In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

City Council Meeting

September 6, 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 Donna Pittman presiding, before Theresa Bretch, Certified Court Reporter, commencing at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

* * *

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APPEARANCES:

Doraville City Council:

Mayor Donna Pittman
Councilmember Maria Alexander
Councilmember Brian Bates
Councilmember Karen Pachuta
Councilmember Bob Roche
Councilmember Pam Fleming

Melissa McCain, City Clerk

Cecil G. McClendon, Jr., City Attorney
Leonid Felgin, City Attorney
Riley McLendon, LLC
315 Washington Avenue
Marietta, GA 30060
(770) 590-5900

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR PITTMAN: Meeting come to order. Please rise for the Pledge.

- - -

(Pledge of Allegiance)

- - -

MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Here.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Approval of minutes for August 15th, 2011.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So moved.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Second.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion, please?

- - -

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(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. At this time, we have a special presentation. At this time, I would like to present the Jenkins family with a proclamation declaring this week as Mayor Jenkins Week in Doraville.

As some of you know, yesterday would have been Mayor Jenkins' 81st birthday. This proclamation also declares September 5th as Mayor Ray Jenkins Day in Doraville, from henceforth to be observed in the city each Labor Day as a tribute to the Mayor's 35 years of public service.

The late Mayor Ray Jenkins began his

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1 distinguished career of public service when he was
2 elected to represent Northwoods on the Doraville City
3 Council in 1974. He would be re-elected to Council
4 eight consecutive times before being elected Mayor in
5 2003 and re-elected in 2007.
6 As a councilman, Mayor Jenkins was
7 instrumental in setting the city's millage rate at a
8 time when most homeowners did not pay city taxes on
9 their residences. He was also a chief supporter of
10 Doraville Parks and Recreation programs and founded
11 the city's animal control service.
12 As Mayor, he was instrumental in getting the
13 Certified City of Ethics designated. Mayor Jenkins
14 also led the government during a time that saw drastic
15 reductions in crime; and his last five years in office
16 was marked by the diligent planning of the General
17 Motors plant redevelopment, the addition of
18 professional staffing, and the establishment of senior
19 programs and the overseeing of a multi-million dollar
20 public works project.
21 Mrs. Jenkins, I would like for you to please
22 accept on behalf of a very grateful city, this is a
23 small token of a man who gave so much. We will
24 forever be in your family's debt for all he did to
25 make this place a good place to live (presenting).

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1 - - -
2 (Applause)
3 - - -
4 MS. KAREN JENKINS YOUNG: Good evening,
5 Mayor Pittman, Councilmen, Councilpersons for the City
6 of Doraville and friends and citizens of Doraville,
7 the family of Mayor Ray Jenkins thanks you for the
8 honor that you bestow upon him this evening.
9 Sorry, I'm a little choked up. That was a
10 very nice tribute, Mayor Pittman.
11 In passing this proclamation, we believe
12 that the city has honored Mayor Ray Jenkins in the
13 manner best fitting him. What do I mean? I mean that
14 Mayor Ray Jenkins was tirelessly devoted to the city
15 of Doraville, to making it the very best possible
16 place to raise a family, the very best possible place
17 to build and grow a business.
18 He felt like those of you do, the ones who
19 were elected and the ones who weren't elected -- you
20 were just here because you're a concerned citizen --
21 and he understood that to accomplish these goals for
22 the city, you have to become involved, you have to
23 engage with your city officials and you have to make
24 hard decisions, particularly these folks up here on
25 the podium, and you have to make often very unpopular

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1 decisions in tough economic times.
2 And I know inside they're all nodding yes,
3 there are some difficult decisions that have to be
4 made, and we thank you for your diligence in making
5 those.
6 Mayor Jenkins dearly loved the city of
7 Doraville. He loved serving the city of Doraville as
8 he did for over 35 years.
9 Mayor Pittman, Councilpersons Alexander,
10 Bates, Fleming, Roche, Pachuta, we thank you for
11 honoring a fine family man, a devoted public servant.
12 And to anyone who would listen, he was Doraville's
13 greatest cheerleader, Mayor Ray Jenkins. Thank you.
14 - - -
15 (Applause)
16 - - -
17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Next we will have public
18 comments on agenda items only. Would you please limit
19 your comments to only the agenda items and three
20 minutes, please.
21 Anyone wishing to make public comments? All
22 right. Thank you.
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: John raised his
24 hand.
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Noonan.

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1 MR. JOHN NOONAN: John Noonan, Winters
2 Chapel, and I'd like to speak in regard to lifting the
3 hiring freeze.
4 I'd like to point out -- This is for the
5 city accountant. I'd like to point out that we're
6 already outsourcing the payroll for the city, and I
7 believe that it would probably be most prudent to
8 outsource the remaining job responsibilities, at least
9 until the current financial situation is taken care
10 of. I don't think we need to be taking on any more
11 people when we could probably get the same amount of
12 work done from a professional individual on a much
13 reduced cost. Thank you.
14 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?
15 - - -
16 (No response)
17 - - -
18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you. Next
19 we're going to have department reports.
20 I just wanted to remind everyone this coming
21 Saturday is Movies Under the Stars. It's going to be
22 at 7 o'clock. The movie will start at 9:00. The
23 movie that's going to be showed is Rango.
24 We usually have anywhere from 500 to 1,000
25 people come out. It's a great event, a great family

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event, and if you haven't come out, come on out. It's a lot of fun. Hopefully, the weather will be very nice and hopefully cooler.

Also mark on your calendar October 15th, the 5K Road Race will be at 8:45 and the tot race at 9 o'clock. There will be more details on that later, but some really good events for the city.

Anyone else from departments have reports?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you. Next will be the 2011 LCI Implementation Grant, Mr. Howe.

MR. LUKE HOWE: Thank you, Mayor Pittman.

This grant is due September the 23rd. Before I can give our formal presentation for the Council on September 19th, I wanted to get some feedback or any questions that the Council might have. I wanted to get those at this time and incorporate them into a presentation on the 19th.

Just a quick review, the application is due the 23rd. It is a 20-percent match. Recipients will be notified in November. We can realistically look to begin around mid-2013. That would be -- that's when the review process would commence and the scoping

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phase, and also the right-of-way construction would probably begin somewhere around mid-2014.

I believe that the New Peachtree project stands the best chance of getting selected, and total project construction estimate is 2.7 million dollars. Without deducting anything, probably looking at around a $540,000 match. But part of the reason why I wanted to come here, just to get some feedback.

We can minus traffic signals, the pedestrian fixture lamps. We can take some things out of it and kind of repackage this before the 19th, but I did want to bring it to your attention now just so you can have it on your radar.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Have we heard anything about the HOST money, how much money we're going to start expecting to receive for capital improvements?

ATTORNEY FELGIN: I'm not sure. I know the State is going to start sending it on what is a quarterly basis. Because we have confirmed that they've received all our documentation, we don't need to give them anything else, but I don't know what the calculation is.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I have a question in regards to HOST. If it is to be used for capital

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improvement, would that not be capital improvements of our properties and not public right-of-ways and so forth?

ATTORNEY FELGIN: No. Capital improvements applies to all public properties and right-of-ways, so any construction project where we let's say build a sidewalk or repair a sidewalk are all capital improvement projects.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.

Mr. Howe, I believe I sent an e-mail, and if you could follow up with those answers.

I was concerned about our match because it was, you know, even two years down the road, our match, even if we didn't do any of the pedestrian lights, and traffic signals and so forth, it's going to be right at $260,000. And I'm just real concerned with that in that the application is due now, September 23rd, and not knowing realistically what our finances are and the projected for 2012, to me, it just really doesn't look good, and it's difficult to, you know, put your stamp of approval on something that we're unsure of.

And again, like I mentioned before, in our last meeting, we were talking about the Short-Term Work Program. If we apply for something and receive

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funding and then not be able to implement it because we don't have the funding to back it, our chances of being reapproved for other grants that we have applied for would probably be next to none. So I'm real concerned about that.

And you did tell me that these, both Park and New Peachtree, were on the Short Term Work Program that we just approved?

MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am. Both are carryovers from the last Short-Term Work Plan.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. And it was items 18 and 19 if I'm not mistaken?

MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Because I just want to be sure that -- as I've mentioned before in many other meetings, that we are addressing items that we've identified that are priorities and that we're not going out of the scope of our LCI limitations, things to be done.

So those are my concerns.

MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am. And I responded to your e-mail. You may not have had time to look at it.

But those are valid concerns, and I do plan to talk with our financial consultant before the 19th and have that information presented to you-all so you

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1 know exactly what you're looking at. I understand
2 that perfectly.
3 I've also had an opportunity. Last week, we
4 were recommended for 2012 CDBG money. For lack of a
5 better project, we submitted the Shallowford Road
6 pedestrian improvements, because Dekalb this year had
7 all their money. Their economic development money and
8 their capital improvement money are already dedicated.
9 Halpern Park doesn't qualify for CDBG money. So we
10 submitted that for the lack of a better project.
11 They are going to recommend $350,000 for
12 that project. Now, I can go back to them and ask them
13 to shift that to the New Peachtree Road project,
14 because they did indicate that they would like to
15 match another federal source.
16 And when I took that information to ARC,
17 because ARC originally said at the grant workshop that
18 you can't match this with other federal sources, I
19 said, "Well, you know, Dekalb says you can, and it's
20 either written in HUD's bylaws or their charter that
21 you can use this money to supplement other federal
22 sources."
23 And they said, "Well, what we mean is that
24 we discourage that." So what I took that to mean is
25 that, you know, if you give us a resolution that says,

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1 okay, this is contingent on being matched with CDBG,
2 they probably will discourage that and they -- You
3 know, I think it's 50/50 that they will turn it down.
4 But there is that possibility to do that.
5 And I can meet with them between now and September
6 19th, as Dekalb is, and make sure that they are
7 committed to matching that.
8 We got a couple of pluses in our favor.
9 It's been designed -- it's been designed to spec.
10 Just because projects typically take years to get
11 started doesn't mean that we will be -- that we will
12 be -- that they're going to make us wait that long.
13 So you know, it'll take at least six months
14 to get through the environmental review and GDOT's.
15 It'll take that long to get their approval.
16 We designed it so that it would be minimal -
17 - that it would include minimal right-of-way. We're
18 going to bring the road in the project area, for
19 everybody's references, from Stewart Road to Doraville
20 Baptist Church. So to get out of paying a lot of
21 money for right-of-way, we're bringing the road in,
22 and we're including the bike lanes and the sidewalks
23 within the current width of the road.
24 And the project would entail resurfacing,
25 new curb and gutter, 10-feet sidewalks, a bike lane,

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1 pedestrian lamps, landscaping, street furniture, new
2 pedestrian crossing signals; and four new traffic
3 signals: at the MARTA decks, Central, Stewart and
4 Park Avenue intersections.
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Any additional comments?
6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Because I had the
7 same concerns as Ms. Fleming about, realistically, us
8 not having the funds to meet the match.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. I can't support
10 this either because of that, I mean until I see a cash
11 flow analysis for the next several months.
12 I mean I'm not even sure whether we have
13 enough -- I'm not even sure we have enough cash in the
14 bank now to cover the checks that we're going to have
15 to write just to operate, so, much less -- we're
16 looking at, worst case, $880,000. So I'm sorry, but
17 they say when you're in a hole, stop digging.
18 MR. HOWE: This is a little soon to -- you
19 know, we have our financial consultant; she's just now
20 getting started. So it's a little too soon to corner
21 her and get, you know, a cash flow analysis or long-
22 term financial outlook, but we are going to sit down
23 before I come up here again.
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: The audit started today.
25 She's on board to straighten out the books. We should

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1 have numbers by October. The consultant is working
2 diligently on that. So --
3 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- all you really -- This is
5 just an FYI; is that correct?
6 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.
7 MAYOR PITTMAN: There will be no action
8 tonight.
9 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am.
10 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: If there's any way -
12 - I don't know how much we're even expecting to get
13 from HOST. I mean my preference is to start -- use
14 that towards, and also building improvements, walls,
15 things like that. But I mean if it's a lot of money,
16 I don't know, but that might be, you know, some of it.
17 But I don't know if we can get an idea before the 19th
18 of what we can expect to start receiving from HOST?
19 MR. HOWE: My figures are anywhere from 50
20 to 80 thousand dollars, and so that's going to --
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Do you know --
22 MR. HOWE: -- fluctuate from --
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- are we going to
24 get back years?
25 MR. HOWE: No, we will not get back years.

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Howe, thank you so much.
MR. HOWE: You're welcome.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Mr. Strickland, U&CF Grant - Management Plan.
MR. STEVE STRICKLAND: Good evening, Mayor and Council.
This grant was applied for back in May and then it was awarded last month. I think we were only one of nine communities to actually get this grant. This is federal money coming from the Forest Service through the Georgia Forestry Commission. They give it to the states to deal out to the communities. Every year, it's gotten to be less and less. And from my understanding, they were a little bit surprised that they got money this year and somewhat certain that there's a good chance they won't get any next year. So we were one of the few communities to get it, and it may be one of the last years that it's done.
But the attorney just had a concern and wanted me to bring it back to Council to basically approve entering in, because it's a contract with the State to receive federal money. And when you do that, there's a lot of stipulations that go along with that, you know, we have to agree to spending the money on

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what we said we were going to spend it on.
There's a lot of agreements that we have to sign with them. It's a contract. And then all of those will have to basically carry over to our contractor, making sure that they're meeting all the -- Just off the top of my head, it's like the anti-trust laws and drug-free workplaces. There's about seven things that we have to sign and agree to with the State to receive this money.
So it's a $5,000 matching grant. We have gotten a thousand dollars worth of volunteer time, so what we'll be paying out would be $4,000 from the tree bank. It's the same thing we applied for last year, an urban forest management plan for Autumn and Brook Parks; mainly a tree survey but then also, you know, mapping in and then like a management plan for the future, what we can do to make sure we maintain the trees and the forests that we have now; determining what's healthy, what's not, what's dangerous, what's at the end of its life span. They'll be looking at the invasive species, which we all know is a problem -- kudzu, the privet -- but more like what we can do year after year on a, you know, long-term plan basis.
I think everyone would, you know, agree with

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it. It's grant money that we're getting, we have to match with Tree Bank money that we have, so it should be all pluses. The only concern is that we do have to enter into a contract, so instead of just going forward with it, just making sure we addressed any concerns and actually got the Council approval.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: If there's revenue or if there's grant moneys left over after the survey is done, can those be used to actually prune or remove trees that may be diseased or damaged?
MR. STRICKLAND: No. It's a set amount. You actually had to submit a proposal with it, and so the amount's kind of set as to this is what -- you know, this is what it would cost to do.
In other words, there won't be any money left over. But we'll have a plan that says for the next X-number of years, depending on what your goal is, this is what you need to spend every year, so you'd have an idea of what it might cost us to do removal, pruning.
And like I said, a big part of it's going to be the invasive species, you know, mainly kudzu and English ivy, and trying to keep that under control.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Did we apply and were approved last year for this particular --

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MR. STRICKLAND: No, we weren't approved last year. Kind of learned from it. What they wanted was an actual proposal saying that it can be done for this amount, and then the -- it's kind of like a letter of recommendation, and the volunteer time.
I mean they -- you know, they probably had five times the applicants asking for money that they could actually give out. They just kept getting cut year after year, so we actually didn't get it last year.
But I kind of figured out, you know, what we need; you know, kind of went back to people and said, "Okay. This was it last year. We didn't get it. You know, what was missing in it?" You know, and it may have just been one of those where you don't really get it your first time, but if you're diligent and keep at it.
I mean I'm not sure. I don't know how they decide. I'm sure there were other proposals, you know, just as good. But I think we tweaked the application, we included an actual proposal saying that this can be done for this, and then the letter of recommendation. I would imagine that's kind of what --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Let me ask

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you one more question.
If we were not awarded this particular grant, in your job description as an arborist or in your experience as an arborist, are you not able to identify for Autumn and Brook what trees are healthy and not healthy for us to take action on them?
MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, I could do that, but I think it would be more of, you know, what's kind of an emergency, what's hazardous and needs to come down.
But as far as what we could do year after year to, you know, help, plus they'll gather so much information per tree that, I mean, it's going to -- it would take a long time, so, as opposed --
I mean this is just a little bit more proactive as opposed to, you know, we have a dead or leaning tree and, you know, it definitely needs to come down. This is more long-term and --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Thank you.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: What's our current balance in the Tree Bank?
MR. STRICKLAND: I still think it's right at $100,000.
MAYOR PITTMAN: That may be questionable.
MR. STRICKLAND: Oh, really?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Is it more than

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$4,000?
MR. STRICKLAND: It's more than $4,000.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean we can't use this for general funds.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand. I was just saying it for the record.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Would they make a recommendation on replanting or removal, removal schedule?
MR. STRICKLAND: Yes. Removal and dead. You know, once we kind of get started and we'll have intervals, and they'll probably just ask, you know, what are the goals for the city. It may be that we're at, you know, the capacity for the parks. We have to decide if you want to leave areas open and passive, you don't plant there, you know. Do we have gaps we want to fill in? stuff like that. So I'll make sure that that's, you know, part of it.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you.
I'd like to make a motion to approve the U&CF grant.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?

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- - -
(No response)
- - -
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Sorry?
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
You changed the order of voting tonight?
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm last now. Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: I was just doing it around the table.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion carried.
Next on the agenda is going to be the second reading, Tree Removal Permit Ordinance. If you'd just quickly go over that for the Council.
MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. We just -- two things came up last time and then in the discussions

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that we have. One of them was basically a typo in the numbering, what the section number actually was. We corrected that. And then Council desired that we make sure that our ordinance matched the specifications of Advanced Disposal and what they pick up, so we did that.
Other than that, it is essentially unchanged from what we had for the first reading. And really it was just almost like two; we just changed two numbers, basically.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Questions from the Council?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: We got the draft for Section 5-278.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: My preference would be to adopt this as two separate since it's --
MR. STRICKLAND: Oh, it is. I think we vote on each one individually?
CLERK McCAIN: The permit and the fee separately?
MAYOR PITTMAN: Those are two separate ones.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Correct. But the way the ordinance is written, it's incorporated into one ordinance.
MR. STRICKLAND: No, ma'am.
CLERK McCAIN: There should be two

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1 ordinances there.
2 MR. STRICKLAND: There are two ordinances.
3 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: They're just
4 together as one packet.
5 MR. STRICKLAND: So it's 1 through 8 and
6 then 1 through 4. And after this, I'll actually
7 explain to you what's going on with the fee ordinance
8 and the fee schedule.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I just want to
10 clarify. I don't necessarily think we want to change
11 the title of Article IX, because Article IX is Tree
12 Protection Plan, and I think that has specifications
13 in there regarding our Tree Bank and our Tree Board.
14 ATTORNEY FELGIN: It's fine the way that --
15 The titles of articles don't really matter in terms of
16 their enforcement.
17 From the standpoint of what the article will
18 contain, will contain more than the Tree Protection
19 Plans, I would think that the term "Tree Permit
20 Requirements" would better overarchingly identify the
21 subject of the article. But the titles of articles
22 don't really have any significance one way or another,
23 so either way Council would like to name it.
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: So Ms. Alexander, would it
25 be your preference to change it?

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I guess I just had
2 specific concerns because we had to do specific things
3 to be considered a Tree City USA and we had to submit
4 documentation to them. So I almost would rather like
5 to leave it Tree Protection Plan, and then the permits
6 are just under that category.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Can we call it Tree
8 Protection Plan and Permitting?
9 ATTORNEY FELGIN: Yes; just trying to be as
10 concise as possible, but yes.
11 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Anything additional?
12 - - -
13 (No response)
14 - - -
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. This is the second
16 reading, and if someone would like to make a motion
17 with those changes?
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'll make the motion
19 to adopt the ordinance Chapter 15, Sections -- or
20 Section 1, Chapter 15, Section 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8,
21 9 and 10.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: With the changes?
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: With the changes, yes.

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1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
2 - - -
3 (No response)
4 - - -
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
6 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
7 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
8 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
10 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
12 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
14 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
17 Next is going to be the second reading of
18 the Tree Removal Permit Ordinance Fees.
19 MR. STRICKLAND: Originally when you change
20 an ordinance and you're going to incorporate a fee,
21 you need another ordinance to do so.
22 We're currently working on the Fee Schedule
23 in its entirety. So we have the option of approving
24 the Fee Schedule, which includes this permit fee, and
25 I think it would be done by resolution instead of

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1 ordinance.
2 So we kind of have a couple of options. We
3 don't have to approve this ordinance now. We can do
4 it when we approve the fee schedule.
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: And that should be on the
6 next agenda.
7 MR. STRICKLAND: Or we can -- I think we can
8 approve reserving this. But we don't have to approve
9 this ordinance right now, or we can approve it, and
10 then when we approve the fee schedule, say, you know,
11 this is now null and void.
12 We do have this permit fee currently in
13 ordinance, so it just kind of depends. It would
14 probably be easiest to just bring this to your
15 attention now, not approve it, and approve the fee
16 schedule.
17 ATTORNEY FELGIN: Well, what I would say is
18 the $25.00 fee, you take a look at Section 5-279,
19 which is in the ordinance we just approved, it's
20 already in there, it's already referenced, and there's
21 a $25.00 fee.
22 I would go ahead and not adopt the Fee
23 Schedule revisions here in anticipation that we will
24 do an overarching Fee Schedule change at our next
25 meeting, that will be passed by resolution, so we

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1 don't have to kind of add and subtract. This would be
2 easier. And we're not losing anything on the amount
3 because the amount is referenced.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The fewer places we
5 have dollar amounts, the better it is.
6 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I would prefer we
7 have a permit section in the ordinance that says, you
8 know, per the schedule, City Clerk sort of thing, so
9 we don't have to keep adopting.
10 ATTORNEY FELGIN: And the ordinance and
11 resolution you'll receive for your next meeting, when
12 I was drafting the ordinances, I've taken out from the
13 code everywhere that I saw fees.
14 Actually, it wasn't as bad as you might
15 think, because really only the alcohol one just
16 decided to list them all in the ordinance. But they
17 will all be incorporated into the new resolution and
18 taken out of the ordinance, and if for some reason we
19 miss something or we find some in the future, it's not
20 a problem to take it out.
21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Additional comments from the
22 Council?
23 MR. STRICKLAND: So Len, do we put this --
24 ATTORNEY FELGIN: I would recommend --
25 MR. STRICKLAND: -- down or do we just --

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1 ATTORNEY FELGIN: I would recommend just
2 filing it away as something that we will be passing as
3 an overarching fee schedule in two weeks.
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Is everyone okay with that?
5 All right. Next is going to be the Phase
6 III, Stormwater CIP, Mr. Strickland.
7 MR. STRICKLAND: This was brought up last
8 time. I don't know if you have any additional
9 questions, but what was asked for was an actual
10 contract with an amount. CERM gave us that contract
11 with a not-to-exceed amount of $25,000. It will be
12 time and materials, so we should be getting, you know,
13 essentially what we want. We only have to pay for,
14 you know, what we ask them to do.
15 And so we took their contract, made it just
16 part of our standard contract. So this is the City's
17 contract with all the requirements. We incorporated
18 their contract and fee schedule, but there's every-
19 thing in here that we need, and it just references
20 everything else as exhibits.
21 So basically, you know, that was what was
22 requested is to have an actual amount. And with
23 projects like this, you're not going to know
24 everything until you sort of get into it. And this is
25 just for them to do the construction RFP and project

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1 management.
2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Any questions from Council?
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: My preference would be
4 actually to postpone this until the finances have had
5 a chance to be reviewed and get with Dekalb County on
6 the stormwater actual reserve accounts.
7 MR. STRICKLAND: This won't be coming from
8 Dekalb, what we have in Dekalb County. This is from
9 our accounts that we have where we have the money here
10 at the City.
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Including the
12 construction?
13 MR. STRICKLAND: Yes, sir.
14 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I have a question.
15 We're outsourcing again for project management
16 services, or that's what we'll be doing here. What
17 types of certifications would be required if we had
18 someone, either a contractor or on staff, that would
19 be able to do the same thing?
20 The thing I notice over and over again is we
21 get involved in a project and then we have to go out
22 and hire someone to manage the project on top of that.
23 I mean I know some cities have like a city engineer or
24 city civil engineer or whatever --
25 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and I'm wondering
2 what types of certifications.
3 MR. STRICKLAND: Mainly what you want is
4 when you're doing these types of structures is you
5 want the as-builts -- you want the inspections and the
6 as-builts, and that would require a registered P.E.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Registered P.E.? What
8 is a P.E.?
9 MR. STRICKLAND: Professional engineer.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Professional engineer,
11 which is different than a building inspector.
12 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. We currently don't
13 have a professional engineer. And when you hire
14 someone to do that, it's, you know, time and
15 materials, and you're kind of paying for what you need
16 on an as-needed basis.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand.
18 MR. STRICKLAND: It's another set of eyes.
19 I guess it would be kind of the Q&A, quality
20 assurance; you have somebody else looking at it, and
21 they can certify it, you know. You have somebody
22 dedicated just to what's going on.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand. It's
24 just that if in the future we -- you know.
25 MR. STRICKLAND: If the City had a

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1 professional engineer on staff, yeah.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It might be cost
3 effective in the long run. I don't know that. I mean
4 we're not spending any money.
5 Well, this is stormwater so --
6 MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- we do have enough
8 money in the stormwater fund to do this.
9 MR. STRICKLAND: I mean with stuff like
10 this, you know, you're not paying somebody full-time.
11 It's just when we need them, when they come out.
12 They'll just bill us for the services that we need.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. I was just
14 curious, because I was looking at this other project
15 with the sidewalks and everything else. We're
16 spending a lot of money for consulting.
17 I'm not saying it would be, but I'm just
18 wondering if it might possibly be cost effective some
19 day.
20 MR. STRICKLAND: The only thing --
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If we made another
22 hiring decision, that should be part of the --
23 MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- hiring decision is
25 what I'm saying.

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1 MR. STRICKLAND: I think the only problem
2 you might run into is -- I don't know. If you get a
3 contractor to do something and then have the City
4 engineer sort of approve it, and you don't have that
5 -- you know, that outside person that's going to kind
6 of take on that liability, I don't know if the City
7 engineer can take on that liability. It's just
8 something to consider.
9 But even like at Halpern, when we did the
10 testing for the wall, we had an outside testing firm
11 that just keeps -- you know. In other ones, no one is
12 biased, no one is -- It's there. An outside firm is
13 certifying that it's done correct. So if something
14 happens, then the City is not accepting that
15 liability.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Under this proposal,
17 CERM is actually doing the drawings as well as
18 managing the construction process; is that correct?
19 MR. STRICKLAND: Correct.
20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: They're doing the
21 drawings with their stamp --
22 MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and managing the
24 work that's done on those projects.
25 MR. STRICKLAND: Right. And a lot of times,

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1 you're just replacing the existing that has basically
2 failed, to what was there. It's just new and put in
3 correctly, and it's not -- you know. It hasn't fallen
4 apart. It's just brand new.
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you, Mr. Strickland.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Have we gotten an
7 updated prioritization list of stormwater projects
8 from the County?
9 MR. STRICKLAND: We wouldn't get -- I mean
10 that's coming from us.
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: When was the last time
12 we did that?
13 MR. STRICKLAND: Well, it hasn't really been
14 updated because we have to -- It's the top priority
15 and will stay the top priority until it gets done, and
16 then the next one and the next one unless something
17 out there, you know, fails.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Do you know what our
19 current top-priority project is?
20 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. That's just it.
21 Both of them -- There's actually two or three of them
22 that are actually in Oakcliff, so this will take care
23 of some of the top priorities, because they've been on
24 there for years. That's basically what I'm trying to
25 do now is to go into an area and fix everything.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So this proposed
2 project, then, to hit the stormwater priority list,
3 starting to address some of the concerns on that?
4 MR. STRICKLAND: Yes, because it just
5 happened that some of the worst ones are in the same
6 neighborhood.
7 What we did when it got started was, you
8 know, we had the pipe system rearranged, which was
9 very big and pretty much gone, and that got done, and
10 then Strait Street got done, and then Doral Drive got
11 done. And so those were the big ones, and so sort of
12 leaving smaller stuff in those neighborhoods; but
13 yeah.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay. Thank you.
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Council, what are your
16 wishes on this? Do you have a recommendation to put
17 it off until we get finances?
18 MR. STRICKLAND: Well, would, yeah. We
19 would. I mean I know that we have the stormwater
20 utility to be able to do this.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think I'd like
22 further clarification on the amounts that we have, and
23 I didn't see an expenditure in here for Autumn Park.
24 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. What you're looking
25 at is the money that, over the years, we sent to

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Dekalb County.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Right, and expenditures.
MR. STRICKLAND: Well, that's -- that was just the County projects. So there's money sitting in an account at Dekalb County until whatever we get the County to do for us, but that's not our stormwater utility. It's not what's in the City account.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: That's what we need clarification on, because obviously Dekalb County kept all our stormwater fees for 2006 and 2007 --
MR. STRICKLAND: No, ma'am. They --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- and 2009.
MR. STRICKLAND: No. They gave us the money, and then we spent whatever, and then whatever was left over we sent back to them. So that's just what we sent to Dekalb County. It's not total expenditures or --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I guess that's the issue that we have is that we don't know how much stormwater money we have.
MR. STRICKLAND: Well, I mean I know what has -- I know what carried over from last year.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Correct. But I believe we had different amounts. That's why I am

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with Councilman Bates; I want clarification.
MAYOR PITTMAN: And Dekalb County said they would send what they have, and then Ms. Cape will compare what they have and what we have tomorrow.
MR. STRICKLAND: Well, what you have there in the Dekalb County account would be accurate.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: We were supposed to get an updated one, you said, because this is through April.
MR. STRICKLAND: Right, but nothing's happened between April and here, so that will still be the June 30th amount.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay.
MR. STRICKLAND: I mean all they're going to do on that spread sheet is change the date.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Council, your wishes?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: To postpone this item until we have a firm number, what stormwater moneys we're supposed to have.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Does that require a motion?
ATTORNEY FELGIN: Yeah. You want to move to postpone it to a date certain or table it, either way.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Make a motion to postpone this to September 19th.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Do I get a second?

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COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: To include clarification on the stormwater money that we presently have in our possession as well.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. Just an overall accounting of what's -- we're talking traditionally of $165,000 worth of stuff. I just want to make sure that we're clear on what we've got and what the County's got, what the auditors say everybody has.
MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
Now, the Council does understand that within the next fiscal year that we will be collecting the stormwater fees, and that's pretty much a set amount, too, which will far exceed this amount.
So I mean to kind of --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I guess my concern on this is based upon the sheet that we've got, is it indicating that we didn't give any money to the County in 2010-11?
MR. STRICKLAND: Right. Before I got here, the City was giving the excess to Dekalb County because they were getting most of the projects done by the County or the contractor, but we never had to do

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that. So what I'm trying to do is go out and then contract it ourselves. I mean we don't have the County involved; we don't have their overhead mobilization and stuff like that.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm with you.
But in those fiscal years, we didn't spend 100% of the stormwater moneys.
MR. STRICKLAND: No, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So there's a reserve bank of money somewhere that's in addition to this $227,000.
MR. STRICKLAND: Yes. That is --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The two twenty-seven is what is at Dekalb.
MR. STRICKLAND: At Dekalb County.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And the current-year fiscal dollar amounts when they are collected through the stormwater assessment fee for the `11-'12 year.
MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But if we didn't send the County any money in 2010, 2009-10 --
MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, we have.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- 2010-11, then somewhere else, there's another pot of restricted funds specific to stormwater.

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1 MR. STRICKLAND: Correct.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I just want to make
3 sure that we know those -- those three pots of money
4 add up to something --
5 MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and I want to make
7 sure that we know what those pots of money add up to
8 before we commit to spending $165,000.
9 MR. STRICKLAND: Right. The only thing I
10 would be asking is we know that if it exceeds that
11 amount, I'm just trying to keep it moving forward
12 because we've got -- you know, we've got an RFP to go
13 out, we've got design, so --
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I understand.
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. We have a motion
16 and a second. Additional discussion?
17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I have one other
18 question. And I just lost it. Go ahead. I lost my
19 question. Go ahead.
20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Pipes? water? storm-
21 water?
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm very sorry.
23 Your comment was that we were utilizing our
24 funds using our contractors, and so we were using our
25 funds. Were we invoicing Dekalb County for any of

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1 that for them to repay us of those moneys that they
2 are holding?
3 MR. STRICKLAND: No. I mean that money
4 stays in an account for the City until we want the
5 County to do work for us, which a lot of times is more
6 of an emergency basis; something fails.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm going to make a
8 statement. This may be a total -- just my statement
9 right now. But if we have that much money in Dekalb
10 County and we're not utilizing it and we're utilizing
11 our own money, I would think that we would want to
12 start having Dekalb County do some of these projects
13 rather than us going out and getting a design person
14 and getting a construction management person and so
15 forth and so on and taking it out of our reserves
16 here.
17 Now, I may be totally off the wall, but
18 that's --
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Knowing the age of our
20 stormwater infrastructure, I want to make sure that
21 we've got a sizeable amount that's safe, that we're
22 not going to tap into for projects. Now, some of
23 those projects are needed to make sure that the
24 infrastructure doesn't fail, but I --
25 And I agree with you to a certain extent. I

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1 just want to make sure that we all know how much we're
2 talking about --
3 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Correct.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- before we start
5 allocating.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Right.
7 MR. STRICKLAND: We want that money at
8 Dekalb County so that when the pipe fails, when we
9 have flooding, when the bridge collapses, when it
10 washes out the road, that we're not standing around
11 going, "Okay. We have to put this out to RFP and get"
12 -- you know.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I see.
14 MR. STRICKLAND: Meanwhile, the road --
15 Whereas, with Dekalb County, we can make a phone call,
16 "The road's washed out," they'll be out there, you
17 know, starting to work. To me, that's what that
18 reserve amount at Dekalb County would be for.
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Used for emergency.
20 MR. STRICKLAND: It would be for --
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That's fine.
22 MR. STRICKLAND: -- emergencies and smaller
23 projects. They can do a lot, but the County is not --
24 When I go to the County and say, "Okay. We
25 have all these things we want done in Oakcliff and we

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1 want all those resources," they're going to come out
2 and -- the County comes out and fixes, and then
3 they're off to the other 107,000 acres and, you know,
4 we could come back.
5 So I think that would be good to keep that
6 in reserve for --
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
8 MR. STRICKLAND: -- emergencies.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you, Mr. Strickland.
10 Okay. We do have a motion and a second.
11 Would you call the roll, please.
12 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?
13 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
14 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
16 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
18 CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
20 MAYOR PITTMAN: Councilmember Fleming?
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Motion carries.
23 Thank you, Mr. Strickland.
24 MR. STRICKLAND: Thank y'all.
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Next under old

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business is we're going to have the second reading of the amendment to the Sanitation Code.

It was brought to our attention that the revised ordinance had left out the time of removal, although the ordinance I have in front of me does not show that the time I believe the Council had agreed on.

CLERK McCAIN: And Mayor, that is my fault. I had copied the same agenda from the last meeting and did not include the 9 o'clock update.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I have in my notes 9:00 a.m. the next calendar day. Is that correct?

ATTORNEY FELGIN: Yes. I can give you the exact wording in case you just want to add that as the motion.

The wording is: "The removal shall be accomplished not later than 9:00 a.m. on the day after the contents are emptied and collected." So I would replace the sentence.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The day after.

ATTORNEY FELGIN: Yeah. The day after the contents are emptied and collected.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Move to adopt Ordinance 2011-36.

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Just one thing. Twice this year, I went to bring in my thing, and apparently they didn't empty it. They'd only emptied my container like halfway.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Your garbage container?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And I had to drag it back up. So I guess technically I could say it was not emptied. I don't know.

That started happening this year for some reason. It's like they flip it up real fast and it doesn't really have the time to empty out the trash.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Just so I'm clear, does this also include the recycling containers?

ATTORNEY FELGIN: I'm sure, yes, because it covers all sanitation. We do the recycling collection as well.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. I just re-read line one, and it does say recycling, so thank you.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?

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COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Item number 2, Pension Plan, that is being looked into. It is a long process. We are working on that, and it will be carried over. I do not have a date certain, but it is being worked on.

Next is going to be new business: to lift the hiring freeze to fulfill finance director position.

The position of finance director was recently vacated, and the City began the search for a new full-time finance director. Council must lift the hiring -- imposed hiring freeze.

We do have someone that is here that is working temporarily to get our finances together to move forward with the audit, but we need to see if Council wants to start looking for a finance director.

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COUNCILMEMBER BATES: My personal preference is until we've got a picture from the consultant on what the City's finances are, then there is no sense in moving forward to hiring someone --

MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- until we have a sense of what's there. We may very well be in a better position to have an outsourced consultant position.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I would like when Sabrina finishes, you know, getting everything together for her to give us kind of a recommendation of these are the items on a day-to-day basis; these are items on, you know, month-to-month; you know, short- and long-term tasks that she sees within the department, so I think we can better incorporate that in our search for an employee or consultant.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As well as she may have a recommendation of, "Yeah, this really does need two persons" or one person or a half person.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's kind of the role that a consultant does.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here's my concern. We

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had the auditor here several weeks ago and we looked at a very long list of findings. Those findings happen year after year after year, and all a consultant or an auditor, for that matter, can say is make recommendations. But without someone who has the responsibility and the authority to make real changes in how we do things on a day-to-day basis, and the reporting and our, you know, etc., etc., I don't really think it's going to improve.

I think that the sooner we get someone that is strong, that really and truly knows what they're doing, who knows how to look at it and say, "Okay. This is the finding and this is what we're going to do to fix it," and then makes certain that that does get fixed, we're just going to keep on having the same problems we've been having for the last couple of years.

So I think at this point -- And you don't just go out and hire someone like this yesterday. I mean it takes longer than just a couple days. I think that putting out an RFP now would be the right thing to do because we'd have to put it out for maybe a month, six weeks.

I would want to see every single resume that comes in, not just a filtered finalist by someone over

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there. I want to see all the resumes and then be able to start to whittle down. This is probably a three-month process of hiring the right person to solve the problems that we've been having.

Because, you know, the citizens -- I'm really tired of all this. It's just wearing us out. And I think we need someone that's really strong, and I think the sooner we begin that process, the better.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I don't necessarily disagree; however, in the current state, I don't think that we would find applicants.

My personal preference would be to have a cleaner process -- "process" is not the right word, but a cleaner product so people who are applying looking for that position know what they're getting into versus the state that it is today.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm not sure I understand. If someone is not capable of coming into the City of Doraville, understanding what our issues are and cleaning them up, I don't want to hire that person. I want to hire someone who knows what's going on or can figure out what's going on and make the correct decisions and enforce those decisions so we don't keep ending up in a ditch over and over and over again.

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COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I want someone to come in and be able to start with a clean slate and not have to try to get us out of a ditch.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I respectfully disagree.

MAYOR PITTMAN: So did you want to make a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'd like to make a motion that we -- Actually, as far as lifting the hiring freeze, I don't think we necessarily need to do that.

I would like to make a motion that we go ahead and issue an RFP for the position of -- city accountant? I would call it the city finance director.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, then, actually, would that be an RFP?

ATTORNEY FELGIN: No, not unless you're looking for actually a contractor. If it's on an employee, you would issue --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right, it would be an employee.

ATTORNEY FELGIN: Yeah. You wouldn't issue an RFP.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. Well, I'm

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sorry. I was --

ATTORNEY FELGIN: Just open up the position and accept applications.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I'd like to begin advertising for the applications for the position --

MAYOR PITTMAN: Do we have to --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and begin today and begin -- you know, because we don't necessarily need to lift --

The only time we need to lift the hiring freeze is when we decide we're going to hire someone. I don't see any reason why we can't advertise now.

ATTORNEY FELGIN: You can advertise before lifting a hiring freeze. There's nothing stopping you from not hiring anybody.

MAYOR PITTMAN: What's your motion?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, my motion would be to go ahead and advertise.

The only -- I have a couple of quick -- This is close enough. I'll just save some time.

I'd like to make a motion that we put out the advertisement for the position of city finance director.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second? Do I get

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a second?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PITTMAN: Motion dies.
Thank you, Mr. Roche.
Next, reports on committees, commissions, boards and appointments. I do not believe we have any.
Public comments. Please limit your comments to three minutes.
MS. LINDA ROLLINS: One question. Linda Rollins, Oakcliff Estates.
After I attended the budget meetings, and I lost a little track of being able to attend, what did you decide on furlough days? Did you did you not put them in place? You did?
MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes, ma'am.
MS. ROLLINS: Okay. Good. I experienced them at the State. It wasn't like a pleasant thing, but I feel like it did save our jobs.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
Anyone else? Mr. Hart.
MR. TOM HART: The stormwater, it's a bit of a project. They mentioned Strait Street among those.

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In the past, stormwater money has been squandered by -- If you have a house that's in the middle of a stream, and you're going to spend $250,000 to fix the pipe that runs next to the house, and the house is selling for $40,000, it would be cheaper to tear down the house and reclaim the stream. It would cost us a third; you know, we'd probably save some of that budget.
The same thing occurred at Strait Street. You spent all this money trying to save an abandoned house from a rock stream. There was no erosion problem, but just the fact that the house was overhanging the stream bed, they almost had to blast to put the pipe in; and the County says, "Why are you doing this?"
Doraville does things that other -- you know, like Dekalb County or Dunwoody, those places, they don't do because you have to look at the total picture. How much is this whole project? What is the goal? You know, the goal is not just to make work and spend money. But people don't fall over.
I agree with Mr. Roche about the accountant. That's the right way to go. Ever since they got rid of Priscilla, the place has been in a tailspin; it's been upside down. And quite frankly, I mean any

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decision made on LCI grant moneys or building projects or stormwater projects, you don't know how much money you have.
On a day-to-day basis, how in the world do you run this city government with the mess that's been created in the accounting department? And we need somebody. Aat our company, we used to call the accounting Miss Iron Snuggies because she was in control of the money, and that's what's not happened here. You vote on these spending projects at every meeting but you don't have a financial person sitting there telling you it's not in the budget.
There is no budget. You can call it a budget, but it's like, you know, it's half-baked goods.
You need a financial person at the City. You need to advertise it; you need to go through a bidding process where we get the right person and stop playing games with the city's money. It's all short-term thinking. But we have a long-term problem here, and it's been going on since the last three years, and you need to rectify it.
So you need to put out an advertisement to get somebody in here, and we need somebody full time in charge of the bucks and the money in this city.

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Thank you.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Anyone else?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Motion to adjourn.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Second.
MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes. I had a question in regard to -- before we adjourn, in regards to the motion that Mr. Bates made for reviving the Chapter 15. What's the . . . ?
CLERK McCAIN: The tree removal permit?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, it's actually Chapter -- we were really working with Chapter 5 and Chapter 15, and that's the reason why I said I felt that we should take it in two separate motions.
CLERK McCAIN: The Tree Removal Permit Ordinance was approved with the Article 9 listing the title as Tree Protection/Permitting.
The permit ordinance on the fees, we did not pass. That was a discussion only.
ATTORNEY FELGIN: Well, let me try a minute. I think Ms. Fleming is saying that the ordinance for the tree protection included the provisions being changed from two separate chapters, and that is correct. And it doesn't have to be done by two

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separate ordinances for us to change provisions in two separate chapters when they concern -- especially when they concern the same topics that are interrelated.

So the ordinance was approved with those changes that include changes in two separate chapters.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Fleming, any additional?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: (Shakes head)

MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

MAYOR PITTMAN: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

- - -

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 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 24rd day of September 2011.

_____

Theresa Bretch, CCR
Permit No. B-755

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