In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

City Council Meeting

February 28, 2011

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF DORAVILLE

STATE OF GEORGIA

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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, February 28, 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
Murray J. Weed, City Attorney

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Meeting come to order. Call the roll, please.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Approval of meeting minutes, there is none.

First up under Mayor's Comments, we're going to talk about the city manager referendum.

Ms. Parent, I believe, is here; if you would like to come up. Thank you for coming tonight.

REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Sure. Of course.

Well, as we had -- I know that last week, you-all discussed this issue. I was not here for that conversation. But basically as has sort of been put forth, there are still a couple different options for

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ways that, you know, you-all should discuss in terms of how you want to proceed.

I believe, as was reported back to me, that what was agreed on last week was moving ahead with the nonbinding referendum and having it then immediately become binding upon changing the language as it's currently drafted to where it would immediately take effect and become binding so that whoever is running for Mayor would know that the job could be part-time or it could be full-time depending on the outcome of the referendum.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That's in November.

REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: That would be this November.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So you haven't decided yet how to drop it; correct?

REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: To drop it?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We haven't decided yet for how you are going to drop it; is that correct?

REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Correct. I mean I believe that Councilmember Pachuta has another option that she wants you guys to discuss and decide upon, that was adopted last week, and I have not moved forward on having that language drafted up in lieu of waiting for this meeting to take place where the

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1 Council would consider the option that she wanted to
2 potentially have Council entertain, which is to have
3 the first two years of the term stay full time.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And that was because
5 at the meeting, we didn't know if that was possible,
6 and that's why I had e-mailed you: to even see if
7 that was an option. And then I know that some Council
8 members would prefer waiting, because I don't think --
9 you know, we're not going to have time to hire
10 someone. It's probably going to be a six month or
11 even longer search, and then defining the position and
12 everything else plus the fact that people running
13 wouldn't know six weeks later what kind of position
14 they would have.
15 So you did get back on Friday.
16 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Right. So I spoke
17 to -- after that input, I spoke to the legislative
18 counsel's office at the capitol, and they indicated
19 that it should be legally feasible to move ahead with
20 an option such in that genre where basically there
21 would be the referendum this November, and it would
22 not take effect, though -- if it was positive, if the
23 citizens did want to move to a part-time mayor/city
24 manager form of government, it would not take effect
25 until two years later, basically.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I want to thank you
2 for coming out.
3 I believe we did discuss this in some depth
4 last time around. The concern was that, frankly, the
5 way things were going financially, et cetera,
6 et cetera, without clear management of the budget and
7 everything, we weren't concerned -- we were concerned
8 that the city may not be here in two years, and this
9 was discussed as an option.
10 I believe the motion was made and it was
11 voted against, and then we did have a motion that was
12 to proceed as Councilmember Fleming mentioned
13 earlier, that yes, we would go ahead and vote on it --
14 I'm sorry -- There would be a referendum on November
15 7th for whatever it was, and then that would -- if it
16 passed, then we would be in a city manager form of
17 government.
18 Clearly there's drawbacks to that, because,
19 as you say, the Mayor -- whoever is running for Mayor
20 doesn't know if it's going to be a full- or part-time
21 job.
22 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And we discussed
24 several options, and none of the options seemed to be
25 very good.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Well, none of them
2 are a panacea, I mean.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But it seemed like
4 that that was the least worst option, and that's what
5 we passed last time around, so.
6 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Well, under this
7 option that was discussed last week, which, as I said,
8 I wasn't here, I think that the person would be
9 elected knowing that theoretically halfway through
10 their term the terms of the employment would change.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand.
12 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Yeah.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But even then, you
14 wouldn't really know if you are running . . .
15 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: True. I would agree
16 that it doesn't eliminate the problem that --
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
18 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: -- the person would
19 not know -- that someone elected would not -- would
20 have to consider that they may move from a full-time
21 to a part-time.
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, there's -- to
23 me, though, in that plan, there's much more certainty
24 knowing that you've got two guaranteed years of full-
25 time Mayorship with the hypothetical being the unknown

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1 third year, starting in 2014; whereas, under what we
2 voted on and approved last time, which I supported and
3 not knowing if this was a feasible option, we have
4 immediate uncertainty with a person running for Mayor
5 not knowing whether or not come January 1, if they get
6 elected, they'll be a full-time Mayor or a part-time
7 Mayor. And that to me creates more of a problem than
8 a two-year option that has got certainty built into it
9 and it allows Council and staff time to properly plan
10 the job description, do a good nationwide search for a
11 city manager, budget and plan accordingly.
12 So my preference remains the two-year, 2014
13 effective date. That was my preference last week; it
14 remains my preference today. I wish we were not in
15 this position of having it done this way, but here we
16 are.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, the other
18 option, which, again, was discussed last week is the
19 option that was proposed at the beginning of the year:
20 that under the charter, the City can create a position
21 and hire under the title of city administrator, and
22 under the charter we can assign essentially the same
23 duties as a city manager. If we had wanted to take
24 that option, then that person, we'd have plenty of
25 time to define their responsibilities, refine/define

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the authorities, et cetera, et cetera, and have that in place well before November, because, as you say, this is a nonbinding referendum. Personally, I would prefer a binding referendum, but if it's a nonbinding referendum, I mean, we were elected.

REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Well, a binding referendum could be done. I mean that's not -- that's not infeasible.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: My motion was a binding --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, that --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- referendum.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- was my understanding too.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. It was not a, quote, nonbinding --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- because I made the comment that the nonbinding meant it was a straw vote.

REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So four years down the road, we would be voting as a permanent type thing if -- I mean we can, you know. So I said my motion was for binding referendum.

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REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Right. I mean I think that it was -- as originally conceived of, it was a nonbinding referendum this November with the understanding, as far as I understood, that Council will take the action that the voters indicated they desired: that if the citizens voted for it, then the Council would take the action pretty much immediately to move to the part-time mayoral division.

But it certainly can be written up front, and Mr. Weed and I had discussed that, as to make it binding from the get-go.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'll go ahead and make a motion to have a binding referendum in November; if the referendum passes, move to a part-time Mayor form of government/city manager; then it would take effect January 1st, 2014, and the Mayor's term at that time would then switch to part-time.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Do I get a second?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes. I don't have a problem with your motion. I just want Mayor and Council no matter whether it's this Mayor and Council or whoever is elected in November -- I don't believe

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if the referendum is in fact approved by the residents to go to a city manager form of government, that we wait until the end of the second year to finally come up with an employee.

That person could be working in agreement with a full-time Mayor if our revenues see fit. If that's the case, it does give us time, like Mr. Bates said, to work out a job description. However, I think the residents are going to want to know what the job description is before they vote. So I think we need to be working on that prior to.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I don't disagree with any of that premise. To me, if this passes, then that would afford, you know, a six-month, three-month transition period with a full-time Mayor and a city manager working in tandem in preparation of the transition January of 2014. I agree with that wholeheartedly.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, again, I like the motion that we made last week. I realize it has its problems but I think this one has more problems in that right now we're running -- I didn't vote for it, but we passed a budget that's a $2,000,000 deficit spending year after year on a $13,000,000-a-year budget. That's over 10 percent. And we're spending

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more money than we're taking in.

And you know, maybe someone will emerge let's say that's great at budgeting and great at management and has those manager skills to be able to bring down the spending. But I think that the City is in dire need of someone that's capable of coming in and presenting a balanced budget to the Council, making the hard decisions that need to be made so the Council can back it up and get on a balanced budget as soon as possible.

And I think waiting two years -- you know, two more years, assuming we go on the way we're going, that's going to be $5,000,000 that we're going to lose. At that point, we'd be borrowing money. Well, actually, we won't be borrowing money because banks don't lend money to cities who spend more money than they take in. So you know, the crisis is going to happen very soon, so I'll have to stick with the original motion that we passed last week.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Additional discussion?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll,

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please.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion carries.
Thank you so much for being here tonight.
REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Sure. And actually if I might insert myself for one second on another issue that actually came up today.
First I want to apologize because I'm under the weather and didn't actually make it to the capitol today, but I wanted to be here, but actually -- so I'm a little -- I'm foggy-brained, to be perfectly honest with you. So please bear with me, everybody.
But basically, today at the capitol, on the local calendar was the redevelopment powers bill, so that passed the House.

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Also on the calendar was the charter change dealing with the ad valorem taxes and also the -- some of the electoral provisions.
Now, I did not know that those were going to be on the calendar today. That's just how it goes when they come up.
So basically, apparently -- I was sort of receiving panicked calls, because apparently there's a member of the House who saw the charter change and the ad valorem issue and wanted to, at a minimum, have more information about what it is.
And really what he was trying to do was get it removed from the consent calendar so that it would go forward as general legislation so that it could be voted on by everyone individually as opposed to as a package.
And so basically tomorrow when I go back -- What ended up happening was one of the Dekalb -- other Dekalb delegation members got it held over so that I could be there, obviously, and that was only the courteous thing to do. So tomorrow it's going to come up again.
But you know, what we're basically facing is someone who wants to make a point and has some certain political grudges right now and wants to make a point

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that they do not want to be seen affiliated, voting for anything that could possibly ever be construed as a tax increase. Okay? And so there could end up being -- I doubt it would be particularly lengthy, because I have certain points that I can say: Look, I mean, this is per resolution that was unanimously adopted by the City Council and brought to me, and I'm the legislative conduit and this only affects Doraville, and it's really none of your business, you know.
So there's a lot of things that I can say, But I thought that since I was coming here tonight anyway, I should take the opportunity -- and we've had these conversations before, but I thought it would be prudent of me to take the opportunity to ask you as Councilmembers what you thought an appropriate response would be to these arguments that will be coming tomorrow about your -- you know, this legislation where they're going to be arguing that we're trying to impose a tax increase. So I wanted to -- He's going to be coming to me, so I need to have some substantive things to tell him at a minimum even if the only things I say in the well are procedural, or if not procedural, just a matter of local control that really is none of his business.

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But I thought it would be wise to bring it to your attention and have you tell me a little bit more about why we need to adjust the millage rate right now.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I need to ask a question and then I'll open it up to the rest of the Council.
You said a package. Are you talking about removing the cap on the millage rate is attached to lowering the homestead exemption?
REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: No. Lowering the homestead exemption came just more recently; so from when you voted on it just within the last couple weeks, so that is later in the process at the capitol right now so that one right now is with the Dekalb delegation so it hasn't gotten voted -- it hasn't been approved by the Dekalb delegation.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So the --
REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: It will be, though.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: When you use the term package,
REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: The package --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- what other items --
REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Yeah.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- of this package
2 are there --
3 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Okay. I should be
4 more clear.
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- attached to each
6 other?
7 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: I should have been
8 more clear. When I said package, I meant that at the
9 capitol, what it deemed local legislation goes on a
10 local consent calendar and it is approved as package.
11 So it might affect Doraville, it might affect
12 Gainesville, it might affect Athens, but it's just
13 voted on one time for all of that legislation so it's
14 not --
15 So there are two things in the group that
16 was voted on today that were Doraville bills that I
17 had sponsored. One was the redevelopment powers,
18 which, as I said, was going on through, and then the
19 other one is the charter change that included raising
20 the millage cap to give the Councilmembers, you guys,
21 ability to be at above eight -- millage rate up to 10
22 is what it says.
23 And I mean I've been very clear, I think,
24 with people that I've talked to in Doraville and
25 people that I've talked to at the capitol that, you

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1 know, this is not my jurisdiction and, frankly, I look
2 to all of you to be the duly-affected experts on
3 Doraville City business and the decisions that you
4 make, and you're responsive to your voters the same
5 way I'm responsive to mine. It's not my business to
6 get in the middle of that.
7 But what this guy is trying to do is do just
8 that, and he's really just trying to make a point
9 because he wanted to be majority leader and he lost,
10 and he had another bill recently that got voted down.
11 And he's just -- to be honest, he's kind of an
12 idealogue and so he's going to -- he saw this, and he
13 wants to make an issue of it and so that's what he's
14 going to do.
15 And so I feel like I need to be prepared
16 to -- I mean as I said, as I was just saying, look, I
17 mean, I've always said, you guys manage your sphere in
18 your sector and I have mine, and I'm not going to
19 insert myself in your process nor do I believe that's
20 my role. You know, I mean, everything that I'm doing
21 for the city -- and I want to be the best public
22 servant to this city and to my district and helpful to
23 all of you and all of the residents too, of course.
24 You know, the things that we've got have all been
25 unanimously-approved resolutions by all of you, the

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1 experts to the management of the City of Doraville,
2 and so I'm certainly -- I'm your legislative conduit
3 as we've talked about, and I'm not about to -- I say,
4 you know, of course that's the amendment you feel like
5 you need for the running of the city.
6 But because it theoretically or it has been
7 made an issue today, and tomorrow I'm going to need to
8 respond to things, if he comes to me privately or
9 publicly, I mean I can say -- I certainly have all
10 sorts of things that I can say that I feel very
11 comfortable about, that are just that: This is a
12 duly-elected City Council, this is local control, this
13 is a unanimously approved resolution, this is frankly
14 none of your business and it doesn't affect your
15 constituents or anyone else in the state.
16 So all that's fine. But substantively, I
17 thought it would be prudent of me to ask you since I
18 was coming tonight, give me my five bullet points
19 again about why we need to --
20 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think one of the
21 ones is we were educated when we were in talks
22 regarding the redevelopment of General Motors that we
23 were handicapped, so to speak, about bond issuance
24 because we had no flexibility to raise money for
25 bonds.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Okay.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: This doesn't have
3 anything to do with H.B. 291, does it?
4 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: I don't think so.
5 What is H.B. 291?
6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: A certain
7 representative wants to remove the ability to add fees
8 to property taxes.
9 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Oh. No. I know
10 about that and --
11 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay.
12 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: -- Karen had
13 actually mentioned that to me, and I know, yeah. No,
14 that is not.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay. Just
16 checking because I'm debating.
17 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Huh-uh. Has nothing
18 to do with that, yeah.
19 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think the other
20 thing too is raising our ability to -- having our
21 ability raised does not mean we're going to raise the
22 millage cap.
23 And I think what's more important to me is
24 the homestead exemption, because I think right now the
25 homestead exemption is not being applied fairly among

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1 residents because it's punishing basically people that
2 have the two -- two-story-plus homes. It's not evenly
3 applied among residents, and I think if we can lower
4 the homestead exemption, we're not going to need to
5 raise the millage cap. In fact, we may even be able
6 to lower the millage cap. So I'm actually more
7 hopeful that the homestead exemption would be lowered
8 so that the taxes are more evenly applied among
9 resident homeowners and we won't have a need to raise
10 the millage rate.
11 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: I remember that
12 discussion from the last time I was here as well.
13 I would not be surprised if this same issue
14 came up again when the homestead exemption hits the
15 House floor.
16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And that's going to
17 be a resident -- residents vote on that, so.
18 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Exactly, so that's -
19 - yeah.
20 Okay. Anything else that you think would be
21 good for me to know by way of background or other
22 reasons just related to this so that I feel that I'm
23 empowered?
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Sorry. I think we've
25 briefly mentioned this before, that personally I'm

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1 really not in favor of increasing the taxes; I'm more
2 in favor of getting our spending under control.
3 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Uh-huh.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: As far as the last
5 resolution for the millage rate -- I'm sorry, the
6 exemption -- I was not present, so for what that's
7 worth.
8 Because frankly, you're saying both of these
9 would be voted on by referendum to increase the
10 millage rate or lower the --
11 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: That one would not.
12 The homestead will be voted on by referendum for the
13 whole city --
14 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
15 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: -- all the voters.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Because I know that we
17 had one resolution that listed six different things,
18 and one of them was the city manager and the whole
19 thing, and I voted for that one, but I don't remember
20 specifically one on the changing the millage rate.
21 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: I believe they were
22 all unanimously adopted, so I believe you did.
23 MS. HOFFMEISTER: Yes, they were.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I wasn't here to
25 unanimously adopt the one on the exemption.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Okay. Well, that
2 one is, as we've said, thirty-five thousand.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But it's going to a
4 vote --
5 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Exactly.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- because on the one
7 hand, I don't like the idea of raising taxes --
8 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Right.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- when we should be
10 lowering expenses, but on the other hand, I don't like
11 taking away the ability for citizens to make a
12 decision by voting directly.
13 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Okay. Karen, would
14 you just real quick and then I'll sit down, what was
15 the point that you made aside from the part about the
16 homestead exemption is the one you're more concerned
17 about. You said having --
18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The ability.
19 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: -- oh, the ability
20 doesn't mean you'll use it. That's what it was.
21 Okay. Thank you.
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, it gives us --
23 it gives us flexibility. You know, the biggest piece
24 of our budget is public safety, and if we're going
25 to -- you know. And I agree with Councilman Roche

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1 about, you know, balancing a budget, but to get
2 $2,000,000 out of our budget is going to mean cuts in
3 public safety, and I don't think anybody would be a
4 fan of doing that. So in combination of, you know,
5 adjusting the spending down, there needs to be that
6 flexibility of having and offsetting the costs, and
7 that's an increase in revenue.
8 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Okay. Great. Thank
9 you. And I'm sorry to make all of you rehash things
10 that you've already been through, but I was surprised
11 today to get these phone calls and frankly quite
12 annoyed because really it's sort of an unfair thing
13 for this guy to do, very discourteous when I wasn't
14 there, to kind of try to stop my legislation, but it
15 was an opportunity to come tonight.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I can't imagine any
17 political people trying to do that.
18 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Yeah, I know, right?
19 Can you believe it?
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We appreciate every-
21 thing that you've done.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you very much.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes. Thank you so
24 much.
25 REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: Thank you all.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And we're so glad to see you up there.
REPRESENTATIVE PARENT: And again, apologies for being so out of it tonight.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Thank you so much.
Okay. The next item is Department Reports, there are none.
The next item is Public Comments on Agenda Items. Now, this is -- part of this is public hearings. Does the Council want to allow public comments on agenda items?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Of course.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Public comments on agenda items, please limit it to three minutes. And again, if you would not mind lining up if you want to speak, please. Come on up.
MR. SHANAHAN: David Shanahan, New Peachtree Road.
You have architectural standards on there. I did a little research on that. Some of you may have seen that. One item I didn't include in there, that you're probably aware of, in your discussions tonight, you have a couple of terms called out, materials, one is quick brick. That's a proprietary product. I'm

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not sure you want to specify a proprietary product in your ordinance. It might chafe a competitor or just -- I don't know what issues that may come up, but I don't think it's common to put proprietary products in there.
The other one that's mentioned is super brick. That's a term I can't find any reference for, and I don't -- it doesn't seem to refer to anything that I could find or Google or talking to contractors. Or the Georgia Masonry Institute was not familiar with the term; it didn't mean anything to them. So you might want to take a look at defining it or dropping it from there.
Thank you.
MR. HART: I'd like to thank Ms. Parent for coming tonight and I hope you no success tomorrow, anyway, on the tax increase. It's funny how politicians forget they've voted on something after it happened, you know. "I didn't know that. It must have been mixed in with some other stuff." You guys kill me.
One was massage parlors, you're going to vote on a massage parlor tonight. I don't think that's a good idea. I'm against that. I think the whole room is against any more of these things. Okay?

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Second thing is on these architectural standards. Development is coming to Doraville and it's going to come here rapidly, and you have to have something in place. Doesn't have to be perfect, but it needs to be in place so you don't end up with 10 brand new buildings built like shacks like they have now.
You need something as a stopgap. Whether you like somebody or you think it's pleasant, you need to have something in place. You can change it next week at next meeting, but you're going to have this onslaught and it's going to happen rapidly.
When development happens, it happens like -- it's rapid fire, and you need to have something in place. Now, you have to put personal issues aside, pass the issue and come back and look at it again in a week or so. Okay? You get all horny about colors of paint on doors. I mean if that's what you're about, then you need to get another job with another Councilmember. Okay?
You need to pass an ordinance that will restrict some of the bad building techniques that are going to be on your doorstep tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. They're here, so you need to do something about it, Bob. Thank you.

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MS. HOFFMEISTER: Bonita Hoffmeister, 3948 Spanish Oak Drive. And yes, you all unanimously voted for everything that you gave to Ms. Parent.
The standards. People do not come where the standards are low. When I worked on our neighborhood association, when I worked on city planning, when I've worked on Dekalb, one thing I have learned is people do not come where bad materials exist.
When you were little, you learned: throw trash in a corner and it's going to collect trash. Now, how much more do we need in Doraville? Thank you.
MR. ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.
I appreciate David's efforts, the compilation he put together. I haven't seen all of his stuff but I did look at his collection of pictures and I think that this needs to be worked on, workshopped as it were.
But the reason I stood up is to say something to you-all, and since Elena is here. The city manager thing, there's a lot of possibilities. The job description is going to be many fold, but the point I want to make is that the position is hireable and fireable by the City Council, not by the Mayor, all right? There's been a back and forth about that

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1 in the Pond materials, in Johnny Lawler's materials.
2 That's been tried to push as far as -- this is no
3 disrespect, Donna, but being able to appoint somebody
4 that is -- that is the arbiter of all, from one person
5 to one person, is not very good, not democratic, not
6 well thought.
7 And so what I'm saying is that the City
8 Council should have the ability to hire and fire that
9 person if that person does not do -- And we've had
10 time and time again the City Council has asked staff,
11 the Mayor, whoever, to do things, and they haven't
12 gotten done. It was because -- well, because of
13 internal politics, I'm not sure. But nonetheless,
14 that needs to be straightened out in the job
15 description and the City Council needs to have the
16 ability to hire and fire that person, period. Thanks.
17 MS. CRAWFORD: Susan Crawford, Oakcliff.
18 I too would like to urge you to go ahead
19 with the architectural standards if they can be
20 tweaked if they're too tight. I myself prefer they be
21 too high rather than too low. If they are too high,
22 that's when people can apply for and generally obtain
23 a variance. So you can always reassess, but let's put
24 something in place. Thanks.
25 MR. CRAWFORD: Joe's not here tonight. Ben

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1 Crawford, Oakcliff Estates.
2 Mayor and City Council, on item number --
3 the first item, the R-3 district, there's a lot of
4 chatter on the Internet about how the Planning
5 Commission and the city planner rushed through
6 something with you guys. It was going to be, you
7 know, not good for residential areas and stuff. And
8 one thing I can make clear about all the ordinances
9 that have come through first, it's depressing that we
10 haven't finished with all the rewrites and passed them
11 all. I got the biggest downfall besides what happened
12 today, but I won't comment on that.
13 But you know, this is stuff we were supposed
14 to have taken care of, business that we were supposed
15 to have done. It's not been done, and I'd like to
16 know why not. I don't expect an answer because I know
17 why not: because we've had dysfunctionalists all
18 along and it goes back and forth, back and forth. We
19 should have set these things in place perfect or not
20 and changed them as we go along. Made the changes
21 when they were reviewed by City Council, compromise
22 vote, get it done. Didn't happen. Hasn't happened
23 yet. All right? That's a comment in general on
24 ordinances.
25 On the architectural standards, and you got

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1 your minutes from Joe, it's basically a good start is
2 what we said. It wasn't the beginning/end-all of
3 anything. Like other people have remarked tonight, we
4 have to start somewhere.
5 The animosity that's developed over the
6 years has been fueled by certain people within the
7 City because it's an end -- you know, it's a means to
8 an end. That stuff -- if you're smart, that has to
9 stop. All of you have to be introspective and look at
10 it and think of ways to make the city better. That's
11 what we elected you for, and it's about time everybody
12 started looking at themselves and saying, "How can we
13 do this better?"
14 I've worked 15 years in State government,
15 and this is not how we operate. We actually do a good
16 job. And I'd hate to work for an agency that I had to
17 worry every day about my job because of personal
18 vendettas that some people have to have. It's not a
19 good feeling for City employees. I'd hate to be a
20 City employee here. It would not be a comforted
21 feeling. It just isn't. How could it be? Thank you.
22 - - -
23 (Applause)
24 - - -
25 MR. CHAMBERS: Richard Chambers, New

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1 Peachtree Road.
2 I just wanted to also thank David for the
3 tremendous amount of work he put into looking at the
4 architectural standards both here in Georgia -- I mean
5 in Doraville as well as Sandy Springs, Duluth,
6 Norcross, John's Creek, Dunwoody. He put in a lot of
7 work. I don't know if any of you have had the time to
8 take a look at what he has done or had questions.
9 And when you look at the comparison of the
10 ordinance, the rules and regulations that these other
11 successful, growing communities have compared to what
12 is being proposed here is night-and-day difference.
13 And I don't know if y'all have really actually taken a
14 look at those pictures, the things that would not be
15 permitted here because of this proposed architectural
16 standards.
17 I think a lot more work needs to be done on
18 it, and I think if you have any type of a work
19 session, you ought to invite some other people such as
20 David Shanahan, maybe an architect, maybe the teacher
21 at Georgia Tech who teaches architecture. Get them
22 involved; ask for their assistance.
23 I think when you look at it, what has been
24 proposed is not good for Doraville. I did not pass 30
25 or 40 cranes and dump trucks on the outside of town,

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1 waiting to come here and build buildings; but you go
2 to these other communities, they are building nice
3 buildings now. Thank you.
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Anyone else?
5 - - -
6 (No response)
7 - - -
8 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Next on the
9 agenda is not a public hearing. It was readvertised
10 from 2010, recessed from January 31st, 2011; Section
11 905, R-3 District. Mr. Weed?
12 ATTORNEY WEED: I don't have a particular
13 summary of the ordinance, but you're all familiar with
14 it and you've discussed it before.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But did you receive
16 draft two?
17 ATTORNEY WEED: The last draft that I have
18 is dated 31 January.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So you don't have
20 draft two.
21 ATTORNEY WEED: Apparently not.
22 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Council?
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Till the city attorney
24 has had a chance to review the proposed draft
25 ordinances, I can't --

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1 Motion to postpone agenda item VIIA, Section
2 905, R-3 District to March 28th and make sure that
3 Attorney Weed has a copy of draft --
4 ATTORNEY WEED: Well, let me rephrase that
5 statement. In looking through my file, my office
6 generated with the comment of the planner draft number
7 two on 24 January '11. I then subsequently provided
8 the Council what I have marked as final draft, dated
9 31 January '11.
10 In the meantime, I believe Council has
11 continued to discuss these matters, and whether you
12 gave comments to the planner, I don't know. I know
13 that I didn't receive comments with regard to these
14 ordinances, but that wasn't ordinarily your practice.
15 Usually you would go through the planner with the
16 commentary.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: This was an e-mail
18 February 10.
19 ATTORNEY WEED: Again, the last version that
20 came from my office was 31 January '11, and our last
21 cover e-mail from my office was dated January the
22 28th.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Generally the
24 questions that we had asked to be included appear to
25 be included in the draft that we're reviewing. But if

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1 they've not been reviewed and vetted by legal, I would
2 not be in favor of passing it. So I'll stand by my
3 motion to postpone this, Section 905, R-3 District,
4 and the subsequent agenda item, Section 906, R-4
5 District, to March the 28th.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Second.
7 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
8 - - -
9 (No response)
10 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll,
11 please.
12 DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember
13 Alexander?
14 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
15 DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
17 DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
19 DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
21 DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
23 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion carries.
24 Next item is going to be Not a Public
25 Hearing - Adoption of Architectural Standards/Design

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1 Guidelines. That was also recessed from January 31st,
2 2011.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As we've heard
4 tonight, there's a great deal of interest in passing
5 architectural standards, which I support. There's
6 also some concern as to the requirements that are put
7 forth in the draft ordinance.
8 I have talked with a number of -- well, I
9 shouldn't say "a number of" -- two architectural
10 friends who have provided me with their general
11 comment on these and that they are, in their words,
12 extremely restrictive in design components. That may
13 be what we want. I don't know that that's what we
14 need for a citywide ordinance.
15 If this was a particular architectural
16 guideline for a overlay district or a downtown
17 district, I would be more in favor of it than it is
18 as a citywide ordinance.
19 One of the things that both the architects
20 expressed to me was in any type of construction there
21 is always some hardcoat stucco needed in order -- what
22 they referred to as sign banding, to allow for signage
23 to be implemented or added or installed and removed
24 and replaced easily and adjustments made. If it's
25 brick or stone, it's much more difficult to make

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1 adjustments.
2 So the one thing that they did suggest
3 across the board was adding in or allowing at least
4 some hardcoat stucco onto the -- as an allowable
5 product. I would not be in favor of having that as a
6 hundred percent, but certainly, you know, something
7 not to exceed a 30% or 40% standard I think should be
8 an allowable use.
9 But generally, I think this is a good start
10 for an overlay district. I think it's too restrictive
11 for a citywide ordinance.
12 MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Any other comments?
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I just have one
14 comment. If the concern is that we do not want to see
15 all metal buildings, then that's the type of ordinance
16 we should write. If there are specific things we do
17 not want to see right now, as a stopgap, as the
18 residents do want us to try to have some type of a
19 stopgap, then we need to be specific stating
20 prohibited materials rather than being as restrictive
21 as we are right here.
22 I have concern with passing the design
23 guidelines as written because though there's been
24 comments made by the residents that we need to go
25 ahead and pass it and we can always come back to it,

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1 it has been our experience that when we pass something
2 and try to come back and change, it's one of the most
3 difficult things that we've been posed with. And so I
4 am not in favor of passing something that will not be
5 favorable to the entire city of Doraville.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I have a couple of
7 concerns about this. Again, like everyone else up
8 here, I am in favor of architectural standards but,
9 you know, we just got finished -- some people did a
10 lot of hard work on the LCI study. And part of that
11 LCI study was, you know, they talked about
12 architectural standards there, and I don't know that
13 this has even been reviewed by that. I would think
14 that -- I mean it doesn't sound like it's going to get
15 passed tonight, and I can understand why, but I would
16 think that we would at least want Mr. Racicot.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: He has reviewed it.
18 I'll e-mail everyone Caleb's comments on the
19 ordinance --
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- and I will
22 forward it to everybody.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Exactly. But I'd like
24 to see those comments and I think we all should get
25 ahold of those comments too, because, you know, if

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1 we're going to build an LCI and say, "This is our
2 vision of tomorrow," and then we're going to turn
3 around and build architectural standards that don't
4 even take those into consideration, you know, I think
5 that the money that was spent, the taxpayer dollars,
6 on the LCI, should at least be taken into
7 consideration on this.
8 And I don't -- I honestly don't think
9 someone's going to come and build a horrible building
10 tomorrow. I believe very much that of course we do
11 need the architectural standards, but, you know, I
12 think we need to take a breath here and make sure that
13 what we do pass is going to be something that's going
14 to encourage development, encourage quality
15 development.
16 The other thing -- and I'm not an expert
17 with this and I'll be honest about that, but, you
18 know, a lot of the things that it talks about here,
19 you know, construction is coming up with new
20 techniques and new materials all the time. I love to
21 watch, you know, those shows on T.V. that do -- the
22 DIY shows and everything, and I would hate to make
23 something here illegal that's --
24 You know, I want to encourage innovation. I
25 think Doraville's future lies in innovation. We were

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1 speaking earlier today that Doraville's the perfect
2 size to be an incubator for new businesses, and I
3 think we should begin encouraging that. There's even
4 businesses out there that haven't even been invented
5 yet, and I think that --
6 Again, I think that we should review this in
7 light of the LCI and I think that it would be
8 premature to pass this tonight, but I'm very much in
9 favor of the concept, so.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, I would be much
11 more inclined to put some minimum restrictions out
12 there tonight -- you know, Attorney Weed to draft a
13 very simple restrictive ordinance on materials that
14 are not allowed and get that on the table and on the
15 table and on the docket for review, if we could have
16 it by March the 7th, at least to have it in place.
17 To me, you know, metal buildings would be
18 one. Buildings that are 100% hardcoat stucco would be
19 two. Cinder blocks would be three.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Time out.
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes, ma'am.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Cinder blocks, you
23 know, we're getting into, okay, is it going to be a
24 6x9x12 or is it going to be 12x12x12? Is it going to
25 be a 12x18? You know, so I'm not in favor of saying

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that specific thing without us vetting out sizes or whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Respectfully, I disagree. I don't think there's any cinder block, whether it's 6x6 or 12x12, that's aesthetically pleasing as material.

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you, but not appropriate.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: If we're going to encourage developmental standards or have restrictions on types of material, I would be in favor of not allowing any cinder block building to be built that doesn't have a facade of brick or stone or hardcoat stucco or, you know, hearty plank or some other material that's covering the cinder block. I just don't think that it's an appropriate building material for a city.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Would we want to limit it initially to just the commercial properties?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah, it would need to be limited to commercial.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: New. New

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commercial.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: New commercial.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes. But in the definitions, if we're going to use the definitions, we've got in there renovation and remodeling and --

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I have no desire of using the existing definitions as provided.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, then, would we have like a percentage? For instance, we talk about metal buildings. Obviously I don't like corrugated metal buildings either, but when you say percent, the facade couldn't be more than, say, 10 percent metal; that the stucco couldn't be more than 10 percent stucco, no more than 30 percent glass; any cinder block would have to be covered with some other coating or covering, whatever, that sort of thing? Is that where we're going with this?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, as far as metal, I'm not in favor of corrugated metal at all, period.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I don't know that we could legally restrict architectural metal.

MR. WEED: It's good to be the government. Sure you can.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But then you have to

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define what architectural metal is.

MR. WEED: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But if you just said no more than 10 percent of the facade of the building can be made out of metal, end of story; and that way, if you have metal panels here and there, that's one thing, but we're not going to get corrugated metal buildings.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: My preference until we get a little bit clearer on what the metal is would be to not allow metal on the front end. You know, as you've indicated, we're going to be going into the LCI and looking at amending. This is going to get amended one way or another down the road.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I would prefer it to limit, not allow any metal, not have that leeway at all.

I do agree with you on limiting the percentages on hardcoat stucco. What else did you have?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I had glass maybe 30 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: 30 percent to me is a reasonable standard on limitations of glass, hardcoat

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stucco, precast concrete.

But I do think we need to be working on getting some minimum protections in place tonight. So I'll make a motion to have Attorney Weed craft a simple architectural standard ordinance that reads: New construction in commercial districts shall not include metal or shall not be constructed of metal. Building materials shall be no more than 30 percent glass, 30 percent hardcoat stucco, 30 percent precast concrete, and no cinder block.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And obviously that's the outside surface of the building, not what's inside.

Councilman Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes, sir. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's obviously the outside of the building.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. That's the facade, yes, sir.

So the cinder block would be no exposed cinder block.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'll second.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So no awning

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can be metal, no around the building can be metal like for instance, quote/unquote, QuikTrips.

You've got many stores in Doraville as well as other places that around the tops of their buildings, what I would call an awning, which is probably not the correct term, is metal.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The canopy.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The canopy. I mean that's -- you're saying no metal is what you said --

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As a --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- that there was not a percentage allowable.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's correct.

The canopy would not be a facade. It would be an accessory to the building. So in my opinion, that would not be included.

As far as the metal banding around the building, I'm open for persuasion, but no.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I can't support that, then.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I would probably go with 10 percent for the banding and that sort of thing. I mean copper banding, I've seen that, and it looks pretty good.

But maybe the best thing to do is go ahead

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and draft it and then hammer out some of the details later, I mean at the next meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: This is only to --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- draft.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And we're going to get this again.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Just so that Mr. Weed can begin work on it.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And then of course we'll have time to review the LCI comments also.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Additional discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I can support, you know, prohibiting an all-metal building but I'm having some trouble with the banding as you want to call it or the awning or the canopy or whatever. I'm not so sure that the canopy's really considered an accessory, that's for sure.

So prohibiting an all-metal building, I'm in favor of, but not the other portion around the building.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Would you consider making an amendment for 10 percent metal?

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COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes. I'll amend my motion to include a maximum of 10 percent metal.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'll amend the second.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Additional discussion?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And this is to move forward with a draft; correct?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Motion carries.

We're going to move into new business. Does anyone need a five-minute break?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Mayor, if you don't mind.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Yes. Five minutes. Come back at 7:30.

- - -

(Brief recess)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Next up on the agenda is Conditional Use Request for 5382 Buford Highway, Applicant William Ho.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mayor Pro Tem, at this point I'd like to postpone this to March 28th, 2011. There is some research that staff needs to conduct in reference to our existing ordinance and applicability, so I do request this be postponed to a date certain.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Is that a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes, ma'am. So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Second.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?

- - -

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(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second. I'm sorry. Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion carries.
The next item is Text Amendment Section 402.
ATTORNEY WEED: Mayor, actually I'd like to address that for a moment.
The purpose of the ordinance which is attached to your packet was as a result of recent regulatory ordinances passed by Council with regard to CSTTOM, massage parlors and massage therapy.
This goes hand in hand with the regulatory

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aspect of this. As you recall, massage parlors and also CSTTOM operations -- well, strike that. Massage parlors are allowed in commercial zones with a conditional use permit.
The point of the zoning ordinance was to correlate with the regulatory code so that there would be definitions in the zoning sections based upon the definitions in the regulatory codes.
The Planning Commission did address this item. Apparently they did so on or about December the 9th of 2010. Their recommendation was for approval.
So I would recommend to Council that if you want to conduct the zoning hearing on this ordinance, you can certainly do so and get whatever commentary there may be and make a decision on that.
This is really, frankly, is a housecleaning, housekeeping type item.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: These definitions match the regulatory ordinance that we passed recently?
ATTORNEY WEED: I have not done a comparison today, so I will not say that with a hundred percent certainty. However, if you adopt the ordinance, you've adopted the caveat that tomorrow first thing I will do that comparison and make sure that they are

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the same and that it's your intention to adopt the ordinances which are already in the regulatory code.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Council?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As with the previous R-3 and R-4, my preference would be to make sure that the information is consistent with what we've passed ordinance-wise on the regulatory side. So I make a motion to postpone this to March 28th and give Attorney Weed a chance to compare the regulatory ordinance that we passed with the definitions.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. It's always been our policy to make sure we have a final draft before we pass an ordinance.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Okay. Additional discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

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DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion carries.
Reports, none.
Public Comments. Council, do we all want to allow public comments?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I make a motion that we allow public comments.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

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COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion carries.
Okay. Public comments, please limit to three minutes. If you would line up at the podium, I'd appreciate it.
MR. HART: I think, you know, the elephant in the room is one of the employees was dismissed today, and I think the citizens at least have a right to know why, particularly since half of what you discussed tonight involved that particular employee.
So all I'm going to hear is crickets up here or what?
I think the Mayor Pro Tem, the person who's acting on the part of the Mayor, took the action, and the citizens here need to find out since, you know, we've been talking about architectural standards, we were talking about future development of the city, that at least we're owed some kind of an explanation.
Thank you.

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MR. CRAWFORD: Ben Crawford, Oakcliff Estates.
And when I mentioned earlier was I find it a sad state of affairs in the City of Doraville, referring to Tom's comment about the city planner being fired today, terminated.
Yeah, some explanation would be warranted. It probably will never come. There's always two sides to every store. I've had the pleasure, I can say, of working with Mr. Haeberlin for the last two and a half years. Sorry to see the city planner go. A lot of responsibility for things that have happened falls on your shoulders -- not that you think that, but it does. That's my own personal opinion; I'll state that.
We had a Planning Commission meeting last Thursday night where we went over the final versions of all those things which you guys, I think, have before you tonight. So everything postponed, I guess, because they need to get postponed. But anyhow, our recommendations were before you tonight; you had them delivered to you.
I think, you know, when all this shakes out, I think there was probably some unfairness that happened to the city planner, that's being discounted.

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My opinion again. I know that there's things going on in the City. We have an individual -- I won't name any names -- that has a commercial business he runs out of his home in R-1. It's not right; it's going to stop, you know. It's time that the citizens stood up and stopped the things that are wrong in the city.
And we wanted a city planner, we got a city planner, and I saw nothing but a lot of animosity to the city planner from the get-go. Certain forces within the city were pushing to get rid of him. Yeah, tonight they won, but we haven't given up. We'll be heard from.
Thank you.
- - -
(Applause)
- - -
MS. CRAWFORD: Susan Crawford, Oakcliff. And I don't want to beat a dead horse but I too am very, very saddened by this dismissal. I would like an explanation which I guess we're not entitled to, but I was one of the people, and there are probably others in this room, who for very many years wanted a city planner. I mean we asked, we begged, we pleaded, we showed reason why it would be a good thing for the city; statistics. We got 700 signatures for a

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planning commission, which is totally ignored, by the way, the opinion of the Planning Commission. And we finally got a city planner, and he was a good one, and he is a good one.
And you know, I'm sitting here; I know nothing about architectural standards. I know that we don't have very good ones, and I think that we need to put things in place, yes, and I think that if they are too high, as I said, they can be looked at and variances can be obtained.
But for one thing, the stucco you're talking about is spray-on junk. It isn't even real. It's like styrofoam. And you're comparing that with glass buildings. I mean I lived in Boston and there were beautiful glass -- the whole buildings were made of glass, and they are gorgeous.
You're not city planners. I'm not a city planner. He is a city planner. The business people have wonderful ideas, but they're not city planners; they're business people who do not live here.
And who is being listened to here by you? Thank you.
- - -
(Applause)
- - -

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MS. HOFFMEISTER: Bonita Hoffmeister, Oakcliff Estates. About seven years, I started coming to City Council. "Oh, it's the ordinances. That's why Doraville isn't growing well."

Well, I got to studying the ordinances, the old ordinances. They're very close to Dekalb. Dekalb is doing fabulous; we're not.

Okay. "We need a city planner." We got a good city planner, we had a good civil engineer. We had one that was ranked highest in the state but that wasn't good enough for us. We had to get rid of him.

I don't know what happened today but it stinks that we don't know.

And we're sitting here, and we're down to all that's left in this town are pawn shops and massage parlors. Thank you, City Council.

- - -

(Applause)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Motion to adjourn?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember

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Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM PITTMAN: Meeting adjourned.

- - -

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.)

-o0o-

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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 9th day of March 2011.

_____

Theresa Bretch, CCR
Permit No. B-755

[SEAL]

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