROBINSON: (Inaudible) I mean, to put it
14 bluntly but, you know, I don't want it.

15 THE MODERATOR: Right.

16 MR. ROBINSON: I am a person that I'm going to
17 survive because let me tell you something, I don't rely
18 on you, I got a higher power that I rely on.

19 THE MODERATOR: Amen. I mean --

20 MS. SMITH: You know, the council members sitting
21 here do not approve of dissolving this city.

22 MR. ROBINSON: I understand.

23 MS. SMITH: Okay.

24 MR. ROBINSON: I understand. And there is a
25 portion in the Scripture say that the ones that was on

1 the bottom is coming to the top.

2 THE MODERATOR: Yeah.

3 MR. ROBINSON: And I believe that some people
4 don't like that, not at all.

5 THE MODERATOR: Yeah.

6 MR. ROBINSON: And I'm going to say this and I'm
7 going to sit down. But it's good to find somebody
8 that's sitting right there that is knowledgeable,
9 intelligent and can speak intelligently about the
10 situations that we bring before them. Thank you, sir.
11 Thank you, sir. You know what I mean?

12 MS. SMITH: We agree.

13 MR. ROBINSON: You don't do all that babbling. I
14 know where you're coming from.

15 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

16 MR. ROBINSON: I'm being honest. I'm just being
17 honest. You look like you know what you're doing and I
18 applaud you both; okay?

19 MS. SMITH: Mr. -- sir, what's your last name
20 again?

21 THE MODERATOR: J.P. Robinson.

22 MS. SMITH: Mr. Robinson, another thing is the
23 city both downtown and northside will be at a much,
24 much greater risk of being heavily if not fully aware
25 of our city because the people who are most passionate

1 about it won't be a city anymore, it will be up to
2 Chatham County. So it -- this is a very lucrative area
3 in terms of land and warehouse developers are eying it
4 constantly.

5 MR. ROBINSON: I get letters in the mail all the
6 time but I'm glad I had this little talk with you all
7 tonight because I am -- I am -- I'm just like
8 Ms. Benton, you know, I can't understand why we can't
9 get together. Just move on.

10 MS. SMITH: Please call your legislator.

11 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you.

12 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 MS. HESTER: Janet Hester, 440 Meinhard Road. To
14 further question and understand this, does this mean
15 that these meetings that we're having in our city when
16 we have an issue about water or we have an issue about
17 property or rezoning or we're not wanting something
18 rezoned, we have to go to Chatham County's commission
19 meetings?

20 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. To resolve. Yes.

22 MS. HESTER: We have to go see them?

23 THE MODERATOR: Exactly.

24 MS. SMITH: And City Hall won't most likely exist
25 anymore because there will no be no city.

1 MS. HESTER: We then have to deal with Chatham
2 County and go out of our area, the comfort of our own
3 city to do anything?

4 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

5 MS. HESTER: Regarding legal matters?

6 THE MODERATOR: Correct.

7 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. HESTER: So who are the leaders that are
9 involved in this -- okay. So it appears that the Mayor
10 and former Mayor are the ones who have initiated this
11 and they went to what state legislators to push it on
12 through?

13 THE MODERATOR: Bill Hitchens and Ron Stevens.

14 MS. HESTER: Ron Stevens?

15 THE MODERATOR: And Bill Hitchens.

16 MS. HESTER: Hitchens. Now, is there (a
17 possibility that any of the legislator might be
18 involved here that has been unnamed?

19 THE MODERATOR: It would not surprise me.

20 MS. HESTER: I mean, the one that comes to mind is
21 John Burns.

22 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Rings a bell.

23 MS. HESTER: It is because he has -- you know, he
24 has to pay back a favor. The previous council voted to
25 put warehouses in on Henley Road very negatively

1 affecting the Montieth community so John Burns got a
2 favor from council back then so now he has to pay the
3 favor back by voting for this dissolution along with
4 Hitchens and Stevens? So what we need to do is we need
5 to do what? Make phones calls? Write letters? What
6 does -- what do the people need to do to stop this?

7 THE MODERATOR: All of the above and the City
8 Council is sending this resolution with our City
9 Manager and our City Attorney tomorrow to address this
10 particular issue.

11 MS. HESTER: Okay.

12 THE MODERATOR: Because the whole thing is
13 ridiculous.

14 MS. HESTER: These gentlemen are two people, hired
15 help?

16 THE MODERATOR: Along with this resolution.

17 MS. HESTER: And they have been -- are going to be
18 sent to do our bidding?

19 THE MODERATOR: But we still want you to call.

20 MS. HESTER: Okay.

21 THE MODERATOR: And send e-mails.

22 MS. HESTER: And send e-mails.

23 THE MODERATOR: All of the above.

24 MS. HESTER: Two gentlemen can't get the job done.
25 I appreciate your expertise but you're not going to get

1 this job done without the people.

2 THE MODERATOR: Amen. And we need you and
3 definitely we need all of you.

4 MS. SMITH: So that's very much an understatement.
5 That if the people don't want this at the very least,
6 Ms. Hester, if you could just advocate for slowing this
7 down, there is no rush. This thing is supposed to be
8 happening next week.

9 MS. HESTER: Okay.

10 MS. SMITH: And you may lose your city within two
11 weeks and what is the rush.

12 MS. HESTER: So there is an urgency?

13 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

14 MS. SMITH: There is a huge urgency and why the
15 rush? There are, I know that there are divisions in
16 this city, Ms. Hester, and everybody knows it but there
17 are other -- other avenues and other ways to address
18 that. Most importantly, the people have to be involved
19 in this decision and they are not.

20 MS. HESTER: Okay. Now, we have addressed the
21 issue of annexation 1989.

22 MS. BENTON: All right.

23 MS. HESTER: None of you were here.

24 THE MODERATOR: That's true.

25 MS. HESTER: I was and I voted against it. It was

1 on the ballot.

2 MS. BENTON: Uh-huh.

3 MS. HESTER: We had a very small population. All
4 the population at that time was in Downtown Port
5 Wentworth. They chose to annex us in 1989. We had no
6 power to resist at the ballot because we had no
7 numbers. Now, let's fast forward 33 years in that very
8 city who has taken on this redheaded stepchild did
9 nothing for these redheaded stepchildren who live in
10 this area of town.

11 And I happen to attend that little meeting last
12 night in Downtown Port Wentworth that was unpublished,
13 that was called by the city Mayor and the -- who else
14 was there? The former council members that just got
15 voted off and two former Mayors, they were all there in
16 support of the dissolution of this city; okay?

17 Now, what I also heard was a ton of vitriol and
18 hatred from the people who were there last night about
19 their feelings about those people out there, meaning
20 this side of town. Now, I'm -- I'm appalled that these
21 people actually voiced what we've all kind of known for
22 many years.

23 MS. SMITH: I was there and I observed it and I
24 concur.

25 MS. HESTER: I have a video and if anybody wants

1 to have it, I can give it to you. But the point is is
2 that they hate us and the feeling is about to become
3 mutual. And I'm going to sit here, stand here tonight
4 before you and I'm going to ask you two gentlemen to go
5 to Atlanta tomorrow and start the process for
6 de-annexation of our side of town back to the original
7 lines of before 1989 and we will then de-annex and let
8 them have their downtown area and let them keep it.

9 We will become a new city and we will not be
10 North Port Wentworth, we will be a new city. So that's
11 what I'm going to ask you two to go do and council to
12 get behind that.

13 MS. SMITH: Ms. Hester, I'm also addressing
14 anybody who is watching. I think, unfortunately, in my
15 personal opinion, many development lobbyists are behind
16 this and are misinforming the Mayor. the Mayor
17 obviously cares about this city very much it's quite
18 obvious but, but, but, but he's believing what he's
19 being told then he's repeating it to the downtown
20 community and, unfortunately, they are not doing their
21 own research and they are taking everything he says as
22 truth.

23 I do not believe he's lying to them, I believe he
24 has been misled by people who would like to turn Port
25 Wentworth into a warehouse only community and I don't

1 see the rush and the people should be involved.

2 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. PURVIS: Sabrina Purvis, 13 Lower Lane, Port
4 Wentworth. To respond to you, I don't think he cares
5 about this side of town.

6 THE MODERATOR: That's right.

7 MS. PURVIS: Because, number one, during COVID who
8 did I hear from the most? The Mayor of Savannah. I
9 didn't see him, Gary Norton at all except for when he
10 got the City Council seat.

11 MS. SMITH: No. But I think he cares about
12 downtown is my point.

13 MS. PURVIS: Oh, he might care about that side.

14 THE MODERATOR: But he doesn't care about this
15 side.

16 MS. PURVIS: He don't give two nickels, two dimes
17 or a dollar --

18 MS. SMITH: I agree.

19 MS. PURVIS: -- about this side. Any development
20 he tries to bring is on that side unless it's a
21 warehouse to try and, you know, destroy our community.
22 So I don't really think he cares about this side of
23 town. As far as I've only lived in Port Wentworth
24 about three years, in Port Wentworth four years, four
25 years. I've been here four years. They are keeping me

1 straight. So I'm kind of new here but I like my
2 community. I love my community. I'm on the HOA on my
3 community so I love my community.

4 MS. SMITH: Thank you for that.

5 MS. PURVIS: Thank you. But I do not want, I'll
6 sitting here to say I'm definitely against the
7 decommissioning of my city so I know I've been in an
8 unincorporated city before where I grew up at and you
9 don't have a police department.

10 You rely on the sheriff's department. If the
11 sheriff's department is busy with a more important
12 emergency, then you're just waiting for that sheriff
13 department to come and see about your emergency, so you
14 rely on the sheriff's department.

15 If you're not already on city water, you're on
16 sewage. if your sewage back up and you just out of
17 luck. So it's not a good place to be unincorporated.

18 MS. SMITH: Ma'am, I agree with you. I happened
19 years ago live in an unincorporated area of a county
20 and very close to the county line which we're pretty
21 close to Effingham, and I once called the police for
22 something that was happening outside my house and it
23 took two hours because the -- it kept getting bounced
24 around. Nobody knew how to fulfill the police call so
25 it was bounced around about three or four times because

1 it even went from county to county. So I do know what
2 you're talking about. Yes.

3 MS. PURVIS: It's just no fun so I just stood to
4 say I'm totally against in and I wanted to voice my --
5 my opinion.

6 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, ma'am, for your
7 opinion, and we echo your opinion, also. Most of the
8 council here is definitely against it.

9 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Just real quick.

10 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead, ma'am. What's your
11 name?

12 UNKNOWN FEMALE: (Unintelligible), 22 Tiller Way.
13 Is there any way that the people can do a petition to
14 say that they are against this that we want to continue
15 being city of Port Wentworth? Is there something I'm
16 asking the City Manager is that something that we can
17 do prior? I mean, you have to go tomorrow but can the
18 people could we go out and canvas, because a lot of
19 people -- I mean, today is the first day I've heard of
20 this.

21 MS. SMITH: No. It was announced last night.

22 UNKNOWN FEMALE: This is the first time I've heard
23 of this.

24 MR. BRIGHT: It was announced.

25 THE MODERATOR: It was announced at a secret

1 meeting last night.

2 UNKNOWN FEMALE: But what could we do as the
3 people, the city? You know, this is the thing that's
4 bugging me for a long time is that they can say old
5 town but old town don't pay most of the taxes.

6 THE MODERATOR: You're right.

7 UNKNOWN FEMALE: We pay most of the taxes
8 because if you have a home that's under \$100,000, you
9 don't have to take property tax, so guess what? Of the
10 money that I've been paying, she's been paying, we've
11 been paying on our property taxes has been supporting
12 old town.

13 THE MODERATOR: Amen.

14 UNKNOWN FEMALE: So if they want to keep old town,
15 go ahead and we'll just go ahead and this will be the
16 new Port Wentworth or whatnot. But can we do a
17 petition of something going door to door to the
18 residents of Port Wentworth have them sign saying that
19 we are against, you know, being -- being
20 incorporated --

21 THE MODERATOR: Unincorporated.

22 UNKNOWN FEMALE: -- or unincorporated in Chatham
23 County.

24 MS. SMITH: Dissolved, the city will be dissolved.

25 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Yes. Yes.

1 MS. SMITH: I think the more people that get
2 involved, so if you want to do a petition, I applaud
3 you and support you because the more people that can be
4 educated on this issue, the better, and constantly
5 refer them to call the various legislators and, again,
6 there is a misunderstanding that the city will be
7 dissolved and like that, in two years a vote is taken
8 and (it's reconstituted. There will be no vote because
9 there will be no city.

10 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Right.

11 MS. SMITH: And look at some of the cities around
12 the state and how many sometimes decades it takes them
13 to become a city again.

14 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Right.

15 MS. SMITH: The city will be gone.

16 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Right. Thank you.

17 MR. BRIGHT: I wanted to comment because you're in
18 my district. We're informing the citizens because a
19 lot of people don't know.

20 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Right.

21 MR. BRIGHT: We want to make them aware because
22 you're a citizen and your voice count.

23 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Right.

24 MR. BRIGHT: That's how I got on this City
25 Council, your voice. They might think that because

1 you're not saying it because we're docile, you elect
2 officials, you can clear the way. Ron Higgins
3 (phonetics) and all these other people, midterms are
4 coming up, they can be voted out. So, yes, ma'am, I'll
5 give you my card. We can talk, we're going to make
6 some plans to show them we're not do docile.

7 MS. SMITH: Good trouble.

8 THE MODERATOR: Amen. Ms. Benton.

9 MS. BENTON: Georgia Benton, 135 Saussy Road.

10 I'll make a recommendation because this is a format we
11 use when we were fighting for water and sewage. Now,
12 technology is better; okay? All of us got an e-mail,
13 computer or something; all right? Tonight we can pull
14 up a list of the representatives and we can send
15 letters to all who representatives and all senators;
16 okay? So tonight e-mail them all because, yeah, Ron
17 may sign off on it, Bill may sign off on it but you got
18 to have the voting power of the representatives as well
19 as the senate.

20 MS. SMITH: Legislation, ma'am. I don't believe
21 with local legislation that this is going to go to
22 entire House. It's a small group of legislators that
23 just represent this area. It's called local
24 legislation.

25 MS. BENTON: Well, then guess what? All of us

1 know -- the reason I say senator, all of them so they
2 can't sweep it under the rug.

3 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Benton?

4 MR. DAVIS: Ms. Benton, can I clarify a little
5 bit?

6 MS. BENTON: Yeah.

7 MR. DAVIS: Each county legislative delegation has
8 rules for passing legislation, local legislation, and
9 what she's referring to is that delegation and not the
10 rest of the state that come together to pass local
11 legislation; however, those bills still go out to
12 what's called a local consent calendar out on to the
13 full House floor; okay? And any member of the 180 in
14 the House of Representatives can pull any bill off of
15 that local consent calendar for a full vote of the
16 House and that's one of the top things we'll be talking
17 about tomorrow with some legislators.

18 MS. SMITH: I stand corrected, Ms. Benton. Go for
19 it.

20 MS. BENTON: Look, I'm on my way forward but I
21 don't want to be the only one fighting.

22 MR. BRIGHT: You're not going to be the only one.

23 MS. BENTON: Okay. So I'm saying to all of us
24 that do not want our city to be dissolved go on your
25 computers, e-mail them all a letter and it may not get

1 to the right one but they will not be able to push it
2 under the rug. Others will know what's going on in
3 Port Wentworth. We're talking about y'all lucky it
4 ain't Savannah day in Port Wentworth -- I mean in
5 Atlanta. We took a busload up there, stood up and let
6 them know what was going on in Port Wentworth.

7 So you got to let them know we don't want this.
8 We don't have to have this. We can get along; okay?
9 That's all I'm saying so let's get our computers out
10 and everything out tonight and let's send them
11 something up there to support the guys.

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. I have one thing to say.
13 This is a computer, this is a computer and so is that
14 laptop.

15 MS. BENTON: And your cell phone.

16 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

17 MR. WARNER: Paul Warner, 124 (unintelligible)
18 Drive. Very quick question. If it passes the
19 legislature does the Governor has to sign the bill to
20 be effective in the local jurisdiction?

21 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

22 UNKNOWN FEMALE: (Unintelligible).

23 THE MODERATOR: Full court press.

24 MS. SMITH: My fellow councilman said full court
25 press. Yeah. Send it to the Governor as well.

1 THE MODERATOR: Give them no ounce to breathe. Ow
2 you doing, Shane?

3 MR. MALLACK: Shane Mallack (phonetics), 108
4 Parkside Boulevard. Is there an established timeline
5 as to when this is all going to be taking place and if
6 so, can you enlighten me, please?

7 MS. SMITH: Next week.

8 MR. MALLACK: Next week?

9 MR. DAVIS: There is no specific timeline because
10 the bill has not been dropped yet.

11 THE MODERATOR: Exactly.

12 MR. DAVIS: So just to be clear, the timeframe
13 that she's referring to is the deadline to get across
14 to the other side from the House to the Senate or the
15 Senate to the House depending on which way it goes.

16 MR. MALLACK: And when it gets across, we're
17 dealing with another set of timelines and votes?

18 THE MODERATOR: At least six weeks.

19 MR. DAVIS: So at least six weeks.

20 MS. SMITH: No. The legislature will be --

21 MR. MALLACK: April 4th?

22 THE MODERATOR: Exactly.

23 MR. MALLACK: So sometime between now and then?

24 THE MODERATOR: Yeah.

25 MR. MALLACK: Thank you.

1 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

2 UNKNOWN MALE: You're going over there tomorrow,
3 right, is what I heard earlier?

4 MR. DAVIS: Yeah. Uh-huh.

5 UNKNOWN MALE: So why not get a list of names and
6 numbers from the people that are here tonight so that
7 you can carry it to them tomorrow. And I know that's
8 not half of them but that will at least maybe that
9 might prolong it some.

10 She said petition. So the people that are here
11 tonight that are against it, you know, they don't have
12 to be fancy we can just write our name an number an
13 addresses and you can just take it to them tomorrow and
14 say these are some of the citizens that are against it.
15 That's just --

16 THE MODERATOR: I think that's na option what a
17 wonderful idea.

18 MS. SMITH: But also, in addition, please call and
19 e-mail the legislators.

20 THE MODERATOR: And crash their facebook pages,
21 too, Ron Stevens and Bill Hitchens.

22 UNKNOWN MALE: Another very quick question. If
23 the bill passes, the Governor signs, what would the
24 effective date of this be? Usually the effective dates
25 would be much later in the year, July 1st?

1 MR. DAVIS: We'll have to wait and see what day is
2 the --

3 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. Nobody knows, to be
4 determined. Yep. Okay. Let's go ahead and move on.
5 Is there any -- one more.

6 UNKNOWN MALE: I don't want to drag this on too
7 much longer, but you said the Mayor and who is the
8 other person?

9 MR. DAVIS: Glen Jones.

10 UNKNOWN MALE: So just those two guys and four of
11 y'all sitting there and y'all don't have any power
12 against what two people are doing? Okay. Any reason
13 why they are doing this? I've been here for a few
14 years but I'm just -- I've learn a lot and I've been
15 here three times.

16 THE MODERATOR: My guess is they realize that the
17 demographics have changed and not in their favor.
18 After the charter that they rewrote.

19 UNKNOWN MALE: They rewrote?

20 THE MODERATOR: That they voted on that they had
21 Bill Hitchens and Ron Stevens vote to ratify that they
22 had implemented that they tried to use to subjugate
23 this side of the city. They suddenly realized after
24 the election it did not work for them anymore.

25 UNKNOWN MALE: See, I'm from originally is seven

1 miles wide 21 --

2 THE MODERATOR: I understand.

3 UNKNOWN MALE: This big city government in the
4 United States is foreign to me a little bit.

5 THE MODERATOR: Uh-huh.

6 UNKNOWN MALE: So I ask simple basic questions.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

8 UNKNOWN MALE: So just keeping after the election
9 the demographics change. What do you want to think
10 they will (unintelligible)?

11 THE MODERATOR: Well the thing is that the -- you
12 know, once we leave --

13 UNKNOWN MALE: I know you're being careful with
14 the words. I'm not a careful person with words. I
15 just want to know exactly what you're saying?

16 THE MODERATOR: Well, what I'm saying is that they
17 realized they couldn't win an election and they wanted
18 to go home and take their ball with them.

19 UNKNOWN MALE: They are sore losers.

20 THE MODERATOR: They are cowards.

21 UNKNOWN MALE: Name calling ain't good.

22 THE MODERATOR: Name calling isn't good; that's
23 right.

24 MR. BRIGHT: Don't call names. They're sore
25 losers.

1 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead and let's move on.

2 MS. SMITH: We have to vote on this.

3 THE MODERATOR: Do I have a motion for the
4 resolution opposing the dissolving of our city?

5 MR. BRIGHT: I make a resolution to oppose the
6 dissolving of our city.

7 THE MODERATOR: I second it.

8 MS. SMITH: I strongly second it.

9 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

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

12 THE MODERATOR: Motion approved. Moving on to D,
13 another resolution settling the 2022 City Council
14 meetings for all citizens will be moving to a new
15 schedule for City Council meetings, where is it. I'll
16 make it plain and simple: We always have council
17 meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00
18 p.m.

19 I'll say it again, the fourth Thursday of every
20 month at 7:00 p.m. Now, beginning every odd month on
21 Tuesday, as in today, we'll have another city council
22 meeting at 7:00 p.m. so this month we'll have two
23 council meetings, the next month we'll have one. The
24 month after that we will have two and it just keeping
25 rotating like that until a new administration comes in

1 and they deem it necessary to change their regular city
2 council meetings and that's what the resolution is. To
3 get a clear understanding it's already been posted on
4 our website and what's that this resolution is all
5 about.

6 (A question was asked but could not be picked up
7 by the microphones.)

8 THE MODERATOR: It will be a third Thursday.

9 (A question was asked but could not be picked up
10 by the microphones.)

11 MS. SMITH: The odd months.

12 THE MODERATOR: It will be posted. It will be
13 posted on our website so everybody will be aware when
14 we have -- we're having a public city council meeting
15 and that's what the resolution is for.

16 MR. DAVIS: And if I may, Mr. Mayor Pro Tem.

17 THE MODERATOR: Yes, sir.

18 MR. DAVIS: The resolution specifically says all
19 the dates.

20 MS. BENTON: All dates.

21 MR. DAVIS: Every single one of them all the way
22 through the end of the year and they will be placed on
23 the calendar so there is no question of when the
24 meetings are. And the only exceptions to the fourth
25 Thursday rule is in November and December because of

1 Thanksgiving and Christmas there is a little
2 modification.

3 MS. SMITH: Just March, because it's the third
4 month, May because it's the fifth month, et cetera, the
5 odd months only.

6 MS. BENTON: And what Tuesday, the second? The
7 second Tuesday and the old Thursday?

8 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. LENTON: Jill Lenton (phonetics), 8 Tiller
10 Way. My question is was tonight a predetermined date
11 according to this resolution or was this a specific
12 meeting because you made a comment that you offered an
13 invitation to the Mayor and the other council members
14 to come tonight so why would we offer an invitation if
15 this was a preplanned meeting?

16 THE MODERATOR: What happened on the 24th of
17 February we voted to adopt a new council of procedures
18 and within those council procedures which we sent to
19 Glen Jones and the Mayor was the adoption of the new
20 regular City Council meetings and they were aware of
21 this particular one tonight.

22 We e-mailed them, we called them, we texted them
23 but what we are going to do is start sending letters in
24 the mail with a return receipt so that way when you get
25 the letter, you will sign and get it back and we'll

1 have it. We just need a record besides e-mail because
2 anybody can say, well, you didn't call me or I didn't
3 get that call but e-mail has, you know, the time you
4 looked at it as a verification that you looked at it or
5 deleted or whatever you did with it but I think we need
6 to do start doing some letters, too, so that way nobody
7 will have excuses but we don't try to hide anything.

8 MS. LENTON: Right.

9 THE MODERATOR: We let all council members know
10 what's going on at all times so we don't have to worry
11 about secret meetings on a Monday night a pavilion
12 downtown or something, you know.

13 MS. LENTON: I don't know anything about there.

14 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. Me neither. I wasn't
15 invited.

16 MS. SMITH: Ma'am, I think he was saying he
17 invited them more as a courtesy. I mean, it was a
18 planned meeting and in addition Mr. Barbee said, just,
19 you know, a reminder. Would that be correct,
20 Mr. Barbee?

21 MS. LENTON: So as a reminder not an invitation?

22 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Exactly.

23 MS. LENTON: Not like last month's where it was a
24 cancelled meeting by the Mayor but --

25 MS. SMITH: By the camp counsel.

1 THE MODERATOR: It actually wasn't council. The
2 Mayor doesn't have the authority to cancel any City
3 Council meeting. Yes, ma'am. I have a motion to
4 approve accepting the clarification of a new City
5 Council meeting dates.

6 MR. STEPHENS: I make the motion to approve.

7 MS. SMITH: Second.

8 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

9 (A question was asked but could not be picked up
10 by the microphones.)

11 THE MODERATOR: The motion is approved. Ladies
12 and gentlemen, this is has been a long City Council
13 meeting. We're up to public comments. I still have
14 this list here. It says Georgia Benton do you care to
15 speak about anything? You're good? I love that smile.
16 Okay. I'll mark you off.

17 Next is a gentleman name by the name of Romondo q
18 Romondo Q. You want to speak? Romondo?

19 MR. DAVIS: He's right here.

20 THE MODERATOR: Hi, sir. Come on up to the mike,
21 sir.

22 MR. Q: Hi. My name is Romondo (unintelligible).
23 I'm the new neighbor over here and in why I'm coming to
24 the meeting to see what's going on and I think
25 everything is clear for me. And (unintelligible) I

1 was living in Massachusetts just moved to Georgia.

2 THE MODERATOR: Welcome.

3 MS. SMITH: Welcome.

4 THE MODERATOR: Well, I think I met you.

5 MR. Q: That's why I'm here.

6 THE MODERATOR: Good to see you, sir.

7 MS. SMITH: Thank you for coming.

8 THE COURT: Welcome again. Thank you.

9 MS. SMITH: That was nice.

10 THE MODERATOR: Next one on the list it says Margo
11 Barbee. You have something to say? Okay. I'll mark
12 you off. Mr. Eddie Puckett. Does Eddie Puckett got
13 something to say?

14 MR. PUCKETT: I'll say something.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

16 MR. PUCKETT: I, you know, Newport, I live in
17 Newport.

18 THE MODERATOR: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PUCKETT: We have a facebook page for the
20 community and it's very informative about what's
21 happening in the community that I don't see on a daily
22 basis but what we're also having some issues with is
23 our youth and that's not just Newport, I'm sure it's
24 all over but one of the proposed things that the
25 council when I was at the last council meeting stated

1 that they would be working towards the sports complex.

2 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

3 MR. PUCKETT: I know we haven't gotten a lot of
4 inroads into that yet but it is on the table I think
5 still?

6 THE MODERATOR: It is definitely on the table.

7 MR. PUCKETT: Yeah. And we sold a lot of the --
8 we've been having incidents like knocking on doors and
9 running and, you know, just stuff children do but it's
10 becoming irritating for some of the residents, I mean,
11 severely irritating, and to try to keep some normalcy
12 with people are getting very irritated.

13 I commented last night on the facebook page be
14 patient with the youth. They don't have anything to do
15 and a knock on the door and running is just something
16 minor so let's not take that to another level of what
17 people saying they come on my property, I'm going to do
18 this, I'm going to do that. I am not advocating any of
19 that that.

20 But I just want to -- is there some type of
21 timeline that we're progressing towards getting that, I
22 know that property that -- that we were soliciting to
23 buy I think on -- what's the status on that particular
24 event?

25 THE MODERATOR: Well, the status on that event we

1 actually own the property already. We purchased it in
2 actually in 2016. The old City Manager I don't know if
3 he briefed the new City Manager but there was a process
4 that was going on between one of the -- Janet Hester's
5 relatives for the facilitation of a temporary road so
6 we can get in there to remove some trees.

7 The City Manager will be working on that. Do you
8 have his number so you can be able to keep in contact
9 with him because there will be meetings on this
10 particular situation. I'm actually on that committee
11 because I want to be front and center to make sure that
12 we get a state of the art sport complex. The citizens
13 deserve it and we need something for our citizens so we
14 can have a better quality of life --

15 MR. PUCKETT: Sure.

16 THE COURT: -- and may even be able to make some
17 money off of baseball games or football games or
18 basketball games or whatever we decide as a
19 community --

20 MR. PUCKETT: Sure.

21 THE MODERATOR: -- of what we want within our
22 sports complex.

23 MR. PUCKETT: Sure.

24 THE MODERATOR: But thank you for your concern and
25 we are on top of it. It's still on the table.

1 MR. PUCKETT: Okay. Thank you.

2 THE MODERATOR: We're working on it. Thank you,
3 Mr. Puckett. Trevor Ferguson. He's gone?

4 MS. SMITH: He's right here.

5 MR. FERGUSON: How about that gas station on
6 Highway 30?

7 MR. DAVIS: I've been a little busy the last week
8 and a half or so.

9 THE MODERATOR: Somebody brought this one but
10 there is another name on here for public comments.
11 Looks like a Sabrina Purvis. Purvis come on down.

12 MS. PURVIS: So I did most of my speaking
13 earlier --

14 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. PURVIS: -- but I'm also wanting to talk about
16 the gas station and --

17 MS. SMITH: Can you pull the mike a little closer
18 to you? I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

19 MS. PURVIS: Thank you.

20 THE MODERATOR: It's okay.

21 MS. PURVIS: I don't talk loud enough?

22 THE MODERATOR: Well, could we brief you on the
23 status of it?

24 MS. PURVIS: Can you tell me who it is?

25 THE MODERATOR: It's a Patel but the plan that

1 they had it was trying to rezone it and we're not going
2 to rezone it.

3 MS. PURVIS: So it's a gas station?

4 THE MODERATOR: So there is no gas station.

5 MS. PURVIS: Okay. So that settles it for me.

6 THE MODERATOR: That's what I was hoping. I just
7 wanted to brief you on the update. What he's trying to
8 do is what I suggested to him and it's to get citizens
9 to buy in because once you get citizens buy into it, if
10 the citizens say they want it, council usually is going
11 to follow what the citizens say.

12 I mean, if you get 70 percent of the citizens say,
13 hey, build us a gas station, if council want to stay in
14 office, they might want to listen because we work for
15 the people, although it may look like we work for
16 ourselves for we work for the citizens that elected us.

17 Mrs. Benson, we have given you much time. Is
18 there anybody else? I don't have no more public
19 speakers? Could I get a motion to adjourn?

20 MR. STEPHENS: I make the motion to adjourn.

21 THE MODERATOR: Could I get a second?

22 MR. BRIGHT: Second.

23 THE COURT: All in favor?

24 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
25 motion.)

1 THE COURT: Thank you ladies and gentlemen. Have
2 a good night.

3 (Proceedings 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 98 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 25th day of March, 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