In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

City Council Meeting

May 16, 2011

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF DORAVILLE

STATE OF GEORGIA

Transcript of the meeting held in the City Council Room at Doraville City Hall, 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia, Mayor Pro Tem Donna Pittman presiding, before Theresa Bretch, Certified Court Reporter, commencing at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2011.

* * *

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APPEARANCES:
Doraville City Council:
Mayor Pro Tem Donna Pittman
Councilmember Maria Alexander
Councilmember Brian Bates
Councilmember Karen Pachuta
Councilmember Bob Roche
Councilmember Pam Fleming
Melissa McCain, City Clerk
Cecil C. McLendon, City Attorney
Murray J. Weed, Esquire

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. Just a friendly reminder to please turn your cell phones off, and if you're speaking into the microphone, be sure to speak clearly and identify yourself to the court reporter.

We're very honored to have the Cross Keys High School Junior Navy ROTC with us. Thank you so much. And Chief, we're glad to have to have you here as well.

If we could all please stand for the Presentation of the Colors which will be followed by the Pledge; if you can remain standing until the Colors have left the room.

- - -

(Presentation of Colors)

- - -

(Pledge of Allegiance)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. You may be seated.

Okay. One more time again, we really want to tell them thank you so much. They did a wonderful job. We really appreciate them coming out.

And I'd like to present each of you a

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certificate of appreciation. Melissa Rector, Franky Guzman, Cindy Tucux and Moises Vincente (presenting).

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is proclamations and presentations to the various Asian-American associations.

I don't know if this microphone is working or not. Can y'all hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Today the City proudly celebrates Asian-American Heritage Month and the many contributions Asian-Americans have made to our city, state and nation.

Throughout our history, Asian-Americans have had a profound impact on the development of our nation, often in the face of tremendous racial and cultural prejudice. Despite these difficulties, Asian-American communities have persevered to build a better life for their children and all Americans.

Asian-Americans have their significant influence in all facets of American life, thriving as athletes, public servants, entrepreneurs, artists and skilled tradesmen. And whether as small business

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1 owners in our city's corridors or as proud members of
2 our public work force and armed forces, Asian-
3 Americans are helping to write the next chapter of the
4 city, state, and the nation's stories.
5 So with that said, I would like to present
6 proclamations to some very special guests that have
7 made up the Asian mosaic.
8 Executive Director Domoto of the Japan-
9 American Society.
10 - - -
11 (Applause)
12 - - -
13 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: President Michael
14 Park of the Korean-American Coalition.
15 - - -
16 (Applause)
17 - - -
18 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: President Yee of the
19 Malaysian Association of Georgia.
20 - - -
21 (Applause)
22 - - -
23 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Chairperson Wong and
24 President Laio from the National Association of
25 Chinese-Americans.

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1 - - -
2 (Applause)
3 - - -
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Director General Kao
5 of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.
6 - - -
7 (Applause)
8 - - -
9 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: President Sangmalee
10 of the Thai-American Association.
11 - - -
12 (Applause)
13 - - -
14 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And Present Dang of
15 the Vietnamese-American Community of Georgia.
16 - - -
17 (Applause)
18 - - -
19 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: We also have one
20 here for the Center for Pan-Asian Services.
21 If you want to get pictures real quick, we
22 could do that.
23 - - -
24 (Photo session)
25 - - -

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1 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.
2 Did anyone of you want to have anything to
3 say?
4 MS. KAO: I want to say something.
5 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Certainly.
6 Absolutely.
7 MS. KAO: Thank you very much, Mayor Pittman
8 and Councilmembers.
9 I'm Director General of Taipei Economic and
10 Cultural Office in Atlanta, the fact the Consul-
11 General from Taiwan station in Atlanta. So it's --
12 THE REPORTER: Can I get your name?
13 MS. KAO: Anna A. Kao, (spelling) K-a-o.
14 Thank you.
15 So it's an honor and great pleasure for me
16 to be here and receive the proclamation.
17 I think our Taiwanese-American community
18 just like every other Asian community is striving and
19 continues to make strives in emerging business,
20 industry and promoting understanding among all the
21 local cultures.
22 This year is our centennial of the Republic
23 of China, and we have a series of celebratory events
24 in metro Atlanta areas, so I would like to extend our
25 warm invitation to you all.

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1 And your support to our participation, for
2 meaningful participation in international community as
3 well as the international organizations like IKO, like
4 UNFCCC is highly appreciated.
5 Thank you very much.
6 - - -
7 (Applause)
8 - - -
9 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Anyone else?
10 - - -
11 (No response)
12 - - -
13 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Again, it's a
14 true honor to have all of you here tonight. Thank you
15 so much for coming out.
16 Next we would like to have some resolutions
17 honoring some very valuable citizens in our community.
18 I would like the Council to join me in
19 commending some very special citizens and business
20 owners who have given up their free time to help make
21 Doraville a better place to live.
22 Volunteerism is the life blood of a
23 community, and so it is fitting and appropriate to
24 commend these fine men and women tonight for their
25 selfless contributions to the city through our various

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1 committees.
2 And if you are here, if you would like to
3 come up and accept this, and if not, I suppose we'll
4 just mail it to them.
5 First, the Planning Commission.
6 Jim Ambrose (presenting).
7 - - -
8 (Applause)
9 - - -
10 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And I do not see
11 Mr. Ballantyne, Richard Ballantyne.
12 Ben Crawford (presenting).
13 - - -
14 (Applause)
15 - - -
16 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And I also do not
17 see Mr. Ellis here tonight.
18 And Joe O'Conner (presenting).
19 - - -
20 (Applause)
21 - - -
22 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And next, our Ethics
23 Committee.
24 Unfortunately, I don't see any of those, but
25 I will ...Patty Barker, Gordon Grant and Sandy Sledd.

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1 - - -
2 (Applause)
3 - - -
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I'm sorry?
5 MR. ANDERSON: I said a hand for ethics.
6 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Oh, yes.
7 Next, our LCI, our Community Choices
8 Committee
9 Stuart Anderson (presenting).
10 - - -
11 (Applause)
12 - - -
13 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I do not see
14 Mr. Brown, Bill Brown. I don't believe he's here
15 either.
16 Michael Cox.
17 Jimmy Cushman said he could not be here
18 tonight but he was honored.
19 Ray Fiedler (presenting).
20 - - -
21 (Applause)
22 - - -
23 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Lee Flier is not
24 here.
25 Susan Fraysse (presenting).

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1 - - -
2 (Applause)
3 - - -
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Carol Gilman
5 (presenting).
6 - - -
7 (Applause)
8 - - -
9 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: John Ibsen is not
10 here tonight.
11 Oscar Perez (presenting).
12 - - -
13 (Applause)
14 - - -
15 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Lois Rigwood is not
16 here, and I don't believe Harold Shinn is here. Ben
17 Wilson.
18 Okay. Again, thank you-all so very much.
19 We really appreciate all your efforts and time that
20 you've given.
21 - - -
22 (Applause)
23 - - -
24 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: If you don't mind,
25 if we could get all of you to come back up real quick

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1 for a photo, please.
2 - - -
3 (Photo session)
4 - - -
5 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll,
6 please.
7 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.
9 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.
11 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Here.
13 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Here.
15 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.
17 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.
18 Approval of minutes from May 2nd, 2011.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So moved.
20 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Second?
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
22 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
23 - - -
24 (No response)
25 - - -

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MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And we need a motion to pass a resolution commending citizens and volunteers who have served on commissions and committees.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So moved.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

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CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you so much.
Next up is going to be public comments on agenda items. If you could line up at the podium, limit your comments to three minutes and to agenda items only; if you could state your name and what neighborhood you're from so the court reporter can record it.
MS. FRAYSSE: Susan Fraysse. I'm from the Oakcliff neighborhood.
And I see that it's on the agenda, the no-parking signs, and I -- the last time this came up, I said don't take down any of the parking -- no-parking signs in Oakcliff.
This time, I would say there's one near the DUG site on Windsor Oak. One side of it is already

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bleached out white and you can't see anything; the other side is faded. And that's where it's easiest for us to park when we work on the DUG community garden site there, so I'm hoping we'll take those signs down.
Maybe we can use the sign and the post to make another sign announcing that it is a DUG garden site and telling people to go to the City Web site for information.
Thanks.
MS. CRAWFORD: Susan Crawford, Oakcliff.
The parking between 2:00 and 6:00, is that on the agenda? Not quite sure.
Again I would just remind you that a lot of -- if this is to accommodate the emergency vehicles, a lot of emergencies happen other hours besides between 2:00 and 6:00 in the morning.
Also, the 911, as you may know, I'm opposed to changing it. I think that as a resident, I would prefer --
I understand that you have to make budget cuts. That's . . . that's up to you how you do it, but I would think that you would -- you would do everything you could first, in other areas besides, first of all, the police department; and secondly, if

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you must make cuts there or anywhere, that you not pick things that are going to adversely or even possibly adversely affect those of us who live here, and that includes the swimming pool, the library.
Times are tough. I mean there are budget cuts that have to be considered. I understand that. But times are tough for all of us, and anything that would in any way impact our safety or health I would think would be the very last thing you would even consider changing.
I have had occasion to call Dekalb County 911 on my way to work when I've seen accidents or obstructions in the road. I've been put on hold. I've been misunderstood: "Well, where? I don't understand." You know, just very disconcerting. I was not at all happy with that.
And I know there are alternatives, but private enterprise, are they really accountable to us What investment do they have? They're not City employees.
There have been some really sad things that have happened lately that we've read about in the paper. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I mean please look elsewhere.
Thank you.

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MR. CRAWFORD: Ben Crawford, Oakcliff Estates.

I'd like to speak against changing the 911 right now. I don't think -- I mean I saw a fact sheet, and what's interesting in the fact sheet, a lot of these so-called facts aren't accurate and all these savings that everybody's going to reap generally doesn't turn out to be the case.

I notice on the fact sheet it says they had dropped a number of calls and stuff like that. Well, I'd like to think that if somebody I cared about was in need of emergency services, that they wouldn't be the one that was carted off in a -- you know, in a hearse because somebody didn't get there in time and they showed up 10 minutes late because they misunderstood an address or something.

And I wonder if anybody took the time to see how effective the 911 service was that we have in Doraville and how many dropped calls they have or how many missed opportunities that have happened so you'd have -- That would be fact-based also. I don't think it should change right now.

Another thing that I think should happen is, is I think City Council or -- I can see the Mayor getting benefits but I cannot see the City Council --

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being elected officials, part-time, I cannot see them getting insurance and retirement, and I don't think it's right. I think that that should be put back into the general fund.

I think it's time that elected officials, yeah, they could get a salary per month, for the year, but insurance and benefits, those are for City employees, and generally for full-time employees, and I think it's something that should be looked at before we start to chop 911.

And the last thing is alcohol sales I think would be a good thing; it would be a thing to generate more revenue.

Thank you very much.

MS. PRINZIVALLI: Caroline Prinzivalli, Allison Drive.

(To the Clerk) Can we move that up so you can see what the agenda items are for tonight, by any chance so that --? I mean a lot of times, it doesn't stay focused on where we are and everything.

I just want to encourage the Council to make -- you know, we're approaching some very fiscal tough times and there are hard choices that have to be made and to gather the information so that we can make these kinds of choices.

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Cuts have to be made, it's hard where they have to be made. And I just want to encourage you to get the information, have some, you know, unbiased opinions about saving the City some money.

And that's really all I have to say tonight. Thanks.

MR. O'CONNER: Joe O'Conner, McClave Drive, Doraville, Georgia.

And I want to talk about the proposal to take away the 911 system that we have and have fought for for several years. I can recall most of you were on the Council when we finally got to take the tower and it was put back into Doraville police hands.

I've been on 285 twice and tried to -- one time to report an accident and another time to report a drunk driver, and I was put on hold when you get their cell. So by the time somebody came on, I just hung up because I was down in Clayton County by that time.

So I don't want to put myself, my family, any of the senior citizens or any child in the way where we're dealing with Dekalb County now and not our own police.

I've called the police here under the new system, and they've been to my neighbor's house within

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two minutes, two cars. You're not going to get that from Dekalb County.

I just don't understand it. We fought for it and now we want to just abandon it.

I just can't believe these figures, and I'd like to have the Chief make his presentation about why do we need to save the 911.

I'd like to know how many people in this room know the 7-digit number to the police station.

MR. ANDERSON: 455-1000.

MR. O'CONNER: Well, there you go. Call Stuart if you run into a problem. He'll call the police for you, because --

MR. COMER: Got the cell phone.

MR. O'CONNER: I don't know it.

MR. COMER: I mean cell phones, you know --

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: (Pounds gavel)

MR. COMER: I'm sorry.

MR. O'CONNER: You can have your chance, Mr. Comer. Any time you want, please come up here. You can do it on my time if you want.

And I guess I wanted to state what Ben was talking about is I don't understand why the City Council itself gets 100 percent health insurance, full vested retirement from day one and you're part-time.

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I can remember a time when you-all took these seats, and Ms. Alexander was one of them. She was going to renounce her salary or do it for half.

Chamblee works. It's a bigger city. I'm not saying they work harder than anybody up here, but they work for a third -- a third of what you-all are being paid. I don't know what their other benefits are, but I mean I think you ought to start.

We're paying -- we're going to be paying more than 2 percent millage increase. We lowered our homestead exemption from $50,000 to $20,000, and Atlanta is increasing theirs from twenty-five to thirty-five. I mean there's something wrong here. And now we want to take out a part of our life that means our life and happiness.

Thank you.

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

MR. ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.

I'm with Carol. I think that obviously with things that have been written on the blogs, and the audit and whatnot, financial situations need to be looked at.

The 911 I applaud is something we need to

Page 22

look at. We're not ripping anything away from anybody, I don't think. I hope not, anyway. But all these large dollar expenditures certainly should be looked at.

The Municode situation, we're having our Municodes done. What I wrote down was, is it an IGA and how much money does it cost us to have the Municodes transcribed and what the process is and that. Just down the lines of looking at things, what -- what agenda items or what financial items.

The park situation, it's on the agenda tonight. A real hard financial situation. We don't know exactly how much money we have, or we do. I'm not sure about that. But there are going to be hearings coming up, and hopefully some of that will become a little more transparent.

We're to a contractor stage in that park. If we don't go forward with that contractor stage, we've wasted how-many-ever tens of thousands of dollars that we've spent on the design drawings. There's spending money and saving money and there's wasting money. So that's my observation about that.

The rest of it's good, but just like Carol said, we need to be doing workshops and looking at the financial situation.

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As far as these people not getting paid for what they do, I know some of them, and they spend a lot of time. I know I spend a lot of time for free looking at ordinances and whatnot. They're probably earning their money. You know, it takes a lot of time to do what they're doing.

MS. GILMAN: Carol Gilman, Chestnut Place.

Thank you, Stuart, but I think you meant Susan or --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, no. Kathy, probably.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Caroline.

MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry.

MS. GILMAN: I'm speaking to the 911 services agenda item.

Before we would even consider making a decision, I would like to see all the key players sitting at the table. I'd like to see Captain Brinkley, who heads up the 911 service, the department head responsible for it. I'd like to hear from some of the officers and employees who work with him to maintain that system. I'd like to hear from Chief King.

I'd like to have representatives from Dekalb County sitting around the table.

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I'd like to hear from some users.

I'd like to hear from Council.

Actually, what I'd like to do is hear a presentation, see a detailed analysis of what this large line item is about so that we can all know what the costs are, so we can all know what the process is, so we can all know what the system really entails.

Is the system functioning to meet our needs? Are we using the system the way it was intended? There are more questions to be asked than answers to be made tonight, decisions to be made tonight.

This is more of a work session, a community group meeting. There are more key players to be considered for this agenda item than just the people in this room this evening.

I think it's very worthy to take a look at this line item. It is a big-ticket item in our budget, and I think all line items should be reviewed continually. Every department head should be challenged to bring the best, most effective service they can to the city.

Thank you.

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

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MR. CHAMBERS: Good evening. Richard Chambers, New Peachtree Road.

If you're going to be moving the bid openings to a separate meeting, I hope you-all put in the motion that it's videotaped.

As far as the parking restrictions, across the street from my home, there are four teenagers. Two of them are in early 20's. If you're looking at numbers of automobiles, two of those four teenagers are Georgia Tech students. One of them wrote and directed a play at the local high school. The other one is going to be a junior next year. And sometimes without the in-laws, there's six cars or vehicles in the driveway, and it's the only -- the second home I know of with three Eagle Scouts in it.

I would suggest that this be postponed, Mr. Bates, until we have our new planning director along with our city attorney -- new city attorney on board, and let them meet with Chief King and see what really can work effectively that they're willing to go to court over, so to speak, what they think is going to be the best way to go after this particular problem. I think parking is -- it needs to be a little bit further and let the new people look at it.

About three weeks ago, on one of the

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national network programs, they were highlighting Sandy Springs for outsourcing practically everything -- I don't know if that's a good thing for 911 or not, but at least maybe we need to take a look at it, and they seem to think that they were doing an excellent job at it.

And then the last item, concerning the alcohol, I think it's great to let the citizens decide whether or not they want it in their neighborhood or not, and Sunday seems like a good day to drink, to me.

Thank you.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Anyone else?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.

Just one quick announcement. Movies Under the Stars is this Saturday night at Honeysuckle Park, 6:30. "Yogi Bear" is going to be shown, so please bring your picnic baskets and have a picnic.

Department reports, I only see, well, attorneys. Anyone have -- either of you?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

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MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Chief King, Department of Labor agreement.

CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am. Good evening, Mayor, members of the City Council and residents.

We have brought forward a contract with the Georgia Department of Labor which will allow us the capability to be able to access the database at the Department of Labor.

There's some severe restrictions of what those purposes could be in accessing this database, but it's for criminal investigations and being able to access, you know, to be able to track down fugitives.

I respectfully request that the City enter an agreement with the Department of Labor so we can access this database.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Council, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Cost, if there's a cost factor?

CHIEF KING: There's no cost, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How do we access it?

CHIEF KING: Via computer, sir. There's a request sent to the Department of Labor and then we notate what is the criminal case or what the case number. That way, there's a tracking purpose.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So essentially what

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this would mean is if I ever -- if anybody goes and collects unemployment, then that would be -- that information would be available to the Doraville Police Department.

CHIEF KING: Not necessarily, sir. No, it's not just unemployment, sir. It's where you get your paycheck from.

It's a method of being able to track fugitives and people who are running away from the law.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So anyone in this room, you can go find out where they're working and who pays them?

CHIEF KING: No, sir, no. You have to have --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Or anywhere, I mean anyone.

CHIEF KING: No, sir. You have to have a valid reason. You can't just access.

It's just like running criminal history on somebody through the criminal information network. You have to have a reason for running it. And there is a record kept, and you'll get audited once a year, and you have to justify why you're running. You can't just go down the street running people's tags just for

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mere curiosity.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So you're saying this is strictly to be used for people who have like outstanding warrants?
CHIEF KING: Or active criminal investigations, yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Additional questions?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a motion?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Have you presented this to the city attorney for review?
CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay. I make a motion that we enter into the Department of Labor agreement.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm just concerned. I mean there's not a lot of privacy as it is.
I don't know how many other law enforcement agencies in Georgia have this. I'm not sure.

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CHIEF KING: Most of them do, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm just not comfortable with it.
CHIEF KING: It's okay, sir. I mean it's obviously an indictment on our department, but --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Of course it isn't.
CHIEF KING: -- I'll take it as -- I'll take it as it is, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, you'll have to take it any way you want to but it's certainly not an indictment on your department.
CHIEF KING: No problem, sir.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. I have a motion and a second. Additional discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

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CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion carries. Thank you.
CHIEF KING: Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Chief, any other? Is that it?
CHIEF KING: Ma'am, I'm prepared to answer questions on the other items --
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.
CHIEF KING: -- but I guess you will call me up.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Yes. Thank you.
All right. No one else is here from any other departments.
Melissa?
CLERK McCAIN: Thank you, Mayor.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: RFP, I.T. bid opening.
CLERK McCAIN: Correct. I have received three and I've handed those out to the Council for opening.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I have received a bid for E.T.E. Solutions. Base total is $114,000.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: What's it called?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: E.T.E. Solutions.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I have a bid from Sophicity. Well, they have several options. Option one is $100,800 per year, option two is $185,400 per year and option three is $201,600 per year.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I have Kimberlite -- and that's spelled K-i-m-b-e-r-l-i-t-e -- Technologies. The monthly investment would be $7,850, totalling $94,200. They've listed parameters in this statement and included a billing rate if these parameters were exceeded.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.
Council, your wishes on this?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, since there's only three bids, I'd like to make a motion that we have all three come and make a presentation, give them maybe a half hour each.
Can you schedule that?
CLERK McCAIN: If it's the will of the Council, yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Can't be this week

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but maybe next week.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, yeah. Obviously we have to schedule it.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: We'll talk about it. We'll send out something for next week.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But I made a motion.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I know, but I'm saying as far as the day.
Okay. Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. Contract-Municode.
CLERK McCAIN: This is currently our codification for ordinances. We finally have those up to date and we have received our first supplement. We will be receiving these on a quarterly basis.
Working with the attorney, we have put in here a stipulation of a not-to-exceed number of $16,000. I don't believe it's going to be that much, but it depends on how many ordinances are passed by the Council. We get billed $400 billed every June to have our code on the Internet.
We also are involved in the NOW program, so as we pass ordinances between the codification and the supplement, we post those new ordinances on the Web so everything stays current so people aren't getting misinformation.
When we do our codification renewals, the supplements per page are $19.00, and we have 15 books, so each page is $19.00 times 15. And if we have additional graphics as far as like the zoning map that has all the fine detail in it, that's an extra $10.00 for the page.

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We do have electronic media products at $75.00 per update, and we can disregard that. I doubt if we use it, and I'm not requesting those because we have it on the Web. I don't feel the need to have a C.D. in my hand for that, so we can save $75.00 there per update.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Could you go back to the supplemental or page rate again? Tell me, explain that again.
CLERK McCAIN: When we send them an ordinance, they need to number it properly and they check to make sure it falls within our code and the State regulations. And once they send that to us, to codify it, it's $19.00 per page.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Per book.
CLERK McCAIN: Right, correct. So this page -- this is the last one. This would be $19.00 for each one that they need to print.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Couldn't we just get one page and make copies?
CLERK McCAIN: It's copyrighted. I don't believe they would let us do that.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Do we need 15 books? I know I gave mine to the QOL.

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CLERK McCAIN: We do. Each of the Council gets it. There's two QOL. Department heads get it. The planning department has one; I have one. I can give you a list of who gets those. Stormwater gets one.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean I don't have one because I thought maybe the QOL could use it --
CLERK McCAIN: Yeah, and they --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- because I just --
CLERK McCAIN: -- both have them --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- look at it electronically.
CLERK McCAIN: -- in their cars because that's what they use to write their ordinances with.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It just seems like if we can have access to it electronically, we wouldn't necessarily need 15 hard copies.
CLERK McCAIN: I can ask the department heads. I prefer to have it in a book because I make notes in it as things change or tab it so it's easy to find.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm not saying zero copies. I'm just saying --
CLERK McCAIN: Sure.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- I don't know that

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we need 15, so.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Are there any changes to this from our previous contract?
CLERK McCAIN: Just that it's a quarterly update. I'm not sure what they had in the past, but it wasn't being done.
ATTORNEY WEED: Council, it's mostly a matter of form. The multi-year contract provisions were not included, and also there was no -- there was no definitive total amount not to exceed in the prior contract; it was more loose. So we made modification to make sure to comply with Title 36 and the multi-year contract terms.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And I don't think before, we had the quarterly updates. I believe we were on annual.
CLERK McCAIN: I'm not sure what they did in the past, what the Clerk had set up in the past.
But we did receive our first supplement -- they were in the mailboxes -- so I'm excited that that's moving forward. And they are in the process of updating the Web site to take all the ones that are currently listed in the NOW program and getting rid of those because they are now incorporated into the code.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Additional

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questions?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, for my hard copy, you can at least reduce it from 15 to 14 because I'll just use online.
We're going to continue as these are passed to put them on the Web site.
CLERK McCAIN: Correct.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You know, our City Web site, so.
CLERK McCAIN: Correct. As we pass each ordinance, it's posted on the front page. When you pull up the code --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
CLERK McCAIN: -- the first thing you see is the newest --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So we can --
CLERK McCAIN: -- ordinances.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- at least reduce it from 15 to 14 because I prefer to use electronically.
CLERK McCAIN: And I'll send out an e-mail to all the department heads and make sure that our agreement doesn't stipulate a minimum of 15 copies.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Great. Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And do I get a motion to approve the contract so the City can

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continue to have an update Code of Ordinances?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: So moved.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Second?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion carries.
Next is going to be the Halpern Park stream restoration bid award, Mr. Strickland.
MR. STRICKLAND: Mayor and Council, just

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want to be here to see if you-all had any questions.
We prequalified all these contractors so we're able to go with the low bidder and they -- you know, we pretty much already qualified them, so we're glad that this one worked out. But if anyone had any additional questions --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And this is all coming out of stormwater; correct?
MR. STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Could you tell me the date of start, start date.
MR. STRICKLAND: Start date? Depends on how soon we can execute the contract, and we have been kind of moving forward. I couldn't tell you an exact date.
I would like to say it would be within the month, but it depends on how fast they can mobilize, how soon we get the contract done.
You know, I guess there's too many variables. It'll be as soon as possible, but I couldn't give you a steadfast date.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: When they start working, in that particular contract that we have with them, will they be putting up safety netting around the stream area where they're working so --

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MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, the --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- children will not be --
MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. We're going to --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- prone to --
MR. STRICKLAND: First, you know, we're also going to close the park. That makes it about as safe as possible. And then all the -- they'll have their silt fence up, safety netting, maybe even chain link. They'll have a staging area, so. But I'll -- you know, we'll make sure they make it as safe as possible.
A lot of times they don't have a lot of equipment on site at one time. They sort of bring in what they need, use it.
But you know, I think it'll be safe. Mainly with the park being closed, you know, people just aren't supposed to be in there --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And --
MR. STRICKLAND: -- but we'll doublecheck.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- removal of any debris from the stream and the restoration of the stream will no doubt include the magnolia that's growing in it and things like that. So I'm sure they're, you know --

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MR. STRICKLAND: We're actually going to be pretty -- we're going to go in there and pick and choose which trees are coming out and which ones are going to stay. And any tree that we can use or save, we're going to retain.
We're looking at that one magnolia, we're looking at a big poplar. We do want to get the kudzu and privet and all the vines and everything, but any good, sustainable tree, we're going to keep.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. But they are responsible for the removal of the debris; is that correct?
MR. STRICKLAND: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
MR. STRICKLAND: No, they'll be doing everything.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. All right. Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Additional questions?
And this is the Potts Company; correct?
MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, it is the Potts Company.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Do you need a motion?
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'd like to make a motion to accept the bid for the Potts Company, and they were the lowest bidder, but I did not --
Mr. Strickland, I'd like to put the price in the record if you have it.
MR. STRICKLAND: Okay. You want just them or -- or the --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No.
MR. STRICKLAND: -- all the bids?
The Potts --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: They went on record before, but I'd like it part of the motion.
MR. STRICKLAND: The Potts Company for -- the total bid was $161,040.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: One sixty-one?
MR. STRICKLAND: One sixty-one forty.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

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CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion carries.
Thank you, Mr. Strickland.
MR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. Next is going to be old business, going to be -- my agenda item is city planner/director.
We conducted several interviews as well as phone interviews and we would like to get the Council's input on which way they want to move with this.
We have the options of two that we all really liked as well as the option of MACTEC, and I just wanted to get thoughts.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think I agree

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1 probably with Councilmember Fleming. My preferred
2 candidate is Mr. Cooley. I know his salary request
3 was high, although he has indicated that he did not
4 want that to be an obstacle and he was negotiable.
5 I just found him to be -- I think he would
6 be more proactive than the other candidate, so I would
7 like to retain that as an option. I don't know how
8 other Council feels.
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I too. Mr. Cooley
10 was my choice for this position. I believe he
11 displays both verbal and written-communication skills
12 that we all definitely need for that particular
13 position and also displays excitement in the
14 possibility and the desire to be a part of the city in
15 this position.
16 I think he'd be a terrific front-line
17 person, had a terrific personality, so Mr. Cooley is
18 my choice.
19 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Anyone else?
20 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: When I was going
21 through the list of 29 respondents that we received,
22 one of the criteria that we as a council had agreed
23 upon, that we did not hold steadfast on our first
24 hiring, was that this person already come in the door
25 AICP certified.

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1 Mr. Cooley thus did not make it into my
2 round one, if you will, of interviewees because he is
3 not AICP certified. I think that is a very important
4 criteria that we included in the job posting for
5 specific reasons.
6 I understand that he said that he was going
7 to sign up for the testing, which I believe is in
8 December. However, I think from the get-go, that that
9 is a requirement that we had set upon ourselves and we
10 should be true to that.
11 I was also a little taken aback that he
12 wanted approximately $30,000 more than we were
13 previously paying and he does not have that AICP
14 certification. I don't know that he would be willing
15 to lower his salary to what I feel like that we had
16 agreed as a council, based on our previous employee,
17 that we would be willing to pay for this position.
18 Mr. Versel, when he gave his salary range,
19 he was within the range that we had previously paid.
20 I also liked the fact that Mr. Versel's references had
21 more diversity in the communities that he had worked
22 upon. I didn't see that much in the Highlands
23 references. I know it's an entirely different economy
24 and an entirely different cultural and municipal type
25 of makeup.

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1 But for those reasons, out of the two,
2 Mr. Versel would be my choice.
3 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
4 Mr. Bates?
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mr. Versel is my
6 choice as well for slightly different reasons.
7 I think his background in economic
8 development, in understanding the way economies work,
9 and business development and the information side of
10 that would serve us very well right now in positioning
11 the city.
12 He's been a small business owner for the
13 last five years, and you can't function and operate
14 that way without having the ability to present
15 yourself well and make sales.
16 So while I appreciate Mr. Cooley's dynamic
17 approach, I thought Mr. Versel has a demonstrated
18 ability to understand the numbers and work within the
19 confines of the environment that he's in, so my
20 support is also with Mr. Versel.
21 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.
22 Mr. Roach?
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, this is a
24 difficult decision. Both candidates bring strengths.
25 One of the things I liked about Mr. Cooley

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1 was that he's an attorney. As far as the certifi-
2 cation, I guess I didn't pick up on that until later,
3 but, and he was a very dynamic person.
4 Whereas, Mr. Versel, you know, he clearly
5 knew his stuff. He had a -- I understand that he -- I
6 think he has more of a consultant mentality and he's
7 been around. He's been to a lot of different cities.
8 He's done a lot of different assignments.
9 Because one of the things that has to happen
10 is, as noted in our LCI, our zoning ordinance pretty
11 much needs to be looked at all over again, and I think
12 that I saw more strength with Mr. Cooley on that than
13 with Mr. Versel.
14 I tell you, it's a tough decision because,
15 again, they're both very qualified or highly
16 qualified.
17 As far as the salary, you know, if I'm
18 getting heart surgery, I don't want the cheapest guy
19 necessarily. I think we have to pay what the market
20 will bear, but right now the market is kind of low.
21 And as mentioned before, I think both of them would
22 basically accept whatever offer we made at this point
23 as long as it's within the range.
24 So I don't know. I'm still kind of up in
25 the air on this one a little bit, so. But on the

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other hand, I do think that we owe it to the city to go ahead and make the decision and move forward, so.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. So do I get a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Could I ask you to hold off on the motion so I can ask another question?

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Certainly.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm not sure what our range is.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Is it seventy? I believe it's seventy.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I mean what is the range, the salary range for that specific position so that I am more aware of where we're going.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I don't think -- I just think it was --

CLERK McCAIN: We don't have one.

ATTORNEY WEED: Council has never established salary positions --

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: We never did, no. We did not.

ATTORNEY WEED: -- as of right now.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Thank you.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. I just want to add that I agree, both of them were very good.

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But I also wanted to add that MACTEC has done an outstanding job, considering the circumstances, and come in and done a really good job. So I just wanted to -- they're not here, but I appreciate all that they've done.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Ms. Fleming, if we could take a brief break and we could pull that information up from the DCA salary study if that would be helpful to you.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, I think it would be. I mean I realize that Mr. Cooley went to the trouble of doing that for us, but I would like to possibly review it, and I apologize for not having done it prior to this evening.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I believe the dollar amount was $70,000 if that was -- I mean that was what we discussed, I think.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I think he's -- I believe he's correct, we did discuss $70,000.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And again, I think that either candidate would accept that as a beginning salary.

The important thing -- and someone else mentioned it, I think, earlier in an e-mail today: that we need to start using --

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We have a probationary period when we hire someone. We need to start using that. Because it seems like before, once you get in the door, that's it, you know, you're pretty much here. And I think that we need to -- whether it's going to be three months or six months, to really use that as a way of evaluating, because if someone comes in and they're not working out, then fine, you know, we shake hands and we go to another candidate. You know, we're not locked in forever and ever.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe that's already covered in our personnel manual --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- and I think it's 90 days.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Exactly.

And I just think that, you know, going forward, we need to actually start doing what our personnel manual says.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I understand, and I believe we do.

But would we like to take a five-minute break?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Please.

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MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We should be able to pull it up.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Let's take a five-minute break.

- - -

(Brief recess)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Meeting come back to order.

All right. I think we've been provided the information. Would anyone like to talk about our local government wage-and-salary survey?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It just looks like the range runs from about the upper 50s/low 60s to upper 80s/low 90s from starting to max.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Ms. Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: They are in the range that I was thinking that Mr. Cooley would accept. So thank you for allowing us to take this time to review this before we move forward with a motion.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

Anything in addition?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm going to make a

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1 motion to offer the position under a probationary
2 period to Mr. Versel at $65,000.
3 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Can we get a second?
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
5 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
6 - - -
7 (No response)
8 - - -
9 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll,
10 please.
11 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
13 CLERK McCAIN: You did the second also;
14 correct?
15 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes, ma'am.
16 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
18 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No.
20 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: No.
22 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No.
24 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. The
25 motion dies.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'd like to make a
2 motion to offer the position to Mr. Joe Cooley at a
3 salary range -- at a salary, starting salary of
4 $75,000 upon approval of the Mayor.
5 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Do I get a
6 second?
7 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
8 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Would you consider a
10 friendly amendment to make that $70,000?
11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'd consider a
12 friendly amendment.
13 I'm concerned that that's much lower than he
14 will consider since he was making seventy-six in
15 Highlands, North Carolina, and he has a land-use
16 degree and has served in courts for land-use suits.
17 So I'm looking at seventy-five, but I'll consider your
18 friendly amendment.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No? Yes?
20 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Are you amending it?
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Are you amending it
22 or no?
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, I haven't
24 amended it yet.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean if he says no,

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1 we can go with Mr. Versel.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I want to stay at
3 $75,000.
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Second? Do I
5 get a second?
6 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I already seconded.
7 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Oh, I'm sorry.
8 All right. Anything else?
9 - - -
10 (No response)
11 - - -
12 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll,
13 please.
14 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
15 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No.
16 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No.
18 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
20 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
22 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
24 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion
25 carries. We'll be in touch with him tomorrow.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Is there going to
2 be any stipulation since the motion was made and it
3 didn't address his lack of AICP certification?
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I can make that
5 motion right now if you'd like me to.
6 I'd like to --
7 Well, we can reconsider the motion to add it
8 to the previous motion.
9 I'd like to make a motion --
10 Well, make a motion to reconsider.
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Well, let's just do
12 a second motion.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. All right.
14 That's fine.
15 I'd like to make a motion in the offer to
16 Mr. Cooley that certification for AICP be required for
17 him as well as the probationary period adhered to.
18 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: And a date certain
19 on the AICP certification?
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I don't think he can
21 take it until December.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: It's the most -- the
23 next available testing.
24 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So by the end of

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2011.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If that's when it is, yes, ma'am.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think it's December if I'm not mistaken.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Of 2011, in the year 2011?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And what if he doesn't pass the test?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Then that's -- we're requiring it in this motion.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

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CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion carries. All right.
Next on the agenda is Mr. Bates, parking restrictions.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you, Mayor.
As we discussed the last time, there are two different issues. One is the inconsistent signage or lack thereof on where we've got restrictions on parking in the ordinance versus signage -- versus where we've actually got signs.
And Chief, I may be asking you on some of these to see if you know the reason why there's specific addresses that have no-parking signs versus the entirety of the street. So I'm not going to ask you yet, but I do think we need to at least review and audit the ordinance versus the actual -- where we've actually got signs and make a determination on if that's appropriate to have no parking on those particular streets.

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I did give Council and the Clerk -- and thank you for including it in the agenda packet -- the suggested changes.
As you can see -- I'll just point out a couple of examples -- if you go to Shallowford Road, it only stipulates that there's no parking west of Buford Highway, which means that you are allowed to park east of Buford Highway, which means everything from Chamblee-Tucker to Buford Highway, people are allowed to park there, which doesn't make any sense at all.
There are streets that do have no-parking signs which are not listed in the ordinance, such as Poplar Street. Stewart Road is listed here as only being able to park on the -- on the west side but there are no-parking signs on both sides of the street. So there's a lot of inconsistencies between the signage that's posted and what's legislated via ordinance, so I do think we need to address that.
And Chief, I will go ahead and ask, because we're on the subject, is there a particular reason why there are certain addresses that have no-parking signs? And I'll just reference Doral Drive. And per the ordinance -- I don't know that you'll know the answer to this one in particular, but the ordinance

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stipulates that on the entirety of Doral Drive, the only place where you can't park is in front of 4048.
So again, I'm not asking for that --
CHIEF KING: No, sir. I probably could give you answer offline, sir. It's not a legal reason, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But there's a lot of these that are referenced. Oakmont Avenue is listed as not being able to park at all, but then you really can't park at 3635 because it's got a separate ordinance in there.
CHIEF KING: Some of these, sir, will be the reason is is for the curvature and also for the -- because certain roads have certain curvature like parts of Raymond Drive.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
CHIEF KING: Because of the curve and the visibility. That's one of the -- usually the requirements from DOT. The other one would be also the grade of the road will have an impact on parking. Typically those are the engineering reasons for it, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And the one on Doral Drive, though I have not checked out these --
And that was a comment I was going to make

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1 to you, Mr. Bates, before we move forward: I'd like
2 to go personally and check out the addresses.
3 But the one on Doral Drive, if I'm not
4 mistaken, that house sits at a stop sign on either
5 side, and it's a three-way stop, and so there really
6 can't be any parking at his address because of the
7 street coming into Doral. They wouldn't be able to
8 turn either left or right.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Sure. And I'm sure
10 there's some legitimate reasons.
11 But I guess the question to Chief and to
12 Council is because Doral Drive is a major thorough-
13 fare, should there be no parking allowed on Doral
14 Drive, for emergency vehicles, versus at that one
15 particular location?
16 My preference is for any of our major
17 thoroughfares -- Raymond, McClave, Addison, Oakmont,
18 English Oak, Doral --
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Chestnut.
20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- Chestnut; Winters
21 Chapel, obviously, Tilly Mill -- to restrict parking
22 on any of our major roads to ensure that we've got the
23 ability to have life-safety vehicles get through
24 there, and then on all of the other streets restrict
25 them on one side only so you do allow for some parking

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1 on the residential side but you ensure that there's
2 ample room to prevent parking on both sides.
3 Like Red Oak is a perfect example. They
4 park on both sides of Red Oak. I will guarantee you
5 that right now you probably not get a fire truck down
6 Red Oak just because of where people park on both
7 sides.
8 I don't -- we're not going to make a
9 decision tonight. I wouldn't want us to. But I would
10 want our police department to take a look at this, and
11 us to review and evaluate some of these locations to
12 see if it makes sense to restrict parking at that
13 particular location -- the entirety of the street,
14 don't care, open game; it doesn't matter.
15 The other piece would be on this is limiting
16 the number of vehicles at a property; and we've had a
17 lively discussion in the past as to whether or not we
18 can, we should.
19 Ms. Pachuta brought up at the last Council
20 meeting an idea that I think was out in Denver and
21 some other municipalities where they restrict street
22 parking between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
23 I think one of those would be in an attempt
24 to start to eliminate the rooming houses and the
25 boarding houses at least from overnight parking. But

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1 again, that's -- that's a discussion that we need to
2 continue to have is whether or not we want to limit
3 the number of vehicles at a residence.
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Mr. Bates, if you
5 don't mind --
6 -- Mr. McLendon, do you have thoughts on any
7 of that? I know that we had talked about a couple
8 things.
9 ATTORNEY McLENDON: The ordinance, I think,
10 to the extent that was reviewed, I would defer to my
11 co-counsel on that.
12 Some of the issues we probably could look at
13 as a general rule, and one of the things I think is
14 probably a good idea for us to look at is the property
15 maintenance code as far as the ability to come in and
16 ensure properties are being maintained and utilized as
17 allowed under the code.
18 It's something that can come in as a
19 document that this Council can define the policies of
20 how they want the city to appear. And that document
21 appropriately put in place, you could really tailor it
22 to your vision of the city and then it could become a
23 code enforcement matter of making sure the property
24 maintenance code is followed.
25 A big-picture item that I would be happy to

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1 discuss at length with anyone.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The issue with
3 limiting the number of vehicles to four -- we'll just
4 call it four -- is anybody that does have more than
5 four is going to move those vehicles from their
6 driveway to the public street, and that, to me,
7 doesn't accomplish the goal of starting to combat
8 those facilities that have multiple people living in
9 them.
10 The other way to combat that would be to
11 make no parking allowed on the street --
12 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Right.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- between certain
14 hours, typically your overnight hours.
15 So if there's a house with multiple families
16 living in there and they've got six vehicles, four can
17 be allowed in the driveway, two would move onto the
18 street except between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and
19 6:00 a.m.
20 They can't put two more cars back in the
21 driveway; they can't park them on the street. What do
22 they do? That's -- you know.
23 The other problem, though, is what would
24 happen if you've got a family situation where you've
25 got in-laws extended stay, people vacationing with you

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where you do have for a period of time multiple people living there where you'll have multiple cars.

Do you go to registering vehicles with the City? I don't think that's a wise decision. Do you go with special permits that have a time duration? Then you're putting a burden back on City Hall, back on the police department for registering, issuing permits, tracking permits, those types of things.

There was an idea that was thrown out to me privately about tying the number of vehicles to a resident. But again, that, to me, requires them to register those vehicles with City Hall. And then if you sell vehicles, if you transfer titles, if you buy a new one, who's going to keep up with the tracking of all of that information?

So I do agree that we need to look at our property maintenance codes and look and see if there's a viable solution in there to address the number of vehicles.

And again, I've spent some time in surveying the neighborhood, at least Northwoods -- we've got eight or 10 identifiable houses that are problematic or there are more than five cars on a regular basis.

The majority of houses that I've been able to identify through regular drives through the city is

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less than four on a regular basis.

I think the majority of our homeowners are good homeowners but we do have some problem children, and we need to work to address those in a manner that makes sense for everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And one of the things that I had mentioned was safety of the school buses traveling to and from Oakcliff Elementary, and the challenge with that is we'll have to work with the County to make the section between Pin Oak Way and Willow Oak Way no parking.

The issue with that is it's not just one car parked. Yesterday there were six vehicles parked back-to-back. So when the school bus is trying to get out of the school or get to the school, they're having to drive on the wrong side of the road for that entire small block, and it's definitely a safety hazard.

Like I mentioned before, their school bus has been in an accident a couple of times, so I'm definitely in favor of making at least the portion from Oakcliff Road to the school no parking on Pin Oak Circle.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Mr. Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Any other comments from Council?

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And if there are none, I will ask Chief and his crew to audit the ordinance and compare it to where we actually have signs or don't have signs and make recommendations on any of the -- any of the streets that should be either no parking, any of the addresses that we can remove or addresses that we may need to add for safety reasons.

CHIEF KING: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I would add that, you know, if we know there's areas where children are playing, that maybe we could put up some children-at-play type signs, if there's any special -- if there's deaf children and that sort of thing.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Chief, is there any State law regarding parking at intersections?

I thought there was regulations about parking so far from a corner.

CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am. There's a distance requirement from an intersection, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That I think is where a number of these no-parking restrictions come in. The two on Pine Street are right at a corner, at the corner of Popular and Pine.

Ms. Alexander pointed out to me that -- and I'm again self-serving -- Pine Street has a little

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zigzag. We don't restrict parking on the zigzag, which to me is where we really need to restrict parking because it is -- you know, especially when cars go flying around there, and they do, so we need to address this.

And again, this is a -- this is a two-parter: the no parking on the streets and then dealing with the number of vehicles allowable at a private residence.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

Chief, you'll take care of that?

CHIEF KING: You got it.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.

Okay. The next item is going to be the bid opening procedures, Mr. Bates.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes. Thank you, Mayor.

Mr. McLendon drafted for us an ordinance to review. There are three items that I would like to consider changing.

Under subsection (a), the very last sentence, I don't think we want to have the proposals done or the bid votes done at a special public meeting. That, to me, is covered under section (b). So I would like the criteria to be read only at a

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1 regular scheduled Council meeting.
2 The second item is under subsection (d),
3 part (3), and it's limited to state or federal but I
4 believe there may be some county or even some fellow
5 municipal government contracts that we need to
6 include, so any -- change that to any government
7 contract.
8 And then under subsection (e), to change the
9 Purchasing Department to the City Clerk.
10 Those would be the three suggested changes
11 to the ordinance.
12 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.
13 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Okay. And I would
14 prepare a revision on that and submit it for review at
15 the next time it comes on the agenda?
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Unless there's other
17 items by Council that they want to . . .
18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We're in discussions
19 right now.
20 Well, we've already identified the fact that
21 there must be, in item number (c), two bids. So if
22 that be the case, we wouldn't have a single source, so
23 I don't think item number (4) on (d) is relevant.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, it says,
25 "However, if only one bid is submitted, the Council

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1 may choose to accept."
2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Generally, you can get
3 into a situation where you do need to have the ability
4 to do a single-source contract.
5 What happens with a single-source contract
6 usually to justify going with the single source as
7 opposed to the bid procedure is you really need to
8 document a strong basis that this was the only vendor
9 that could meet this criteria.
10 That's the kind of thing that in the rules
11 section where we have the ability to develop some
12 rules, we talk about the fact that if you were going
13 to go into a single source and justify it as a single
14 source, you'd need to state in a very strong and
15 persuasive manner why it is. Big deal. You usually
16 need it.
17 I'd be hesitant to pull it out, because as
18 soon as I pulled it out, I'd have, you know, the one
19 contract that these were the only people in the world
20 that could do it.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That's fine.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I do like the
23 suggestion made earlier about at least videotaping the
24 actual bid opening.
25 The thing I always liked about the fact that

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1 we do bid openings here is that it's on the record,
2 it's in public, we're down to two cameras today, you
3 know, and there's nothing hidden.
4 I'm still iffy about this whole idea,
5 frankly. I still feel a lot more comfortable with
6 opening the bids.
7 If it's going to be done behind closed doors
8 or if it's going to be done in some other -- I would
9 want it in this room with every word, you know. And I
10 don't know that we would necessarily need a
11 transcriptionist but we would need it very clearly
12 documented by video. I would want it to be subject to
13 exactly the same rules as when we schedule a City
14 Council meeting -- you know, the same amount of notice
15 at least if not more; and again, that way, there are
16 no questions.
17 You know, I'm mean I'm sorry to say, but
18 there is a lot of distrust still, and I heard a lot of
19 comments from people about that. And I'm not -- I'm
20 not sure I can support this or not. But anyway, I
21 would say that we definitely need to do whatever we
22 can to keep it as transparent as possible.
23 I know it's a pain in the butt to open
24 things here at a Council meeting and it's a pain in
25 the butt to thumb through looking for stuff. But then

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1 there's no question; there's no question at all.
2 Everything's out there, it's above board, and nothing
3 strange is going on, so.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Well, it does say at
5 an advertised public bid opening.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, I saw that, but
7 it doesn't say anything about videotaping the actual
8 bid opening.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe that Ms.
10 Fleming brought up that -- I'm not sure if it was TSW
11 or who it was mistakenly omitted the deadline or a
12 very important date in their RFP. So I think it is
13 imperative that when an RFP goes out, it has a closing
14 date, and thus it has it's going to be opened at
15 2:00 a.m. on this date in Council chambers.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: 2:00 p.m.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: 2:00 p.m.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: 2:00 p.m. I'm
19 sorry. 2:00 a.m.?
20 So that's something that we're going to have
21 to do our due diligence on and make sure that no RFP
22 gets out of here that doesn't have that information on
23 it.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And my preference --
25 but I'll leave this to the Clerk and City Hall if this

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1 passes -- is to have a regular routine: You know,
2 Fridays at 2:00 p.m. is when we do our public bid
3 openings.
4 And that's just a constant; it'll be the
5 Clerk and the Mayor and department heads sitting in
6 this room, and come 2:00 when it comes time, you know,
7 whatever the date is, I'm not -- I will never advocate
8 for any of this to be done behind a closed door. That
9 defeats the purpose.
10 The purpose is to make sure that we've got -
11 - everybody's aware of when things are happening, but
12 it expedites the process for the vendors, for the
13 City, because the way it is right now --
14 You know, assuming -- assuming that we
15 didn't refer the I.T. RFPs to interviews, the normal
16 process that we take is to send it back to the
17 department heads for them to review and evaluate, make
18 a recommendation, come back to us with a
19 recommendation. We then review the bids and the
20 recommendation, then either award the contract or
21 award the interviews. And that time process stretches
22 out to weeks and months from the time when we have an
23 RFP due, between the time when we let a contract, to
24 get that accomplished.
25 Moving it to a advertised public bid opening

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1 changes that time frame, expedites the process, still
2 assures a public bid opening, and then it comes back
3 to Council with a recommendation.
4 So I appreciate Council's support on
5 considering this change.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: To offer my
7 comments, please, I'm not comfortable with what you've
8 just stated, because even though that's been the
9 practice -- and I know Ms. Pachuta is definitely
10 champion for the cause of sending it to the department
11 directors for them to make their recommendation -- I
12 think we were elected to do exactly that, and we
13 should be doing our due diligence on the prior-to-the-
14 interview process.
15 I don't want us to get us to a point where
16 our directors have made a decision or have given us a
17 recommendation and we blindly, okay, accept that
18 recommendation and move forward.
19 I feel that it's our responsibility as
20 elected officials up here to also look at the
21 applications per se for directors, or whether it be
22 the contracts -- the bid applications from
23 contractors. I think it's our responsibility to do
24 due diligence on our own.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I don't recall where I

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1 said that we would blindly accept the department
2 directors' recommendation.
3 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Those were my words,
4 Mr. Bates.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I don't recall
6 where it says that in this proposed document.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: It does. It says,
8 "and provide Mayor and Council with a recommendation
9 along with complete list of the responding bidders."
10 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: "The City Council
11 shall make the selection."
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Our responsibility
13 doesn't change. We have the discretion to disagree
14 with a department director.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But the time factor
16 would not change because we'd still be getting it back
17 from them after they have reviewed it.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: We would get it in our
19 agenda packets just like we get everything else, and
20 if we wanted to review the RFPs and the bids that were
21 submitted, we have a responsibility to review those.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There's nothing that
24 has changed.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: One item -- and maybe

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1 it's beyond the scope of this, but we need to make
2 sure there's room for a little bit of sensible
3 thought.
4 I mean it depends on the type of thing it
5 is. For instance, well, the city attorney, obviously
6 that needed interviews and a lot of different things.
7 But for ordering, you know, 10,000 rolls of paper
8 towels, you know, we're essentially looking at the
9 lowest bidder.
10 So RFPs that have very specific requirements
11 like specific, you know, quantity or specific units or
12 whatever, I'd almost just on those just basically make
13 them the lowest bidder. Now, that doesn't mean we
14 don't bring them up here and vote on it anyway, but,
15 you know, to me, there are different classes of
16 requests for proposals or requests for bids.
17 Like I said, maybe we're getting a little
18 far afield. But I still think that, as was said
19 before, the Council definitely needs to be the final
20 vote on everything.
21 But I just think that, you know, like the
22 stream bank things, you know, I'm not a stream bank
23 person, but, you know, to me, the lowest bid is the
24 one that gets it. You know, that makes the most sense
25 unless there's something really overriding, you know,

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that we're not aware of, and that would be up to staff -- that would be staff's responsibility to bring it to our attention.

I don't want to make this any more complicated than it is, but, you know, we are in government and we do need to make sure that there's as much visibility and as much transparency as possible.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Mr. Bates, you just want to --

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Wait for a clean copy from Mr. McLendon.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Are you going to add the part about videotaping?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm not planning on adding that in right now.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I believe that videotaping is necessary, absolutely.

ATTORNEY McLENDON: What we can do is I can take this discussion -- and again, I'm new and I need to know how to work through your process here. But I can take this discussion and sort of put together my draft that gets us a little closure especially on things we have consensus on, and then at the end, if we get down the specific issues, it's easy to

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in-and-out based on the will of the Mayor and Council.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Would it be possible to bring the draft in electronic form where we could actually put it up there?new

ATTORNEY McLENDON: Absolutely.

Melissa, I think if I gave you a Word document --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Or a thumb drive or whatever.

We got a thumb drive thing; right?

CLERK McCAIN: Uh-huh.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. Next is new business, E911 services, Mr. Roche.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. This is a predictable response. As was mentioned before, the point here isn't to make a decision tonight. The point here is to gather more information and find out what we can do.

We need to look at every part of our budget right now. The budget that Council passed last year, I believe was a 2.2 million dollars' deficit. According to the reports I have in front of me -- well, it depends on which report I look at. One of them shows a def- -- Well, I'm not sure with these financial reports.

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But anyway, all I can say is one revenue budget amount is different than a different revenue budget amount and I'm not sure what that's about.

Anyway, I noted with interest, anyone who gets the North Dekalb Neighbor, that Dunwoody chose to not use Dekalb County's 911 service, they chose to go with a company called ChatComm; and I gathered more information as to what their process was and everything.

The original -- the original agenda item sheet, the part about the issue RFP for private 911 dispatch services was a little misleading because it says Dunwoody expects an annual cost of about $300,000.

I just wanted to clarify, that's not what it costs; that's the difference between what they were going to be taking in for 911 versus what they spent. Their actual contract was just over a million dollars, but they're taking in 700-and-something thousand dollars, so.

As far as Dekalb County, if I understand this correctly, we would basically relinquish --

And I haven't spoken to them yet. And as a citizen said earlier, we need to get these people in here and find out exactly what the story is before we

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go making any decisions on this.

I'm assuming that we would relinquish our $150,000 a year; but then, again, we wouldn't have to spend $771,000 a year.

I did request information from the police department, which I received just today, just this afternoon. And you're talking about a CAD system and 911, but it doesn't have the calls broken out as to which ones came in through 911 and which ones were just the regular phone number. So if we can get clarification on that for the next meeting -- because there will definitely be a next meeting on this -- I would appreciate that.

Some of the information I got from the -- They kind of did this whole process over at the City of Dunwoody, and some of the things they brought up were some interesting points:

For instance, right now, if I picked up my phone and dialed 911 because City Hall is on fire, it would go to our 911 center, and I'd say, you know, "City Hall is on fire." And the first thing they would do, they would have to transfer it to Dekalb County and get a Dekalb County dispatcher on the phone and then have them dispatch the fire department.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I don't believe

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that's correct.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: That's not correct.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. So how do they do it?
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Chief, would you --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How do they get things, then?
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: -- elaborate please.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Do we dispatch the fire department directly from our 911 system?
CHIEF KING: No, sir. I think you're not accurate, sir, in the way the calls have been routed, sir.
The Doraville Police Department gets a 911 call, dispatches a patrol car to every call -- fire, EMS. Then we -- and then at the same time, then the call is then routed to Dekalb County to initiate the Dekalb -- the fire or EMS unit. Then we update the unit or cancel it if there's not a -- if there's not a medical emergency or fire emergency.
We're one of the few departments that actually does that. The fact is that we have at least two employees who are EMTs who have provided service to a number of our community and we have additional personnel being trained in that.

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So I gave you the information on our 911. Out of the 50,000 calls --
Well, we started our 911 system in 2005, sir, and we have dispatched so far 246,000 calls. This year we dispatched 50,396 [sic] calls. 79 of those calls were for fire service, 464 of those calls were for EMS. On every one of those calls, a police car was dispatched.
We will always beat Dekalb EMS, we will always beat Dekalb County Fire Department to a call. That is just an absolute fact. Our average response time is 2 minutes and 40 seconds to a priority one call. For example, armed robberies is 1 minute and 48 seconds. We pick up the phone call on the second ring. That is our standard. That is the standard that we stand by.
We and Chamblee police, who operate their own 911 system -- And I would recommend strongly, sir, that you talk to Chamblee, because they have a top-notch 911 system. Nobody touches us in Dekalb County nor in Fulton County touches us to that standard.
Dekalb County has and ChatComm also has auto-hold. You dial 911, and "Thank you very much for calling. We will pick up your call at the first opportunity."

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This is a deliberate decision that the City did back before 2005. There was a lot of discussion both here at the City Council.
We bought the equipment using asset forfeiture, so the City did not buy the initial equipment. And then what we do is we continually update the equipment by buying additional equipment to operate the 911 using our asset forfeiture amounts to reduce the number of leased equipment that we have to use.
It's been a very successful program. I think we've saved a lot of lives and we've been able to provide top-notch service to the city.
You are right, sir. There's the two clear options. Dunwoody went with ChatComm. They were very interested in using our 911 system, but, politically, they wanted to have control over the 911. And I agree. The expectation, sir, is -- after speaking with the mayor at that time, that the city was not interested in giving up control over our 911 system.
You asked me -- the City Council asked me to explore the opportunities of us partnering with other cities, and the conversation always came up, "Are you willing to give up control over the 911?" And at the time, the Mayor did not want to give up the control

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over 911.
A private entity, you have some limited control but you don't have absolute control like you do now.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mr. Roche, I've got one question for you.
And Chief, I've got a question for you.
Under either option, are you considering eliminating the 455-1000 non-emergency number?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No, of course not. During the day, you'd have someone -- just like any other building, you would have someone answer the phone.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And would that be someone in PD or someone here?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Someone in PD, I mean.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So you'd still have a dis --
CHIEF KING: There won't be any.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Chief, hold on.
There'd still be a dispatcher there?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: During the day.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But not at night.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, that was my whole question about this. I specifically requested

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1 the 911 calls. Of all these calls, we don't have any
2 indication how many of these came in through 911
3 versus someone calling at 10 o'clock in the afternoon
4 saying, "There's a stray dog in my yard."
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So if there's --
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So there's no way of
7 knowing the difference between what is 911 versus the
8 455-1000 number.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So if there's no
10 intent on eliminating the 455-1000, where's the cost
11 savings? because you're not laying anybody off.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, the cost savings
13 is that we don't have so many people 24/7.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay, but --
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If we had --
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- you still have
17 people answering the phone and --
18 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You have someone
19 during business hours answering the phone just like we
20 do here at City Hall.
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So a non-emergency
22 number at 11 o'clock at night would go unanswered?
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It would say, "If you
24 have an emergency, dial 911."
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And you'd get Dekalb

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1 County then.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No, not necessarily.
3 We're just exploring possibilities here.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But if we're
5 eliminating the 911 --
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If it's a fire, I
7 would hope I get 911 first because if my house is
8 burning down, I don't want to wait for a police
9 officer to be dispatched to my house first and then
10 contact Dekalb County.
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I believe that's
12 simultaneous: the officer is dispatched and --
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, yeah. Let's go
14 back to that.
15 I mean the question I asked was that if
16 someone dials 911 here -- I said, if I pick up the
17 phone right now and say, "City Hall is on fire," and I
18 dial 911, it goes down the hill, and down-the-hill
19 will have to contact Dekalb County and have them
20 dispatch the fire. That's my question.
21 CHIEF KING: Sir, that is not the sequence.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, but how would
23 they know to come here?
24 CHIEF KING: Sir, a police officer is
25 dispatched.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. So while the --
2 CHIEF KING: And we verify --
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- first officer is
4 dispatched --
5 CHIEF KING: -- and then at the same time --
6 THE REPORTER: One at a time, please.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- you're contacting
8 Dekalb County; right?
9 CHIEF KING: Yes.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So if we have a fire
11 emergency, we have to contact Dekalb County to get it
12 dispatched.
13 CHIEF KING: Sir, so does --
14 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: ChatComm.
15 CHIEF KING: -- ChatComm.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Of course.
17 CHIEF KING: So if 911, sir -- when you call
18 Dekalb County 911, that call --
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It's a --
20 CHIEF KING: -- taker --
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- simple question.
22 CHIEF KING: Sir, will you allow me to
23 answer the question?
24 Will you allow me to answer your question?
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You've answered the

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1 question but answer it again.
2 CHIEF KING: No, sir, because I don't think
3 you heard me.
4 When you dial 911 --
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: (Overspeaking)
6 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Excuse me.
7 CHIEF KING: If you dial 911 to Dekalb
8 County, a call taker takes the call, then that call
9 taker forwards the call to Dekalb County Fire
10 dispatch.
11 There's still a transfer of call, sir.
12 First you got to get somebody to answer the phone in a
13 timely basis. That is a big delay at Dekalb.
14 We dispatch the call to the fire dispatch so
15 that they --
16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Not to Dekalb 911.
17 CHIEF KING: No, not --
18 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: To Dekalb --
19 CHIEF KING: We have --
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- fire dispatch.
21 CHIEF KING: -- a direct line to Dekalb
22 County 911. We've always been able to have an
23 arrangement.
24 I've even offered to Dekalb County to pay
25 for a dedicated line so they would answer. The

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1 problem is that they don't have the staffing to pick
2 up the phone. That's a challenge.
3 I hope that provided some semblance of how
4 the system occurs.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. So --
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Let me ask you a
7 question real quick, what you just stated, because
8 maybe I misunderstood what you just said.
9 The Doraville police have a -- though we
10 don't have a dedicated line to them, you have what
11 type of line that they immediately pick up?
12 CHIEF KING: We have a line that's set up
13 between Dekalb County 911 and Doraville 911. The
14 problem is --
15 Ideally what I'd like to have is an open
16 hard line. And I'm in the process of trying to
17 negotiate with Dekalb County to allow us to do that so
18 it is a dedicated, you know, Internet I.P. line where
19 they know it's Doraville police and they will give us
20 a higher priority in answering that phone call. But
21 the problem is is that several other cities are trying
22 to -- have negotiated the same point.
23 The problem is is there's several routing of
24 that call. That call gets routed to several places.
25 First the call taker answers the phone call. Then

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1 they decide, does it go to the ambulance, does it go
2 to the fire or does it go to P.D.? And then another
3 dispatcher picks up and enters the call into the CAD
4 system.
5 I know it's not ideal. The only other way
6 to change is if Doraville had their own fire
7 department and EMS. That would be the quickest way of
8 getting dispatch.
9 But so far, we've had a good system by
10 having our officers also trained as EMTs. We've saved
11 a bunch of lives by having a police officer go on
12 every call.
13 Other agencies don't dispatch police calls
14 to medical emergencies and fire. Most of them say,
15 "Hey, that's a fire call. We're not sending a police
16 car."
17 Dekalb County Police does not dispatch; they
18 just announce it on their radio net -- you know, be
19 advised that there's a 911 person-down call at this
20 address. If a car happens to be close by, they might
21 roll by there.
22 But we dispatch a car to every call that
23 comes in whether fire, EMS or police-related.
24 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I guess with
25 these statistics you gave us, fire and EMS was about

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1 one percent of all the calls that came in last year.
2 CHIEF KING: That is correct, ma'am.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, but we don't
4 know if these are actual 911 calls or if they went to
5 the regular 455-1000. Could we find that out please?
6 CHIEF KING: Yes, sir, we can, I mean, but
7 I --
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you.
9 That's what I asked for originally was --
10 CHIEF KING: Well, no, sir.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- how many 911 calls.
12 CHIEF KING: Your question, sir -- your
13 request for calls, sir, when you leave it to -- to a
14 great deal of interpretation, and I thought we were
15 trying to answer your question with the best data
16 available.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The e-mail says: I
18 have an agenda item Monday night of 911 services and
19 need the latest 911 call statistics. Need to know the
20 total number of calls and the breakout number of
21 police, fire and medical calls. Thank you, Bob Roche.
22 That was sent May 12th.
23 CHIEF KING: Yes, sir. I got your message,
24 sir, and I believe were answering your information
25 request by providing the number of calls that were

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1 dispatched for fire and by the number of calls
2 dispatched for fire rescue and ambulance.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I had requested
4 911.
5 CHIEF KING: 79 versus 464.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, the process that
7 you've just described is exactly the process that
8 Dunwoody is using through ChatComm. So when Dunwoody
9 calls 911, they get ChatComm. ChatComm calls Dekalb
10 County to dispatch the fire or the ambulance. They
11 also stay on the line and they determine if the police
12 is also needed and, if so, they simultaneously
13 dispatch the police.
14 CHIEF KING: But they don't send the police
15 on every EMS call and fire call, sir. They don't.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Maybe they do.
17 CHIEF KING: No, sir. Remember the lady --
18 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Perhaps. But the
19 point is --
20 CHIEF KING: -- that died at the fire, sir?
21 There was a police car there too.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I would think that we
23 need probably -- as was mentioned before, we probably
24 need to have someone from Dekalb County come in and
25 talk about their 911 service and --

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: If other Council
2 members may be able to comment, please, I'd appreciate
3 that.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I was trying --
5 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I --
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- to work my way
7 through this process, and I'm not being able to finish
8 because there were a couple of other points I wanted
9 to make.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I started back in
11 June of 2010 examining 911 fees that we receive and
12 that Chamblee receives.
13 I contacted the research director of the
14 Department of Community Affairs with a very powerful
15 one-line e-mail: "Is there any way to verify that our
16 municipality is collecting all the 911 fees it is
17 due?"
18 The response I got is, "There is no way of
19 which I am aware to be completely certain."
20 That is an unacceptable answer to me. I
21 have discussed this problem a couple of times with
22 Elena Parent that I find it extremely unacceptable
23 that the State cannot answer my questions.
24 I would like to pass along this contact
25 information and the referring party that he included,

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1 which is the head of the E-911 program administrator
2 at GMA.
3 Furthermore, there were two 911 laws passed
4 this year in session. H.B. 256 was signed by the
5 governor on May 11th. That is supposed to give
6 municipalities access to additional funds related to
7 prepaid wireless services.
8 I would ask that staff and our city attorney
9 follow up on that. How do we get our name in the hat
10 to start collecting these fees?
11 I understand it's based on point of sale.
12 So I assume that any of the cell providers in our
13 city, even such as a K-Mart or even I know some
14 convenience stores sell prepaid cell phones, that we
15 would make sure that we get those fees that we're
16 allowed.
17 Also signed into law on May the 5th was H.B.
18 280 that also addresses 911 fees and the way they can
19 be spent on equipment.
20 I'd like for us to follow up on that also
21 and see if there's anything -- resolutions or anything
22 that we need to do to make sure that we either get
23 additional moneys or that we're allowed to spend
24 moneys in a different way.
25 Having called Dekalb County Police several

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1 times -- no offense to our brethren in blue; I have
2 friends who are Dekalb County police officers -- but I
3 have been put on hold every single time. That's
4 unacceptable to me. And that's a luxury that we have
5 in this city is that when you call across the street,
6 they answer the telephone.
7 And a little bit of trivia here. I did some
8 analysis because I understand there was an issue in
9 Johns Creek when Fulton County was dispatching for
10 Johns Creek, where unfortunately a lady died because
11 they sent the EMS to a similar street name that was
12 not in Johns Creek, that was in Atlanta. That's
13 unacceptable, and again, unfortunately, someone passed
14 away.
15 The oak is a common symbol of strength and
16 endurance and has been chosen as the national tree of
17 many countries including the United States. In our
18 city, the oak is very popular in street names:
19 Darlington Oak, English Oak, Green Oak, Laurel Oak
20 Court, Live Oak, Moss Oak, Oakcliff, Oakmont, Pin Oak
21 Circle, Pin Oak Way, Red Oak, Scarlet Oak Court,
22 Scarlet Oak Drive, Shady Oak Court, Shady Oak Drive,
23 Spanish Oak Drive, Timber Oak Drive, Water Oak Way,
24 Willow Oak Way and Windsor Oak Drive.
25 Every single dispatcher across the street

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1 can tell you where those Oaks are. They can also tell
2 you that three of those Oaks are split with our
3 jurisdiction and the county, be it Gwinnett or Dekalb.
4 Further more, unfortunately, Willow Oak Way,
5 which is the location of Oakcliff Elementary, is
6 unfortunately not in our jurisdiction, which I
7 guarantee you our emergency dispatchers would respond
8 quicker than the county.
9 I think there's a lot more to consider here
10 than just money.
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, one of the
12 things that Ms. Alexander brought up and Mr. Roche
13 alluded to in his proposal was the revenue side.
14 In the agenda item it talks about
15 relinquishing the $150,000 in the 911 revenues that we
16 get.
17 Chamblee is $250,000 in E911 fees, Dunwoody
18 is over $700,000 in E911 fees, Sandy Springs is 2.8
19 million dollars in E911 fees. So the question that I
20 think we need to be looking at is on the revenue side
21 to offset the transference of moneys from the general
22 fund.
23 So I concur with Ms. Alexander's assessment
24 that we need to, you know, push our state legislators
25 if we need to get our city attorneys involved to find

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1 out why we are at the bottom end of that stick. How
2 do they calculate where those moneys come from?
3 What's the source of those revenues?
4 There are two separate line items. And I
5 apologize, I don't have our budget breakdown, but
6 Chamblee's budget for 911 system is $170,000, for
7 wireless 911 system is $180,000. I'm guessing that
8 that's the difference between a land line and a cell
9 phone?
10 CHIEF KING: It is, sir.
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Our numbers are
12 significantly lower than the numbers that Chamblee is
13 posting. So to me, there's a question on the revenue
14 side or we need to be looking at that.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And as far as
16 Chamblee, what I did was they just had an annexation
17 there and they did increase their budget for their 911
18 service because they've pretty much doubled their
19 population and their area.
20 So what I did was I used their previous
21 year's budget numbers. And I'm showing that our
22 revenue are about $150,000; their revenues was about
23 $270,000, and that's a $120,000-a-year difference,
24 which obviously, as people have said here, I don't
25 know why we're only getting $150,000 and they're

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1 getting $270,000.
2 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Well, Mr. McLendon,
3 is it per capita?
4 ATTORNEY McLENDON: The fees as I understand
5 them are based on where the phone is registered is the
6 primary fee.
7 I can say some of the new legislation, what
8 I believe they were having a problem with is that the
9 prepaid -- prepaid cell phones were just absolutely
10 going under the radar.
11 So on that one, what they've done is if you
12 pass a resolution that says we will impose this one
13 dollar fee on prepaid cell, you send it to the State.
14 They're going to pool that, and that is going to be
15 per capita is my understanding. That is -- that's
16 going to be based on the proration among the cities.
17 CHIEF KING: It's 14 million dollars right
18 now for the whole state, sir.
19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: But this is a perennial
20 problem.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, and I didn't --
22 I'm sorry. I didn't get this on the original agenda
23 item but I did send this out to the Council, a
24 comparison between Doraville and Chamblee.
25 The other difference I noticed that I was a

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1 little more concerned about is on the expenditure
2 side. Chamblee, as was stated before, has an
3 excellent 911 service but their 911 service costs
4 $550,000 a year. Our same thing, same size, same
5 population, same everything: $771,000 a year.
6 Why does it cost us $221,000 a year more to
7 provide the same service to the same number of people
8 with the same square mileage as our sister city on our
9 border?
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Chamblee's 2011 budget
11 which was adopted in December 2010 shows their E911
12 Telefund expense line item at $845,200.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's after they had
14 their annexation and added 9,000 people to their
15 population, so that's understandable. That's why I
16 used the year before.
17 CHIEF KING: Sir, they did not add any
18 personnel. They run --
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: They're adding four
20 people.
21 CHIEF KING: They run dispatch -- they run a
22 single dispatcher, sir. We run two.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's not what I saw
24 on their thing. That's why I had to go back a year.
25 CHIEF KING: Okay, sir, but that's their

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1 methodology, sir. They run one dispatcher and they do
2 call taking and dispatch.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay, but that's --
4 CHIEF KING: We --
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Again, that's $221,000
6 difference between Doraville and Chamblee for
7 essentially the same service.
8 $221,000 would probably pay for the Halpern
9 Park renovations. $221,000 would buy how many police
10 cars?
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Chief, do you also
12 use the 911 operators on their downtime when they're
13 not taking calls? Are they the ones entering the
14 warrants --
15 CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am.
16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- in the GCIC?
17 CHIEF KING: Yes. They enter the warrants
18 from the courthouse and also deal with the front
19 window, ma'am --
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay.
21 CHIEF KING: -- you know, people coming in
22 and trying to range for bonding a person out of the
23 jail.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Are we still entering
25 warrants for Sandy Springs?

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1 CHIEF KING: No, sir, no. ChatComm does
2 that, sir.
3 Now, we still have an agreement with them
4 for Johns Creek's courthouse. We still have an
5 agreement with them. But their police department does
6 it through ChatComm, yes, sir.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And our expense for
8 E911, I didn't see a line item for I.T. services,
9 either. I guess that would have to be added in.
10 So anyway, I think that given that we're
11 talking about a big-ticket item, I think that we
12 should explore all possibilities.
13 I think that we have fiduciary
14 responsibility for how we spend the citizens' money,
15 and I think it would be a good idea to, as was stated
16 before, bring in some other people: bring in someone
17 from Dekalb County and see what they have to say,
18 bring in someone from either ChatComm or whoever and
19 see what they say.
20 You know, for all we know, we could be
21 saving a lot of money here and providing the same
22 level of service.
23 Chamblee is clearly saving a lot of money
24 and providing the same service. Why can't we?
25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I'm not interested

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1 in discussing dispatching with Dekalb County. I find
2 their service unacceptable.
3 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Yes.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I agree.
5 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: I agree.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mr. McLendon, one of
7 the things on the Chamblee revenue side is a transfer
8 from a technology fund.
9 I don't know what that means. Could you or
10 the Clerk or the Mayor dig into that and see if
11 there's a surcharge added onto tickets?
12 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I can look. Right off
13 the bat, I don't know of something that's a technology
14 fund, but it might be something they've done
15 specifically in Chamblee, and we can find out what
16 that is.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I know -- and Attorney
18 Weed, you chime in on this -- I know we've talked
19 about adding in a technology fee.
20 Off the top of my head, I don't recall if
21 we've ever implemented it if we could.
22 ATTORNEY WEED: Unless there's a State law
23 that would provide for it, you can't. It would be
24 under the Preemption Doctrine and you wouldn't be able
25 to do it.

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1 You can always increase the baseline fee up
2 to the maximum limit allowed by the individual state
3 statute for the offense. But unless there is a
4 particular statute that empowers the government to set
5 aside the money for that purpose or to collect an
6 extra fee, it's regulated.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Ultimately, the
8 burden, in my mind, of police 911 services falls on
9 the people that cause 911 to be used. Some exceptions
10 always apply.
11 But if our police are being dispatched out
12 because of someone committing a crime, we should pass
13 some of that burden, some of that cost on to the
14 people that are committing the crime.
15 And if there's a way -- And again, I don't
16 know what their $55,000 technology fund -- where that
17 money comes from, where it's generated from, but I do
18 think we need to explore a lot of different options of
19 modifying the revenue side of the E911 to reduce the
20 burden on the general fund. I think that's -- that's
21 incumbent upon us.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And for the ...I did
23 not -- I combined the amount, the technology
24 transfer -- the technology transfer plus the general
25 fund transfer to make up the total that they put.

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1 They have to subsidize their 911 system $277,000 a
2 year.
3 All of ours comes out of general fund, which
4 our subsidy is $621,000 a year to subsidize our 911.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And again, you're --
6 just so everybody is clear, you're using their 2010
7 budget. Their 2011 budget --
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- including the
10 transfer fee from technology is $495,000 that they're
11 subsidizing --
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- their E911
14 operations.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. And again, the
16 reason I did that was because the original budget,
17 last year's budget was before they had the annexation
18 and they had the same population and the same land
19 area as we do.
20 It wouldn't have made a lot of sense to
21 compare to their current population which is almost
22 double.
23 Just like Dunwoody, I think they're at
24 48,000 people, and obviously they're going to pay a
25 little more than we are.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Do we know -- and this
2 will be for the Clerk and our attorneys -- is there a
3 Service Delivery Strategy line item for Dekalb County
4 doing E911?
5 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I don't know the answer
6 in Dekalb County on the SDS.
7 Mr. Weed?
8 MR. WEED: Under the current agreement
9 that's exempted. In other words, we exempted
10 ourselves, meaning we're doing it on our own.
11 So my opinion would be we'd probably need to
12 make an -- if we change the program, we'd need to make
13 an adjustment back into it.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So in theory, assuming
15 that that is correct, that there would be an extra fee
16 or part of the SDS, that would be an increase in our
17 residents' tax bill because there would be an added
18 charge between us and the County much like there's a
19 line item for fire, EMS, much like there's a line item
20 for street lights.
21 That would be an additional tax on the
22 resident side. Would you concur with that?
23 MR. WEED: I don't know if it would actually
24 be an increase. It might be about what we're paying
25 now. I mean I'm not competent to address that because

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1 I never looked at the numbers.
2 But I do know that we'd have to go back and
3 amend the SDS agreement if we go back into -- if we
4 don't have it here locally and go back to doing it
5 with the County; but what the numbers would be, I
6 don't know.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So that would be the
9 option of going to -- just turning it all back over to
10 Dekalb County?
11 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I believe what would
12 happen is in the SDS, if the City basically
13 relinquished that service and the County began to
14 provide it, you would compensate the County for that
15 and it would just be part of the negotiations to
16 coordinate the services between the County and the
17 City.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So in theory, if we
19 were to migrate to Dekalb 911 and eliminated
20 positions, while we would be reducing our general fund
21 budget, it's possible that our residents would be
22 increasing their property tax bill if there was a fee
23 associated with going back to Dekalb 911.
24 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Or we just pay them
25 directly.

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1 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And that would be --
2 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Do we need --
3 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- if they were the --
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- an IGA like
5 Dunwoody did?
6 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If they were going to do
8 it for us, what we'd do is negotiate an IGA with
9 Dekalb County, and then basically that becomes a
10 matter of negotiation as to what you end up with.
11 MR. WEED: At this point, it's an unknown.
12 I mean it could be the same amount, it could be more,
13 it could be less. No one knows right now.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay. Thank you.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I haven't commented
16 on this item but I would like to at this time.
17 I think it's premature. I think the agenda
18 item read that the request was to go out for an RFP
19 for consideration of E911 services. I think it's
20 premature at this time to request to go out for an RFP
21 because I don't think we've vetted all the
22 possibilities or the --
23 As Ms. Alexander said, that was one of the
24 issues that I had was the revenue side of where the
25 fees are.

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1 I think the City has been remiss for the
2 last several years in collecting taxes, collecting
3 fees, et cetera, and I think that's one of the biggest
4 possibilities of why we're in -- I wouldn't know what
5 the percentage is but I believe that's probably a good
6 portion of the reason why we're in a deficit right
7 now: because we haven't had any follow-up on our
8 responsibilities or accountability of our revenues.
9 So with that being said, though I think 911
10 is extremely important for the city being in-house, it
11 is a major-ticket item and it's something that needs
12 to be looked at.
13 But to say -- for me to tell you this
14 evening I want us to go out for an RFP, I'm going to
15 say no but that we do need to investigate other
16 possible avenues of reducing that budget, as we will
17 for all other departments, whether it be courts or
18 patrols or recreation or whatever.
19 It's going to be very hard on the Mayor and
20 Council and for the department directors when we get
21 around to the budget time. So with that said, I'm not
22 ready to pursue additional action at this time.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, the agenda item
24 sheet actually requested: choose an effective,
25 affordable E911 service alternative.

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There's two options I listed so far. One option would be, as we've discussed, turning 911 services over to Dekalb County; the other option would be to issue an RFP for private E911 services.

Again, this is strictly fact-finding. I'm not advocating -- I would not vote tonight to go out for RFPs on this either because we don't know enough to understand what our options are.

But we have some big questions such as, again, you know, why we have to subsidize $621,000 out of our general fund, when the city next door, the last time they were our size, only had to subsidize less than half of that. Something's wrong somewhere on the revenue side and the expenditure side.

If we're going to solve our budget issues, we need to look at everything. If we're going to start taking things off the table now, we might as well just hang it up because -- You know, if we're going to have sacred cows that can't be touched and we can't even ask the questions, then -- then we're not doing our jobs up here.

And as someone said we're being overpaid, in that case, I would agree with that, you know. If we're not going to do -- if we're not going to step up and produce a balanced budget this year, then we don't

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deserve to be sitting up here, in my opinion.

So I think that we need to get more information and I think we need to get some clarification on the number of 911 calls that come in. I think we need to find out exactly what the deal would be if we did perhaps go to Dekalb County. I think we also need to find out if we're going to go with, you know, one of the options as far as a private 911 service such as ChatComm.

ChatComm, they charge Dunwoody a little over a million dollars for a city that's four times our size. For all we know, maybe they'd charge us $300,000 because we're -- 25 percent of what they charge Dunwoody. I don't know. The point is, though, I think that we need to ask those questions.

And maybe when it's all over with, we say, "You know what? We have the best possible situation here. We have the most cost effective situation right now," and we decide to do nothing at all. But at least we'll all be comfortable and confident that we've done our due diligence and done our jobs by asking those questions in the first place.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: One of those questions that I think you need to answer before we move forward with this process is what is your proposed plan for

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455-1000 and the dispatchers sitting at that front desk who enter police warrants, who deal with non-emergency calls, who deal with code compliance calls, who deal with noisy dogs and noisy neighbors and all those other things, because unless you're proposing or planning on laying off the entirety of the department, we're not going to be able to compare apples-to-apples numbers because there will always be a cost associated with people sitting at the front desk dispatching non-emergency calls and taking the questions that come in from the general public on police matters and dealing with people that walk up to the front desk and ask for an officer because of identity theft or of --

Chief, you can -- you guys can comment on how many times do you have people walk up to the counter and want to speak with an officer.

CHIEF KING: It's a constant thing, sir, 24 hours a day. Vehicle recoveries, impound releases, fingerprinting. It is a full -- it is a full gamut. I mean those dispatchers not only take the calls --

Although I encourage the community to dial 911 as much as possible -- that way, we have a good, accurate record -- our community's actually been pretty good about not dialing 911 on non-emergency, but that 455-1000 number is busy throughout the night

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and throughout the day.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Just as an FYI -- and Ms. Alexander may -- I did not ask her about this, so she may correct me; but Dekalb 911 no longer dispatches an officer on noise complaints or animal complaints.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Or burglaries.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Or burglaries.

CHIEF KING: And car break-ins.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So the question would be under either scenario -- and our officers do self-reporting. And when they're pulling over a vehicle, they're calling back into our dispatch to run the warrant checks and run the plates and drivers licenses. Moving it back to Dekalb, I'm assuming, Mr. Roche, that you would have those dispatchers then communicating with Dekalb 911?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm saying I don't have the answers. I'm saying let's get the answers and then we'll know what we're talking about.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But those are answers that you need to provide because it's being recommended and proposed by you.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: You know, if you want

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1 Dekalb 911 to be interfacing with our officers, then
2 that needs to be part of the proposal. If you --
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That sounds good, but
4 obviously that's not what I want, and I think you
5 understand that.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But if it's --
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And I think the --
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But if it's --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- idea here is --
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mr. Roche, let me
11 finish, please.
12 If it's not what you want, then there's not
13 going to be any cost savings because you're not going
14 to be eliminating any personnel over in the police
15 department. If you're not going to be eliminating any
16 personnel in the police department, then you're not
17 going to have any cost savings.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we'd have --
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's pretty simple.
20 It's, you know, A or B.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We would not need
22 someone 24/7 at the police department, presumably. Or
23 if we went with the ChatComm solution, they may be
24 answering the 455-1000. I don't know if they provide
25 that service or not.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So assuming --
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Just like any other
3 department, we would have a receptionist there
4 available during business hours.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So if someone had an
6 identity-theft issue or a noise complaint at 10
7 o'clock at night, Dekalb doesn't dispatch those.
8 Dekalb wouldn't be sitting in front of the desk.
9 Where would someone go if they had --
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I don't know.
11 What does Dunwoody do?
12 Let's ask them. Let's find out. Let's get
13 answers to these questions so that we'll have the
14 facts and we'll make a reasonable decision based on
15 facts, not decisions based on going around and scaring
16 people that we're all going to die.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, I'm very
18 disappointed in you that you didn't do more research.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I've done as --
20 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I mean you kept --
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- much research at
22 this point.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I mean you keep --
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If you're going to
25 attack me like everyone else, I'm used to it.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No. I mean you
2 keep mentioning Dunwoody is four times our size but
3 you don't know if their rate is based on their call
4 occurrence, you don't know if their rate is based on
5 per capita.
6 So you're throwing out this information and
7 you use the word "size," but is that what their dollar
8 amount is based upon?
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, in an e-mail to
10 a councilman over there, I said specifically -- let's
11 see here -- I said I did not want to get ahead of the
12 council on this issue, that we needed to present this
13 and work together as a council to decide what
14 information we needed, what would be viable.
15 I mean I can spend a lot of time doing
16 research too. But you know, if you want something to
17 be completely, you know, wrapped up in a package, you
18 know, that's not the point.
19 The point is there are six people sitting up
20 here and there are six people up here that need
21 answers. Or we can just stick our head in the sand
22 and pretend like it doesn't exist and go on spending
23 money, and then pretty soon we won't have a 911 system
24 because the City of Doraville will end up being
25 reabsorbed back into Dekalb County anyway because

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1 we'll be broke.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Talk about scare
3 tactics.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: But I want the --
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So, you know --
6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I want the
7 citizens to know that it was almost two, maybe three
8 years ago that I sat up here and said I thought it was
9 completely ludicrous that Council members got
10 benefits. I was almost run out of town on a rail by
11 other Council members for suggesting that we don't
12 have any benefits.
13 We don't give benefits to any of our part-
14 time employees that show up to work in the city every
15 day but yet we have benefits.
16 The only benefit I have, I pay for it.
17 I think it's ludicrous that if you're
18 elected to an office in this city, you are instantly
19 vested in the retirement program that somebody out
20 there on the street taking a bullet has to be here for
21 10 years. That is asinine.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Let's put it --
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And you never --
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- on the agenda.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- voted that

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1 into . . . because you were ashamed of your damn self.
2 And that is something that I tried along
3 with Councilman Bates, as soon as we got elected, to
4 try to rectify that, and we got shut down and we got
5 nowhere.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Two of us took a
7 voluntary pay reduction and it was mentioned that that
8 was a meaningless gesture, and that's been two years
9 running now that two of us have taken a 10 percent pay
10 cut.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we're kind of
12 getting off the topic.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No, we're not.
14 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: That's a big
15 dollar amount.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: We're on topic.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, let's bring it
18 up and put it on the agenda, and let's discuss it and
19 let's get the facts and let's decide what to do about
20 it.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: One of the
22 questions we asked to the benefit people that are now
23 examining the workman's comp -- and again, Councilman
24 Bates and I brought up three years ago that they are
25 also going to be -- if we request it, which we shall,

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1 be examining our employee benefits and the retirement
2 program. It's not --
3 I don't want the City retirement. I'd
4 rather give it to a police officer. It's ridiculous
5 that I have it.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And I brought up the
7 Save Doraville plan in September two years ago --
8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: But you didn't --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- with all of this
10 stuff.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: You didn't want to
12 reduce your salary and you didn't want to address
13 the --
14 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I said 10 percent
15 salary across the board so that we wouldn't have to
16 lay anybody off.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: But you didn't
18 reduce yours.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I put it up. I
20 brought it up, I put it up for a motion and it went
21 nowhere. It was shut down --
22 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I did it.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- so, you know.
24 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: You know, I think
25 it's very important that we do investigate possibly

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1 getting more money back into our 911 system.
2 I will say this about Dekalb County.
3 Several years ago, I had a medical emergency at my
4 house, that could have turned very bad if it had not
5 been for our police department.
6 When 911 was called, my daughter was on a
7 land line and called our police department. They were
8 at my house in a minute and a half.
9 She was on her cell phone, which, at that
10 time, was going to Dekalb County. She got put on hold
11 three times, cut off once, and if it had not been for
12 our department going to their line and getting 911
13 there, I might not be sitting here today.
14 So I want to tell you that Dekalb County --
15 I wouldn't even consider talking to them because they
16 have a poor service. I'm not saying other
17 alternatives, but certainly not Dekalb County. And I
18 have lots of friends there. I'm not knocking them.
19 But the dispatcher, that system is --
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: They're under-
21 staffed.
22 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: They're under-
23 staffed, overworked, so.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And that's why I
25 listed a disadvantage under the option for 911 --

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1 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: So what is --
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- turning it over --
3 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: -- your motion?
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- to Dekalb County.
5 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: What do you want to
6 do?
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I think this is
8 really a budget type item that needs to be worked on
9 and taken into consideration as a budget item.
10 As far as interviewing ChatComm or listening
11 to what Dekalb County has to offer or other things,
12 I'm open to any suggestions we can to reduce the
13 budget. I am not in favor of eliminating our E911
14 system.
15 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: So possibly you can
16 check on some of the items that we have talked about.
17 If you could do that, please.
18 ATTORNEY McLENDON: One thing I would
19 definitely do is in my next meeting I would give a
20 report especially on the new legislation that's out
21 there where they've been trying to grab some of these
22 fees and get them to come through to the munici-
23 palities, which is also something we ought to be
24 looking at in the legislature every year, trying to
25 make sure they do that.

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MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: All right. So for the next meeting, I would like to make a motion that we request numbers from the police department -- the number of calls that were actually 911 calls; from the city attorney, a report on the current legislation that's just been passed and how that may affect us; and last, I'd like the nod from the Council to go ahead and contact either directly or indirectly someone at ChatComm to find out what kind of services they provide. And I make that in the form of a motion.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I agree with two out of three. Sorry.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Which two is that?
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: The first two, I would assume.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The first two.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No.

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CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: No.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No. Shut down again, so.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. All right.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Can we go back to that item, though, Ms. Pittman, because I am so concerned about our fee collection and I don't know if this is Ms. McCain's --
Does it come into your office or is it Ms. Wilson's office?
CLERK McCAIN: Ms. Wilson, finance.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I do think that -- you know, I would like to know what the procedure is of our collecting, whether it's sent to us by phone numbers or providers or, you know, some type of the accounting of how we're actually receiving it.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: We will make a motion for the first two items, to have the city

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attorney examine two pieces of legislation and what we need to do to get our name in the bucket.
I will pass along my information to the Clerk and the city attorney of whom we're supposed to contact to try to get the information on if we're getting all the fees that we are due.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.
CLERK McCAIN: Ms. Wilson may know more also, being the finance director.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: So is your motion for the first two?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion carries.
All right. Sunday Alcohol Sales referendum, Ms. Alexander.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The last item.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Let's hope.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: As everyone knows, Governor Deal signed Senate Bill No. 10 which gives local governments the ability to hold a referendum to allow the voters to decide whether to allow retail alcohol sales on Sunday.
I wanted to go ahead and get this on the agenda, not that I'm pushing for or against, but there's a lot of stipulation in this bill as far as advertising that has to be held before the referendum, as far as specific language that you have to include in your ordinances. It's very detailed, and I wanted to go ahead and get Council moving on this to put it on the referendum in November so our voters can decide.

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MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. Questions from the Council?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I just think it makes sense to put it on this November's ballot since we already have an election going on so there won't be extra fees to Dekalb County. And then also we already have two other items on, two other referendums, so we'll just be adding a third.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Excuse me. I thought that we were only allowed two referendums per election cycle.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think that's to be passed; in local legislation, it's to be passed.

I think any municipality can add the State referendum on there, but Mr. McLendon I'm sure will check into that.

ATTORNEY McLENDON: I can find out. I've not heard of a limitation of any of the referendums we can ask for, but there may be something out there I'm not aware of.

With this one being authorized by State law, I would think we would be allowed to get this on the ballot, but I need to find out the basis of the referendums.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Mr. Weed?

ATTORNEY WEED: I concur with Mr. McLendon.

I believe that based upon the new statute being adopted, that it would be allowed. It would warrant a little research, though, but I feel confident that they expected that.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So I make a motion that the city attorney and the clerk begin to work on having the retail sales on Sunday alcohol on the November ballot.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm in favor of the residents deciding whether they want to be able to purchase alcohol on Sunday.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.

All right. Reports, committees.

Chief, do you have anything else?

CHIEF KING: No, ma'am.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.

Just real quick, tonight is, I believe, Mr. Weed's last official meeting, and I just want to thank he and his firm for all the hard, dedicated work that they have provided for the City in the past, and thank you so much.

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. Public comments.

Please limit your comments to three minutes, state your name; come to the podium, please.

MS. CRAWFORD: Susan Crawford, Oakcliff.

Just on the items that we just covered. With the parking, I would think if there are more people visiting, maybe in-laws visiting, daughters coming back home because of the marriages, whatever

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and so there are temporarily more cars at the house, instead of going through all of this special stuff, it seems like because we do have the police department we have it could just be a matter of a phone call or an explanation. Simplifying it seems kind of logical.

And speaking of logic, I guess I'm not real clear on why, if you were replacing the city planner, you have -- you have somebody who has the proper qualifications and is asking the same amount of money that you're offering, more or less.

This is -- what is it? A lawyer and a landscape artist who's been unemployed for nearly a year and does not have the qualifications that you specified, and because of the lack of which, our previous city planner was put through the wringer. And ultimately, he's gone. I don't know why. Maybe because of that, probably.

And it just seems to me that this is where we get into trouble without really thinking through -- where we get into trouble without really thinking through who you're hiring. And if you have certain guidelines and specifications that you've clearly thought out ahead of time, they were important enough for you to put in in the proposal, I would think that you would want to stick to that.

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And Mr. Roche, I noticed -- it seem a little hypocritical that you were pretty cavalier about going over the expenditure there, but yet --

I mean are we in dire straits or aren't we? If we are, it seems to me you would want to stick very rigorously to the amount of money that was offered. And if we aren't, then why are you messing with 911?

And another thing you said: If we could save that money, we could use it to build Halpern Park.

Well, granted, I don't live in that area, but, to me, a life is worth a hell of a lot more than somebody's park being decorated. Thank you.

MR. HART: It's interesting. Tom Hart.

I agree with John King and Bob Roche tonight at the same time. I had a chance to use the 911 service and the police department pluses and minuses, and I had a chance to use the 455 as well as the 911 number.

The 455 number worked great. I had a sheltie that didn't bark in the police department and they saved a brand new car from being stolen in my driveway, so.

When I had the heart problem, Sergeant Pilgrim was there within 30 seconds, you know, so the

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response time is excellent.

I also had an interesting conversation within the last two weeks with some councilpeople from Dunwoody about this ChatComm and the 911 service. And it reminded me of the conversation that was going on here tonight, which was purely political. It's this light-switch argument where it's either on or off. You either want police services or no police services. That's not the question.

And that -- it's a tragedy because Dunwoody was doing the same thing that y'all did tonight. It was: We don't want to do business with Doraville. We'd rather shoot our feet off than make an obvious deal with a city that's got the resources, that the two cities could work together and make a real positive change for this whole northern area. And they didn't want to do it for pure politics.

That's why Dunwoody didn't go with the Doraville situation.

And what they talked about tonight was John, when he started the service -- Chief King -- they leased the system. Chamblee bought the system, you know, the whole routine. The city council bought the wrong software. That's not the Chief. This history goes back to the beginning.

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And we've got problems with paying too much for I.T. service. It's the whole bundle of wax is not working well because the equipment is not correct, the software is not correct; we're paying too much for I.T. services; we're not collecting the money for real estate, we're not collecting money for 911 cell services. The whole system --

And your conversation here should be: How are we going to make this thing work? We like the response time, but how are we going to get the cost and where are we going to get the revenues?

And the taxes, business license fees, all these things are because the City's not operating correctly right now.

Now, John, he'll tell you he's got some problems there and they're spending too much money in certain areas of that system. But at the same time, the City is not collecting the money. They're not doing their part of it. Thank you.

MS. PRINZIVALLI: Caroline Prinzivalli, Allison Drive.

I have agree with Tom on some things. I mean we're talking about fine tuning here and there so where we can have a nickel here, a dime here, that ends up being -- you know, in my house, I might not

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get so much of this because I can't afford so much of that, and I have to make sacrifices here so that I can have $5.00 extra at the end of the week so that I can put it towards whatever. And that's what we're asking for, so everything has to be questioned and everything has to be talked about.

Sitting out there, I became very uncomfortable with the way the discussion went. And I just think that everything -- everybody -- every line item needs to be talked about. And we have to trim where we can trim, get some money where we can get some money and make it all work better together -- everybody work better together and all of the budget work better so that we can be a city that people want to work with. Thank you.

MR. COMER: My name is Robbie Comer and I live on Bonnie Avenue.

I'd like to point out I think a main issue we've had -- the parking has been discussed, and the main issue we've had is with the boarding houses and how to get rid of them, and it's not about, you know, limiting people having their relatives over.

I really don't think, in our neighborhood, that someone's grandparents coming to visit three times a week and spending the night, that they're

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1 going to call and have them -- you know, tell them
2 they can't park there. I mean that's reasonable,
3 okay.
4 To me, we have houses that are obvious. I
5 mean we're talking six -- I've seen as many as ten
6 cars at these places. They're there all the time.
7 They know what they're doing, and they're doing
8 everything they can to work around the laws we have,
9 and so they're obvious.
10 I can understand how the Chief doesn't want
11 people to go into other people's homes, you know; it's
12 dangerous, and I can understand that. So maybe there
13 is another way to work around that.
14 You know, park, you know, four cars at a
15 household, but you know, well, sometimes my child's
16 going to be at their grandparents'.
17 Of course they will. That's understandable.
18 But we're not after those people. We're after to shut
19 the boarding houses down and get them out of the
20 neighborhood. That's our main objective.
21 And with regard to the 911, I can very much
22 understand some people's displeasure with Dekalb and
23 their response time, and I have to agree with some of
24 what other people said, too. But it should be
25 discussed, I think.

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1 And to me, you know, not just because some-
2 thing costs a lot of money means a bust or, you know,
3 or whatever, but it should be discussed, I believe.
4 And you can do charts, well, how much.
5 As Mayor Pro Tem Pittman said, I should have
6 looked it up before I came. Is it per capita, the
7 charge? I mean how are cell phones -- do cell phones
8 go there? I assume they don't, but they brought up
9 maybe they do. I don't know.
10 So how do these systems work, how much do
11 they cost, is it per capita, I mean? And the charges,
12 maybe there is something actually that is cheaper and
13 it's better, I mean.
14 And to me, it seems like you just ruled it
15 out completely without even thinking about it or
16 looking at it, and it needs to be done, I mean.
17 When I'm in a work situation, you know, they
18 tell us what to do. There's no interaction in most
19 workplaces, you know: "You're getting this insurance,
20 and if you don't like it, quit. You know, we'll get
21 someone else that'll work for cheaper than you and do
22 twice as much work."
23 That's the bottom line, in this economy,
24 anyway. I mean I think anybody knows that.
25 Everyone's been affected by the economy. And you

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1 know, tough decision have to be made, and I've had to
2 make them too.
3 But I think some people get so passionate
4 about, you know, items, and I have too. But it's
5 really good to work all together on it and get all
6 your information and make the best choice.
7 I think everything should always be
8 considered. So thank you very much for your time.
9 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you.
10 MS. BRADFORD: Cindy Bradford, Northwoods.
11 As for the parking ordinance as it relates
12 to boarding houses, we need an ordinance that
13 specifically goes to absentee owners specifically.
14 They need to abide by, I guess, a different
15 set of rules than the rest of us because they refuse
16 to abide by the rules that we have. They don't care
17 what the property looks like. They don't care that
18 they're inflicting crime and low standards on our
19 neighborhood.
20 Parking is not going to get it. We've got
21 to go after the slum lords. That's just all there is
22 to it.
23 As for the 911 services, I moved here from
24 unincorporated Dekalb. I would hope that Dekalb
25 County 911 would not even be on the list of people to

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1 consider to change our 911 services to.
2 However, these are tough times, the
3 economy's bad. Every single department in the City
4 needs to be looked at it, and, as Caroline said, fine
5 tuned.
6 I think it's shameful that you were sitting
7 up here tonight talking about possible lost revenues
8 and where is the revenue for our 911 service. Come
9 on. Fine tune that, fine out what's going on and get
10 the revenue.
11 And another thing. Have we done an audit?
12 Have all the businesses in the city paid all of their
13 fees and everything for their licenses? Have we
14 audited them? Do we know that everybody has a current
15 business license? I mean we've got to get out there
16 and find every dime we can.
17 And I'm with Caroline. It was uncomfortable
18 sitting there watching this discussion, I guess,
19 tonight. Y'all need to work together a little bit
20 better than you do. You can disagree with each other
21 without acting like that. Thank you.
22 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Anyone else?
23 - - -
24 (No response)
25 - - -

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MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: All right. Motion to adjourn?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Motion to adjourn.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do we get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
- - -
(Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.)
- - -

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA]
COUNTY OF DEKALB]

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was taken down, as stated in the caption, and the proceedings were reduced to typewriting under my direction and control.

I further certify that the transcript is a true and correct record of the evidence given at the said proceedings.

I further certify that I am neither a relative or employee or attorney or counsel to any of the parties, nor financially or otherwise interested in this matter.

This the 24th day of May, 2011.

_____

Theresa Bretch, CCR
Permit No. B-755

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