In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

City Council Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2009

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF DORAVILLE

STATE OF GEORGIA

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Transcript of the proceedings held in the City Council Room at Doraville City Hall, 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia, Mayor Ray Jenkins presiding, before Theresa Bretch, Certified Court Reporter, commencing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2009.

* * *

APPEARANCES:
Doraville City Council:
Hon. Ray Jenkins, Mayor
Councilmember Maria Alexander
Councilmember Robert Spangler
Councilmember Donna Pittman
Councilmember Bob Roche
Councilmember Pam Fleming

William J. Linkous, III, Acting City Attorney

Ms. Rhonda Blackmon, City Clerk

P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR JENKINS: Meeting come to order. Call the roll, please.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Bates not present.

Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Here.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. I'd like to approve the minutes for the 6/30/09 meeting. Do I get a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So moved.

MAYOR JENKINS: Second?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Second.

MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember

Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. And the 7/20/09 meeting, I'd like to have a motion.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: So moved.

MAYOR JENKINS: Second?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Second.

MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.
MAYOR JENKINS: All right. Thank you.
We have a resolution tonight for a young lady that helped us out in a situation. I would like to introduce Cameron -- Cameron Rose Wescott? Is that it? Or just call her Cameron?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible)
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. In May, Cameron drove the Doraville Police car -- not a police car, this one (indicating), and with only four hours of preparation, the rookie driver finished in sixth place. That's good.
- - -
(Applause)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Cameron also plays the violin, participates in Girl Scouts, swims competitively and is a top student.
For exceptional representation for the Doraville Police Department and the City of Doraville, I would like to ask the Council at this time to pass a resolution commending this

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day this fine young lady.
Come on up, would you, Cameron?
I'm not going to read all of this resolution but I am going to read the last part of it. It's real nice, and we did not get it framed but maybe she can take care of that.
(Reading) Now therefor be it resolved by the Mayor and City Council that the members of this body commend Cameron Rose Wescott for her volunteerism, hard work and exemplary representation of the City of Doraville.
And I want to give this to her now (presenting).
- - -
(Photo session, applause)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you, Cameron. We love you.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We look forward to next year too, sweetie.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you all.
- - -
(Applause)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Theresa Edwards, would

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you come up to the microphone, please, and Charlene.
Theresa is the chief appraiser of Dekalb County and she's going to give us a little presentation and some literature.
MS. FENG: Good afternoon, Mayor, Council members. My name's Charlene Feng, Dekalb County Board of Tax Assessor. Today I'm going to introduce one of my colleague, Vivian Ingersoll. She was on the board and one of the deputy chief residential. I'm glad she's been promoted to the chief appraiser today, and she's going to keep the agenda forever.
And they're going to introduce themself, since the Mayor only gave us five minutes, so let them introduce themselves shortly.
MS. INGERSOLL: I don't want to take the entire five minutes. I'm Vivian Ingersoll and I guess I'm the longest-serving board member. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you and have a dialogue. And it's been our goal to reach out to communities and improve communication between government -- county government and municipal government and all our

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citizens. So thank you very much for letting us have a chance to speak with you today.
Ms. Edwards is our deputy for residential appraisal and is a very long-serving and experienced member of our staff.
MS. EDWARDS: Hi. Again, I'm Theresa Edwards, the deputy chief appraiser of residential properties. I have been working residential properties for 20 years, so I do have some idea how it works.
We have had a very unique year this year where we have had to include foreclosures and things like that in your assessments. Some people's values went down, some people's went up, some people's remained the same. Doraville is one of the areas where we didn't have a lot of change. We had some but we didn't have a lot.
So one of the things you have to remember is that in order to get change, we need to be able to have copies of the building permits, copies of the C.O.s, anything that could help us do our job better to make sure that you get more income for your city.
Also, I want you guys to realize we

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have 23 appraisers for 217,997 parcels. That means that's about what? 95,000 parcels per person to look at? There is no way we can look at each and every one.

So when you call us, we take in consideration things that happened to your property. If you have some issues with your property -- say, for instance you no longer have your pool, you enclosed something, you did something -- we need to know. We don't mind making characteristic changes if it's a valid characteristic change.

Things that we cannot change: we cannot change the way your tax bills are sent to you. We don't have any control over that. The only thing our office does is put an assessment on the property. The assessment is based on how your neighborhood is going in the market. We can't change that. That is fact.

So some things we can change. We can change how we're given the information, and the more information you guys give us, the more we can give you. We can change how the homeowners give us information. We get information all the time; people calling, "My neighbor has this," or

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"I no longer have that." But in order to make it better for you, we need, you know, as much information as we possibly can get.

We do get some building permits. We don't get all the building permits. We have new appraisers who are new to the area, meaning they haven't been driving around Doraville to know that there's a new building or that's a new house. So in order to get that information, we need to have building permits, C.O.s and any other information that you may have.

And we've had people calling about their tax bill. The thing is when the governor's credit was removed from your homestead exemption, they put that money onto your tax bill. So even if we decreased your value and your bill went up anyway, that's that governor's credit. It didn't have anything to do with the County. That is the money that the State would have given the County, and they're no longer getting it. So that's something that you need to be aware of.

Are there any other questions?

MAYOR JENKINS: You have a pretty good setup here. We can look at this and --

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MS. EDWARDS: Yes. I gave you guys -- the reason why I gave you that is to give you information. In case somebody calls your office, they can, you know, get information.

We are online. You can go online and visit, you know, our web site. I have cards available. I'll leave them out front. You can pick them up and visit our web site. Yes, sir.

MAYOR JENKINS: Good. Thank you. What we can do on this, if we look it over, we have a lot of questions, we can set up a meeting one night with you.

MS. EDWARDS: And if you want, I have it on computer. I can send it.

MAYOR JENKINS: Excuse me, Tom. What do you need?

MS. EDWARDS: He just had a question for me.

MR. HART: I forgot what I was asking. (inaudible).

MAYOR JENKINS: If you're going to talk, Tom, you know you've got to come up to the microphone. Come on up or sit down.

MR. HART: When we were, you know, building a couple things around the city, we had

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to look up plats and that sort of thing because missing information, and you start looking at --

MAYOR JENKINS: Tom, talk into the microphone.

MR. HART: You look at the tax information to get the plat information so you can survey the property, et cetera. Okay.

MS. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

MR. HART: And you start noticing that some buildings are valued at $9,000 sitting on a half million dollars' worth of property.

MS. EDWARDS: That's because we didn't get the information that we should have got. If you have a zoning change -- cities have a different zoning change than we do. And they don't notify us of the zoning change or any map changes or anything like that. We don't get it, we can't make it work.

So sometimes you'll go and you'll say, "Oh, there's a new --." Sometimes I'll drive down the street and I'll say, "I wonder if we got that house," or "I wonder if we got that building," and then I go back to the office, and we haven't picked it up. We haven't got a building permit for it, we haven't gotten

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anything. Because I go and research and, you know, we haven't got it. So then I say, "Okay. I have to send somebody out to pick it up." A lot of times, if we don't have the information, we just can't get everything.

MR. HART: So the question is two part. Wouldn't it be helpful if the City made like a census survey of the city with the properties, with the, you know, commercial buildings and homes that are here? because we've got whole neighborhoods that the highest priced house there was $56,000 and the next one was $16,000 sitting on $300,000 lots. And it's like why am I busting my chops paying this tax bill and there's a house down the street valued at 16 grand, you know. I mean it's not like a small problem. It's like all-over-the-city problem.

MS. EDWARDS: It's an all-over-the-city problem. And one of the things, like I said before, it's a matter of information.

And county properties, we don't have that problem with the county properties. We have more problems with getting city information from the different municipalities than we do from the county.

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So a lot of times, people will build something, and like I said, we have new appraisers, and they don't know it's new. I have appraisers -- I have nine appraisers that have less than a year's experience, so they don't know that that's a new building that's been sitting there for two years. And so not unless somebody like me go out or somebody that -- you know, a more experienced appraiser is going in their area to pick up something else, who's been there, who knows that's a new building, without a building permit, we don't know.

MR. HART: Okay. The second part is that I live in Gordon Heights, and it's adjacent to Northwoods, and the prices of those houses had, I think, peaked around, you know, two twenty, $215,000, and over the past year and a half, they're not two twenty anymore. You'd be real lucky to get a hundred and sixty for the house.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. We don't have these sales. We don't have enough sales. We have to have so many parcels based on so many sales to reduce a neighborhood. If we don't

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have we'll say five percent of sales in that neighborhood, we can't reduce that neighborhood. How would you like to be in a neighborhood and it had three sales and 3,000 parcels?

MR. HART: Right.

MS. EDWARDS: So you can't reduce. And then you will be calling us saying, "You reduced my house," or "You raised my neighborhood based on three sales."

MR. HART: All right. And, well, we had 14 houses sell across the street from us for 280 grand -- Bob Roche -- and that increased the value of all our houses and all our tax bills went up. It seems like they can go up rapidly but they have an incredible hard time --

MS. EDWARDS: Well --

MR. HART: -- coming back down again.

MS. EDWARDS: -- let's put it this way: This year we sent out over 103,000 notices and we had, what, something like 95 percent of them were reduced notices. They were not increases; they were decreases.

MR. HART: Okay.

MS. EDWARDS: So we do decrease.

MR. HART: So you're going to work with

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these people to --

MS. EDWARDS: Yes. If they --

MR. HART: -- fix the problem?

MS. EDWARDS: -- work with me, I work with them.

MR. HART: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I just want to ask one quick question.

Typically speaking on the cities that are sending their permits to you, are they doing it on a daily basis or do they do it on a monthly basis or --

MS. EDWARDS: Some send them monthly. Some send them -- you know, some send them quarterly. Because what we do is after a certain time of year, we start picking up for the next year, because we know we have -- our experience tells us that if we haven't picked it up by the end of October or a permit is not issued by the end of October, they're not -- it's not going to be finished by Christmas.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.

MS. EDWARDS: And so we, you know, put it on for the next year.

Any other questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Could you hang around? We're actually bringing this up on the agenda in a few minutes.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you.

MS. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.

I forgot to introduce our fill-in attorney for Murray tonight, Mr. Bill Linkous. Welcome. Welcome to Doraville.

Doraville Days. Do you want to --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Doraville Days is right around the corner. I put a collage of pictures out there. Check and see if you can find your face. It's October the 17th this year.

It was such a major success last year due to the fact that we had so many resident volunteers and I really did appreciate that. So did Brian. I'm sorry that he is not able to join in commenting on it, but it was a wonderful success.

And I also put out a couple flyers as well if you guys want to pick that up. Mark it on your calendar, October 17th this year. So

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thank you.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Thank you.

MAYOR JENKINS: On my agenda, I want to talk about the Galloway properties just a few minutes.

As you're aware, the properties are located at 30 -- 5099 New Peachtree Road, the former Doraville Postal Training facility, and 6021 New Peachtree Road, formerly Galloway Hardware Store, are up for sale or lease by a real estate firm. It has been brought to our attention that these properties appear as O&I, which is Office and Institutional zoning on our current adopted zoning map.

However, I believe that the C-2 rezoning is more appropriate for these three reasons. These properties are also being taxed at C-2 accordingly as we speak, by Dekalb County, by the Dekalb County tax base. Number two, the LCI plan recommended a commercial zoning in chapter six. Back when we passed the LCI plan, that was the recommendation, to go to C-2, which as far as we know at that time it was already C-2.

It would encourage new business moving

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into our downtown districts also is number three.

With that said, I would like for the Council to consider a City-initiated rezoning for the parcels located at 5999, 6021 and 6027 New Peachtree Road from O&I to C-2 zoning, which we actually believe it's already C-2 according to a map that we came up with. And of course if I could get a motion on that to at least get it to the Planning Board, and I really -- whoever makes that motion will have to get some input from our City Attorney.

I think what the motion would be, to not rezone it but to send it to the Planning Board to get a recommendation and then finish our research on the maps. I have been told that all we had to do was change the map, but I mean I want to bring it up to the Council and let them discuss it and see what they have to say, and then of course I'd like to have some type of a motion.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: May I ask Mr. Haeberlin a question?

MAYOR JENKINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The automotive

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location that's right next to Galloway's, what is it zoned, please?

MR. HAEBERLIN: It's O/I as well.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Would that be part of this?

MR. HAEBERLIN: Well, it would really need to be to make it consistent across that corridor; otherwise, we would end up with a spot of O/I.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. And with me not looking at C-2 right now, would that be a conditional use in C-2 or is that going to be a nonconforming -- a legal nonconforming if we change it to C-2?

MR. HAEBERLIN: It would have to be looked at under the legal nonconforming provisions because C-2 has no eligibility for that type of auto repair.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Does anyone have any idea how much these buildings, parcels are going for or what's the asking price?

MR. HAEBERLIN: I think that was quoted, what? a million for the post office?

MR. HOWE: Post office is about $600,000. That's about what it's appraised for.

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I'm not real sure about Galloway. I think it's comparable.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Would a rezoning significantly change that?

MR. HOWE: Yes.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Yes, it would have an impact on it, certainly. The permitted uses in C-2 are significantly more than that of O/I.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Where did this request come from? I mean where did it originate from?

MR. HAEBERLIN: Well, the request has been put forth previously by the owners of Galloway Hardware, certainly.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So wouldn't they come and ask us for a rezoning?

MAYOR JENKINS: They actually did but they got some misrepresentation and they did not put in their application. They're willing to put in the application now.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I would think that would be a better way to go about it.

MAYOR JENKINS: Yes. Well, I agree with that, but I mean he needs -- to get it in in August, we need to do something now.

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Otherwise, it'll be October before we get it on the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So all three parcels right now are O&I?

MR. HAEBERLIN: On the official City zoning map, they are shown as O/I.

A City-initiated rezoning, the only thing a City-initiated rezoning would do, it would bypass the signage requirements in the Zoning Code. Other than that, it would follow all the normal procedures -- a legal ad, it will go to the Planning Commission for a recommendation and will come back to the City Council for a recommendation; you guys can place reasonable zoning conditions on it.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, but still, you would think that the property owners would be the people that would initiate this.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Correct, and then they'd --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And if they've already initiated it and it didn't work out for some reason, I think I'd be interested in knowing that.

I would just think that it would be a

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lot more reasonable for the property owners to bring this to the Council instead of us just --

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I guess my concern --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- deciding one day to rezone it.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- also is that the Galloway family and the gentleman that owns the garage has been paying C-2 taxes I don't know how many years.

MR. HAEBERLIN: That's not uncommon city-wide, I'll be honest with you, and there are some places that are shopping centers that have been paying residential zoning classification for years. So we've got a lot of problems that need to be rectified, so that's -- that's pretty common, so I don't want this to be considered to be a spot situation.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So all three of them are C-2?

MR. HAEBERLIN: They are O/I right now, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: On the map.

MR. HAEBERLIN: O/I, yes, ma'am.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But in the tax -- property tax digest they are C-2?

MR. HAEBERLIN: I have not looked at that specifically for myself, but my understanding is some of the Council members have looked at it.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But the garage and Mr. Galloway's is C-2.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The concern with the Post Office is that that building is no longer owned by the U.S. Federal government. It's owned by a carpet conglomerate out of Dalton. I don't know how long they've owned it, but that's who's on the tax base now.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And it's zoned C-2 as well?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: O/I.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: O/I for that one.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

MAYOR JENKINS: Scott, are you not aware of a map anywhere that says that's C-2, an old map?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe

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it's two thousand.
MR. HAEBERLIN: There's a whole bunch of old maps. The 1983 map shows it as O/I. I have not had the opportunity to find the source zoning map for the city older than 1983 to verify what it was prior to 1983.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe there was a map in 2000, I believe, that showed it as C-2. 2002, 2003 or something.
MR. HAEBERLIN: I have not had access to that item yet.
MR. ANDERSON: There's a 1966 map in the office in there. I've seen it.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So it's only zoned what it's zoned today just by virtue of the fact that that's what we think it was zoned.
MR. HAEBERLIN: Well, the map is the map, as Mr. Weed tells us all the time. The official map represents it's currently today as O/I.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, it just seems to me that if the property owners stand to apparently have a significant bump in their property value based on this, that they should have to come before us to get it rezoned and we

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should be able to . . .
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I don't know if that will be the fact, though, since the County is already recognizing it as C-2.
MR. HOWE: Dalton Carpet, which owns --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And the appraisal --
MR. HOWE: -- the post office --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- is already at C-2.
MR. HOWE: -- is listed as O&I.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Correct.
MR. HOWE: It is appraised at $789,000.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You said $789,000?
MR. HOWE: Yes, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The hardware store showing as C-2 is three thirty-seven four.
MR. HOWE: It is C-2.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes, exactly.
And then the garage which is showing as C-2 in the tax base, its value is showing as $290,500.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Is it possible to share that information with the rest of the

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Council --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Sure.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So we could --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I'll make you copies.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- all have this information before the meeting and maybe have some idea of what's going on?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Can you make copies, please (presenting)?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And shouldn't this be added by the agenda by a vote of the Council?
MAYOR JENKINS: I have the option under my --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Under his.
MAYOR JENKINS: -- Mayor's comments. If you don't agree with that, make a motion and we'll put it on the agenda.
Would you like to make a motion?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No, Mayor, I don't. This is the first I heard of any of this. I think that a decision of this magnitude should probably, again, be brought to us by the property owners.

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MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah. And if we had work sessions rather than two voting meetings, we would get a lot more information on anything than we do.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, some of us have information, Mayor, and some of us don't.
MAYOR JENKINS: I don't understand that.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, neither do I.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: She was prepared for this.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yeah. I mean I don't have the same information either. I never do. We all are deprived of some . . .
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Do we get a motion on at least going to the Planning Board? If not, Scott, that will be all.
Can we get a motion?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I make a motion that we investigate City-initiated rezoning of the three parcels as described, by asking the Planning Commission to review.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: This is for a review, basically -- investigative review?

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Because I mean shouldn't they do an application? Would that not be the proper procedure?
MAYOR JENKINS: They're willing to put in an application.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, then, let them put in an application.
MAYOR JENKINS: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I'll second to investigate it.
MR. HAEBERLIN: So it would just be a work item for the Planning Commission.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Just a work item.
MR. HAEBERLIN: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But -- Are you going to call for discussion right now, sir?
MAYOR JENKINS: Comments.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
In regard to the Doraville postal center, if that's owned by a carpet company and we don't have any intention -- we plan to do it as City-initiated, we don't even have to put a sign up or notify them that we're going to rezone this. I have a problem with that.

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COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe the real estate company has already been in contact with you; is that correct?
MR. HAEBERLIN: I.J. Kaplan is actually the only person that's actually physically marketing for sale, I mean, when I say publicly with a sign, the post office property or the former post office property, and they have contacted me. The Galloway Hardware, I don't know anything about it being for sale. I know it's for lease.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Something smells.
MAYOR JENKINS: I know it was short notice, but the only reason -- only thing we're trying to do is get it without having to wait two or three more months for people of course that's been in the city for many, many years.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Dalton Carpets? How long have they been here, Mayor?
MAYOR JENKINS: Sir?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How long has Dalton Carpets been here?
MAYOR JENKINS: I don't know that they've ever been here. The post office has been there.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay.
MAYOR JENKINS: They probably own the building.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: You've got your copy. Pass the rest of them down (presenting).
MAYOR JENKINS: Tom, do you not have anything to do but laugh at the Council? We do demand a little bit of order in this Council room.
MR. HART: Thank you for pointing that out to me.
MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.
MR. HART: I'll try to do better.
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. I have a motion and a second. Any more discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No.

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CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: No.
MAYOR JENKINS: Motion denied. We'll go to the -- see if they'll put in a special one on the Galloway Hardware, put in an application. That's all we know to do now.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, there's something that needs to be corrected about the zoning of the garage. You don't want them to continue to pay C-2 taxes if they're not C-2.
MAYOR JENKINS: Same way for Galloway; is that correct?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Correct.
MAYOR JENKINS: Most of this old business that we have here has been on the agenda for quite some time, and some of it of course is really not City business.
So Donna has take off number 6 and she's willing to take off number 4 if Roche will agree to that.

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Will you, Mr. Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I've been trying to reduce the schedule of fees that it costs for people to appeal decisions, and I think we've gotten as far as reducing two of them. But we had one more left, and Councilman Bates was, I think, involved with that one, too, and for some reason, it keeps getting delayed and keeps getting delayed.
With the current economic conditions, you would think we'd want to do everything we could to encourage new development and, you know, bring new ideas to the Council for consideration. But this thing gets stalled month after month after month and . . .
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. I just asked the question.
Anything else on here that any of the Council can delete so we can get on with the meeting?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay, Bob, item number 4.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: In this particular case, to be honest, I'm not sure if we ever got a --
Did we ever get a new version of the ordinance with the changes?
Because we made -- we voted on making two changes, but then there was that one last change and I think it had to do with the appeal for the variances. I forget which one it was. It was (a) and (b). I think we agreed on two of them. But then again it stalled and it continues to stall. I guess we're never going to reduce this thing, so --
MAYOR JENKINS: Bob, you're saying you don't have the ordinance? Is that what you're saying?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we had an example ordinance on this but --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I have what I thought we changed but I haven't received or I did not bring -- let me rephrase that, because I don't see it here -- I did not bring with me any updated from our previous discussions.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. I think the only thing that we had that was still up for

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discussion was -- was it variances or was it appeals?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I don't believe that the appeals were addressed. I mean we were trying to change the appeals.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. I think that that makes sense. The conditional use request we did vote to reduce from $850 to $400. Variances, we voted to reduce from $750 to $250 plus $50.
And the one was the sticking point was the appeals to Mayor and Council. In other words, if you bring something to City Hall and they say no and you want to appeal it, currently you have to risk about $750 and hope that it goes your way. I've been trying to get that reduced for these last several meetings.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: (Inaudible.) This is what we discussed the last time.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. And we discussed -- again, I'll repeat that: $400 for businesses and $250 for residential. And I would like to go ahead and make those changes. I don't know how anyone else feels about this so far, but we keep delaying it and putting it off

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and putting it off and delaying it.
MAYOR JENKINS: We (inaudible).
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And I believe that we were waiting on some further information on how other municipalities handle the appeals, and I haven't seen any fees for appeals from other municipalities.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. And the ones that I have here, they don't specifically mention that, but I'm not sure that we're that different or whatever. But again, we've been waiting and waiting and waiting for all this additional information that doesn't seem to be forthcoming anytime soon. So I think we just need to move ahead and do this.
I would like to make a motion that we reduce --
MAYOR JENKINS: Wait just a minute.
Stuart?
MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.
MAYOR JENKINS: Let him speak before you make a motion.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's fine.
MR. ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.
In my notes, review fee was $200.

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You did vote on changing the Mayor and Council variance from $750 to $200. There was another one here I'm not sure of, but the thing I did want to stand up and say when I was the chairman of the Planning Commission, I worked with Betty Cloer and was aware at the time that we had a schedule of fees at that time, and it doesn't appear in this unless we changed from that to this at some time. We had a whole set schedule of fees at that time, so I was wondering if that shouldn't be used and referred to, Bob, as a working copy of what we might want to consider, that we had that at that time. And we did change that one from $750 to $200, I believe, because that's the notes I have on that meeting.

MAYOR JENKINS: Did we ever vote on it?

MR. ANDERSON: I believe so. I don't write them --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We voted on two of them.

MR. ANDERSON: I write them down as passed or not passed and I wrote that down as passed.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Again, we voted

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on two of them. We did reduce them. The only thing that was still outstanding was subsection (b), which is appeals to Mayor and Council as set forth in Section 1401. That was the only one that was still missing.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: You wanted to reduce it to what?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: From $750 to $250 for residents and $400 for business.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: These are my previous notes.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right; because I'm pretty sure we voted to pass the other two over the course of the meetings.

MAYOR JENKINS: What do you want a motion on?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Could I --

MAYOR JENKINS: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Mr. Haeberlin, do you have any comments on that or did you find out any additional information on that?

MR. HAEBERLIN: I've already spoken on the record on this several times to reflect that these petitions actually cost us $1200 minimum every time we process them; so thus, everything

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that has been reduced is a loss. It's an entitlement for those who do file those petitions who are actually paying for their applications to go before City Council. So I think I've already spoken on that at length, so the record does reflect my dissent on this discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: So the cost is what? $1200?

MR. HAEBERLIN: About $1200.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: And that's broken down?

MR. HAEBERLIN: That's very conservative and that's based on the ads, the signs, the cost of the staff, the attorney, et cetera, because I mean basically I know an hourly rate, I can tell what the staff costs. And we did do a very detailed cost analysis of this at the time we initially passed it at the City Council, and that was provided to the City Council.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Is it possible to --? I'm not sure that I feel comfortable about getting the other fees from some of the other cities that are like ours. Do you have that by chance?

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MR. HAEBERLIN: No, ma'am. And actually that would be irrelevant to the discussion because, again, the actual cost is $1200. And for every city that you can show with a lower fee, I can show a city with a higher fee. Where we had placed our fees actually was in the middle, a little, slightly more than 50 percent of the average for most of the communities in Georgia.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: My question to you, Mr. Haeberlin, if we reduce these fees to the $250 and the $400, would that cover the advertising costs and the signage?

MR. HAEBERLIN: It will cover the advertising cost and signage. That's it.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: It would cover.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Because staff is already being paid --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- and the attorney's already being paid.

MR. HAEBERLIN: That's correct. But

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the number of meetings we have every month are reflective of the amount of petitions, so you have to really think about that. These meetings do cost money. The court reporter would not be here if we were not having a meeting. It's a significant cost.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So what we're saying is we want to limit the number of meetings and limit the number of -- limit the opportunity for citizens to bring questions and appeals to the City Council to save money.

MR. HAEBERLIN: The validity of the appeals that we've received thus far, to be honest with you, they are frivolous appeals for the most part. We have an appeal coming forth this month that's actually an appeal of a decision of your City Attorney and not the City staff. So this will encourage frivolous appeals. Why not? For that cost, why not come up and appeal something?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, for $200, I mean, to me, I wouldn't shell out 200 bucks if I had a quote/unquote frivolous appeal.

MR. HAEBERLIN: I think you'd be surprised.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I'm looking forward to it because we don't find out -- we never find out the people that are turned down. We never know the people that are denied, because they look at it and they say, "I'm not going to risk $750." So the Council never finds out what's going on. If a variance is $200 --

MR. HAEBERLIN: Sir, that's why you have a Code of Ordinances and you have a City staff, to enforce that Code of Ordinance. And if you don't have the confidence in your City staff, quite frankly you need to replace them.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I won't argue with you on this, but I will say that I think that we need to open government. We need to make government open and available to the citizens and to do whatever we can to do that.

Obviously there's going to be a risk of frivolous appeals. That's always the case.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We are not a profit center here. We are a service center as far as I'm concerned. The job of the City Council and the City Hall is to serve the citizens, not try to make as much money as

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possible off of them, and we are --

MR. HAEBERLIN: With a 1.6 million dollar deficit, certainly we're not doing that, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: 1.6 million? I thought it was $500,000 according to the latest newsletter; but anyway, that's a whole 'nother story.

So again, I think that we need -- again, I've said it all. So we'll have to agree to disagree on that.

MR. HAEBERLIN: Absolutely, sir.

MAYOR JENKINS: Are you going to make any more . . .

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes, I am. I am going to make a motion that we change Subsection (b) for appeals to Mayor and Counsel as set forth in Section 1401, from $750 per occurrence to $250 for residents and $400 for business. And I believe we've already passed the other two.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I'm not sure how comfortable I am with that amount for the businesses. I'm not -- I'm okay with that with the residential.

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MAYOR JENKINS: Do I get a second on that?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I'm going to second that.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Discussion?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: No.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Motion carries 3 to 2.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Could you --? I apologize; I've forgotten.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Bill Linkous.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
Could you inform Attorney Weed to go ahead and make those three changes?
MR. LINKOUS: Yes, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Appreciate it. Thank you.
Do you have the ordinance and all that?
MR. LINKOUS: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Great. Thanks very much.
MAYOR JENKINS: You got the next item, Bob.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No. That's going to be on . . .
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I'm just -- yeah. My agenda was not -- I mean it was under his, but that was not what I was going to speak. So could you put it on the next agenda, please?
CLERK BLACKMON: Number 6?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: No. Number 4.
CLERK BLACKMON: Number 4? Okay.
MAYOR JENKINS: Number 5, Bob.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Building permit

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audits. As I've seen from the County and I've been hearing this from different places and different people, and correct me if I'm wrong, but the way the process works is whenever someone builds something in Doraville, a building permit should be issued and/or a -- and a certificate of occupancy, and when these building permits are issued and when these permits are issued, the County is informed or needs to be informed, and that triggers either the residential or the commercial building appraisers to go out and reappraise the property.
I have a member here from the Dekalb County Board of Tax Assessors where we had three properties that apparently the building permit or whatever never made it to the County. And what happens is in this case, well, they made it eventually but it took a lot of work and effort on the part of Charlene Feng to get that done. We're talking Peachtree Pavilion, which I think was 18 million dollars of value. Currently on the property appraisal, it shows as zero building value but we know that that was built -- that's 18 million dollars' worth of taxes

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that we don't collect.
Nobody likes paying taxes, even me, but what's worse is when people right down the street aren't paying their fair share, and the reason they're not paying their fair share is that City Hall is not providing this information in a timely manner as they're supposed to do to the County.
There is no excuse, because the beginning of the year -- you remember back in November, December -- we actually hired someone, a full-time permits clerk. Has no other job other than to process these permits.
So we got zoning issues, we have our properties being taxed incorrectly, we have our zoning doesn't match the County zoning. And this isn't a yesterday thing. This has been going on for quite some time and it hasn't been improved at all.
So what I'd like to do is to -- and again, that's 18 million dollars. I'm not sure exactly what that -- when you whittle it all down, how much our share of that is, but it's a significant dollar amount.
As someone mentioned earlier, we're

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planning on spending 1.65 million dollars more than we take in this year. That dollar amount would probably be less if we were collecting the taxes on what we were supposed to be collecting taxes on, so. And I have a couple more examples here, but I'm not going to belabor the point.
I'm bringing it to the Council and I'm requesting input on -- I think what we need to do frankly is to put together an RFP to have an outside organization of some sort come in and go back from day one on every parcel in town -- we don't have to do it all in one day, all in one month or whatever -- and then go through the process of reviewing all our permits, actually going out, looking at the property, finding out what's really there, entering it into a GIS system.
I think we definitely need a GIS -- what a GIS system is, basically it's a database of all the properties and what's there -- and then work with the County to make certain that if we discover there's a house here that's worth $300,000, that the County has the same information so that the County can go through and get everything straightened out.

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So I'd like to make a motion that we put together an RFP for an audit service to go through our building permits, our zoning and our taxes for the City of Doraville.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Permits, zoning and taxes?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. I think initially we would start with --

I'm sorry. Would you like to say something?

MS. INGERSOLL: Well, it might be economically -- I think it's a great initiative, but it might be economical if you were to work with the -- We do have the GIS system. We have many properties we can look at visually. So we have part of this in existence.

And if they could work with us to put this together, we might achieve some economies of scale.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Absolutely.

MS. INGERSOLL: So we like the direction, but I always like to save money across county and municipal lines if possible.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. And clearly we would need to spend some time on how

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we put together this RFP to make sure that we take into consideration all that, because the statement of work has to be fairly narrow. We don't want to spend more than we'll end up taking in.

Personally, I think that it would probably be cost-effective, anyway, before it's over with. And again, we'd have to work directly with the County to make sure that our records have made it over to the County and vice versa, for that matter.

MS. INGERSOLL: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I have some additional questions, ma'am, if you don't mind, or anyone else that represents the County.

The reason --

MS. INGERSOLL: I'll get help if I need it.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The reason I have the Galloway information is when we were given the -- when we were working on the budget and we were given the list of businesses, I went in and analyzed every address on our business license register, and somehow some of our businesses had gotten removed from our tax

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database and placed into Dunwoody, and that is not by anyone in this City's doing. And one of the personal property items that I located was over a million dollars from our tax base.

Now, I researched roughly a dozen properties and personal properties and I contacted Mrs. Stephenson, and she had the items corrected in 24 hours, but I don't know if we are going to get the benefit of those properties in this tax year or not.

But there are other items that happen over there on the tax base that are out of control of this City building, and I don't know how -- I understand with a city being created, there's new rules and regulations and probably maybe questions regarding maps and things of that nature.

But on some of them I found, the property was in the city as it should be. Three of the four tenants were in the city, but then the fourth tenant was stuck with Dunwoody. So that's one of the things that I had found in my research. And like I said, the ones I located have been corrected.

I also did some research on there are

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properties now that are in the unincorporated island of Dekalb County, and on some of those properties, the County is giving their money to Dunwoody even those properties are not in the city of Dunwoody.

MS. INGERSOLL: Well, that is something that I will certainly take back to the appropriate staff in personal property and commercial. That's very critical. We do run audits in personal property on a three-year cycle that seek to make sure that we have everything where it's supposed to be, where all the licenses and everything are there. But I will take that back and ask that all of that be looked at. We certainly want the municipalities to get what they're supposed to get.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And you don't want to give your money away when you --

MS. INGERSOLL: Absolutely not.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- shouldn't be, also.

MS. INGERSOLL: Absolutely not.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And like I said, Ms. Stephenson and some other staff have been more than helpful on that, and I asked her

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1 suggestions of how to stop this from happening
2 because I verified that we had issued business
3 licenses to these businesses but somehow the
4 personal property got moved or something like
5 that. So I believe that staff is going to take
6 some extra safeguards to make sure every time a
7 business license is issued, that the County is
8 also notified of that.
9 MS. INGERSOLL: I think we do need to
10 look at the interface and make sure that there's
11 sort of an electronic interface between your
12 issuing office and ours.
13 I think the less one has to repeat
14 something, the less you have possibility -- the
15 fewer possibilities for mistake. So ideally
16 when that's issued, a copy or an electronic
17 notice would go to our office. Clearly, we make
18 mistakes, however, even under all the best
19 conditions, because we're human, but one of the
20 things that would be great as we look at all of
21 this is if there could be an electronic notifi-
22 cation of us right when it happens, and that
23 would certainly ensure that there would be fewer
24 errors.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Now, would that

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1 be through like an e-mail or -- Would that do
2 it?
3 MS. INGERSOLL: That would be great.
4 Absolutely. That's the electronic notification
5 is wonderful, yeah. Sometimes they get erased.
6 But if at the same time it is recorded here, you
7 can notify us, that would be great.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The reason I ask
9 is it's not like we need a special computer
10 application or anything like that. It's --
11 MS. INGERSOLL: I wouldn't think so.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- just a simple
13 process to --
14 MS. INGERSOLL: If you copy people on
15 these things, put us down. That's all you need
16 to do.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We don't do a
18 whole lot of e-mail here, frankly.
19 MS. INGERSOLL: Oh. Okay.
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's a little
21 advanced.
22 MS. INGERSOLL: Oh. That's all right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Everything I'm
24 hearing speaks -- you know, seems to be in
25 support of doing something here. And again, the

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1 actual way we go about doing this, I'm not
2 saying we have to go out necessarily and hire a
3 big-four consulting firm at $250 an hour. It
4 could be as simple as hiring someone to --
5 I believe actually there were, you
6 know, some staff reductions at the county for
7 building permit people who would be very
8 familiar with this, and maybe it's just a matter
9 of hiring someone for six months that would come
10 through and basically go through all the records
11 and update, you know, work with the County
12 people and get this straightened out.
13 Because obviously what we're doing is
14 not working. It's not working at all. And one
15 of the reasons I have been advocating that we
16 hire a full-time building inspector and City
17 official is to make sure that these types of
18 things happen so that these things -- there's
19 someone here that's responsible for it. But
20 that's also a non-starter, so --
21 I didn't get a second on it yet, but
22 why don't we just say that. Why don't we just
23 make a motion to allocate $30,000 to hire
24 someone for six months on a temporary basis to
25 go through and do an audit of the building

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1 permits, the zoning, et cetera, et cetera, as we
2 mentioned.
3 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: You're not
4 sending out an RFP?
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I'm just
6 saying no more than $30,000.
7 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Who's going to
8 -- who's going to --
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Craft?
10 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: -- create the
11 RFP?
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I will be happy
13 to take it upon myself to craft a basic first
14 draft of the RFP which I will bring to the
15 Council for final adjustments and approval.
16 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I'd like to see
17 the RFP before I voted on it, though, see how
18 it's -- Can we just do the RFP, and then if
19 you're going to do the first part of that, I'd
20 rather see the RFP first.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I would like
22 to hear recommendations from our staff, and
23 possibly if staff could set up a meeting one-on-
24 one with Dekalb County and come back to us on
25 suggestions of how to streamline the processes

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and perfect them and open up the lines of communication, if we e-mail once a month or -- That's what I would like to encourage.

MAYOR JENKINS: I'll say we really can't afford another full-time person for even six months and I would also like for us to postpone this until we have a full Council.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: We don't necessarily postpone other items when we don't have a full Council, Mayor.

MAYOR JENKINS: We have, yes; yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, not a hundred percent of the time.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe the young lady from the --

MAYOR JENKINS: I just made a suggestion.

Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- County would like to speak.

MAYOR JENKINS: I apologize.

MS. INGERSOLL: We have two deputies who would be involved. We have the residential deputy here today; however, the deputy for personal property is Terry Raider (phonetic). I

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would invite you to call him with this issue and get his suggestions. And the other is Brian Hill, who's our commercial deputy. They would be eager to help out and to find a way and suggest ways to resolve this problem.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, I believe I --

MS. INGERSOLL: Makes their --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry.

MS. INGERSOLL: It makes their lives easier.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, because I believe I spoke to him and I believe I spoke to Mr. Ruffin (phonetic) also, and --

MS. INGERSOLL: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- you know, they're very frustrated, too. You know, it's like we can't do anything until we find out. You know, if that trigger doesn't come to us, then . . .

So again, you know, I was told the other day that someone's bragging about that they're only paying, you know, taxes on -- they have a brand new, big old house that's probably worth five or six hundred thousand, and they're

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making a big deal that they only pay as if it was worth 100/125 thousand, you know. No one likes paying taxes, but I think we should all be paying our fair share.

MS. INGERSOLL: I just do want to comment if I can. I always believe everybody should pay their fair share, and when someone doesn't, it makes the tax burden heavier on others. So it behooves all of us to get these problems solved. We all will feel lighter when the tax bill comes.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I like Ms. Alexander's idea about from this point forward, but that does not take care of the problem that we are presently in of, for instance, Ms. Alexander, the properties that you pointed out to the representative today from Dekalb County. So there is an audit I feel that's necessary, but I'm not comfortable with putting a dollar amount on that, for us to say six months.

I'm willing to have Dekalb County representatives come in and tell us what they have available to us just like we did with GMA.

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They came in and said, here's what we're able to do for you and we'll write you a contract and it's going to cost this amount of money, and that's what I'd like to see done rather than putting a dollar amount on the table right tonight. I'm not comfortable with that.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Would you --

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And one -- I'm sorry. One of the things, too, for example, on Clover Plaza, when I asked them about the property tax, there's two addresses, and there was one building and then the second one was built. Well, the second building is taxed on the other address. So sometimes when you look up an address and there's a building there and it doesn't show on the tax base, it's taxed on another parcel.

There's another parcel like that, the last parcel in the city on Buford Highway. I said, there is a building here, and when she researched it, that building is taxed on another parcel. So it's hard to do the audit. So I think the County could be --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I -- I ran --

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- extremely

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helpful.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- into a couple of those myself, and some of the ones that I was looking up for the City-initiated, for the public hearing for August the 24th as well. Therefore, we really do need to work on an audit of what we presently have in the city, so that's all I have to say.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I'm just concerned that, you know, if we -- currently, every time we ask for anything from staff, they say they're way too busy. So if they're way too busy for day-to-day operations, I don't think that there's going to be time to go back and audit and get everything straightened out, to start with. So I think we need to do something here, obviously.
I mean, again, we just keep coming up with more and more examples. Right over here on the Cafe 101, there's two buildings. According to this, there's one building. So that's $290,000 probably that we're not getting taxes on. You know, it's just everywhere. And until we start off with a clean slate and go through and start from someplace and just --

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Like I said, I think we would probably want to start with the commercial buildings because that's frankly where most of the money is, and then just work our way through, and it's not a process that would happen overnight.
So again, I'm open to suggestions. You know, we could bring someone in part-time, we could bring someone in temporarily. If you wanted to do the work or whatever, I mean the County (indicating). I'm pointing at the County; sorry.
MS. INGERSOLL: We want to do the work and help you as well, I mean.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
MS. INGERSOLL: I won't say that we're overstaffed over there sitting around --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand.
MS. INGERSOLL: -- waiting. But if we could work together to pull together sort of a team to look at this, we'd like to get it right, too.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand that, and again, the other people I talked to from the County told me exactly the same thing.
Well, I'm open for ideas, then. Anyone

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have a better idea than just hiring someone for, say, six months to work on this?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, let's ask the staff if they can do this and work with the County. They may not be able to do it as quickly as you would like, but they might be able to do it.
MS. EDWARDS: Well, currently, I would like, you know, at least if possible, the current, what you got current, you know, and then we can always go back. But if you can start giving us what you have current, that would help a lot. And then, you know, you don't have to send it to us once a week. It could be once a month, you know, and just collect everything you can collect and just start sending.
Like City of Chamblee sends us just an envelope with a copy of every permit, you know, that they've processed for the month or two months and they just send it in the mail. We take it and go through it and review it. So it's not something that has to be hard. Stone Mountain just sent me like five permits. That's all they had, and that's what they sent.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

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MS. EDWARDS: So it doesn't have to be anything drawn out and all that kind of stuff. But what we would appreciate is that we just get some type of response, you know, so that we will know. Because like I said, everybody -- you know, it's not like I drive to Doraville every day and can find that, you know, building or whatever or house that I'm not used to seeing before.
So sometimes, you know, just a little effort, you know, would help. And then as we go along, if we need to go back and start going back, I just -- you know, if we call, just, you know, be open to the idea that you might have to spend a day doing this.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I think it would be more than a day.
MS. EDWARDS: I'm just saying --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. I understand.
MS. EDWARDS: -- for that particular thing that we're looking for or wanting. Not necessarily Doraville, but some cities have, you know, not been receptive when we call and ask for certificate of occupancies. But you know,

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1 since you're the ones who issue them, you know,
2 sometimes we need to know. So because you know,
3 what it all boils down to is you guys are the
4 ones who are getting, you know, the most money
5 out of it, not the County.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Exactly.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Ms. Blackmon,
8 what is our procedure right now for sending
9 Dekalb County the certificate --
10 CLERK BLACKMON: I am not involved with
11 permits at all, so I do not do --
12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Certificate of
13 occupancies?
14 CLERK BLACKMON: I don't do any of that
15 anymore. That's --
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But is
17 Ms. Bryant not the person that handles it?
18 CLERK BLACKMON: No. Ruby Biggers
19 handles certificate of occupancies, permits for
20 buildings, residential, along with Scott and
21 John Calcaterra.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Mr. Haeberlin,
23 could you answer that question for me?
24 MR. HAEBERLIN: Sure, I'll be happy to.
25 I've been here approximately ten

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1 months. I have received no calls from the
2 County.
3 However, as Ms. Alexander is aware, I
4 have sent e-mails to the County, trying to
5 correct our parcel overlays. The County Tax
6 Assessor's web site, the zoning is completely
7 wrong. In fact there are zoning categories that
8 don't even exist in the city of Doraville, and I
9 have notified the County, trying to correct
10 those. I have inquired on the process of
11 correcting a lot of building activity in the
12 city that was done without permits for years,
13 and I notice this parcel specific when I get out
14 of the office.
15 So on a monthly basis since I've been
16 here, I will tell you that we would probably
17 have less than 80 building permits to send to
18 the County at this point in time. That just
19 represents the ten months. However, there has
20 been no contact from the County to me,
21 personally, as the person overseeing the
22 permitting function.
23 So in that respect, I'd be more than
24 happy to be responsible for the ten months I've
25 been here; however, I will tell you that in the

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1 past it was woefully mismanaged. There were
2 actually buildings built across parcel lines.
3 That's very common. So there will be three tax
4 I.D.s and multiple addresses for a shopping
5 center. That's not uncommon at all.
6 Again, there was not the effort taken
7 on the land platting aspect of developing
8 properties. In fact, the County accepted and
9 recorded plats that were not even approved by
10 the local jurisdiction, which is the city, and
11 then they showed up in the taxing overlay. So I
12 certainly agree that the taxing overlay is a
13 disaster, but it is a disaster that certainly
14 predates my involvement.
15 What can I do to help it? I can
16 certainly provide you what I have had access to
17 and overseen for the last ten months; however, I
18 will need the cooperation from the business
19 license clerk on those items, and Ms. Bryant
20 does not report to me. So I can certainly
21 provide assistance in what I find; however, like
22 I said, in the past, the e-mails were
23 unsuccessful in rectifying any situations.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Is there a
25 contact that Mr. Haeberlin can speak to directly

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1 at the County?
2 MS. EDWARDS: For zoning or for
3 mapping?
4 MS. INGERSOLL: Mapping?
5 MS. EDWARDS: Mapping is Denise Finley
6 (phonetic).
7 MS. INGERSOLL: Yes. That is separate
8 from the --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, I was going
10 to say.
11 MS. EDWARDS: That's a separate
12 department from ours.
13 MS. INGERSOLL: We would love to have
14 it within our department, but that is not to be.
15 MR. HAEBERLIN: So the County would
16 like all issued building permits and certificate
17 of occupancies, and that is what you're
18 requesting of the building division, which is
19 also co-managed by that of my partner, John
20 Calcaterra, who's the City building official --
21 I am just the assistant building official. But
22 I would certainly be happy to provide all
23 building permits the last ten months and also
24 certificate of occupancies to the County and I
25 could probably do that in the next 30 to 45

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days.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: What's his hourly rate?
MR. HAEBERLIN: Pardon me?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: What's Calcaterra's hourly rate?
MR. HAEBERLIN: I am not aware of that, sir. I don't have privy to that. That's a private contract with the Council.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. He's a contractor.
MR. HAEBERLIN: Uh-huh. And remember, Mr. Calcaterra's sole function in the city is he comes in and does plan review and inspections. He does not oversee the daily functions of any aspect of anything that occurs within City Hall. He does not report to me. He reports directly to the Mayor.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So moving forward, though, from this day forward, your policy will be for your department --
MR. HAEBERLIN: I'd like to do it on a monthly basis.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Monthly basis.

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Okay.
MR. HAEBERLIN: I think that's the easiest way.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
MR. HAEBERLIN: And if I need to hand-deliver these to receive receipt of them or copy the e-mails to the Council, whatever, I mean that is fine with me.
Like I said, in the past, I had not gotten receptivity. Ms. Alexander knows about this. I identified the shopping center behind Ms. Pittman's home that has been zoned for years multi-family, and it's developed as a shopping center. I notified the County of that; no response.
And so as I'm looking at parcels, I am trying to correct the situation; however, I will be honest with you, in bringing in an outside source, they would not have the wherewithal to understand the past situations. I, myself, rely heavily on Ms. Blackmon because she was here for an extended period of time and she's the only one with the historical value to tell me what occurred in the past. I just don't think outside sources is going to be any value to you.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, clearly, a lot of things did not occur in the past because a lot of these building permits -- I mean we're talking H Mart here, you know, and the County never found out about H Mart until -- And apparently it took several phone calls and at least three weeks for that information to get over there, and that was fairly recent. I believe that was this year.
MR. HAEBERLIN: Well, the H Mart was actually built when I got here. That's been more than 10 months, so --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But the building permit itself had never managed to get over there, had apparently not gotten to the County.
MR. HAEBERLIN: Again, you know, that goes back to the parcel overlay. There are all sorts of properties that have been illegally subdivided and recorded at the County that then show up on the taxing base and there are some very unique and different parcels. And in that particular situation, I will tell you, there's a parcel map that was never approved by the City, representing multiple parcels.
So it does go back to the management of

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the whole system. It's not just getting an end product. It is management of the whole system from the division of land from day one, and that has not occurred.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, you know, speaking to your other point, I was not on the City Council back when the H Mart was developed and built, so maybe I'm not responsible for what happened but I am responsible for fixing it, and I think all of us up here are responsible for fixing it.
MAYOR JENKINS: H Mart is not completed yet. You're talking about Peachtree Pavilion?
MR. HAEBERLIN: Peachtree Pavilion.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes. But what I'm getting at is that regardless, you know, we can point fingers and we can blame or whatever or we could simply go through, do an audit, find out exactly what's where and get the records corrected and make sure that from 10 months ago or from this day forward or whatever that we begin following the procedures that we need to follow to make sure the City gets -- keeps their records corrected, because if we're not going to do those two things, then, you know, we might as

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1 well forget about it.
2 So I mean do we want to use the same
3 people who created the problem to try to fix the
4 problem or do we want to bring in more people
5 from the outside who can look at it
6 independently, that don't have any dogs in the
7 fight? You know, what's the best way to
8 accomplish this?
9 MR. HAEBERLIN: Pardon me. The
10 creation of the problem. Who were you referring
11 to, sir? I just want some clarification on
12 that.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm not referring
14 to anyone in particular --
15 MR. HAEBERLIN: Okay. Thank you.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- because I know
17 you're --
18 MR. HAEBERLIN: Thank you very much.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Uh-huh.
20 CLERK BLACKMON: I have a question for
21 the County.
22 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.
23 CLERK BLACKMON: When we send a copy of
24 the permit, the valuation that we put on it is
25 what the contractors are giving us. Do you then

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1 -- how do you then get the correct? because
2 that's not going to be a correct figure.
3 MS. INGERSOLL: Right.
4 CLERK BLACKMON: Do you actually then
5 actually come and look and appraise --
6 MS. EDWARDS: Yes.
7 CLERK BLACKMON: -- the building?
8 Okay. I just wanted to make sure.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And that's
10 triggered by the building permit --
11 MS. EDWARDS: And it's triggered by the
12 building permit.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and it's
14 triggered by the certificate of occupancy,
15 et cetera, et cetera. And if you guys don't get
16 that from us, like you say, you're not just
17 going to ride around town looking for things to
18 reappraise.
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But moving
20 forward, we already know that Mr. Haeberlin is
21 going to do it on a monthly basis.
22 I am more concerned now about previous.
23 Are you able to work with Dekalb County, though
24 you have done it on a -- trying to do it on a
25 telephone call? But I agree with Mr. Roche. If

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1 we've got some severe problems about multiple
2 parcels in one parcel and so forth and so on
3 like you were commenting about, and the lack of
4 revenue that could be possibly 1.6, okay, that
5 we do need to do an audit of what's existing.
6 So are you able to work with Dekalb
7 County to set up some type of plan in which we
8 can accomplish this?
9 MR. HAEBERLIN: If the County can
10 provide me a tax digest in a written format, I
11 can go through the City zoning map, and I will
12 correct all the zoning category onto that tax
13 digest that they can then import and fix in
14 their system. That's the first thing I'd be
15 willing to do, because that's my specialty --
16 zoning, okay, and I think that would be a huge
17 leap forward. And then we'll fall back into the
18 past of what has occurred and look at the
19 buildings and the unpermitted activity,
20 et cetera.
21 Now, being aware that structures that
22 do not occupy, like a garage, don't get an
23 occupancy permit. They don't even get a certi-
24 ficate of completion because the City doesn't
25 have that on the books. That's one of the

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1 things that I wanted to propose that we
2 consider. We need to get a C.C. or a certi-
3 ficate of completion for things like garages and
4 storage buildings. So it is a misnomer to say
5 that those get a certificate of occupancy.
6 I'd like to start first with the zoning
7 because that seems to be the most contentious
8 item and the item that I have a pretty good
9 grasp on based on the zoning activity and that
10 of the approval of our map. I think that would
11 be an easy, quick fix immediately. And if I
12 would be provided the tax digest in a written
13 format, I could simply go through and correct
14 all the zonings on it.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Would that be
16 something that would be available,
17 Mr. Haeberlin?
18 MS. EDWARDS: We could probably get him
19 a copy of the tax digest for Doraville. We have
20 no control over zoning issues at all. The Tax
21 Assessor's office does not.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Would
23 you provide him with --
24 MS. EDWARDS: We'll try -- try to --
25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- the contact

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name and --
MS. EDWARDS: -- get that. Uh-huh.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- and so forth?
CLERK BLACKMON: I just picked up our current tax digest last week, so I will get it to you tomorrow.
MR. HAEBERLIN: Good.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That covers the zoning part, but the building permit is the part about the taxes and the assessments, and that's my main concern. Absolutely we need to fix the zoning. Absolutely there are a lot of things we need to fix. But one of the problems we have now is that our revenues are down and we need to find out what -- you know, people need to be taxed fairly. And that's triggered, if I understand correctly, unless there's something I'm missing here, by building permits and/or certificates of occupancy. It almost seems like we just need to go back five years and pull every single building permit, or three years.
MS. EDWARDS: Well, three years, because we can only go back and tax --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay.

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MS. EDWARDS: -- people three years.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Let's do this. I would be willing to table this until the next meeting and request a plan of action from the City Inspector as to what the steps are going to be to reconcile the problems with the zoning and also to reconcile the problems with the building permits and certificates of occupancy.
CLERK BLACKMON: You mean the City Planner?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Planner.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Sorry, the City Planner.
Would that be reasonable, Mr. Haeberlin?
MR. HAEBERLIN: I think we should involve as well the building official, and certainly because he has been here a lot longer than I have and he's got a lot more grasp on the building permits from the past than I would.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, if we're okay with spending his hourly rate to do that, I'm fine with that, too.
CLERK BLACKMON: He doesn't charge hourly.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How does he charge?
MAYOR JENKINS: Charge by the job.
CLERK BLACKMON: He charges by inspection unless it's a plan review.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. But this is not inspection or plan review.
CLERK BLACKMON: So he does not charge for daily work. He does not charge hourly.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Oh. So it's free. Wonderful. Free is good. So we can request a plan of action from him for getting our building permits and certificate of occupancy straightened out with the County for the last three years.
And so I'll table this until under old business for the next meeting.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Now, do we need some kind of a motion for this to happen?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Did people sign up to speak on this, Mayor?
MAYOR JENKINS: No, sir, nobody on this one.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I think that sounds like an excellent form of action with

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Mr. Haeberlin with the zoning with the tax digest that we presently have as well as going back for years on the building and occupancy permits.
MR. HAEBERLIN: If nothing else, I would think that properties that are shown as a residential zoning classification and they're developed as commercial, correct me if I'm wrong, are they still taxed as commercial? because I don't know. I mean I think that would make an increase certainly.
MS. EDWARDS: The County will tax them for what they are.
MR. HAEBERLIN: For what they are, okay, rather than what they're zoned. Okay.
Well, that would at least get corrected information because we do have people that rely on that database, and it's completely in error.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: All right. I will make a motion that request a plan of action from Mr. Calcaterra regarding pulling the last three years of building permits and certificates of occupancy and reconciling those with the County; a plan of action from our City Planner, Mr. Haeberlin, to reconcile zoning issues

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1 between the City and the County; and that we
2 table this item number 5, Building Permit
3 Audits, until the next meeting under old
4 business.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I'd like to
6 include Ms. Biggers in that.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sorry?
8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The permit
9 clerk, in those assignments.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's fine.
11 MAYOR JENKINS: Second?
12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
13 MAYOR JENKINS: Any more discussion?
14 Does everybody understand the motion?
15 Call the roll.
16 CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember
17 Alexander?
18 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
19 CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
21 CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?
22 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
23 CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
25 CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember

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1 Spangler?
2 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you.
4 MAYOR JENKINS: Pam?
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Agenda item
6 number 7 is the deletion of City Code 23-1,
7 Television and Satellite Reception Devices. We
8 had discussed this previously several months ago
9 and then Ms. Fraysse did bring it to our
10 attention again that that is the only item that
11 is showing on the Municode and it should not
12 appear in that but should appear in the Zoning
13 Code under Section 612, which I will not address
14 this evening because that's part of the Planning
15 Commission's that's coming up on August the
16 24th, I believe.
17 So tonight, Mayor, was there anyone
18 that was on the format to speak on this?
19 MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah, we got one.
20 You want him to go ahead?
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sorry?
22 MAYOR JENKINS: You want him to go
23 ahead now?
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I was going to
25 make the motion to delete.

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1 MAYOR JENKINS: Stuart?
2 MR. ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.
3 I was signed up for this item basically
4 on the zoning side of it. I've been against
5 that ordinance for some time. It had a 30-day
6 automatic approval. I don't like automatic
7 approvals. It had a 30-day automatic-approval
8 component to it, and so that at very least
9 should be addressed. I'm not sure about the
10 Municode portion, but the zoning part is not
11 good.
12 Thank you.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
14 MAYOR JENKINS: What do you want to
15 delete?
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If we had
17 previous discussions in regards to this item,
18 would that not constitute a first reading or do
19 -- So would I have to give date certain as to
20 when we discussed it? because it's been several
21 months ago, you know, I mean way back.
22 CLERK BLACKMON: No, you don't.
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'll just go
24 ahead and make a motion to waive the first
25 reading to delete -- for the City Code, delete

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1 City Code number 23-1, Television and Satellite
2 Receptions Devices, from our City Code.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
4 MAYOR JENKINS: What are you deleting?
5 Read what you're deleting, please.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: 23-1. One
7 second here. It says Section 23-1, Television
8 and Satellite, Television Reception Devices.
9 Mayor, it's this particular item that I
10 presented at the last meeting. Okay. And the
11 definition was, for purposes of this section,
12 the phrase "television reception device" means
13 any device designed or used for the reception of
14 television signals.
15 The reason why we cannot have
16 television or have this ordinance, number one,
17 is that it dictated that -- or we were trying to
18 dictate the fact that the antennas could not be
19 in the front yard. I'm talking about the disc,
20 disc-type antennas, in residential areas.
21 Though I agree with that type of
22 ordinance, we cannot maintain or go after
23 anybody in regards to that because of FCC. So I
24 am asking to delete Section 23-1 from our City
25 Code, and that's what this applies to.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So you're saying that's unenforceable?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sorry. Thank you. It is unenforceable.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: In the ordinance that Mr. Weed prepared, it says, whereas evidence was presented to the Mayor and Council from a concerned citizen that the City's existing Satellite Receiver ordinance may violate Federal Communication Commission regulations on over-the-air reception devices.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Correct.
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'd like to make a motion to delete Section 23-1 from the Doraville City Code of Ordinances, which is the Television and Satellite Television Reception Devices, that are unenforceable at this present time, and it will be notated in Section 612, being heard August the 24th in the Planning. I'm sorry. We're going to have it in Chapter 5 also, I believe, 5-280 through -285.
Is that not correct, Ms. Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Second.
MAYOR JENKINS: Any more discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Councilmember Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.

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CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.
MAYOR JENKINS: Item number 8.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Autumn Park project, Phase II. Essentially I'm asking for a status on that. I believe that we determined that Phase II and III could be if not all paid for out of Stormwater, mostly paid for out of Stormwater. I know the people that currently did the work so far, I believe they've been done for some time. I guess the project -- I'm not sure if it's stalled or what, but I just want to find out what's happening next.
MAYOR JENKINS: I'm not sure. I didn't talk to Ronald about it, but seems to me like it's ready to go and the money's already designated.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So we're going to put out new RFPs for Phase II and III?
MAYOR JENKINS: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think that's what we had agreed to do in the budget

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meeting is to put out new RFPs, and that's why you put it on the agenda.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
Well, I'd like to make a motion that we issue RFPs for Autumn Park Project Phase II and III if it's appropriate.
MAYOR JENKINS: And III?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Let's just do it --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I agree.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- for Phase II and worry about Phase III after Phase II is completed.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I will be happy to amend my motion to say I make a motion that we issue an RFP for the Autumn Park Project Phase II.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Second.
MAYOR JENKINS: Any more discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

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COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. We're going to take a five-minute break.

- - -

(Brief recess)

- - -

MAYOR JENKINS: Meeting come to order. Bob Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Memorandum of Understanding. I frankly don't think that the City is well served with this; however, I am going to go ahead and take it off the agenda for now. I'll bring it back later.
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.
CLERK BLACKMON: Do you want it on the next agenda or just wait until you send me an

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e-mail on it?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'll wait and add it back later, probably about in a month or so.
MAYOR JENKINS: In other words, don't put it in for the next one.
CLERK BLACKMON: That's what I was --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, frankly the problem is, you know, essentially what you have to do is to write a letter to the Mayor if there is a concern about employee performance. But unfortunately because we have this other thing called client-attorney privilege, everything that has to do with that is under client-attorney privilege so I can't bring it up, so it's like, you know, a catch 22. So I'm going to try to work my way around that somehow, I guess.
That's all I had on that for now, Mayor.
MAYOR JENKINS: All right. Go to the next one.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The next one is an interesting e-mail that we received. Sorry. This is a written memo dated July 14th from Mayor Jenkins to the Council. The title of the

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memo is False Statements Made by Mr. Tom Hart.
Now, did you want to say anything before I read this, Mayor?
MAYOR JENKINS: All I'm going to say to you is read number 153 before you get into that.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: 153? What's 153?
MAYOR JENKINS: Yes, sir.
I'll give you a copy of it.
And the reason I sent that out was the business owner also asked me what was going on because he did not ask for an ice cream shop or a hot dog stand and he was very upset about it.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. Well, that's -- but that's not what you're saying.
I'll go ahead and put -- I want to read this memo into the record.
MAYOR JENKINS: Very good.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: (Reading) During the citizen comments portions of the July 6, 2009, Council meeting, Mr. Hart made a statement that he on behalf of the owner of Angler's Corner requested a permit for an ice cream shop and hot dog stand. Mr. Hart claims that this permit request was refused; however, there is absolutely no evidence to substantiate

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Mr. Hart's recorded claims. I am attaching a letter from Mr. Bob Shaw -- and it's misspelled. It's S-h-a-h -- owner of Angler's Corner, saying he never asked for any such thing.
I looked at the transcript for that particular time. There's nothing in this transcript anywhere that says that Mr. Hart says that he requested a permit. He talked about maybe -- you know, that he had talked to the landowner about various things.
But nowhere in here does it say that he requested a permit. Nowhere in here does it say that he was denied a permit.
Now, this brings up a couple of things. First of all, I mean we have a lot of issues going on in the city but we have a mayor that does nothing but -- or seems to be able to find time to review all this stuff or whatever, and --
MAYOR JENKINS: Let me --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- I think it's a poor -- I think it's a poor use of the City's --
MAYOR JENKINS: I did this --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- money.
MAYOR JENKINS: You are always asking

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me to let the Council know what's going on. When this man sent me the letter, I didn't even think about this until I went back and read it.

I heard what Mr. Hart said and you did too. He said it right there.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Where does it say here, Mayor --

MAYOR JENKINS: You better read it, then. In 153. You said 154, Bob, and you did not read --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: He wanted to put --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: A little ice cream -- Where does it say that he requested a permit and was denied a permit? Where did he say that?

MAYOR JENKINS: It says it right there.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Where does he say that? Read that to me, Mayor.

MAYOR JENKINS: He said that all the business owner wanted was a little ice cream shop and hot dog stand, and he more or less said that we did not do it.

And why did you -- did you read the letter from the business owner?

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I did. And you're saying that this business owner out of the blue just decided one day to write you this letter?

MAYOR JENKINS: I don't know how -- whether he heard or somebody called him or what. I had nothing to do with it.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Someone must have called him, Mayor. I don't think he would have just --

MAYOR JENKINS: Well, it wasn't me. Was it you?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It certainly wasn't me. I don't get involved in people's private business.

MAYOR JENKINS: He said he did not ask Mr. Hart for an ice cream shop or a hot dog stand.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And here --

MAYOR JENKINS: And he says it right there.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And it also says that Mr. Hart -- you're accusing -- What you're saying is that Mr. Hart requested a permit for an ice cream shop and hot dog stand and that

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this permit request was refused.

MAYOR JENKINS: Well, that's --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And that is not anywhere in this.

So first of all, you're using the City's time and money to basically politically attack somebody. Second of all, the attack itself is false.

And frankly, I think that you owe the citizens of Doraville an apology for wasting the City's time and using your office to go out and attack people; and secondly, I think that, you know, you owe probably Mr. Hart an apology for writing this because it's not true. It is not true.

MAYOR JENKINS: Mr. Hart said it at that microphone and it's in print.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, it's not in print, Mayor. That's the whole point.

MAYOR JENKINS: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We can go back and forth about this all day long. I don't know if anyone signed up to speak on this, Mayor, but, you know --

MAYOR JENKINS: No, they didn't.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- I'm pretty unhappy about this. It's --

MAYOR JENKINS: Well, I mean that's entirely up to you. I am the mayor of this city. I have a duty to let you know what's going on, and that's what I did. And I let every other Council member know what's going on, and you're the only one that commented. You are the only one that disagreed.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Does this mean that every citizen now that comes up and makes a comment during citizen comments can expect to have everything they say fully investigated --

MAYOR JENKINS: Only things --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and

MAYOR JENKINS: -- that are not true.

This Council will go along with me on this one.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I don't know, Mayor. I'm embarrassed, frankly.

MAYOR JENKINS: Well, I'm not. I'm embarrassed --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm embarrassed to be --

MAYOR JENKINS: I'm embarrassed for --

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- sitting up here.
MAYOR JENKINS: -- the people that stood up there and said this, yes, and some other people that stood up the same day. I'm very embarrassed about it.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Why didn't you investigate them, too, Mayor? Are we going to investigate everybody?
MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah, if they were saying things that was not true, you might say.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, neither --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So this --
MAYOR JENKINS: What else do you want on that one, Bob?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I have a question. So this was investigated, so therefore, someone did go to this gentleman and ask for a letter?
MAYOR JENKINS: I don't know where the letter -- He hand-delivered that letter. I didn't do anything until he hand-delivered the letter. I just let what Mr. Hart said go. I didn't even pay any attention to it till the letter was delivered to me.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So we have --
MAYOR JENKINS: I do have a right as the mayor of the City to do a few things during working hours.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You don't have the right to use it to attack citizens, Mayor.
MAYOR JENKINS: I'm not attacking the man. He -- he deserved that attack for what he said.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The attack that you didn't make? He deserved the attack you didn't . . .
We'll make copies. This is I believe on the Internet. Anyone who wants to read it can read it for themselves.
MAYOR JENKINS: Put it on there.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: There is no --
MAYOR JENKINS: Give them a copy of all four pages if you care to.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean it's bad enough we have people that go on the Internet and publish things that aren't true all the time, and now we got it coming from the Mayor's office.
MAYOR JENKINS: I never put anything on

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the Internet. You won't see anything on there.
Bob, you're just -- you're just plain negative. And I'm going to say this. You're negative, and everything you've brought up tonight is negative.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Absolutely, Mayor.
MAYOR JENKINS: I don't know why that is, because I still am the Mayor. You're not the Mayor yet. You may be.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Don't want to be the Mayor --
MAYOR JENKINS: Oh --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- believe me.
MAYOR JENKINS: -- well, that's a joke.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How is that a joke, Mayor?
MAYOR JENKINS: That's a big joke, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How is that a joke?
MAYOR JENKINS: Have you got any more on this item?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I've got it into the record, Mayor.
MAYOR JENKINS: Good.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why don't we get on with City business?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absolutely.
MAYOR JENKINS: I think everybody here would agree with me.
And it can be put on any record you want to. I got nothing to hide.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Uh-huh. I'm done.
MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.
Luke?
MR. HOWE: You've had my report for a month. It's been made available to the public. I'll answer any questions if you have them.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The item, for those of you, is Passport Acceptance Service.
MAYOR JENKINS: The passport service.
MR. HOWE: I can sum it up. I am recommending to the Council that we offer a passport acceptance service. This is done in communities across the country. It has not been done in Georgia yet.
It would do three things: It would enhance our level of service, it would create an

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1 alternative source of revenue and it would
2 attract visitors to our town center. And that's
3 going to be big as we develop in the next year,
4 10 years or so.
5 Last year, our post office made $90,000
6 in passport acceptance fees. I got my passport
7 downtown in Atlanta after I got an appointment
8 at this one, and waited in line for 30 minutes.
9 So I do think this would be a good way
10 to create an additional stream of revenue and
11 enhance our services at the same time.
12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Who are you --
13 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: What costs do
14 you --
15 MR. HOWE: It would cost us nothing.
16 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So we can use
17 the present staff --
18 MR. HOWE: Yes.
19 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- to do this?
20 MR. HOWE: Yes, sir.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Who are you
22 proposing, though, to do it?
23 MR. HOWE: Myself and Ms. Biggers will
24 attend the seminar and we will be certified by
25 the State Department to carry this out.

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1 MAYOR JENKINS: Did you talk to
2 Ms. Biggers about it?
3 MR. HOWE: She volunteered.
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So the location
5 would be here at City Hall?
6 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: What type of
8 equipment are we going to need?
9 MR. HOWE: The Department of State
10 provides us with everything we need.
11 MS. FENG: Are you going to take
12 pictures?
13 MR. HOWE: We would not take pictures,
14 and I am recommending that we -- Most post
15 offices offer a photo service. Not all but
16 most. They charge $15. Some cities charge $10,
17 anywhere from $10 to $16 for photos. But it
18 costs about $2500 to purchase the camera
19 equipment and the lighting, and I'm recommending
20 that we phase that in after we create enough
21 revenue to purchase that stuff.
22 MS. FENG: Yeah. So that (inaudible).
23 MR. HOWE: And we do not have a photo-
24 taking service. We do not have a business that
25 does that in the city, so we would not be

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1 hurting any business.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: CVS has them for
3 $7.99.
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And Walgreen's
5 does too.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Walgreen's has
7 that also.
8 MR. HOWE: Neither one of those are --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: $7.99.
10 MR. HOWE: -- in the city limits.
11 MAYOR JENKINS: How much would we
12 charge?
13 MR. HOWE: I would say eight bucks.
14 That's what Walgreen's charges. I think that's
15 fair.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: This particular
17 presentation that you've given us indicates that
18 the clerks -- there are 115 clerks of court in
19 Georgia that are doing it.
20 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sure that
22 there is some form of I.D. processing that has
23 to go along to get a passport permit.
24 MR. HOWE: Absolutely. There is a
25 level of responsibility, and I've outlined what

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1 is involved. And that's basically the main
2 responsibility of the acceptor is to make sure
3 that the identification that is presented
4 matches up with all their personal information.
5 So responsibility is a big deal, and the persons
6 that would be responsible for issuing passports
7 would be vetted by the Department of State.
8 MS. FENG: Is it (inaudible)?
9 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. I can't hear
10 you.
11 MR. HOWE: I'll read the degree of
12 responsibility. Acceptance facilities should
13 mail applications to the passport agency within
14 a day of receipt. Acceptance facilities receive
15 the official citizenship evidence for patrons.
16 So safeguarding those documents until they are
17 mailed is paramount. An agent's key function is
18 verifying a patron's identity and cross-checking
19 citizenship evidence with the information
20 documented on the application. Programs that do
21 not offer photo must verify the authenticity of
22 the photo presented.
23 About half the cities that I contacted
24 did not offer photo. They just required patrons
25 to bring in a 2 x 2 photo. And that's what we

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1 would do to begin with, and we would be
2 responsible for making sure that that photo
3 matched up to the person who was there applying
4 for the passport.
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If this is
6 something that the City wants to do, I would be
7 more comfortable with it being handled through
8 our court system rather than here in City Hall,
9 primarily because they do have the accessibility
10 to whatever the I.D. purposes is and that -- you
11 know, as far as that is concerned. But also I
12 believe they have a translation service there on
13 site, and that would be needed with our multi-
14 cultural, you know, international people that
15 would be coming in for a passport. I really
16 feel that we should have some type of
17 translation service available to them as far as
18 filling out their application.
19 So I would be more comfortable if we
20 entertain doing this, having it at the clerk's
21 office -- I mean the court clerk's office rather
22 than here at City Hall.
23 MR. HOWE: And any public institution
24 can apply. The cities that I researched, it
25 varies from city to city who actually handles

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1 it. Sometimes it's the police, sometimes it's
2 the court, sometimes it's the library system and
3 sometimes it's the clerk, the city clerk. But
4 it really doesn't matter who actually manages
5 the program.
6 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Can we check
7 with the clerk of the court and see what it
8 would entail, whether they could do this or
9 whether they would want to do it?
10 MR. HOWE: Sure. Well, the
11 applications are in English so --
12 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I'm just
13 saying from --
14 MR. HOWE: And we have a Spanish
15 speaker here at City Hall.
16 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- from the
17 staff standpoint, I agree with what Ms. Fleming
18 said, because, you know, you're not only going
19 to have Spanish-speaking people. You're going
20 to have the Vietnamese, you're going to have the
21 Koreans and the Chinese and all. So if we have
22 the translation services at the courts, that
23 would probably be the best place to do this if
24 we were going to do it.
25 MAYOR JENKINS: If we have to furnish

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1 translation people, could we do it?
2 MR. HOWE: We do not. We do not have
3 to furnish a translator.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: The Post Office
5 does not do that.
6 MAYOR JENKINS: No, they don't. And
7 the courts, they use translation people on the
8 phone as well as local, and we have to pay for
9 each and every one.
10 MR. HOWE: Just for the public, the
11 only entities that do this in the state of
12 Georgia are clerks of superior court. Some
13 probate court clerks do it. A few magistrate.
14 They account for 115 of the facilities. 111 are
15 accounted for by the U.S. Postal Service. And
16 one clerk, county clerk in Pierce County handles
17 it.
18 Yes, ma'am.
19 MS. CRAWFORD: Maybe I'm misunder-
20 standing something, but aren't these passports
21 for citizens to leave the United States?
22 MR. HOWE: That's right.
23 MS. CRAWFORD: So why would we need a
24 translator?
25 MR. HOWE: We wouldn't.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And those that
2 had to be renewed that are foreign-speaking?
3 MS. CRAWFORD: Well, they do things
4 different.
5 MR. HOWE: It's a U.S. passport.
6 Yes, ma'am.
7 MS. FENG: I prefer that City Hall will
8 be better because usually like us, Asian people
9 that renew the passport, they go to the Post
10 Office. They got no problem for the language
11 barrier. But we're a little bit concerned, go
12 to the court to get this kind of stuff. I think
13 City Hall would be more -- they have a great
14 opportunity to let City Hall to provide service.
15 That's my idea.
16 MR. HOWE: And with the slow --
17 MS. FENG: And no problem for the
18 language, I don't think.
19 MR. HOWE: No, ma'am.
20 With the slow trickle of building
21 permits, it makes sense for Ruby, and she's more
22 than qualified to do this.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: The courts
24 don't have translators 24/7, anyway. They're
25 just there during court.

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MAYOR JENKINS: You'd have to call them in. Be too expensive.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: When the information is mailed to, I guess, the processing center either in New Orleans or Miami, do we have to pay that postage?
MR. HOWE: We do. That's the only cost we incur. We collect a $25 acceptance fee and we pay for the postage, and the Department of State recommends that we put those applications in the mail that same day.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So when someone pays -- because when I got mine at the Post Office, I had the $70 fee or whatever. So we're going to keep the $25 of the entire fee.
MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am. It's a universal $25 fee goes to the acceptor; $75 goes to the State Department.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So if they bring a money order made out for the entire amount, then how does the City --
MR. HOWE: They have to make separate payments.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So that's going to be another step that they have to do.

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They have to have separate payments, one for us and one for the State Department.
MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: At the Post Office, you only have to have one payment.
MR. HOWE: Well, we -- I'm sure that -- You know, I can find out that information.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: If you would check into --
MR. HOWE: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- that because that would -- we don't want to offer service but then they have to go do an additional step that they wouldn't have to do at the Post Office.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Do you remember how long it took you to get your passport at the Post Office?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: You mean as far as standing in line? It wasn't 30 minutes. It wasn't 30 minutes, so it was a short period of time.
MAYOR JENKINS: Do you want . . .
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm just trying to understand what problem we're trying to solve

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here. I admire your initiative, but I mean you can go just down the street to the Post Office and do all this.
MR. HOWE: Well --
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bring in revenue.
CLERK BLACKMON: Bring in money.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what he's telling us.
MR. HOWE: And it would give us news attention. I've already had some reporters talk about it and I did not want to do a story on it until this came before the Council.
But we would be the first in the state to do this, and we need -- we need to create a culture of firsts for Doraville. We were the first in the state to effectuate a LEED ordinance.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
MR. HOWE: And I think that set the tone, and we should continue to be innovative in our thinking.
MS. FENG: Do we have to pay a City employee full-time?
MR. HOWE: No, ma'am. In every city I

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researched, every person that handled this was cross-trained. Only in Chicago did people come to work every day and just simply handle passports.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: So maybe find out more information and let us know?
MR. HOWE: Okay.
CLERK BLACKMON: Mayor, it's 9 o'clock.
MAYOR JENKINS: Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.
CLERK BLACKMON: Just reminding you.
MAYOR JENKINS: Oh, okay.
What do you want? Somebody to make a motion or how do you want to do that?
MR. HOWE: Well, I was recommending that we just do a pilot program.
I think I can pretty much answer Ms. Alexander's question. We could take a whole check for $100 but we would turn around and pay the State Department that $75. So it could be done to make it more convenient for the patron.
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. How do we want to do it, Council?
MR. HOWE: Before we do anything, we have to ask the State Department if we can become a facility.

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1 MAYOR JENKINS: Well, do you want to --
2 MR. HOWE: That's the first step.
3 MAYOR JENKINS: -- do that before we
4 make a motion?
5 MR. HOWE: Well, that's -- if that's
6 what the Council wants.
7 MAYOR JENKINS: Do we need a motion
8 before we go to the State Department?
9 MR. LINKOUS: I would think so, yes.
10 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Are credit
11 cards accepted?
12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, they
13 aren't at the Post Office.
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sorry?
15 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: They're not
16 at the Post Office. It's cash.
17 MR. HOWE: And again, the State
18 Department sets the rules for these things.
19 MAYOR JENKINS: They will accept a
20 money order.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think they
22 did. I think I actually just paid them cash.
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: My comment is I
24 don't think that City Hall is big enough to
25 accommodate this. As many as you mentioned that

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1 Doraville had, Doraville Post Office had, 3,538
2 applications, though we would not obviously have
3 that many, but let's just say that we have
4 twenty --
5 MR. HOWE: If we had half that many, it
6 would be good for the city. If we had three a
7 month, it would be more income than we had
8 before we did it. And I don't think there's any
9 question that we can handle it here at City
10 Hall.
11 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Okay. Say,
12 for instance, if we did have 3500 people --
13 MR. HOWE: Right.
14 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- you
15 wouldn't have to have any additional staff? You
16 and Ms. Biggers would be able to handle this?
17 MR. HOWE: Well, the more -- the more
18 successful the program is, that may merit
19 additional staff, and let's hope that it does
20 because we need additional staff at City Hall.
21 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: But you --
22 MAYOR JENKINS: Audience, please.
23 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: You said that
24 we wouldn't need any additional staff.
25 MR. HOWE: Not at first, no, sir.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Up to what
2 point? Up to what point would we need
3 additional staff?
4 MAYOR JENKINS: That would be hard
5 to --
6 MR. HOWE: The Post Office has two
7 people that work down there, and they brought in
8 3500, over 3500 passports.
9 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So you could
10 do up to maybe 1800?
11 MR. HOWE: We could do thirty-five/
12 thirty-eight.
13 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: With just you
14 and Ms. Biggers.
15 MR. HOWE: Yes, sir.
16 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Okay. So even
17 if we were to do as much as the Post Office has
18 done, we wouldn't need to hire additional staff.
19 MR. HOWE: Not at this time.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Let's move on.
21 Do we want to make a motion to go ahead with
22 this, study it, or what do we want to do?
23 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Do we need a
24 motion to have you check with the State?
25 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am. This would just

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1 allow me to apply to the State Department to
2 become an acceptance facility. And according to
3 their criteria, any public institution can
4 apply.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I guess I am
6 concerned, still, that as we saw earlier, we
7 have problems getting building permits to where
8 they need to go and all that sort of thing. It
9 seems like we should resolve that first before
10 we take on anything else.
11 MR. HOWE: Well, that's not necessarily
12 fair to Ms. Biggers because I think a lot of
13 that mismanagement was handled under the
14 auspices of our former building official.
15 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Well, we can
16 put a nega- --
17 MR. HOWE: Ms. Biggers has 16 --
18 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: We can put a --
19 MR. HOWE: -- years of experience.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: -- negative
21 light on everything that goes on in the city if
22 we chose to but I think we need to try to do
23 something positive and let's try to move
24 forward. And I have no problem with at least
25 trying it as a program.

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So I'm going to make a motion that we go ahead and at least find out from the State -- do the application and find out and do it as a pilot program just to see. At least it would be additional income coming into the City, which we --

MR. HOWE: And it's an added service --

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Absolutely.

MR. HOWE: -- and it attracts people to our town center.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Do I get a second?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.

MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: More discussion.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I think as far as additional revenue is concerned, I think that it's going to be a good program; however, I am very concerned with Ms. Biggers and adding additional workload on her or for Mr. Howe for that matter, but for Ms. Biggers, because that little area right there is so cramped, and we're

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moving forward with a development department, and I can see very soon where she's not even going to be in that area and she'll be in a development department. So I'm real concerned about, you know, commenting that she's going to be the one that will be doing this. I am for the revenue but I'm real concerned about the position itself.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Did you say that she volunteered?

MR. HOWE: She volunteered; and had she not, I would have been the one that did it. But she's in optimum location and she's more accessible to the public.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, if we did half as many as the Post Office did, that would work out to about nine applications per day, so that's a little over one application per hour on top of whatever they do.

MR. HOWE: Yes, sir. It takes roughly 15 minutes to process an application, and that's based on the dozens of cities I called. And there's two library systems in the state of Georgia that do it: Athens-Clarke County and Vidalia/Toombs. They were contacted as well.

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Does not take long at all.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. I got a motion and a second. Anymore discussion?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Only if it doesn't incur more staff and more money.

THE REPORTER: How do I count that?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Count it as a yes, but I want that on record that there's not supposed to be any additional staff or money spent.

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MAYOR JENKINS: Motion carried.

Okay. It's time for us to adjourn from the regular meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Mayor, I'd like to make a motion to give 10 more minutes, extend the meeting by 10 more minutes to finish up. This'll be the first time we've been able to finish up the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Second.

MAYOR JENKINS: Is that the form of a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes, sir.

MAYOR JENKINS: Anymore discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: 9:45? Is that what we're going to?

MAYOR JENKINS: Do what?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Are we going to 9:45? Where are we going to?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Ten more minutes. Be 20 after, about 20 after.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Oh. I thought we ended at 9:30, anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: We do, but the citizens comments.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we have

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three people, and if that's five per person, that would be 15 minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, I think the Mayor's only giving three minutes per person.

MAYOR JENKINS: On citizens comments.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No. I'm talking about --

MAYOR JENKINS: He's talking about --

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Oh, the agenda.

MAYOR JENKINS: -- the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Items 12, 13 --

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I'm sorry.

MAYOR JENKINS: We've never done nothing in five minutes. How are you going to do it in five minutes?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I need to rephrase my motion. I would like to allow 15 minutes to finish the regular meeting.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Call the roll, please.

THE REPORTER: Did we get a second on that one?

CLERK BLACKMON: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I seconded it.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.

MAYOR JENKINS: Fifteen minutes. Okay. Number 12.

Come on up, Stuart. You got five minutes.

MR. ANDERSON: As usual, I guess I get to be brief. I'm Stuart Anderson.

I appreciate the City Council allowing me to make somewhat of an address about these two items at the budget hearing even though I wasn't able to make them at the last City Council meeting.

The first item is the RFP -- study, I

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should say, for the -- bathroom study for the Library. Since that, over the last month, I've mentioned this issue to a couple of different people -- engineers, friends of mine, people that know about running businesses.

We decided to spend five thousand, I guess, on a study to decide on resolution of the Library problem or library bathroom problem. Everybody I've talked to has been surprised that we didn't just do an RFP and let qualified builders, qualified construction persons do the study for us and we would have the study without the $5,000 study. We would have the cost of the repair or renovation, et cetera, et cetera.

It's been mentioned that the study was needed because we had structural differences. Well, that's what we're asking these people to RFP. If I write the RFP, I'm not as altruistic as Mr. Roche, I could write the RFP but I'll charge for it because I'm a professional consultant. Nonetheless, I could write that RFP, and those RFPs would come in, and wall moving or construction would be addressed.

MAYOR JENKINS: Stuart --

MR. ANDERSON: Yes.

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MAYOR JENKINS: -- we've done a little research on that, and that's the way the County does it. They do exactly what we voted to do. That's the way the County does it.

MR. ANDERSON: Fair enough. We've been talking about money, and whether the County does it that way or not, it's still a waste of $5,000.

MR. ANDERSON: The other issue is the Halpern Park RFP. Are we not going to let Ms. Stephens go ahead with the evaluation of the RFPs? Are we going to spend those moneys of 30 to 70 thousand dollars for those RFPs and then withdraw the money for the park?

It's been commented that we shouldn't make non -- non -- what is it I'm trying to say? -- particular moneys that aren't allocated. We're just going to throw -- $300,000 was my suggestion and other people's suggestions, at beginning the park renovation.

We spent, what? $800,000 or so on English Oak Park.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

MR. ANDERSON: How many thousands?

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MS. FRAYSSE: It was three hundred.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Three hundred.
MR. ANDERSON: $300,000.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: We've spent more than $300,000.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, not on the renovation, no.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: On --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: You spent money on --
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- everything.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- the park, the pipe replacement.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yeah.
MR. HART: That's the park. $800,000 plus $300,000 is a million plus.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: That's not the renovation. That was the pipe replacement.
MR. ANDERSON: Nonetheless, I appreciate that back-and-forth. That's all well and good.
The Halpern Park is considerably larger. It serves three full neighborhoods that the English Oak Park --

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I'm not picking on English Oak Park. I went to those meetings. It was a good thing we fixed it. It looks nice.
Park renovation is one of the ways that we can promote this city. Bill Brackbill has said to me that building that park, fixing that park enhances those neighborhoods. This is the neighborhood where we have building going on. We have fancy new houses building over there. This makes people want to move to the city and spend money here.
MAYOR JENKINS: We are going to do the parks.
MR. ANDERSON: Well, taking the money away from it makes me question whether we're going to waste the money on the RFPs. If we do the RFP and we don't act on those RFPs, those RFP moneys that we spend will be wasted.
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.
MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.
MAYOR JENKINS: Thomas Hart?
MR. HART: Thomas Hart.
Gosh, Stuart, you covered some of the stuff I was about to talk about.
I had a couple things happen this week

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that kind of changed this probably into a three-part series, but it's the government versus the private sector. And I think at the national level as well as the city of Doraville, the private sector and the government seem to be at war with each other over dwindling resources and tax dollars.
It seems that the City of Doraville has taken on the attitude that in the private sector there's supply and demand -- that's what determines the market price -- and in the government, the demand follows an endless supply of tax dollars, and if you run out of money, you just raise the taxes or the fees to pay for more government. It doesn't make for a situation that's efficient or viable.
We saw a little of that tonight with the tax dollars. The tax dollars, we just about had that handled because the City of Doraville and Dekalb County, for whatever reason it might be, basically haven't been doing -- getting the job done. Instead of repairing the problem, we studied it and we put it off. It's like this bathroom: We study things and we put it off and it costs more and we end up spending over a

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million dollars on a park because we can always raise those taxes or issue some more tickets or change some fines and fees so we can spend some more money.
And so the old rules of profit ratios, equity ratios that were said not to apply in 1929 -- during the Clinton administration, you know the old rules don't apply; you can have 80 radios -- and also during the current day, with the nationalization of a lot of industries, we have this need in government to not pay attention to the people that are handing the tax dollars over but more we're fighting over the same crumbs.
And this led me this week to look into a situation where two clerks from the City went downtown on your taxpayers' dollars, stayed in fine hotels, didn't bother to carpool, and spent close to a thousand dollars of your money that, Mayor, you and I other Council members went down and shared a ride.
I went downtown to the same classes in the same area, same hotel, and I took the MARTA train, didn't charge the City a dime.
But one of them took it upon themselves

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to spend over $500 because they had to stay at the Marriott. And these two clerks live within a half a mile of each other.

They could have carpooled, saved the City $800. They decided not to do that. They took a little vacation on your tax bucks. It was signed off by you, Ray Jenkins, the Mayor of the city of Doraville, and you don't have a problem with that.

And so no wonder we're $1,600,000 short here: because this is across the board. No matter what office you look at in the City, it's cost us more money this year than it has in the last two years. Across the board, we've added dollars because everybody's having a nice little hotel stay on the taxpayers' money.

Thank you.

MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you, Tom.

I'll only say one thing about that. I'll spend a one-night hotel fee rather than expose two ladies on the highways at night, and that's as simple as I'll say it.

MR. HART: Well, sir, one of the --

MAYOR JENKINS: Tom --

MR. HART: -- ladies drove back --

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MAYOR JENKINS: -- your time's up.

Ms. Crane?

MS. CRANE: This is a heads-up. On July the 11th, Saturday, at Kroger at 2:00, a man came up to me and showed me a thing of tea and asked me a question, would he need to buy sugar? And I said, "If you want it sweet."

My purse is strapped into the baby-cart seat at Kroger, and in that brief amount of time, I think -- I don't know who it was, but I imagine it was a woman with small hands, reached in, unzipped my purse and took my billfold.

I immediately was going to check out again. At 2:00, I realized it was gone, so I went home and started calling to get it stopped, and it was stopped that day. But in that short period of time they had been to a Lowe's in south Atlanta. They had bought a gift card for $400. They had made two purchases from a liquor store and they had charged several hundred dollars for tickets to an Orlando, Florida concert.

I've been fortunate. I got it all back except the liquor store stuff, but somebody's going to be out that $400, and I'm hoping Lowe's

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caught it. I went to everybody and told them and so forth. But I hope that they're having a good old time getting picked up drunk driving and they get down there and want their tickets, they aren't there and they don't have the money.

Thank you.

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

MAYOR JENKINS: Ms. Crane wanted everybody to know and look out for that. When you go to the store, if you're talking to anybody, be very careful because one will distract you and the other one will take something from you, and it's happened a lot of times.

MS. CRANE: I changed purses (indicating). Can't get a whole bunch in, but it's around my neck and under my arm.

MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you, Ms. Crane.

MS. CRANE: Thank you for your time. I hope it helps somebody.

- - -

(Brief, inaudible discussion at Council table.)

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- - -

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Police Department.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Police.

MAYOR JENKINS: I don't want to forget them.

CHIEF ATKINSON: We don't have anything.

MAYOR JENKINS: You don't have nothing to report. Have you heard from John?

CHIEF ATKINSON: Yes, sir, I have spoke to him.

MAYOR JENKINS: I heard that there was six killed over the weekend. Did you get any information on that?

CHIEF ATKINSON: I have not heard back from him. Well, he might have e-mailed me since now -- or since I left, but I have not heard back from him since this morning.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. But you don't have anything else to report?

CHIEF ATKINSON: No, sir.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.

MR. HOWE: Yes. I wanted to address the bathroom situation at the Library. I think

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it would be -- I think we should exhaust the grant process but I don't think the likelihood of obtaining a grant just to simply expand the bathrooms would happen. I think we should plan on expanding the Library big enough to where it can accommodate the Extension Service, their offices, because we got a $10,000 shack sitting on a million-dollar piece of real estate --

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Would there be any potential for --

MR. HOWE: -- and we can expand the bathrooms in the process.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Would there --

MR. HOWE: Sir?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- be a potential for a grant to renovate the Library to add that --

MR. HOWE: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- addition?

MR. HOWE: There are a lot of grant opportunities out there, and I would just ask that you give us six months to search for those, because if they're going to come open, they're going to come open now.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Can you do it

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in less than six months?

MR. HOWE: Well, grants just -- I mean they come open from week to week. I mean they don't come open all at the same time. So really, you know, there may be a grant come open in December. There may be one open up in November. And I think, you know, we should look at long-term, a long-term plan to move the gas tanks to the maintenance barn.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I think that's a definite issue, safety issue, for all those buildings, also for the Police Department. It's a hard in-and-out.

You've just about got to pull in and back out or back in and pull out? Is that correct, Mr. Atkinson?

CHIEF ATKINSON: (Nods head)

MR. HOWE: And it's sitting on valuable property, and that's the thing.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Thank you, Luke.

CHIEF ATKINSON: I do have one thing when we're speaking about grants. I just want to notify the Council and citizens that we were denied the COPS grant. I don't know if you heard about it in the newspaper. It was

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published last week, and we were denied.

The only agencies around us that I can remember, city of Atlanta was awarded 50 positions, Dekalb County was awarded 15; Forest Park, Valdosta, Hahira, Helen. That was the only ones that I can remember now.

CAPTAIN BROWN: It was spread out.

CHIEF ATKINSON: It was just spread out all over the state, but we were denied.

MAYOR JENKINS: We'll still be in the running on the next trip; right?

CHIEF ATKINSON: Sure. We can apply again. Just we were denied this year.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Did they give any kind of reason on that?

CHIEF ATKINSON: No, sir, they didn't give us any kind of reason for the denial. We're trying to look into that and see what criteria we didn't meet to see if it'll help in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Was this for funding of additional officers?

CHIEF ATKINSON: It was. We had asked for several more officers because right now we need those officers. We're five short now in

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the uniform division, so, you know, I don't want it to get lower, you know. So it kind of -- it kind of hurt us a little bit that we're not able to hire those. We didn't get awarded.

But we do have two that started the academy, that you approved for us to hire. So they started the academy but it's going to be a little while before they're up to speed.

MAYOR JENKINS: On the same subject of police officers, we've done some research in City Hall. We cannot find anything where we passed a no-hire policy, and I would like for somebody to -- Bob is a good researcher. So is Maria, so are you -- research it and see if we actually passed that or we just talked about it. We can't find where we passed a no-rehire policy.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No rehire?

MAYOR JENKINS: No-hire.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: A hiring freeze.

MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah, hiring freeze. That's right. We cannot find where we passed that.

CLERK BLACKMON: Yeah.

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1 MAYOR JENKINS: We need officers in the
2 Police Department but we need to make sure.
3 My understanding originally was that
4 you could hire new people but -- I mean you
5 could replace but not hire new positions.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If I'm not
7 mistaken, we would have to go back to the mid-
8 year review because I believe that's when we did
9 --
10 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. You're saying we
11 passed it?
12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The mid-year
13 review.
14 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
15 CLERK BLACKMON: I researched all the
16 way back to December. It was talked about
17 February 19th and February 3rd. There was never
18 a motion made for a hiring freeze.
19 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, I do
20 remember the Chief stood right up there and
21 agreed on the hiring freeze that we were
22 implementing.
23 CLERK BLACKMON: It was talked about
24 but there was never a motion made for a hiring
25 freeze.

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1 - - -
2 (Brief, inaudible discussion at Council
3 table.)
4 - - -
5 MAYOR JENKINS: Speak up.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We lifted it to
7 allow them to replace the two that they were
8 missing.
9 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: And Carol,
10 too.
11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But we didn't
12 do hers until we did the budget, the actual
13 passing of the budget. So we all -- whether you
14 think that it's there or not --
15 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: We did.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- we did,
17 because all of us are aware that we did.
18 CLERK BLACKMON: Well, Murray and I
19 went back through all the minutes back through
20 November and all the way to present and never
21 found a motion.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The --
23 CLERK BLACKMON: That's just my
24 findings.
25 MAYOR JENKINS: Pam, I'm just saying if

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1 anybody can find it, we'd like to see it.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I thought it was
3 during the mid-year budget review hearings, not
4 the regular meeting.
5 MAYOR JENKINS: We can check that.
6 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, if -- if
7 that's --
8 MAYOR JENKINS: Another reason I
9 brought it up was, how far down do we let our
10 Police Department get before we raise that and
11 hire some policemen? We're five down now.
12 You got two?
13 CHIEF ATKINSON: We have two. We have
14 two that started the academy. Now, we're going
15 to have to --
16 MAYOR JENKINS: Is that included in the
17 five?
18 CHIEF ATKINSON: Those are two of the
19 five.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. So you're three
21 short.
22 CHIEF ATKINSON: Those are two of the
23 five. But you have to see, we transferred those
24 employees from the jail --
25 MAYOR JENKINS: So you're two down in

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1 the jail.
2 CHIEF ATKINSON: -- to the uniform
3 division now.
4 Right. And we're going to rehire --
5 MAYOR JENKINS: You're still five
6 short.
7 CHIEF ATKINSON: -- back into the jail.
8 That was what we discussed; when this was
9 lifted, we said that we would probably hire from
10 the radio and the jail, which we did. We hired
11 two.
12 Well, I say we hired. We transferred
13 two from the jail to the uniform division and
14 now we need to hire those two back into the
15 jail.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If I remember
17 correctly, we requested an overall head count
18 for the Police Department and everything, and I
19 don't know if we ever got that, so --
20 CHIEF ATKINSON: The number of
21 employees?
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The overall head
23 count like from year to year like as of January
24 1st of '08 and then the mid-year of '08 and --
25 Because that was the thing: we never could seem

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to get -- and I'm not talking about you. I'm just saying, before, we couldn't seem to get a head count of how many people worked in the overall public safety departments --

CHIEF ATKINSON: Okay. I --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and what it had changed over time.

CHIEF ATKINSON: From January of 2008 to present, how many people we have?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CHIEF ATKINSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Because I think we asked for that back in '08, and then when we did the budget last year and then this year, so --

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Mayor, we've extended the meeting more than the 15 minutes.

MAYOR JENKINS: Well, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. It's not you, like I said.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But the budget presently right now does not reflect five additional patrolmen -- patrolmen that you need?

CHIEF ATKINSON: No, it's not additional. We already have those positions.

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MAYOR JENKINS: Those positions are --

CHIEF ATKINSON: We just don't --

MAYOR JENKINS: -- already there.

CHIEF ATKINSON: -- have anybody in them.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But does the budget reflect those five salaries?

CHIEF ATKINSON: My understanding, it does.

MAYOR JENKINS: Yes.

CHIEF ATKINSON: My understanding, that the only ones that it does not reflect is Chief and Daniel Nickles.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And Daniel's is in 911. Daniel Nickles is from 911. He's in the 911 department.

CHIEF ATKINSON: He's in 911, yes. I'm sorry. I couldn't -- Yes. Those are the only two that -- my understanding, those are the only two that were . . .

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm aware of two people that left, and we replaced those. You say there's three others that left also?

CHIEF ATKINSON: We had Officer Durham, Officer Espinoza, Lieutenant Mahar, Officer

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Farrell and --

CAPTAIN BROWN: George Sasser.

CHIEF ATKINSON: -- Officer Sasser.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I think what we need to do is go back and look at the meetings, the Chief's comments that he made --

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- during that time that he said that he agreed with the freeze, he said that we wouldn't need to replace anybody that left from that point on, due to the economy. So I mean --

CHIEF ATKINSON: I understand that, but how far are we going to go?

MAYOR JENKINS: In other words, how low do we get on police officers?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, how much more money do we want to take out of savings?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: It's already in the budget.

MAYOR JENKINS: It's already in the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, is it? I mean, you know --

MAYOR JENKINS: We can check on that.

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We need to move along. I just wanted to bring it up. Everybody think about it between now and next week. And if you can do some research on it, we'd appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you, Chief. That was news to me. I didn't realize we'd also lost three other people.

CHIEF ATKINSON: Well, one just resigned last week.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay.

CHIEF ATKINSON: His last day was like the 27th or something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Do we not have one that's retiring this month?

CHIEF ATKINSON: We do. And I'm not sure of the exact date yet. I believe Ms. Blackmon was working on that. I believe September is what we come up with now?

CLERK BLACKMON: We're shooting for September 1.

CHIEF ATKINSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Now, that -- I realize we've extended but this gets back to employee recognition. I mean he's been with the Police force with the City of Doraville for

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1 quite some time, needs to be recognized and --
2 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Actually if we
3 could please put that on the next agenda,
4 Rhonda, and I will get with the Mayor and we
5 will --
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Employee
7 recognition, Mayor. If he's retiring in the
8 next couple weeks, we definitely need to do some
9 type of recognition for him.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: And there's
11 others as well.
12 MAYOR JENKINS: The Police Department
13 usually does that, and we --
14 CLERK BLACKMON: Yes.
15 MAYOR JENKINS: -- combine with them.
16 CLERK BLACKMON: And he is very ill --
17 CHIEF ATKINSON: Yes.
18 CLERK BLACKMON: -- so he will not
19 probably be present for the remainder of his
20 time.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: But there's
22 others that --
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But is he part
24 of the five that you need to replace or he would
25 be a sixth?

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1 CHIEF ATKINSON: No, ma'am. He's in
2 the jail and he was approved to go -- to stay in
3 that position --
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Oh, correct.
5 CHIEF ATKINSON: -- until he retired.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, no, no.
7 But when you tell me that you need five, you
8 really do need -- because he's retiring, you now
9 need six.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I didn't think
11 they were replacement positions.
12 CAPTAIN BROWN: Not that position.
13 CHIEF ATKINSON: I don't think we --
14 yes. I think that position has already been --
15 that position has already been filled.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Thank
17 you.
18 MAYOR JENKINS: All right. We're going
19 to have 10 minutes citizens comment, but I do
20 want to ask our attorney, do you have any
21 comments?
22 MR. LINKOUS: No comments.
23 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Citizens
24 comments.
25 MS. CALVERT: Mayor --

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1 MAYOR JENKINS: Yes, ma'am.
2 MS. CALVERT: I'm curious to know one
3 thing. I'm Ginny Calvert. During the time that
4 Mr. Hart was on the Council, did he not attend
5 the meetings in Savannah?
6 MAYOR JENKINS: I can't -- I don't
7 know.
8 MS. CALVERT: Mr. Hart, did you not
9 attend the meetings in Savannah with the City
10 making all the payments?
11 MR. HART: (Inaudible)
12 MS. CALVERT: Okay.
13 THE REPORTER: I didn't hear an answer
14 and you're responding like you got one.
15 MS. CALVERT: He nodded his head yes.
16 Okay. I rest my case.
17 MR. HART: I get to respond.
18 MAYOR JENKINS: Anybody else?
19 Come on up, Ms. Crawford.
20 Tom's already spoke. I'll let him go
21 last.
22 MS. CRAWFORD: No, go ahead.
23 MAYOR JENKINS: Go ahead, Tom.
24 MR. HART: I'm kind of glad you brought
25 up that Savannah trip, because yes, we did go to

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1 the Savannah thing. And I also stayed in the
2 least expensive hotel at my request while the
3 rest of them stayed on the beach. Okay.
4 I went to every class and also attended
5 all the meetings during that time. The rest of
6 them only went to the class on Saturday. I was
7 there Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and
8 Wednesday and attended everything. That's the
9 reason why we met with people like GDOT to get a
10 traffic light down on the corner: because I
11 went to everything.
12 During that time, I worked and typed up
13 80 pages of a zoning ordinance while I was
14 sitting in my hotel room while everybody else
15 was eating lobster. So I'm glad you asked the
16 question. And I know what it is to be on the
17 City Council and actually working instead of
18 sitting on your butt, drawing a paycheck and
19 costing the taxpayers money.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you,
21 Mr. Hart.
22 MAYOR JENKINS: All right, Tom.
23 MR. HART: Now for my comment. On a
24 lighter note, the soap box derby thing with
25 Cameron Wescott, the thing that made it

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1 worthwhile was a little note that she sent me.
2 It was this little pencil-written note that was,
3 "Thanks, Tom, for helping with the race," as
4 eight-year-olds write. And this little note --
5 I showed it to a couple of people in the
6 audience -- that's what made the whole trip
7 worthwhile.
8 We had this -- this car was in the
9 Dunwoody parade. It's been in the soap box
10 derby races and the time trials, it's been on
11 display at car shows. And it's like when John
12 King -- you know, they gave us 500 bucks out of
13 asset forfeiture money to buy this car, and we
14 got it striped out at the striping place out
15 there on Buford Highway. It's probably the best
16 $500 worth of promo that the City's ever spent.
17 And we're proud of it and we're proud
18 of Cameron, who did no testing. The rest of
19 these people who went to Akron, Ohio, tested for
20 six weeks on this course to get everything just
21 perfect. She showed up the morning or the day
22 before the race for two hours and helped paint
23 the weights to go in the car and helped us to
24 assemble the thing, and we had exactly four
25 hours to get this car ready. And the first time

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1 she raced it was the first race she was in, and
2 we came in sixth. I mean it was an outstanding
3 job.
4 Thank you.
5 MAYOR JENKINS: On that note about you
6 going to all the meetings, if you went to all
7 the meetings, you were sitting there with me.
8 Ms. Crawford?
9 MS. CRAWFORD: Susan Crawford,
10 Oakcliff.
11 I agree with Mr. Roche and I commend
12 Maria on her research about the taxation, and I
13 just want to remind you that -- of course you're
14 more aware of this than I am, but there is cause
15 and effect. And if we were collecting taxes
16 properly, it sounds like we would have the money
17 to hire people to make sure that taxes are
18 collected properly.
19 And also, I don't know anything about
20 this passport business except that I need to
21 renew mine and it's going to be a hassle, so it
22 appealed to me. But there, too, if we're making
23 enough money and have enough business with this
24 to make it necessary to hire more personnel to
25 help with it, then it seems to me that that's a

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1 good thing. You know, if we didn't need more
2 personnel, it would be because we weren't making
3 much money on it.
4 Also something occurred to me. If this
5 isn't a big enough space, how about the Library,
6 maybe that back room or some portion of the
7 Library. It's a very large building.
8 And just one more thing about Oakcliff
9 park, and I think the parks -- I agree, parks
10 are an important part of the city and they
11 should be as presentable and pretty and usable
12 as possible. But I want to remind you that
13 Oakcliff, although maybe it did turn out to be
14 really a lot of money spent, and I don't know
15 what was all necessary to be spent, but really
16 we had an emergency situation there. It wasn't
17 just a beautification. It was a huge portion of
18 the park was a big hole just waiting for some
19 kid to fall into and a lawsuit for the city.
20 Thank you.
21 MR. ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.
22 More bathroom talk. My original
23 comment about the bathrooms also included the
24 RFP on the -- all our municipal buildings, it's
25 been brought to my attention more than once that

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1 numerous of our rental properties are in trouble
2 -- or not in trouble, but are in noncompliance
3 for ADA. An RFP could be written so that we
4 would find out for free the condition of those
5 bathrooms and actions required.
6 And I appreciate your comment to me,
7 Mayor, about what the City Council decided to
8 do, but my comment is to them, not to you. I'm
9 not picking on you. Just because Dekalb County
10 does something wrong doesn't mean we need to do
11 something wrong, okay, or poorly or however you
12 want to say that.
13 The other issue is RFP figures and
14 actions that we would get from these RFPs. The
15 figures and actions we would get from doing
16 these RFPs would give Mr. Howe information,
17 solid information, things that he could use in
18 looking for his grants. We would have
19 information. It would be content that he could
20 use at that point as well, as well as getting,
21 as I have mentioned before, the studies for
22 free. And I could write that RFP and we could
23 move that wall or do whatever we wanted to do.
24 MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.
25 MS. CRAWFORD: Could I say one last

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thing?
What I had originally wanted to say --
and I got mixed up because I didn't come up here
right away. What I wanted to say, as far as the
Police Department, the economy is bad, and so of
course our economy is not as good as it should
be. But because the economy is bad and as it
gets worse, crime is going to get much worse,
too, so I would just caution you, make cuts
where you have to but maybe not the Police
Department.
MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Motion to
adjourn.
MAYOR JENKINS: Second?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember
Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember
Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.
MAYOR JENKINS: Meeting adjourned.
- - -
(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at
approximately 9:45 p.m.)
-o0o-

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C E R T I F I C A T E
E OF GEORGIA]
TY OF DEKALB]
I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript
taken down, as stated in the caption, and the
eedings were reduced to typewriting under my
ction and control.
I further certify that the transcript is a true
correct record of the evidence given at the said
eedings.
I further certify that I am neither a relative
mployee or attorney or counsel to any of the
ies, nor financially or otherwise interested in
matter.
This the 13th day of August, 2009.

_____
Theresa Bretch, CCR
Permit No. B-755

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