In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

City Council Meeting - Special Called Budget Meeting

June 13, 2011

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF DORAVILLE

STATE OF GEORGIA

SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET MEETING

Transcript of the meeting held in the City Council Room at Doraville City Hall, 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia, Maria Alexander, Acting Mayor, presiding, before Theresa Bretch, Certified Court Reporter, commencing at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2011.

* * *

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APPEARANCES:
Doraville City Council:
Mayor Pro Tem Maria Alexander
Councilmember Brian Bates
Councilmember Karen Pachuta
Councilmember Bob Roche
Councilmember Pam Fleming

Melissa McCain, City Clerk
Cecil G. McClendon, Jr., City Attorney
Shanta Wilson, Finance Director

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Meeting come to order.

Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Here.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I guess the first item I'd like to start with is Council had discussed canceling our trip to GMA, and the Clerk found out today that unfortunately we cannot get our class tuition back but we can cancel now and eliminate the lodging expense and also the fuel reimbursement for Councilmembers.

So I would like to know if Council would like to entertain a motion to cancel the GMA convention.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: What is that fee that we're losing?

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: $2,085.00, I

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believe.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Total?

CLERK McCAIN: It's $505.00 a person.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: So twenty-five? No. Two thousand --

CLERK McCAIN: But you're saving $150.00 a night --

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: We're saving --

CLERK McCAIN: -- per room --

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- about $2,000 by not going.

CLERK McCAIN: -- and gas.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So what's the total amount saved?

CLERK McCAIN: $2,000.00.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No, no, no. The total amount for the hotel.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: $159.00 times a night plus $200 worth in fuel cost reimbursement for each one of us. So the total savings is about $2,000; however, we're losing our tuition and registration.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And that was $2,085.00?

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MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I think it was $2,085.00. I don't have the figures in front of me. $505.00 times four.

Thank you, Mr. Bates.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: $2,020.00.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Can we bring it back up at the end of the meeting after we discuss budget? You know, I hate to lose money but I don't want to spend money, either, so.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: It's not an easy decision because we are going to be losing those fees.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And I apologize to all the Council members. We probably received 200 e-mails over the weekend, so I'm going to try to remember some of the suggestions that were made and see if we wanted to entertain them.

And also I'm acting as a scribe because I do have a mandatory meeting with the department heads, which I'm going to be taking back some ideas and discussing them and presenting to them.

I have already got one department that

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has come back and has submitted about three or four different budget scenarios. They received some additional information today, so they're going to come back again with some additional information.

But they also had a question which I need to ask. On the budgets, there is now an insurance other than employee benefit amount that is appearing. And for example, in this particular department, it's $140,000.00 more than it was last year, and the departments are wanting to know exactly what that is.

MS. WILSON: Their insurance other than benefits is their -- the property/casualty premium for the department,because, you know, we do workers' comp and we do the retirement. Instead of putting it all in one place, we split it between the departments.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And how is that value calculated?

MS. WILSON: It's calculated by the number of employees. It's based on a percentage.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And where did that -- where was that budgeted before?

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MS. WILSON: I think it was just put -- I will have to get back with you on the line item that it was charged to.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay, because that was one of the things the employees didn't understand. They were expecting $12,000.00, and got a budget back that has $165,000.00.

I know we're switching from the previous budget items that we had, to new; but this is, you know, something they didn't -- they didn't expect and obviously they don't have any control over and --

MS. WILSON: Right. I understand. I understand. I think last year it may have been put into one of those big lump-sum accounts, but I'll check to make sure what it was coded to the last time it was paid.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay, because it is being charged to every employee.

MS. WILSON: Every department.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. Some of the ideas that Council had was addressing Council pay and benefits.

Ms. Fleming, I think that was your

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suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I was referring to medical.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Did you --

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Go ahead and present your idea.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, I believe we passed it if I'm not mistaken.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: No, we did not. You e-mailed this idea over the weekend as far as addressing Council's medical benefits and foregoing them and having Council pay for all their medical benefits. We haven't addressed that.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. I wasn't submitting anything other than the possibility of them -- of us eliminating life insurance and dental and making that an option to them.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And that was the employees.

I was talking about Council.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Oh. I'm very sorry.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes. Council, what I had suggested previously was that the Council medical benefits be eliminated because we are part-time people, and, you know, we could opt out also just like the other employees and be able to take it on our own.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Council, any feedback on that suggestion?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Just that, I mean, I have no problem with paying for my benefits 100 percent. I think maybe the Council people, if they want to buy medical insurance or any other benefit from the City, they should pay 100 percent and not be subsidized, 100 percent of whatever it costs and not be subsidized, so, like a regular employee.

In fact, I'll make that a motion. I'll make a motion that members of the City Council will not be reimbursed or subsidized for any benefits they choose to purchase from the City of Doraville.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Second?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That we will not be subsidizing?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. In other

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words, I pay the full -- if I want to buy medical insurance, I would pay the full premium out of my own pocket.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And that includes life insurance, dental?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If I choose to buy it.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I make that in a second. Second.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Any discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. I'm just not inclined to vote on any items -- revenue, expense -- until we've had a chance for the department heads to get together, review the budget that they've got.

We've got relatively incomplete information, and if we make decisions based upon incomplete information, we're going to make incomplete decisions.

I am personally in favor of doing that. I have been in favor of doing that for some time. But I'm just not inclined to, based upon the number of questions that we've got regarding the expense line items, the revenue line items,

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to make any decisions tonight.

I think this is an opportunity for us to ask questions, get back to the department heads and come back to us with a refined budget, and then we can make decisions that are appropriate and necessary. So while I support the idea, I'm not going to vote on anything or for anything tonight.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: But this is our budget, and we know the numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We have 14 days to pass a budget. If we're not going to do anything, then I make a motion --

I withdraw my original motion and I make a motion we adjourn the meeting. If we're going to delay, we're going to delay.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm only speaking for me.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I will restate my original motion that members of City Council, if they choose to purchase any benefits from the City of Doraville, will have to pay 100 percent of the cost of those benefits.

CLERK McCAIN: And are you withdrawing

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your motion to adjourn?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry.

CLERK McCAIN: That's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I didn't want to make it hard on you.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And I do second that emotion.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Any further discussion?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I didn't hear what Ms. Pachuta said.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: She said yes.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'm hoarse tonight so it's going to be hard for me to speak up.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: She's not feeling well.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So did it pass or not?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: It did.
CLERK McCAIN: It passed.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you very much.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. We also had -- Let's see what all we had. We had suggestions of trying to get all departments to cut across the board by a certain percentage. We had some information as far as employees per capita.
Council, jump in. What are some of your other suggestions? I'm going to try to take as much information as I can to this meeting and throw out ideas, and I'm expecting department heads to come back to come back to me

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with their ideas.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, one of the things that we've talked about but we've not done anything about is the employee retirement program.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Absolutely. At present, that's costing us about $700,000.00 a year.
There are no employee contributions into the retirement program. In order to vest, they need to be here 10 years. They cannot transfer it when they leave.
If we were to move to a 401-K type program with a three percent contribution across the board and up to a three percent match, a total of up to six percent of their salary, we would have a savings annually of roughly about $450,000.00.
I think this is something that we need to explore. We need to understand what happens to those who are already vested. We need to understand what happens to those that are in that 10-year vesting period.
But this is $450,000.00 that is available to us as a revenue or as an expense

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cut that we need to pursue.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And I think one of the things that you and I discussed over the weekend is even as soon as an employee basically hits our door and has passed the 90-day probationary period, we're paying money in for them that they never collect if they leave.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That is correct.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: So I was going to make a suggestion since we're getting -- You know, this is good information. It's something that has needed to be addressed for a long time.
I was going to propose: We don't have that much left over as far as I know on the agenda for the 20th. What if we add this item to the agenda and get members from the GMA retirement thing here and possibly someone from J. Smith Lanier to come in and we dedicated a majority of the Council meeting to that subject?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think also that's something that we cans put out for RFP too to various banks.
But I know we had -- we switched one point one year and we had different banks

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basically bidding to have our 401-K, and I remember we went with Wachovia at the time, but.
And they'll look at how many employees, et cetera, because the administration cost's built into that, but.
And I don't even know. Does GMA offer 401-K? I'm not even sure.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I'm not sure if they do or not.
CLERK McCAIN: I know I did talk to people that specialize in their retirement program, and they did offer to come out and help the City learn ways to cut costs.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I did notice in that information we got back from GMA, it had all the cities that participate in Georgia and the calculations. You know, it's based on years of service times the average of your highest years' salaries times a certain percentage. And we were double. That percentage was double what 99 percent of all the other cities were.
Most cities were between 1.25 to 1.75 percent. We were at 3 percent. I only noticed four other cities that were above 2 percent. So we are way, way, way over what all the other

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1 cities in GMA are participating at.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I wanted to ask
3 a question.
4 Brian, in this scenario that you were
5 talking about, had you investigated what would
6 happen to the retired employees, the present
7 retired --
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Sure.
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- employees if
10 we ...
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. Nothing
12 would affect them. They would remain as part of
13 the GMA-defined benefits program --
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- so there
16 wouldn't be anything that would happen to them.
17 But the big question is going to be
18 what happens to all the employees that are not
19 yet vested in the program and how do you convert
20 them out of -- if we do migrate, how do you
21 convert them out of the defined-benefits program
22 into a 401-K program, and I don't know the
23 answer to that.
24 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. Well, my
25 mother and sister work for the same place, and

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1 my mother had a pension, but by the time my
2 sister at some point came on, there was no
3 pension but she had a 401-K. So there will be
4 like a cutoff date: employees after this period
5 will be 401-K; employees, you know, from this
6 period forward or after receive pension. So
7 there will be like a transition date that would
8 have to be set.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. Everybody
10 who's already retired, no impact to them at all.
11 It's also important to note that in the
12 defined-benefits program retirement account,
13 we've got about 12 million dollars sitting there
14 that is, you know, being paid ahead to accrue to
15 in theory pay for everybody who's going to
16 retire. But with a 10-year vesting period, not
17 everybody makes it to that point in time. The
18 Carol Stephenses of the world are the exceptions
19 to the rule.
20 So at some point down the road, I would
21 expect that if we do switch, that that pot of
22 money will dwindle but at some point come back
23 to the City because it's taxpayer dollars that
24 is being used.
25 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And one of

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1 the reasons why I would like to try to go ahead
2 and get this on the agenda is because the check
3 is written every December, and this past
4 December it was over $683,000. And I don't know
5 how long -- if we were to start looking into
6 this, how long it would take us to convert over;
7 education, like Ms. Pachuta said --
8 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
9 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- RFP the
10 401-K --
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'm thinking --
12 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- or
13 whatever.
14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- at least six
15 months --
16 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Right.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- just the
18 transition period with anyone coming in and
19 setting up accounts and educating the employees
20 and all the ERISA stuff that has to be handled.
21 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I just went through
22 setting up a --
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Because -- and
24 it's pretax benefits and all of that. I would
25 think six months might even be wishful thinking.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I am
2 comfortable with on the 20th having GMA here. I
3 think it might be a little bit too premature for
4 Lanier & Associates because it's only giving
5 them a short period of time notice to try to --
6 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- bring us
8 together something and possibly compare it to
9 GMA.
10 I think we've got a lot of questions
11 for GMA that might need to be vetted out before
12 we go to Lanier.
13 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
14 Cecil, you said you just went through
15 setting one up?
16 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We went through
17 setting up. We changed the providers for the
18 accounts --
19 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay. So --
20 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- and I just went
21 through the process. And six months is probably
22 realistic --
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay.
24 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- but it's a lot
25 of work --

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1 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I mean if --
2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- for six months.
3 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Are there like
4 non-privileged documents that you could just
5 forward to Council --
6 ATTORNEY McLENDON: There's a --
7 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- so we could
8 get an idea of ...
9 ATTORNEY McLENDON: To be honest,
10 there's a -- I think there's an RFP that was out
11 there in Sandy Springs where they had several
12 providers that bid on the work. You could
13 evaluate those and -- and the plan documents. I
14 believe it's all on open record, basically.
15 But ultimately, what it is is this is
16 called a contract issue. Your existing
17 retirement plan is a contract issue, because
18 that in essence is a contract you have agreed to
19 with all the employees who've operated under
20 that.
21 And then when you look to say we're
22 going to transition the benefits, you have to
23 evaluate the existing contract and then
24 determine how do I, you know, terminate that
25 under the terms of that agreement and then set

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1 up a new agreement, because a new plan is also
2 just another format of a contract with the
3 employee, saying, "If you are an employee, you
4 have these rights to this plan."
5 It is a very complicated process, but I
6 can tell you when you choose a provider that
7 comes in and you say, "You guys have given us
8 the best rates. You are the folks who we want
9 to go with," they have transition teams
10 employed, and they come in and they will be
11 asking a million questions, but they give you
12 timelines and they can sort of carry you through
13 the transition process.
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: What about --?
15 That's the transitioning end of it from where we
16 are today going forward.
17 But what about the moneys? Was this a
18 new program for them or was it --
19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: They --
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- they had
21 never had a retirement program?
22 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- never had a
23 retirement program.
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So then
25 my questions, then, for you would not be

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1 applicable because the vested funds that are
2 already in there -- and I shouldn't call it
3 "vested funds," but the funds that are already
4 vested for the City in a retirement program,
5 though they may have been secured for specific
6 employees, I'm wondering what the disburse- --
7 if we are canceling that scenario, whether those
8 funds would then be allocated at some point in
9 time to that specific employee.
10 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I can --
11 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: That's one of
12 the questions --
13 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And --
14 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- that
15 Councilman Bates had.
16 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Yeah. And I don't
17 think I could give you a definitive answer, but
18 I can tell you where you would go look for that
19 answer would be in your existing plan document.
20 And as part of the process of saying
21 we're going to move from one plan to the other,
22 you might find folks that had operated under the
23 program where it was sort of a very long time to
24 vest, that might be willing to -- if, you know,
25 the -- say, "Oh, I can vest immediately into

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1 another plan and get a contribution," they may
2 be more willing to say, "You know what? I
3 understand I might have had rights on that, but
4 if I can get in the new plan, I'm willing to
5 forego that."
6 It's a complicated process. You have
7 to understand both documents you're working with
8 very well and then figure out what's my exit --
9 appropriate exit strategy. And really a lot of
10 it's going to be determined by reading that
11 document and finding out what it talks about as
12 far as vesting and as far as what rights I have
13 once I become a member and am operating under
14 that document.
15 So I can tell you how you would attack
16 the issue, but until -- It's a ton of analysis,
17 and until you do that analysis, it --
18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: There is
19 probably some major Federal guidelines, too,
20 because once you cancel a retirement --
21 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Absolutely.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- fund, you
23 know, there may be some Federal laws --
24 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Oh, yeah. It's
25 ERISA.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- you have to --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But it's --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- comply with.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Oh, there's a ton.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But it's also a thing that's happening more and more, and more companies are dropping are dropping pensions and going to 401-K, so it is something that's happening frequently.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: And based on my recent experience, when you choose a provider, you get a team of folks who are very well --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. When we --
ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- versed and --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- switched --
ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- very strong.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- to Wachovia --
THE REPORTER: Could we go one at a time?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay.

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ATTORNEY McLENDON: We're cutting in.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: When we switched to Wachovia, it was. It was a team of people that basically came in and spent a lot of time there and went through everybody's file and set up everybody. It was a thorough process.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The other thing before we move forward with this -- and again, I'm not going to make any motions tonight but I think it needs to be considered -- Council right now vests instantly in the defined benefits program, whereas every other employee, front-line officers, courts, library, City Hall staff have to wait 10 years. I think that is terrible.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And if we don't do anything at all, we need to eliminate the instant --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- vesting for us, because it's just not --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. There are some former Council members making more money per month than they did as a Council

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member, and, to me, that's wrong.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And just so everybody knows what the projected amount is for this year -- this is as of January 1; it's the valuation summary -- recommended contribution by the City is $708,000, which is 15.5 percent of payroll. And the present value -- this is again as of January 1. The present value of the accrued benefits plan was 12.1 million dollars.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: So can we please make a note to contact GMA and see if they can have someone here for the meeting of the 20th --
CLERK McCAIN: Uh-huh. I --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- and then we'll ...
CLERK McCAIN: -- made that note. His name is Rick. He should be able to answer many of the questions that you-all have tonight.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
Mr. Roche, do you have any suggestions? ideas?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I certainly make a motion to eliminate the retirement benefits for the members of City Council. It's

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a drop in the bucket, but.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Do we want to wait until we talk to the guy from GMA and find out what's involved in that?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If you want. Like I said --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I mean I don't know legally if we can do that because it's part of the plan.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: We'd have to change --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'll withdraw --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- the entire contract.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- my motion.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Change the term of the plan.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: You would have to -- if you voted to do that, then what would happen is we would have to go in and, just like we said, we'd have to go in and look at the plan document. And I'm certain there's -- you know, if this becomes a voluntary action, I'm certain there's a methodology of pulling y'all back out of that.

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But again, that's something you're going to find in the details of that --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- plan and how you would --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I actually have a copy of our last contract, that I got from Melissa, and I can forward it to you.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: Then that would be the starting point for me.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. Back on the same issue, because I think it's embedded in that plan somewhere --
CLERK McCAIN: Excuse me, Maria.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I withdraw my motion.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Oh, I'm sorry.
CLERK McCAIN: Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I'm sorry, Mr. Roche.
I think it's embedded somewhere in that plan that even if an employee is not vested, they get life insurance.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. It's not

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quite life insurance. If an employee is a participant, which is after a year of employment, and they don't have life, but they're not vested and they die while employed, their surviving spouse or beneficiary receives a lifetime monthly amount, and they actually take the years of employment and add I think up to 10 years.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: So I think we had talked about making the life insurance optional but we wanted to wait until we verified that information.
So now do we want to make the life insurance optional for the employees?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: For? Are you talking about the $21.00 a month --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yeah, it's --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- or for the life insurance and the retirement plan?
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: No. It's already part of the retirement, Pam. It's $21.00 a month per family, $16.00 per individual a month.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I guess my thinking was is we're offering this lifetime

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monthly benefit in the pension plan even if you weren't vested in the pension. Then the additional life insurance should be optional.
However, if we switch to a 401-K, then we might want to offer our employees life insurance.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I want to hold off on voting on the $21.00 this evening --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- until after we've talked to GMA.
And I believe we had a question in regards to the medical benefits and so forth. I think those two issues were still pending without -- I don't think it has an effect for us five or six, but it was pending with Mr. Jones. Because -- because dental/vision was in the medical premium and dental was not, he was going to get with us at some point -- that was a question we have given him -- to whether Blue Cross's premium would go up if we canceled everybody and they had to reapply or re-enroll.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: On the dental?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And the life also.

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No, no, not the life -- I'm sorry -- but the dental. But the vision was included in the premium. Remember?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And if we took that portion, we wanted to know how much the vision was of that premium so it was -- because it was included in that three forty-five, and we wanted to know how much the vision was to determine whether -- because you don't get that much benefit from the vision, anyway.
And with that known quantifier, if he gets back to us on it, we'll know whether we should opt out that one, also dental, depending on. And then we'll know more. I'm not ready to move forward on those three.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I don't know that he knows he has that question to answer.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, I agree with Ms. Fleming. I think we need to know if we -- if we make dental and vision optional, does that negatively impact the group rate for the health insurance --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Medical.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- that they've

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1 offered to us?
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I thought he
3 understood that, but maybe not, because maybe we
4 just haven't heard from him since what was -- We
5 had took medical last Tuesday or something?
6 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: (Nods head)
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Is that right?
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Never hurts to
9 ask again.
10 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yeah, because
11 I called him to clarify the life insurance
12 premium on Friday afternoon, I believe it was,
13 but I didn't discuss anything else with him.
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
15 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. So
16 we're going to get back some more information on
17 that.
18 MS. WILSON: You want to know if we opt
19 out the vision and dental, right? would it make
20 a difference in our premium? That's what I got.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But we also
22 need to know for the vision what the premium
23 would be in case the employees wanted to take
24 it.
25 MS. WILSON: What about -- for both,

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1 right? We should ask him for both.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sorry.
3 We know what the dental is. We don't
4 know what the vision is.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Point of order,
6 and I completely forgot, but we didn't make a
7 motion to see about having citizen comments at
8 the beginning of the meeting.
9 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: No, we did
10 not.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'd like to make
12 that motion, that we allow citizen comments.
13 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I would like
14 to postpone that motion to a little later
15 because I want to make a comment before we have
16 citizens comments.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: My motion stands.
18 Do I get a second?
19 - - -
20 (No response)
21 - - -
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Oh, well.
23 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: All right,
24 guys, keep shooting your ideas.
25 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: What is going

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1 on with the courts right now to try and recover
2 those funds that we haven't been collecting?
3 Has that been underway or -- I mean I don't need
4 the big detail thing, but I mean that's a big
5 thing that I was surprised to find out: how
6 much we have not been collecting.
7 I don't know. We discussed it, so, I
8 mean exactly where --
9 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We've actually had
10 a couple meetings on that. We have implemented,
11 and we've begun to implement.
12 What we discussed was warrants coming
13 back for issues that may have gone on failure-
14 to-appear that were never addressed, bringing
15 those back, resetting court dates, noticing
16 appropriately under the law and bringing those
17 back to the court.
18 And what we just -- I've done it before
19 in another location when we had a similar
20 problem is we did a failure-to-appear calendar,
21 and as you might imagine, not many people show
22 up at it.
23 But then at that point, we know we have
24 documented all our notice issues, we've cleaned
25 the file on it, and then we go and start the

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1 process again on those warrants.
2 The methodology we talked about is
3 starting with the most recent and working our
4 way back. And we actually were going to set a
5 calendar I think this month for a hundred to
6 just begin the walk-through of the process. But
7 that's a process that in the past I've been
8 involved.
9 Long-term, basically every time you
10 have a court session, do an FTA calendar at the
11 end, and it allows you to take a lot of those
12 cases that were out there that might not have
13 gotten into the systems that sort of bring them
14 into compliance and get them into those systems.
15 It's a long-term process but it's one that needs
16 to be followed.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: This is something
18 that has been a concern for a while regarding
19 the courts. And I had a chance a couple weeks
20 ago to look at and do an analysis of the court
21 revenue and court costs over the last six years
22 of audits, from 2004 through 2010.
23 And while it appears the revenue has
24 stayed flat or consistent, the expenses have
25 gone up considerably to the point where the

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1 differential between revenue/expense 2004
2 compared to this past year was a million -- a
3 little bit over a million dollars.
4 And I'm trying to get an answer. I
5 sent this off to Mr. Whitaker to see if he can
6 help explain it to me. Up until 2009, there was
7 not a line item on the budget for payment to
8 others -- and that's the GSCCI and the state
9 troopers' fees and all those other fees that we
10 have to pay out. So up until 2009, that was not
11 a line item in the courts.
12 What I think Mr. Whitaker explained to
13 me was that the revenue side was netted out,
14 meaning we paid those entities out before we
15 received and recognized the revenue. If that's
16 the case, then our differential is even greater
17 than what it appears to me today.
18 That being said, when I started asking
19 about this a year ago, just so everybody knows
20 and it doesn't become a big shock, we've got a
21 little bit over 3 million dollars in unpaid
22 fines out there. That's the report that's been
23 run and given to us.
24 And we've been working on this to try
25 to get the courts to deal with and address the

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1 FTAs and get them over to PD for entering into
2 GCIC. And thanks to Mr. McLendon and Mr. Riley,
3 I think we've got some action that is going to
4 take place relatively quickly.
5 That's, you know, roughly half a
6 million dollars a year if that number is true,
7 and I --
8 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: You have to
9 back out all the GSCCI.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right. So it's
11 not going to net us half a million dollars but
12 it's more than what we are getting now.
13 And I appreciate you guys looking into
14 that and taking ownership of that.
15 The other thing that I've noted in the
16 proposed budget -- and this is going to be a
17 question that goes back to you guys for
18 discussion tomorrow night -- is the amount of
19 overtime in the proposed budgets. It's about
20 $380,000, with the majority of that being PD and
21 uniform officers, about $300,000.
22 So I'd like to make sure that that's a
23 real number. And if we can adjust that down
24 substantially, that would be great. I don't
25 know how that compares to the PTO actual costs

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1 and things like that, but that is a question.
2 It seemed a little excessive.
3 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And one of
4 the things that I've been enlightened to over
5 the weekend is it seems to be this new payroll
6 system, because when a certain department was
7 asked for their year-to-date overtime, it was
8 only $38,000. So it seems to be calculating the
9 comp time or -- or something, so that's why it
10 looks so askew.
11 I don't know how to address that, but
12 they don't have $300,000 in overtime. They had
13 $37,931.68. So I don't know how, because we had
14 this huge thing of comp time out there, and we
15 eliminated that and we have restricted everybody
16 to only being able to carry over 80 hours of
17 comp time versus 480.
18 So now it's like the way it's being
19 budgeted, that even though that is a liability,
20 it's showing up as overtime. So I don't know if
21 there's a way to improve that. I don't know.
22 But I had two different department heads discuss
23 that with me over the weekend.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, let's get
25 with Alterra and discuss it with them.

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1 MS. WILSON: The way the comp time is
2 calculated, the comp time is calculated based on
3 when you work over 40 hours. That's all it's
4 calculating, and --
5 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But it's
6 calculating it as time and a half.
7 MS. WILSON: No. It's straight time.
8 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Oh, it's
9 calculating --
10 MS. WILSON: It calculates it --
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: it as straight
12 time.
13 MS. WILSON: -- as straight time. And
14 when an employee says, "I want to get paid for
15 my comp time," it pays it at time and a half.
16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay.
17 MS. WILSON: Because the way it was
18 before, it was calculating at time and a half
19 and paying it at time and a half. I said, no,
20 it can't do both ways. It needs to calculate at
21 straight time and pay at time and a half, I
22 said, because then you're going to blow our
23 budget way out. And that's when they told me,
24 "Okay, we can do it that way."
25 Because before, when employees had the

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1 paper time sheet, they had an option if they
2 wanted to calculate it as comp time or to get
3 paid for overtime, and that's not -- how the
4 Alterra system works is you can get comp time
5 and it --
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Let me
7 ask a question because I think I'm totally
8 confused.
9 If I am an employee and I've earned
10 four hours, I worked 44 hours and I opt to put
11 it in comp time and not overtime --
12 MS. WILSON: It automatically goes --
13 first it automatically goes into comp time. You
14 don't have an option --
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
16 MS. WILSON: -- with the system. It is
17 not letting you say what do you want to do.
18 It automatically --
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So --
20 MS. WILSON: -- goes into comp time.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- with that,
22 four hours goes into comp time.
23 So if I elect to take those four hours
24 off and say on my time sheet it was my four
25 hours comp time, it's going to calculate it at

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1 time and a half?
2 MS. WILSON: When you get paid.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So you'll end up
4 getting six hours off.
5 CLERK McCAIN: But you're not getting
6 six hours off. You're getting paid time and a
7 half.
8 MS. WILSON: You're paid time and a
9 half.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But if you take
11 it as time off, you're just taking off four
12 hours; correct?
13 CLERK McCAIN: Right, but getting paid
14 time and a half.
15 MS. WILSON: Time and a half.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well --
17 CLERK McCAIN: So technically --
18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- and that
19 could have gone --
20 CLERK McCAIN: -- it's the same as --
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That could have
22 gone either way, though, where if I've got four
23 hours banked as comp time, realistically, I
24 could take off -- physically take off six hours
25 and get paid for the four hours comp time.

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1 But they still would be calculating the
2 six, I guess, at time and a half?
3 MS. WILSON: Well, there's two ways we
4 can do it.
5 We can change the way the comp time is
6 being calculated as straight time and just say
7 you work four hours and that's time and a half
8 and you get a higher -- you'd get your six hours
9 but pay you at straight time. It has to be
10 either/or. We can't do both for the system,
11 because then we'll end up paying somebody double
12 hours plus double pay.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So it's comp
14 time --
15 MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- or comp --
17 comp hours that are being banked --
18 MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- or comp pay?
20 MS. WILSON: Comp hours.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So when you got
22 a report or when they got a report, it's coming
23 back at them at time and a half?
24 MS. WILSON: When they get paid.
25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No. But when

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1 we're doing our reports and what's accrued.
2 MS. WILSON: Uh-huh. Oh. When it's
3 accrued, it's at straight time.
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So that's askew
5 for us to be looking at.
6 So we're almost now to how many hours
7 are being budgeted for as far as comp time is
8 concerned.
9 You know, I may be totally off here.
10 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Well, I mean
11 even when you and I tried to discuss it
12 yesterday, you get to the point, because your
13 head's spinning and you're talking and you're
14 talking in circles.
15 But when I see a department that's
16 budgeted for $300,000 in overtime but they only
17 had -- only have been paid out $37,000 in
18 overtime, that doesn't make sense to me.
19 So this is something that I think
20 perhaps we need to have maybe Mr. Whitaker come
21 in and whomever the personnel is with Alterra
22 and the particular department heads that
23 discussed it with me yesterday. I'd like to sit
24 in there and try to hash this out because it
25 doesn't make sense to me. I mean it does make

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1 sense on one hand, but when I see the $300,000
2 versus $37,000, that does not make sense to me.
3 And then you look at the year-to-date
4 actuals, it says that department's year-to-date
5 actuals is $233,000. Well, that's not true.
6 That's not what they have gotten paid out in
7 overtime. So I just -- I'm very uncomfortable
8 with that.
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Ms. Wilson, did
10 those figures that, I guess, whichever we're
11 discussing here --
12 MS. WILSON: What I basically did is
13 looked at what has already been spent and what
14 was last year's budgeted. And I think some
15 department was budgeted much higher, so I
16 lowered their budget for this fiscal year coming
17 up.
18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So the actual
19 that you're looking at is from April 2011?
20 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: April 30,
21 yes.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So from
23 your April 2011 -- April 30th, 2011 financial
24 statement that you've given us, the actuals on
25 that page came from where?

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1 MS. WILSON: Come from payroll.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And your
3 payroll figure comes from Alterra?
4 MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So you need to
6 get with Alterra if we're $300,000 and they've
7 only spent thirty-seven.
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'd like to go
9 back to courts for just a second, and this will
10 be a question on the revenue side.
11 We're tracking to be about -- a little
12 bit over 2.4 million this year in municipal
13 court fines and $675,000 in bond administration
14 but we're only budgeting 2.1 and $600,000.
15 I'm just curious as to where those --
16 they seem to be -- the fines seems to be a
17 carryover from the current budget and the bond
18 administration seems to be a reduction from the
19 current budget. I just want to make sure that
20 those numbers are accurate. So again, I'm not
21 looking for an answer tonight. I just want to
22 bring that to your attention for review.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Have we heard
24 back form J.A. Lanier?
25 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: He answered

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1 the e-mail about where he's at on the workers'
2 comp.
3 MS. WILSON: I think he said that they
4 were wrapping -- I think he was wrapping up and
5 he was going to check with Michelle. And I
6 talked with Michelle today and I thought they'd
7 e-mail you as well, but I'll check back my
8 e-mails again.
9 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Well, I would
10 be inclined if they are ready to put them on the
11 20th's agenda also.
12 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Because I'm
13 hopeful, based on their experience with other
14 cities, that they're going to save us some
15 money, liability and workers' comp costs, and
16 save us at least $200,000.
17 MS. WILSON: I will call Michelle
18 tomorrow because she asked that question today.
19 I will call Michelle from J. Smith Lanier public
20 risk underwriters tomorrow.
21 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: The workmen's
22 comp I believe is paid in in February, and it
23 was like $330,000.
24 I'm not sure when -- I've got some
25 questions on some insurance payments in here.

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1 I'm not sure when the liability is paid or who
2 that carrier is.
3 MS. WILSON: I'm sorry. I didn't hear
4 what you said. I was ...
5 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I analyzed
6 all of the checks written for the last fiscal
7 year, and I've got some questions regarding
8 there are insurance payments that I don't know
9 who they are or what the coverage is for --
10 MS. WILSON: Okay.
11 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- that I
12 want to ask about to make sure that we're not --
13 we're not missing something.
14 MS. WILSON: Okay.
15 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Anything
16 else, Council?
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: We've never
18 talked about officially furlough days. I think
19 those are something that we need to have on the
20 books for consideration.
21 If my memory is correct on the way that
22 the pay is broken down, this year we're showing
23 a separate line item for holiday pay, and that
24 -- and I don't have the number in front of me,
25 but I believe that number was about $195,000?

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you.
So I'm throwing that out there for discussion, that if we're going to look at and need to do furlough days, that eliminating the holiday pay is there.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I think it's important that -- I don't think the department heads in the past month were really brought up to date on the condition of our budget and the millage rate expected revenues. Like I know -- I think most houses in Oakcliff now have dropped below the limit and we're not going to be paying any city taxes, unfortunately.
So I think tomorrow when you meet with them, it's just very important for them to have a realistic view of what is going on and for them to bring their creative ideas to drastically reduce their own budgets and then see what that gets us at, because I don't think they've had that viewpoint previously.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Like I said, I've got one department that's already come back to me with three different scenarios. And they have considered the furlough-day thing, and

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perhaps this is something you could help with.
They were -- when they were calculating the furlough days trying to calculate what the savings is going to be, they really didn't know an easy way to calculate the taxes. So they were just taking basically the employee's salary and just adding $19.00 per day for the taxes just to try to get an idea of what they were looking at.
I'm also asking all employees -- I think I'm going to make some suggestion sheets. And I don't want them just to come to the table with suggestions for their own departments. If they see a way to save money in other departments --
Just, for example, one of the ideas we were talking about is probably every single department in the City uses copy paper but we're probably buying it a carton at a time. We've got room to buy a pallet and store it. And I don't know how much money that would save us, but that's just one of the things that we're looking at. There were ideas like that.
I analyzed all of the -- the uniforms, and I'm like: Okay. Why do we have so many

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uniform companies? When's the last time we RFP'ed for uniforms? I mean we've got uniforms that cost $13,000 a year. I know that doesn't seem like a lot, but when we had uniforms at my company, the employee contributed about $7.00 a week, and basically it's because their wife didn't have to do their laundry, you know, and it saved -- saved their equipment and detergent and all at home. I mean that's something I want to look at even, you know, as far as supplying employees shoes, just things of that nature.
They're going to think I'm micro-managing. Yes, I looked at every -- all 144 pages of every check that's been written this year. I could probably tell you the amounts. But if I don't know who it is, I'm asking who they are, what service they supply and why haven't we done an RFP on these people because it's just -- I think, you know, it's just -- it's a learning curve.
We're having a big reality check. And they're probably going to hate being asked these questions, but I'm sorry; we need some answers. We've got multiple vendors for the same items.
I also asked them about fuel costs. We

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spent over a quarter of a million dollars on fuel so far year to date. There's got to be a way to improve that and other -- other things.
So I'm hoping that they come to the table prepared to take notes but, more importantly, to give me ideas because I've got -- like I said, I don't want --
This one department met all day today and came back to me with proposals. They all have to step up to the plate and do that. We can't just have one department doing that.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I want to go back to courts again.
We've talked in the past about doing a technology fee associated with that. I know, in reviewing other municipalities' budgets, both Chamblee and Norcross do that.
I think your advice to me when I asked you about it was we're preempted by State law on doing that, but there's nothing to say that in the next fee schedule that's presented to us by the judge and the solicitor that all the fines don't go up by $5.00 or $7.50.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: Well, and I won't say they're wrong, never say that their

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1 technology fee is -- Let them talk to their
2 attorneys about that.
3 But I can say under Georgia law, that
4 the fees you-all talked about earlier that are
5 the line item that go the State -- off every
6 dollar collected, X-amount goes to several
7 different locations. That law --
8 And I went back after our conversation
9 and looked at it, and it's House Bill 1-EX. And
10 I looked at it, and it lays out all those fines
11 and surcharges, and it does not say at the end,
12 "And municipality, you shall be able to add your
13 own."
14 That being said, I can also tell you
15 for the purposes of other codes that I have been
16 involved in writing and generally involved in, I
17 put the fine, the general fine in Section One of
18 the code, and it says, "General Fine, six
19 months, $1,000," because that's what you have
20 authority to do under Georgia law.
21 And then instead of trying to say,
22 "Well, I think this fine's right for this and
23 this one's right for this," I just, whenever
24 there's something to say, said it's penalized
25 pursuant to the general fine, which gives

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1 discretion. And what you do with that
2 discretion is, you know, and you've got to trust
3 the solicitor's office to use good common sense
4 and judgment.
5 But what that does is it allows more
6 flexibility for their office when -- You know,
7 when it's something that is the one-time person
8 you know is not coming back, then you have a
9 fine in one location; when it's the person that
10 continues to come back and needs to get the
11 point, gives the flexibility to move it up.
12 That's been a topic of discussion as
13 we're talking about the courts, and the fact
14 that giving flexibility with that, A, probably
15 is better at achieving the goals of the court,
16 which is bringing people into compliance with
17 what we think are important rules for the
18 community.
19 And as an additional issue, you may
20 find that, you know, as opposed to setting the
21 absolutes, that it has a -- it has a result
22 that's not really the purpose of what you're
23 doing.
24 You know, I hesitate to say it has that
25 result, but the reality is, when you give more

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1 flexibility in those funds, you know, I think
2 some of y'all's fines, based on my discussions
3 with people, have been set at what are low
4 amounts. And when people come back and they
5 have bad histories and they sort of continue to
6 be repeat offenders, you need to give that
7 discretion for someone to be able to address
8 that to bring compliance.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Is there a
10 recommendation coming from the solicitor and the
11 chief judge on setting a revised fine table?
12 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Yes, absolutely.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: While we're on --
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Could I --
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- throw in a
17 comment in regards to that?
18 I don't want us getting into in the
19 solicitor's office making exceptions for the
20 different offenders. If we say, you know, the
21 maximum is a thousand and it's a discretionary
22 thing, but they're a painter and we need
23 something painted, well, there fine's going to
24 be you got to paint our building for us.
25 Now, I have issue with that because if

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1 you don't have skills that we need at that
2 moment, then you've got a monetary outlay. So
3 though I think that we ought to provide
4 flexibility, I just don't want us to get into a
5 habit of using that as an exception, where --
6 you know.
7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I'd like to talk to
8 you more about that, because listening, I sort
9 of hear the parameters of it. If we can talk in
10 detail, if I know all the facts, I can
11 understand how to address that.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: On the revenue
13 side, several residents have suggested that we
14 need to look at the fees to use the pool, and
15 they thought that the user fees for the pool was
16 too low. Now, while that's not going to be
17 significant revenue, it's certainly something to
18 look into.
19 The other idea that was suggested was
20 to extend the hours -- or not the hours, but
21 extend the time that it's open beyond whatever
22 it is now -- I think it's Labor Day -- extend it
23 out because, you know, we don't get cold until
24 October. I don't know what the cost would be
25 from the pool company regarding lifeguards and

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if that justifies --
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think it would still be more of an expense because the amount it costs us just for those three months versus fees we're collecting adding another month, which we're going to have all those costs. So I think...
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. It was just something that was thrown out. I think it needs to be looked at. I think agree; I think the cost would outweigh the revenue benefit, but...
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And I think that's something that I'm going to ask tomorrow, because we haven't gotten a report. I don't know how -- I mean the pool has been busy but I don't know what the attendance is right now. So that's one of the things that I was going to -- going to ask the department head.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The other thing that was suggested regarding the pool was to allow private individuals to rent the facility for events. They would pay for the lifeguards plus a rental user fee. I don't know what the liability issues are with that. I can't imagine

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it would be any different than it being the regular pool open as long as you've got a certified lifeguard on duty. But it was another way that they said we might be able to generate a little bit of revenue.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: That's why I would like our -- once the new recreation director starts in a couple weeks. I don't know if during those interviews we talked about some -- you know, renting the fields and things like that.
That would be something else, too, to be looked at, because I know he talked about he has had experience in bringing in more revenue to cities by letting private groups utilize the facilities, which we're already doing, but we're having to look at and see other ways that we can increase that amount.
MS. WILSON: I have a question about that. Would we -- for the person that wants to use the pool for an event, will we also make it a requirement that they have their own security?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's an excellent question. I don't know the answer off the top of my head. I don't know.

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MS. WILSON: That could be part of their fee, that you have a police officer and you're paying for that police officer.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Off-duty police officer?
MS. WILSON: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. I don't know. That's --
And you don't want to make it so cost-prohibitive that they don't do it --
MS. WILSON: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and then lose out that opportunity of renting it, but I think that's a good concern.
MS. WILSON: But you also don't want somebody just running wild or something happens.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's true. We'll rent it for a sweet-sixteen party.
MS. WILSON: Yeah.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Getting back to the police officer, that's another thing that the courts are doing, looking at the way they process their calendar and all.
Unfortunately, some of the police department's overtime is when the officers go to

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court and wait for a case to be adjudicated. And I think the court is going to start a new process on the way they process the cases so an officer is there less time and not as often, so that's going to in turn save the police department some funds out of their budget also.
MS. WILSON: And to make a comment on that, I've also met with them, that if a police officer is working on duty for the police department, he can clock out of Alterra and clock in for the courts department so that those funds go towards her budget and not towards PD's budget.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: That's good.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And what about because I know they probably generate a lot of overtime going down to Dekalb, for courts in Dekalb, but I guess that probably still just comes out of the PD budget.
MS. WILSON: Uh-huh.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I mean it's part of case management. But I don't know there's any way we can have them track that so we can determine how much is time waiting on the Dekalb district attorney having you sit out in

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1 the hallway, waiting for you to be called as a
2 witness -- just so we can have that infor-
3 mation, because I think that is sometimes
4 captured up in that overtime. Literally,
5 they're down at courthouse waiting to be called
6 as a witness.
7 MS. WILSON: What if say they're an
8 officer here and they have to go to court? They
9 clock out and then -- so that driving time will
10 be not calculated as them on duty?
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Well, I think
12 they probably have to be paid.
13 MS. WILSON: Oh, okay.
14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But I'm just
15 for a more recordkeeping --
16 MS. WILSON: Uh-huh.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- standpoint,
18 just so we can have that data, I guess.
19 MS. WILSON: Uh-huh, because I was
20 going to say them to clock in when they -- clock
21 out they leave here and clock in when they get
22 there, and then put notes.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think you
24 still --
25 - - -

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1 (Overspeaking)
2 - - -
3 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- have to pay
4 them.
5 MS. WILSON: Okay.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: In regards to
7 clocking out and clocking back in so that it is
8 applied to the courts, our court director needs
9 to be in charge of that.
10 She wouldn't be able to -- I mean if
11 they're doing it from their own computer, she's
12 got to be able to sign off on it somehow. And
13 so I'm concerned about -- I'd like some
14 explanation from Alterra or -- or what you're
15 thinking, because she needs to have a handle
16 on -- on how she's going to address the
17 situation for her department.
18 MS. WILSON: (Nods head)
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
20 MS. WILSON: And the court director and
21 I have talked about that --
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
23 MS. WILSON: -- and we -- and I did ask
24 her, you know, if that was an option, if she
25 would like for them ...

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1 She wanted to know what hours they were
2 at court. And I said, "Well, you do have the
3 option where Mr. Officer can clock out from P.D.
4 and clock in under your department." I said,
5 "That is an option for them. What do you
6 think?"
7 And she says, "I like that," she said
8 because she can see their hours.
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I have a question
11 that's going to be -- this will be specific to
12 our library and parks and rec.
13 They've got combined $210,000 in
14 temporary budget line items. I don't know what
15 those ...
16 I would imagine that the parks is going
17 to be coaches and referees and people associated
18 with the summer camps and youth leagues, but I
19 don't know that for certain and I certainly
20 don't know what the fifty in the library is.
21 MS. WILSON: The library's $50,000 is
22 the two part-time employees she already has.
23 She's losing a full-time employee, so,
24 therefore, she wanted to have more hours for her
25 part-time employees because she's down to three

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1 full-time, I believe.
2 So therefore, she didn't want to hire
3 another full-time person. She wanted to utilize
4 her part-time people. And the part-time people
5 in recreation is their day-camp staff. In
6 talking with the director, now he's cut their
7 hours even more.
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you.
9 MS. WILSON: Uh-huh.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I think I
11 know the answer to this, but the court part-time
12 is the two assistant judges?
13 MS. WILSON: That's right.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm going to --
15 - - -
16 (Overspeaking)
17 - - -
18 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- being
19 addressed.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sorry?
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: My question was
22 going to be, with the increase of the ability to
23 pay with credit card online prior to court date,
24 are we going to have the capability of reducing
25 the number of courtroom or court dates that

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we're currently running?
My assumption was if we're going to -- if people are going to be able to pay, you know, 30 percent, 20 percent of the tickets online, then that's a 20 percent and 30 percent reduction in the court cases that need to be heard.
So would we be able to reduce the number of courtrooms down -- from three down to two? And I don't know the answer to that, but if we're going to allow that added benefit, there's going to be some -- I don't know that it's a benefit to pay your ticket with a credit card but you don't have to drive all the way to Doraville and sit in a courtroom for a couple hours. I would think that there is going to be a natural reduction of the case load.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: And I know the judges and the solicitor have been talking about that, and they've also talked about being able to let people know that that option is available, because when that option is out there, I think you'll find especially folks who may be traveling, it's much easier for them to go in and pay online.

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One of the suggestions I know I heard was having the -- making sure that the Web site address was on the citation itself. So if somebody had their citation, they'd go, "Oh, I can just go online and do this."
So that issue is one that I know has been discussed.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And that's something that we owe thanks to all staff involved, that in the last six months, we now accept credit cards and we can process payments online.
In doing some analysis, we've even got some past-due sanitation customers that are paying their past-due sanitation with a credit card. So that's been -- that's a great benefit that I'm glad we have, and I appreciate staff getting that in place.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Ms. Alexander, I want to ask one more question about the courts and the handling of the courts.
We have court twice a week; is that correct?
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Uh-huh.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So the solicitor is only there those two days or he's there all five days?
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I think they have court twice a week, and then one month, I think it's three times. I think they have a Thursday in there too.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Every Tuesday and then one Thursday I think is what it is.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: Per session.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes, per session.
ATTORNEY McLENDON: They're there during the session.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So on the three days that courts are not in session, the ladies over there are receiving in moneys?
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. I was just curious -- and I'm not advocating Corally look at her employees, but could we not consider, you know, partial days for those employees for the three days that we are not --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- that we do not have court or opening later, for instance, on those three days? I don't know.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Just a suggestion.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I think Bob had talked about last year moving to four 10's.
And to me, the court would be a -- thinking that it might be an opportunity to explore that.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. See if they're --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Again, I don't know what -- you know, if they were to do Monday through Thursday, I don't know what the downside would be to have them Friday.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Another municipality that does four 10's, they close on Wednesday because they felt like a three-day weekend was too long for the public to be without them. That was their reasoning. And they've been on -- they've had Wednesdays off now I want to say almost -- it's probably been 10 years, if not more. So they work four 10's,

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1 Mon40,, Tuesday and Thursday and Friday.
2 But that was their reasoning. I
3 thought it was interesting, because I asked them
4 why they chose that day, and they just thought
5 it was -- three days was too long for them to be
6 away from the public.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Though I agree
8 with the cost savings by not having them there
9 on a specific day, what we're trying to do is
10 actually make budget cuts, creative budget cuts,
11 and that would still be a 40-hour work week and
12 the overtime that they've evidently got on their
13 budget.
14 So I'm curious about their overtime
15 because you got three days there that you're not
16 really in court per se, so I just really wasn't
17 sure why we have overtime allocated for the
18 courts.
19 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think if
21 there are going to be any furlough days or
22 unpaid holidays, that really needs to be city-
23 wide. But I do -- when you discuss with the
24 department heads tomorrow, I mean make it clear
25 that they need to evaluate all their positions,

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1 and if cutting their budget means eliminating
2 some positions or reducing some people from
3 full-time to part-time, those are things that
4 they need to seriously consider.
5 But if we do anything like unpaid
6 holidays, I think that should not be by
7 department.
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No, I agree.
9 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: That needs to
10 be --
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: City-wide.
12 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- city-wide.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And if I'm not
14 mistaken, if we carried employees at 32 hours --
15 and I don't recall our personnel manual -- but
16 if they were full-time right now at 40 and
17 during this economic situation we're in and we
18 reduced them to 32 hours, they would still be
19 receiving the benefits as a full-time employee
20 and wouldn't be subject to change to part-time.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah, I don't
22 recall what that cut-off is.
23 CLERK McCAIN: I actually reviewed that
24 today as I was talking with I think the one
25 department that you talked to on some options.

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1 And the City is authorized to fluctuate their
2 hours with no notice or input from them.
3 32 hours would allow them to keep their
4 benefits and it would cut eight hours off of
5 everybody's pay each week.
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Thank
7 you.
8 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: One of the
9 things I wanted to ask -- And this is getting
10 around to me asking for public comments. One of
11 the suggestions that I was given tonight was
12 actually eliminating a couple of services. And
13 this was not proposed by myself or Council; this
14 was proposed by the department. And we have got
15 to weigh those suggestions for what the citizens
16 want.
17 But we have to look at it objectively
18 and in a fiscally responsible way, because
19 there's a particular department that we have
20 budgeted a certain amount, but I know for a fact
21 that some of the issues in that department,
22 which are technically in violation of State law,
23 are going to cost us another $30,000,
24 approximately, to correct. So we have to do a
25 cost/benefit analysis of that department and the

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1 service it offers our citizens versus continuing
2 to fund the department.
3 So those are some of the issues that I
4 want to...
5 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. The
6 first thing that pops in my head are the white-
7 goods pickup.
8 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Correct.
9 That's something that we need to issue -- those
10 are some of the questions I had when I was
11 reviewing the checks that are written. I can
12 see the checks that are written for our citizen
13 sanitation but I can also see the checks that
14 are written for our dump fees.
15 Well, since we're recycling our yard
16 waste, our dump fees should be decreasing, and
17 I'm going to ask our department head are we
18 doing recycling.
19 Another municipality has gone to a
20 call-for-white-goods pickup service. They also
21 have an 18-wheeler dumpster at their place. He
22 said he takes very little to the dump because he
23 recycles it all.
24 I don't know that we're doing that. I
25 don't want us to get in the habit, just because

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we've done it all the time, loading up the truck and taking it over there and dumping it. That's an extra -- I think it was $25,000 that we perhaps don't need to be spending.

So that is one of the things I'm going to bring up is a white goods, you call for pickup. And it's going to take education of the residents. We've got to -- which I hate to talk about spending money, but I think we're missing a lot of opportunity not having our newsletter mailed out to the citizens.

So that's going to have to be an educational process if we do switch to a white-goods-call-for-pickup thing. And there would be a size limitation on what is picked up free of charge versus what the resident has to pay to be picked up.

I'm also going to institute, because Mr. Roche liked my idea, the pilot truck program. It is crazy to me that we get in a truck that probably gets six miles to the gallon and drive over the entire city when you may not have but, you know, a half dozen houses to pick up from in that particular neighborhood.

I've got the Dekalb County tax digest.

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I can create a simple thing like a checklist. We have got a pickup truck over there that probably gets 25 miles to the gallon. You drive around and you put a check mark where the big truck needs to go. You save fuel; you save time.

I know that when I brought up the idea, it was not met with the enthusiasm that I had hoped. But one of the cities that's a lot larger than us has saved 45 percent on their fuel costs, and I think that's a heck of a savings.

I mean there's a reason to do it. I see more benefit to doing it than I see not doing it. So that's going to be one of the things that I push for and hope I get cooperation.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: What were the reduction of services? You didn't elaborate.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: It has been proposed that we eliminate Quality of Life and animal control.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I think I'll jump in now if that's okay.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes, sir.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm a little concerned about the process we use and the methods.

When I approach a problem like this in my professional life, typically I start with the big picture. In this particular case, we have to keep in mind that we're trying to eliminate $2,000,000 worth of spending every year, and that's the number we're looking for.

First of all, I want to say that as the City Council we have fiduciary responsibility for how we spend the citizens' tax dollars. And I think that the attitude for department heads needs to be not, "Please, Mr. Department Head," or "Mrs. Department Head, save some money for us."

Our attitude needs to be, "Mr. Department Head," or "Mrs. Department head, this is how much money you have. These are your priorities. And if you can deal with it, fine; if you can't deal with it, then we'll find a different department head."

I know that sounds cruel or mean or whatever, but that's just management. So I think we need to take more of an affirmative

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approach on that.

But when we look at the overall budget and we're looking for $2,000,000, we have to start with looking at the big-ticket items. And the number one big-ticket item, obviously, is personnel.

The number two big-ticket or the other big-ticket item here is obviously the police department. You know, no one's mentioned the police department.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: That is not a true statement, sir. I just mentioned the police department.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, okay, but you mentioned parts of it.

And let me finish, please. I'll say what I have to say and then I'll shut up.

We did some research. It's difficult to get cost numbers sometimes. So when you don't have the cost numbers, what you do is you try to do a comparative analysis.

And one of the citizens helped me with this. And looking at ranking the City of Doraville and what we spend on public safety versus what other cities in the area spend. And

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1 I got this out today, and that citizen was very
2 helpful in giving this to us. But for instance,
3 Norcross, they spend about $318 per capita on
4 their police department. Sandy Springs spends
5 about $177 per capita on their police
6 department. Doraville spends $650 per person
7 for their police department. It is by far the
8 highest. It is twice as much as the next
9 highest which is Norcross.
10 We need to look at that. We need to
11 understand why is it that it costs us twice as
12 much as the next highest city to provide the
13 same service that they are providing. That's
14 where we need to start.
15 We also need to look at luxury items.
16 For instance, if a Doraville policeman arrests
17 someone and takes them to jail, to Dekalb County
18 jail, it doesn't cost us anything --
19 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: That is not a
20 true statement.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- because we're
22 already spending money on that. We already paid
23 for that. And so why are we paying twice?
24 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Mr. Roche, I
25 wanted this to be not a bashing of any --

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm not bashing
2 anything.
3 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: You're
4 bashing one department.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No, ma'am. I'm
6 just discussing pragmatically; the elephant in
7 the room is that where most of our money goes is
8 public safety.
9 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: That is true.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And if we're
11 going to pragmatically and clearly --
12 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Mr. Roche --
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- reduce --
14 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- please. I
15 had a --
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Are you going to
17 shut me up? Is that what it is?
18 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I had a
19 department head today that when I asked him how
20 much a service costs or how long it took his
21 department to do that service, he could not
22 answer me. That is completely unsatisfactory to
23 me, for someone that is a department head in
24 this city.
25 It might have been okay before but it

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1 is not okay now. So there are a hell of a lot
2 of hard questions I'm going to be asking. And
3 I'm sorry if you don't have faith in me, my
4 backbone nor my fortitude, because you are
5 mistaken.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, first of
7 all, ma'am, I was not talking about you. In
8 fact, you've done a great job of unearthing this
9 information and making it available to us.
10 Frankly, I don't know if people know
11 this. If it hadn't been for Councilwoman
12 Alexander, our checks would have started
13 bouncing this month because no one was keeping
14 an eye on what we were spending and no one was
15 keeping an eye on our cash balances.
16 What I'm talking about is a general
17 method that you go about to reduce the funds and
18 the costs for an overall organization.
19 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And these
20 department heads have not been enlightened to
21 the situation but they are now.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I'm trying
23 to finish. If I could just finish and talk
24 about the method that we use in the business
25 world to handle this. That's all I'm trying to

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1 talk about here. Okay?
2 So anyway, you look for the luxuries.
3 You look for the things that we can do without
4 and you look for the cost/benefit analysis if we
5 have them. Unfortunately, it's very difficult
6 sometimes to get costs of, for instance, the
7 jail, because we -- even though I've asked year
8 after year, we still refuse to break out the
9 cost of -- put the jail as a separate cost
10 center.
11 We need to ask questions like why does
12 it cost us $200,000 -- $220,000 more a year to
13 provide the same 911 service as it does in other
14 cities. You know, that's a valid question.
15 That's $221,000 a year. And it's not bashing
16 anybody; it's just simply asking a question and
17 getting the answers to that question.
18 Now that Chamblee's been grown, they've
19 just about doubled their size, perhaps they
20 could provide 911 service for Doraville cheaper
21 than we can provide it for ourselves. Who
22 knows? We could ask that question and we could
23 find that out, and that's where I'm going with
24 this.
25 And once you've looked at these big-

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1 ticket items and once you've decided what you
2 can and can't do without, then we then get into
3 whatever's left, and hopefully that would be --
4 You know, if you get rid of some of these big-
5 ticket items, we'll be well on our way to
6 balancing the budget but there's still probably
7 going to be half a million dollars or so that we
8 still have to resolve, and that's when we get
9 down into the trees. That's when you start
10 dealing with the things like the boxes of copy
11 paper and all that which, frankly, should be
12 happening anyway.
13 We need to get the most bang for the
14 buck. We need to have the most efficient use of
15 the resources available to us. And that means
16 we have to look everywhere; that means there are
17 no -- we can't afford to have sacred cows; we
18 can't afford to say, "Oh, we're not going to
19 talk about this one and we're going to leave
20 that alone."
21 You know, I don't understand why
22 there's any overtime, frankly, in the police
23 department when we spend so much more on it than
24 anyone else does, you know. You know, these are
25 valid questions, and I'm not bashing the police

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1 department.
2 At least according to my information,
3 we have 14 lieutenants and sergeants. And
4 that's a very -- You know, it's the second thing
5 you look at in a big organization is you start
6 looking at middle management. And a lot of
7 times we can make reductions in middle manage-
8 ment by flattening the organizational chart and
9 becoming more efficient and becoming more
10 streamlined. These are the kinds of questions
11 we need to ask --
12 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And these are
13 the kind --
14 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and we're
15 talking about fuel costs.
16 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- that need
17 to be asked very carefully so that all employees
18 are treated equitably.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, that was
20 the last thing I was coming to.
21 Back in August of 2008, I proposed a
22 similar thing that had incentives, et cetera,
23 et cetera, and the number one thing on that
24 proposal was no layoffs. Frankly, I think that
25 opportunity is long passed. I don't think -- I

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1 don't see how we can do this without eliminating
2 some positions.
3 I've been through it before. I've been
4 on both sides of the desk for that. I hate it.
5 It's the worst part about it.
6 The number one thing that we have to
7 make sure we do, though, is to treat people when
8 these positions are eliminated with respect and
9 with fairness. That means at the minimum we
10 would provide at least two weeks' severance pay
11 for every year that they've been here. We'd
12 also provide benefits; we would also provide job
13 placement opportunities or job placement help.
14 Because it's just as important how those people
15 are treated to the efficiency of the people that
16 are left behind.
17 If you don't do that, you treat them
18 badly, what happens with the people behind that
19 are still working here, they've lost their
20 morale and they just -- they start looking for
21 another job when you do some of the good people
22 that way too.
23 So anyway, these are the methods that
24 we use in the business world, I believe, and I
25 know other people -- you know, I mean, there's

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1 adjustments depending on the situation. But
2 again, I think that that's basically all I have
3 to say on this.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mr. McLendon, I
5 have a question for you regarding the jail. If
6 we are no longer sending prisoners to our jail
7 but to Dekalb County jail and they bond out, who
8 gets the money?
9 ATTORNEY McLENDON: What you're
10 basically saying is you'd send everyone to
11 Dekalb County.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's correct.
13 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Well, then what
14 you're going to end up with -- and I am not -- I
15 know the surface on all the criminal, but get me
16 in the weeds and I'm going to call in quickly
17 the judge, the solicitor to do that.
18 But if a case is sent to the County, by
19 and large, they're going to take that into their
20 court system and it's bound over -- if it's
21 bound over unless you have an agreement where
22 the County will hold for our purposes so we can
23 bring back. If you bind it over to the County,
24 the case has gone to the County.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So I'd like to

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1 get a little bit, if you guys could ask the
2 judge, solicitors, on that: If we are sending
3 all prisoners over to the County, if we take
4 Mr. Roche's suggestion and look at shuttering
5 the jail, if we send 100 percent of our
6 prisoners over to the County, would we be able
7 to retain or would we lose the bond forfeiture
8 moneys? And if we lose the bond forfeiture
9 moneys, we have to reduce our revenue line item
10 by 600-plus thousand dollars.
11 So I just want to make sure that if
12 we're looking at saving money on one side but we
13 -- I want to make sure that we're not going to
14 have to offset it by a loss of revenue on the
15 other side.
16 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And I'll tell you
17 the question I need to then answer is, if they
18 go to the County, can it be just as holding for
19 Doraville; if for instance, you create an IGA
20 with the sheriff and say, "Will you hold our
21 municipal folks?"
22 I can tell you once it's bound over to
23 the County, it's the County's case.
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But then again,
25 we've just talked about ways we could reduce our

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1 costs of our courthouse. So we also have
2 savings in the courthouse too because we don't
3 have to try those cases, we don't have to pay
4 the people, we don't have to do the processing,
5 et cetera, et cetera.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And we also lose
7 the revenue on municipal court fines and --
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we'd still
9 get the revenue we get now for speeding tickets
10 and that, but the more important cases, the
11 expensive cases, it would be good to get a cost/
12 benefit analysis of what in general...
13 I mean first of all, I feel a little
14 uncomfortable talking about it this way, but to
15 me we're talking law enforcement, not revenue
16 generation.
17 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Absolutely. And I
18 agree. The court is not a revenue-generation
19 issue. It comes with it, but it's not -- that's
20 not the basis.
21 The real thing with a municipal court,
22 to address that question, is the local control
23 that you get through a municipal court: to be
24 able to have criminal violations addressed in a
25 court that is run by the City itself, because

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1 that court will be hopefully implementing your
2 policies as a court as opposed to --
3 You know, one of the issues I've seen
4 is when cases would go to the County, especially
5 over in Fulton, you would not get a resolution
6 that was, very frankly, tailored to the
7 community issues that are out there. A lot of
8 times you'd just see people go walk right back
9 out the door. If they went into court on it, it
10 was a fine, walk out, and a municipal court
11 allows you to address those issues on the local
12 level that --
13 Really it's not so much about the
14 revenue, though that is part and parcel. It's
15 more about being addressed and the community
16 issues through the court.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And the last
18 thing I'll say about the jail is right now what
19 we do is we import people, and the last invoice
20 I saw was 250 people that we imported, prisoners
21 we import from Sandy Springs and --
22 CLERK McCAIN: John's Creek.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- John's Creek.
24 I always forget that.
25 And you know, they bring them over,

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1 they drop them off; we check them in. When they
2 bond out, I don't think the Sandy Springs police
3 department comes over and picks them up and
4 takes them back to Sandy Springs. They get
5 released in Doraville.
6 I would much rather have our prisoners
7 be taken 10 miles down the road to the Dekalb
8 County jail and let them be released down there
9 instead of being released inside Doraville.
10 So I mean, like I said, there are a lot
11 of issues to this, but I think that given the
12 fact that we have a $2,000,000 deficit that we
13 have to solve --
14 And I mean we have to solve it, because
15 if we don't solve it, we're going to have to
16 solve it anyway, only we'll be more broke and
17 then we'll have no choice. So the sooner we
18 take action on this -- affirmative, real action
19 on this -- the better we'll be in the long run,
20 so, and we've got to look at everything.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I want to get
22 back to the item about reduction of services.
23 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes, ma'am.
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And you
25 commented about public comments, and I'm in

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1 favor of public comments at the end of -- at the
2 finale of our discussion this evening.
3 I want to comment about that, because
4 I'm not in favor of reducing any of our
5 department services.
6 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I personally
8 feel that we have department directors who,
9 though they may not be able to answer your
10 questions right off the top of their head about
11 how long it takes them to do a task, they are
12 able to determine how they could possibly cut
13 their budget.
14 And so I think it's very important that
15 when you meet with them tomorrow that you give
16 them -- instead of them coming to us with their
17 budget like we have been presented the other
18 night, that they be given their budget from last
19 year for them to analyze. I'm not going to say
20 put a 20 percent reduction on it, but I would
21 like them to go back through it, because I just
22 really -- we were a million and a half deficit
23 last year. And a lot of those budgets that came
24 to us because they were unaware of the state of
25 our situation this year or the state of the

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1 city, a lot of those budgets came to us with
2 increases.
3 I'm sorry. That would be very
4 difficult for me to even suggest adopting an
5 increased budget even if they overspent from
6 last year.
7 If we did nothing but take their last
8 year's budget, with the property taxes going
9 down, though we're raising the millage to
10 compensate that, so we should be at the same
11 sort of level as far as revenue intake versus
12 expenses outgoing. We'd still be at a million
13 and a half in the hole again this year if we did
14 nothing but give them their budget back from
15 last year.
16 So I think they need to have some type
17 of starting point. And that would be my
18 suggestion is to give them their last year's
19 budget and ask them how they can possibly reduce
20 from last year. Also give them -- if we aren't
21 ready on the May 2011 financial statement, if
22 it's not ready, then I would show them their
23 April 2011. Even though those figures might be
24 skewed like you mentioned, at least it gives
25 them some idea of what we're looking at to try

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1 to make some type of decisions.
2 And I think we should put their
3 position -- they are there because they can make
4 those decisions. We are supposed to be relying
5 on them to be accountable, and I would like to
6 suggest that.
7 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. Are
8 you talking about the budget 2008/2009?
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, ma'am, the
10 '10/'11. I don't want to go -- we can't make up
11 from last year.
12 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Well, the
13 '10/'11's a bust, so I don't want to give them
14 that as a starting point.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, we
16 can't -- if -- No, no, no.
17 They may have busted their budget,
18 which is unacceptable.
19 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I mean
20 overall, that budget, we passed that budget with
21 a deficit --
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Correct.
23 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- so we need
24 to do more than just give them that budget we
25 just passed with a deficit.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
2 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: So I want to
3 go back older than that --
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, then,
5 we're --
6 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- if you
7 want to look at that.
8 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I realize that.
9 But then we're going to put them in such
10 severity that there will be indeed layoffs,
11 because I don't think we can possibly try to
12 make up the deficit from last year on this
13 year's budget. We would be then trying to make
14 up three/three, and that's not realistic.
15 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Well, our
16 payroll is 5.4 million dollars, our expenditures
17 year-to-date are 7.122 million dollars. We're
18 talking people. There's no way around that
19 fact. Those are the cold, hard facts. Our
20 payroll is 5.4 million dollars. So there's no
21 skirting around. Don't accuse me of skirting
22 around an issue. We are talking personnel.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I agree with
24 that. Thank you.
25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But I still

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1 don't -- And I appreciate the position that
2 you're in at this present time, but I do believe
3 it's unrealistic for us to try to reach back in
4 the past and try to make up that deficit for
5 this year.
6 I think that we need to take that
7 budget and ask them to cut off of it. I will
8 not say 20 percent like I was going to, but they
9 need to -- you're going to let them know what
10 state we're in, but they need to have some type
11 of starting point to say, "Please reduce from
12 this budget." We've got to give them some idea
13 of where we are.
14 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And I've got
15 one department already doing that, and the other
16 ones are going to jump on board.
17 But you know, you can ridicule me if
18 you want to about looking at copy paper, but we
19 spent $2,300 on flowers this fiscal year. That
20 stops. That's somebody's paycheck. And I'm
21 sorry if some City official gets their feelings
22 hurt because they had a baby and they don't get
23 a bouquet from the City of Doraville but I'd
24 rather have a patrol officer in my neighborhood.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I think that we

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1 can make these cuts and balance the budget
2 without eliminating a single patrol officer
3 position.
4 And when I talked about copy paper,
5 please, I was talking in generalities. I wasn't
6 talking about any specific person. Again, I
7 think Councilwoman Alexander has stepped up and
8 I think she's done an excellent job. If it was
9 up to me, we'd pay her the Mayor's salary while
10 she was doing it because she's certainly put in
11 the hours.
12 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And Mr. Roche
13 bought a stapler for the Mayor's office because
14 I broke two. And that was not because I threw
15 them. It was because I --
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'll get you all
17 the staplers you want.
18 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- I worked
19 them too hard. So he has contributed also.
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I will.
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stop breaking
22 equipment, Ms. Alexander.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I have a couple
24 of other questions. In looking at the budget --
25 and the last meeting we talked about an RFP for

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1 cleaning services -- we've got $42,000 in the
2 budget for cleaning services. We could hire a
3 full-time porter for a lot less than that. So
4 you know, I know it's not a lot of money but --
5 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: It'll still
6 help.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- it still
8 helps.
9 And the other thing that stuck out was
10 the travel, training and general office supplies
11 budgets that are scattered throughout there.
12 All departments need to take a hard look at what
13 they need to operate versus what they want to
14 operate, and those are three line items that I
15 think really need to be looked at.
16 The other piece is going to be on the
17 revenue side. Ms. Wilson, I will ask you to
18 take a look at some of the revenue line items.
19 I'm looking at building and sign permits,
20 projected revenue of $180,000. We're already at
21 $188,000 for the year, projected to be at
22 $225,000 if that holds true. Regulatory fees
23 projected at $5,000. With the regulatory fees
24 that we passed regarding massage and other
25 entities like that, we should have an increase

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1 there.
2 MS. WILSON: Councilman Bates, because
3 we've only had one, I wasn't sure how that was
4 going to pan out, so that's why it's just based
5 on --
6 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I know there's
7 some pending.
8 MS. WILSON: Oh, okay. See, I didn't
9 know if anything was pending.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: There are
11 several pending.
12 MS. WILSON: Okay. Okay.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: If you can get
14 with the Clerk's office --
15 MS. WILSON: Sure, sure.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- on the number
17 of --
18 MS. WILSON: Okay.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- businesses. I
20 really want as accurate and realistic numbers as
21 possible.
22 And I agree with Ms. Alexander. I
23 think it's inevitable that we're looking at
24 layoffs. I don't see anything around that, but
25 I want to minimize that impact --

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1 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And --
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- to the City
3 and --
4 Give me one second.
5 I'd like you also to look at motor
6 vehicle operators. That's the tank permits.
7 And then there was one other line item.
8 I'll try to dig it up a little bit later.
9 MS. WILSON: Okay.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So if you can
11 look at the revenue side.
12 MS. WILSON: The building permits, the
13 regulatory fees, and motor vehicle operators.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: If I'm correct,
15 that's the tanker/taxi --
16 MS. WILSON: Yes.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- permits?
18 MS. WILSON: Yes, it is.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay. Thank you.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I just wanted
21 to also bring up, you know, just an idea for the
22 department heads because they may be having to
23 look at layoffs. But one of the options they
24 might want to give employees is voluntary
25 reduction in salary for some employees, or a

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1 group of employees may volunteer for everyone to
2 take a reduction in pay versus losing someone,
3 and that could be one creative option depart-
4 ments could look at.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And the other
6 thing while we're on that line is -- and I don't
7 know how this affects the retirement benefits
8 program -- is early retirement. If we can waive
9 that requirement on 65, I --
10 CLERK McCAIN: And he'll be here on the
11 -- We'll see if he can be here --
12 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yeah, because
13 I --
14 CLERK McCAIN: -- on the 20th.
15 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: -- think we
16 asked that question before and, unfortunately, I
17 don't think that was an option to us, so we
18 probably need to review that plan again and ask
19 him.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: You can retire
21 at 55 but it's greatly reduced benefits.
22 CLERK McCAIN: Right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I think you
24 still have to have 25 years. So I don't even
25 know how many people that covers.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Hard to find a
2 benefits program this crazy, okay? Just --
3 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But it's like
4 you get 50 percent of what you would have gotten
5 if you retired at 65 or something. I don't
6 remember the exact numbers.
7 But I don't know if we have the option
8 of changing that if that saves us money.
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I would like to
10 know where we stand, Ms. McCain or Ms. Wilson,
11 on the audit that -- or the collection of the
12 fees, franchise fees and the alcohol beverage
13 tax fees.
14 I notice here -- and it just totally
15 boggles my mind that for 10 months we've only
16 collected $3,764 in the consumption tax. That
17 just --
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: You have to go up
19 a couple line items to the gallonage tax.
20 That's the bigger piece on alcohol.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But are we not
22 charging a consumption tax?
23 CLERK McCAIN: The excise taxes?
24 MS. WILSON: The excise tax of course
25 comes in every month.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, the line
2 item here that says alcohol beverage tax,
3 consumption, and we've budgeted $11,000 and
4 we've only, you know, reaped $3,764. And when I
5 look at that, I'm thinking there are too many
6 people in Doraville drinking.
7 MS. WILSON: I'll take a look at that
8 line item, because it is two. It's not just
9 one; it's two line items.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: What is the
11 status of the letters that went out trying to
12 collect back excise taxes?
13 MS. WILSON: We got money in today and
14 so we're going to update our report so we can
15 see how many more letters we need to send out.
16 We've gotten all the reports back in,
17 and we're getting moneys every day. And so
18 we're going to see where we're at tomorrow
19 because we update our ledger spread sheet that
20 we have every time we get the moneys.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Is that in
22 regard to alcohol?
23 MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
25 MS. WILSON: It's all the taxes --

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1 franchise, excise, E-911 and hotel/motel,
2 everything that we collect.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I found my other
4 one. It was on the business occupation taxes.
5 It's budgeted at a million four. We're already
6 at a million three-six, projected to be at a
7 million six.
8 So I just want to look at all those
9 just to make sure that we're doing actual,
10 realistic budget projections.
11 CLERK McCAIN: And Sandra actually has
12 a list that we just put together that went to
13 Quality of Life on those businesses that have
14 not paid their renewals. So hopefully, we'll be
15 getting those dollars in too.
16 MS. WILSON: Okay.
17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So the
18 possibility of them that have not paid their
19 renewal fee, they could be possibly closed?
20 CLERK McCAIN: Cited. I'm not quite
21 sure what the procedure is here when they
22 don't --
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, no, no.
24 CLERK McCAIN: -- have a new one.
25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I meant -- I'm

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1 very sorry. Let me back up.
2 If they haven't paid their renewal fee,
3 could that be an indicator that they are
4 physically out of business?
5 CLERK McCAIN: Yes. Yes, they --
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So we're not
7 going to have QOL running out there giving them
8 a ticket. We're having them do an audit to
9 determine whether they're even open.
10 CLERK McCAIN: Correct. They're taking
11 them --
12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
13 CLERK McCAIN: -- a letter from us
14 stating that we've done an audit of our records
15 that indicates that you haven't paid your 2010
16 taxes yet or '11 taxes yet. Here's an
17 application. Please submit by this date.
18 And then the next time they go out, it
19 would be the next step.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, let me
21 ask you this: They wouldn't be getting that
22 letter had they not applied for a renewal; is
23 that correct?
24 CLERK McCAIN: Yeah. We would not know
25 that there's a business there unless Quality of

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1 Life had told us, if they had never applied in
2 the past.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So let me see if
4 I can understand this. It's a business that had
5 an occupation tax placard last year --
6 CLERK McCAIN: Correct.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and has not
8 renewed it yet this year.
9 CLERK McCAIN: Correct; ones that we
10 know about.
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So we're just
12 going out, sending Quality of Life out to verify
13 that they are still in business, and if they are
14 still in business, saying, "Here's the paper-
15 work. You're three months behind. Get it in."
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: What's the
17 penalty?
18 CLERK McCAIN: I am not sure off the
19 top of my head.
20 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If someone has not
21 paid their renewal, I believe there is some
22 penalty for the late payment of it. But if they
23 continue not to pay it, they would get cited
24 into court and brought in on a failure to renew
25 the business license, which would be just

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1 something that came in front of the solicitor.
2 I'm not sure of the dollars on it. But
3 again, that's the kind of thing that, by law,
4 you're authorized to do $1,000/six months.
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If they have
6 neglected in whatever way, shape or form, to
7 come into our office and renew their license by
8 a specific period of time, they need to be
9 closed or appealed to us.
10 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If you do a
11 citation or a warning on it, saying you will be
12 cited on this, generally I think you'll find
13 there's a lot of compliance at that stage. And
14 it would be the real exception to the rule that
15 continued to do business and wanted to end up in
16 court, because that would not be a fun place to
17 be.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you-all for
19 doing that.
20 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Do we have an
21 update on collecting on our past-due
22 sanitations?
23 CLERK McCAIN: We have liens on all the
24 properties. Sandra was talking about possibly
25 putting together a second letter to send out to

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just say, you now have a lien on your property, you need to pay this amount, and the lien fee is, you know, $30.00 additional, because those numbers do change as the percentage -- you know, the penalty for not paying increases.

But we have yet to send those out. We sent out the warning a month and a half ago before we put them on. Last month, we put the liens on.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Council, any additional or do we want to go to public comments?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think at this point, it's just important for you to get with the department heads tomorrow and report back to us if possible by Wednesday's meeting, but we can have some more -- or some numbers from department heads after they've had some time to consider what they could cut, and see where we're at at that stage.

CLERK McCAIN: If I may ask, are we going to have department heads at the meeting on Wednesday, schedule department heads, or is it just going to be another discussion as tonight?

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I think it'll

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probably be another discussion, but I want you guys prepared that I'm going to be asking them questions and they'll probably be coming to you guys for help on trying to get the answers.

Five-minute break and then we'll come back for comments.

- - -

(Brief recess)

- - -

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'll make a motion to extend the meeting past 9 o'clock and to add public comments to the agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Second.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Any discussion?

- - -

(No response)

- - -

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Call the roll, please.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And we had one item that we wanted to come back to at the end of the meeting, and that was regarding the Council trip to the GMA Convention.

As we were informed today, we will lose, unfortunately, the moneys we paid for our classes, which was $2,020? Was that right, Mr. Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: But we will save approximately $2,000 with our lodging, which there's no cancellation at this time, and fuel reimbursement to Council members.

So do we want to consider making a motion to cancel that?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, also the per diem as far as --

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And the per diem; that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So you know, I think Council should try to do as much as they can to reduce the budget, and though we're

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losing money, it would be additional, it would be an additional expenditure on top of what we may be losing. So I am in favor of canceling the GMA trip for the Council members.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How about canceling the -- if a Council member wants to attend the GMA, that as long as we pay our own expenses. That way, there's no additional loss to the City because we're out the tuition no matter what.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I think that's an excellent suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So is that -- you modified your motion?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes, I'd like to modify my motion: offer the -- and if I don't state this correctly, please correct me.

I would like to make a motion to allow each Council member to make their own decision as to whether they are going to fund their own trip to Savannah for the GMA Convention.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Cover our own travel expenses.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The tuition is

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already paid.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Correct.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We wouldn't have to pay that also.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Travel and lodging.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Travel and lodging, per diem.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No expense report.
I'll second that.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I guess the only thing is you would need to let Ms. McCain know, because we've got the four rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn and we would need to release, relinquish those.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Aren't all five of us going?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I am not.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Four.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Oh, you were not. Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: So if we would each let Melissa know whether to cancel or change the credit card number associated with it

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or whatever.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Is there a significant difference with the tax savings?
CLERK McCAIN: As far as?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we don't pay taxes.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: It's probably 10 percent on the hotel room, probably.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry?
CLERK McCAIN: Well, $159 is the flat fee, and the taxes would be above that, which you're not required to pay as a government entity, so $159 is your actual cost per night.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But the individual would be going as a government employee, basically, so I feel those are applicable, saving the taxes is applicable, and we already have our tax exempt form.
They've already been reserved but not paid for; correct?
CLERK McCAIN: Correct, and you would be exempt from those fees. I'm not sure what they are because the city can charge their own percentage and I'm not sure what percentage

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Savannah charges, and then there's the state tax.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You're saying --
CLERK McCAIN: But you would not be required to pay that because you have those tax-exempt forms, and it is for a government trip.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. And I haven't said whether I'm going to go or not, but I'm saying if I went, I may just make my own arrangement, I mean stay with some buddies or something.
CLERK McCAIN: My only thing is I would need to know by tomorrow because we do have a three-day cancellation in order to have no charge on the hotel rooms, I mean to cancel those --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Three days?
CLERK McCAIN: 72.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But the conference is next week.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But that's next week, though.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Not this weekend.
CLERK McCAIN: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm a

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week ahead of myself. You have a week to let me know.
I just want the budget to be passed and be done with it.
MS. WILSON: Me and you both.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. So we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. I'm going to abstain because I'm not going. And it wasn't because I was a savant and had an altruistic motive and wanted to save the City money. I had a conflict that I just couldn't go this year.
But I appreciate, Mr. Roche, the suggestion. I think it's a great one.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I skipped a couple years. I figured I want to go look at farm equipment too.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: I have Councilmember Bates abstaining.
Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Motion passed.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Ms. Alexander, could we go back just one quick second to the occupational tax and the process that QOL is going out with the letter?
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Uh-huh.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I want us to make sure, number one, what our penalty is, and the penalty should not be waived because they have not, you know, signed up properly.
And that triggers a citation if they're still in business. Is that correct?
ATTORNEY McLENDON: If they get a -- And it depends on how enforcement chooses to do it. But if they give them a notice that says get your occupation tax within 10 days, and they fail to do that, I would anticipate they would go back and say, I was serious, and here's your citation to come to court.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Have we drafted that letter yet?

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CLERK McCAIN: No. They have the original letter and the application sent out, a second reminder, and now we're to this point where we will be sending them a letter of demand saying you have --
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So if it's a letter of demand, then that's a citation issue, because if we've already given them one with the application and number two, a reminder, three time's the charm; we stick it to 'em.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I would be perfectly fine with this being citable. If they're in business now, I'd cite 'em.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And I think if I'm not mistaken, it's by April 15th. It may be March the 30th that they should have paid. But we have to as a city issue it based on our charter --
CLERK McCAIN: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- by April 15th.
CLERK McCAIN: Right. They have 90 days to submit to us, and we have until the 15th to get back to them is my understanding.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So now we're --

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COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It's due on the 1st.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- two months over our maximum. And so yes, to me, it's a citation and a penalty.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I agree with Ms. Fleming.
CLERK McCAIN: Okay.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: On the other side, I haven't seen the latest e-mail. How are we on refunding the --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: The zoning appropriateness fee? Council was under the impression that those have already been refunded. We were enlightened last week that it had not. And that department has been given a deadline of this Friday to have one half of them done and a final deadline of June 24th to have the second half done. And we've already budgeted the moneys for the refund in our analysis.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Uh-huh.
Anything else, Council?

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- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay. We'll open it up to public comments. And please, if you have any suggestions for us, be kind to us, but we're willing to listen and to take notes, please.
MS. ORR: I can talk loud enough if that's okay. Lindy Orr, 3596 Raymond.
I just want to thank you guys very much for the hard work that you have put into this. I know this is a difficult process. I've been through it; it's not easy. But I've heard a lot of good things that you guys have come up with tonight, so I thank you very much.
A couple of things. Your audit that was done does tell you which employees you have that are eligible for retirement --
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
MS. ORR: -- with benefits. So if you refer back, I think -- I want to say nine, but I may be a little bit high on that number.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.
MS. ORR: So that should help you

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there.
One of the things that's going to be absolutely critical is that when you sit down with these department heads, they need to understand that when they bring this message back to their department, that you-all are not being thrown under the bus and that they're not sitting there saying, "Well, if it was me, I'd give you everything in the world, but the big, bad Council told me I have to do this." They're never going to get the employee buy-in.
And it's tough. They may not agree with you, but they're supervisors, and that's what their job is. I mean they've got to deliver the bad messages and the hard messages when the going gets tough.
I know that we still end up with a sanitation deficit, because even though we're getting billed, for those of us that are paying through our taxes, what are we doing with the difference that we're waiving? Where is that fee paid from? It's what? About a hundred and fifty/sixty/ninety? I don't know. Something. I'm not quite sure what the number is. So I just didn't know if you had that in your notes

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of where that's coming from. I don't know.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Just real quick, it's budgeted as a balanced fund for the first time this year.
MS. ORR: So we're collecting as much as we're paying?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's how it's budgeted, yeah.
MS. ORR: Oh. Well, that's fabulous. So even though we've got the freebies, it's still working out.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: But we still need to address the issue of the white goods because that is in addition to our budget.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's correct.
MS. FLYNT: What are white goods?
MS. ORR: Refrigerators, that stuff.
MS. FLYNT: Appliances.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So wait a minute, Lindy. And I think this should be a question and answer since this is sort of a budget meeting.
You're stating that we are collecting more fees to accommodate the senior exemptions?

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COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And that may be because of the collection of past due, but the projected sanitation budget is -- projected revenue is three hundred and fifty, the projected expense is three twenty-five.
MS. ORR: Well, you should make sure you check, because obviously if you're only getting the past-dues caught up --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
MS. ORR: -- then you're going to be back in the ditch again when you -- when that's all --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. I agree.
MS. ORR: I mean I don't know, but I just knew that there was, and it was sort of being carried. So that was my only question on that.
The issue with the pool. Again, I'm tan for a reason, because you'd have to pry me off the bottom of that place. But let me just tell you. This is my third year. This is way too inexpensive.
This past -- Yesterday. Today is Monday. Yesterday they were 20 deep there. You've got people coming in from Gwinnett,

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because guess why? We don't charge enough. We are cheap. So they're not going to Gwinnett; they're coming to our pool.
Our lifeguard company is horrendous.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
MS. ORR: They are letting people in without paying.
For the numbers of people that we have at the pool, we've had for the last three weeks since we've been open, we should have money.
They're not enforcing anything. We need to raise the rates, I mean. And I'm the one who -- It's cheap, I mean. It's a public pool; it's a saltwater pool. There's plenty of room up there. It just needs to be run better, and we need to charge more. So that definitely needs to be done.
And oh, about the overtime. Okay. On the payroll side, from my experience in working with a payroll system, I get a schedule each week as an employee. My payroll must run probably Monday through -- well, in my industry, it's Monday through Saturday.
My employees are scheduled for 40 hours. I can't have them coming to me on Friday

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and telling me they have overtime, because then I can't comp them, so to speak. But if they work more than 40 hours, you have to pay them for that. There isn't any comp that you can put in a bank somewhere.

So I think part of the problem is the department supervisors aren't scheduling people appropriately, because if they are, everybody should know what time they come in every day, what time they go to lunch and what time they leave. They should not be going over their scheduled hours. If they are, I think by law you have to pay them. You can't comp them.

So as part of your discussion with the department heads when they are doing their budget, they have got to be -- they've got to look at those time cards every day and they've got to make sure their staff are working the hours that they're scheduled to work or we're going to get gigged in trying to pay them to make up for it or we're going to have a lawsuit through the labor board.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think government is a little bit different, especially with police officers.

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MS. ORR: You --

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think you --

MS. ORR: -- think so?

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- can comp, yeah.

MS. ORR: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: It's a little bit different with government.

MS. ORR: Buy still it's going to cost you if they're -- if they're putting this in the bank and you've got to pay them.

So either way, you know, you've got to make sure they're working what they're scheduled to work so that you've not having to have that time accrual.

And that was it. Thank you guys --

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.

MS. ORR: -- very much. I'm very pleased with what I heard. Thank you, thank you.

MR. CRAWFORD: I actually differ a little bit on Bob Roche's opinion. I think you should start with the little things first.

I think you should take things like all the cars that City employees like Quality of

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Life and maybe the Mayor's office and planning department, stuff like that. And why not pay them the going rate to drive their own cars, fifty-one cents a mile; and you've got a small city, maybe 10 square miles.

All the State inspectors for the last 15 years have been driving their own personal cars at whatever the Federal rate is.

Then you don't have the insurance. You can sell those cars. A lot of them are brand new hybrids. You'd get a lot of good money. You'd bring in a lot of money from that right there.

Another thing you could do is make the maintenance department a lean, mean maintenance machine. What I say by that is you take the maintenance department, find out what assets you have over there and applying throughout the city. On a lot of jobs, the City could probably save a lot of money on subbing jobs out.

And then another thing is that after you get done looking for all the areas you can save money, then I think you take all departments and figure out, you know, if you still have to cut a million and a quarter or

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whatever, look at it and say, well, that leaves us 12 percent from the two hundred and eight budget that has to come from all departments. That's the time you approach the heads of the departments and say, "Look, this is the cold, hard facts here. We have to make this work."

And I think it would be better to furlough than it would be to cut positions. That's just my own personal opinion. The State's been furloughing probably for the last -- I believe it's for the last three years. We've been furloughing a lot of different departments. And it's not great but it saves jobs. And it does reduce people's salaries, but then when the economy picks up, you know, things go back the other day.

And then look at other revenue streams throughout the city, too, and look at actually what certain jobs pay. Maybe the Mayor's position. You know, with a town the size we have, a city the size we have, maybe the Mayor's salary should be looked at. It's a tempor- -- you know, it's a short-term position. It's not a -- you know, it's not a lifetime appointment. And different salaries -- you know, I know

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you're looking at what the different salaries are, but they should be reflective of the city that we live in and there should be a salary range. The salary range for a State inspector with 10 years' experience is probably 40-some thousand dollars a year.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: I did want to mention Ms. McCain's been instrumental. Council approved a contract with GovDeals, and we are going to be auctioning off some excess equipment and vehicles.

MR. SHANAHAN: In regards to your white goods -- David Shanahan -- we are about two miles from Newell Recycling. You know, you go out there on a good day, there's cars lined up out there to sell refrigerators, dishwashers, everything that they pick up off the side of the road. Folks down in the neighborhoods probably see the scrap trucks coming through.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, yeah.

MR. SHANAHAN: I set my metal separate from my garbage because it doesn't last until the end of the day. And the idea that you would pay to dump any white good is kind of crazy, being two miles from Newell. You should be

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making money on it.

Also, if you have a slow day, if they want to break that refrigerator apart, Alcoa up the street up at 316 is paying $4.50 a pound for copper. There are lots of people in the neighborhoods making good money breaking those things apart in their spare time and actually making livings on them. Over at my warehouse, I have a guy who comes by weekly, former mortgage broker, making better money scrapping out metal.

So they really should know. It's just right up there. They should be making money on it if they continue to do it. If you want to save money from operating the truck, I guarantee you there are scrappers that will come through and pick up anything that's metal that is set by the curb, and they'll get it within 24 hours, I know, so there's a way to do it. But there are tons of hungry people out there that will pick it up and make money on it.

MS. BRADFORD: Cindy Bradford, Northwoods.

Ms. Alexander, I want to start with thanking you for the job you've taken on. You're doing a great job.

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MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.

MS. BRADFORD: And your idea that you said that nobody was real excited about it, about the truck and everything, the better mileage, I thought that was an excellent idea. Any way we can save money is great.

Somehow, I knew during this process that Quality of Life was going to come up. And I understand that they have to be cut, but I will not understand if code enforcement gets slack again.

We've done a lot of work in our neighborhood. It's starting to turn around. We have the ordinances on the books. And whether it's somebody in a white Prius with Code Enforcement on the side of the car or whether it's somebody in a black-and-white sedan with Doraville Police Department on the side, when I pick up the phone about a code violation, somebody's going to have to take care of it.

Chief King actually told me one time that failure to enforce the law is a violation of oath of office, so we will expect these laws to be enforced.

I think tonight has been sad. I hate

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the thought of people losing their jobs. I've been unemployed myself on and off for three years. I scrap through life on a -- I live day to day. I have part-time jobs; sometimes I have two or three. Right now things are looking up for me because, for some reason, real estate is looking up and I've got some clients, so things are looking okay.

But none of us are mean people. We hate the prospect of people losing their jobs. But the cold, hard fact is we cannot operate with a $2,000,000 deficit. Our cityhood is at stake here, and I applaud y'all for your hard work. And if there's anything any of us can do, we want you to know that we support you; we stand behind you. And the cuts that we're talking about, every department in the city has to think about these things. Every department. The police, City Hall, maintenance, everything.

That's all I have to say. Thank you very much, everybody.

MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Just for the record, I think all of us were excited about the pilot truck, so --

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MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- the non-support did not come from us.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Anyone else?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Stuart, stand up, please.
MS. ORR: And you have to talk loud --
MR. ANDERSON: I shall.
MS. ORR: -- or we won't be able to hear you.
MR. ANDERSON: I shall. Stuart Anderson. I live on the other side of the tracks from most of these people.
I agree with them about revenue streams. It's basically what I said the last meeting, wherein our new development director hopefully will be better suited to bring in businesses and not drive out businesses.
Cutting is absolutely important, and, you know, this has been very good tonight, but cutting is of course half empty, and building our revenue streams is half full. So I think that we need to keep track of that.
Something that David came up with was a tally board or poster board which would show how

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much cuts we're making and their progress and how well we're doing toward those cuts or toward balancing the budget. I think that would be a good project for somebody.
The white goods that David said, absolutely. When you put something out on the curb, the pickup truck comes by in no time flat with two guys, three guys in it, and they pick stuff up. If we're picking it up ourselves, then there's no reason why we can't make some kind of revenue stream out of it.
And on the same line, we talked at the last meeting about the cost it was costing for the City to pick up sticks and whatnot on the side of the road. I know that or I believe that Advanced Disposal are once again collecting these materials and they are somewhat of a revenue stream there; they're a recyclable biomass. So that's -- that and the white goods could certainly be looked at as far as some kind of cost center.
I don't know. I guess that's it. Just half full, half full. Try to promote businesses and get our tax base back in order so we don't have to do these cuts -- or so badly, these

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cuts.
I took my little thought away there. I'm sorry. That's it. Thank you.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: And just so you know, I think on our thing, I think with Advanced on our curbside recycling and Honeysuckle, I think we've gotten an income of like $16,000 or something like that. I think I noticed that when I was reviewing some reports.
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Motion to adjourn.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Second?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Oh. Sorry. I didn't -- I thought everyone was done.
MS. CALVERT: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Okay.
MS. CALVERT: I never have liked the idea of comparing our city to other cities. So if you're going to do that, I want to know what the stats on their crime is, their self crime, their murders in comparison and the amount of people that they have in the city; how many officers do they have, and the miles that they might cover.
Like I say, I just hate comparing our

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city with other cities because all the cities are so different, and we're different.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes, Mr. Noonan.
MR. NOONAN: John Noonan, Winters Chapel. I had a question.
If we were to house our jail inmates at Dekalb County, how much would Dekalb County be charging us?
And I think it's very appropriate to have our own E-911 because the operators can be held personally responsible. They are employees of the city responding to the citizens of the city, not somebody over in Chamblee or Dekalb County who's anonymous.
And second of all, I think we may actually be taking the wrong approach by looking at the individual department. Look at your line items on each department. What's the largest line item you have in each department? I believe you'll find that that's personnel and benefits, far greater than any other line item.
So let's not be picking on any one department. Let's take a look at the big-ticket items for the city in general. Thank you.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The answer is we
2 don't pay. We already pay Dekalb County for
3 jail. I think we have someone in the room who
4 can attest that, you know, they have a jail too.
5 We don't get a bill for that; we're already
6 paying for it. It's part of what we pay Dekalb
7 County for.
8 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Motion to
9 adjourn? Oh.
10 MS. FLYNT: I'm sorry. I do have one
11 question. Bonnie Flynt, (spelling) F-l-y-n-t,
12 Northwoods.
13 Is there a dollar amount attached to
14 the fees that our attorney, I believe, mentioned
15 had not been collected? Are you talking about
16 citations from the Quality of Life? Are you
17 talking about liens on homes for back taxes?
18 What is the dollar amount attached to that, and
19 therefore, could that pay for those Quality of
20 Life jobs, to keep the Quality of Life jobs?
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The number that
22 we've been told on unpaid fines -- and it's
23 across the board, whether it's speeding, whether
24 it's the Quality of Life citations --
25 MS. FLYNT: Okay.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- is over
2 $3,000,000.
3 MS. FLYNT: Okay.
4 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: So yes.
5 MS. FLYNT: And so that would pay for
6 the Quality of Life.
7 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yes, ma'am.
8 MS. ORR: Oh, it'll pay for several
9 Quality of Life.
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll volunteer.
11 MS. CALVERT: Put it in the bank too.
12 MS. FLYNT: Therefore, so I think it
13 would be a good idea, like the attorney
14 mentioned, that we go back how many years or
15 whatnot? Is there a statute of limitations on
16 those fines and when you could go back to
17 collect them?
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: They are --
19 And I don't mean to speak --
20 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Go ahead.
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- on your
22 behalf, but they are in the process of working
23 with the chief judge, with the court staff, with
24 the solicitor to put a process in place to make
25 sure that the errors don't continue going

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1 forward --
2 MS. FLYNT: Right.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and that we
4 start moving retroactively in a timely manner,
5 the most recent ones first, in dealing with
6 those who have not paid any outstanding
7 citations.
8 MS. FLYNT: And I understand that,
9 yeah.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There's a plan to
11 do them. The longer -- the older they are, the
12 more difficult it is, so we want to --
13 MS. FLYNT: So you're not going to
14 start with the older ones; you're going to start
15 with the newer ones because the likelihood of
16 collecting it is better.
17 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Right.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Low-hanging
19 fruit.
20 MS. FLYNT: Got you. And the
21 $3,000,000 in nonpaid, is that collectible?
22 Does that have the potential of being
23 collected -- meaning statutes have not run out
24 and --
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I would say the

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1 safe answer is is that there's a portion of that
2 that is very collectible.
3 MS. FLYNT: Okay.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: What that amount
5 is I think is a TBA until they've had a chance
6 to do their review of the citations.
7 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And that's what
8 they are working on, looking at this.
9 MRS. JENKINS: And one thing, if
10 they've not paid -- Lou Jenkins. If they have
11 not paid their fines, it's going to be
12 additional --
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Fees.
14 MS. JENKINS: -- fees for contempt of
15 court --
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
17 MS. JENKINS: -- for not showing up.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The thing to be
20 aware of, though, is if we collected that money
21 tomorrow, it's only a one-shot deal.
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Once it's
24 collected, that's not, you know --
25 MS. ORR: It's not a revenue stream.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- it's not going
2 to be there forever.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I agree with
4 Mr. Roche. That is absolutely correct. We
5 can't budget that. But we can budget for the
6 slippage that's happening now.
7 Also, that amount isn't coming to us.
8 There's a portion of that that will get shipped
9 back out to the State-required distribution for,
10 you know, police benevolence fund. And --
11 MS. FLYNT: Right.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- so that
13 $3,000,000, if we collect a hundred percent of
14 it, we're not getting $3,000,000. We're getting
15 a small percent.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As Mr. Roche
17 said, it's a one-time hit when those past-dues
18 come in. But there's slippage that has been
19 happening, that we can stop, that's going to be
20 a recurring revenue stream that will be a
21 revenue inflation.
22 MS. FLYNT: Right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I think part of
24 this. And the city attorney working with the
25 judges and the court staff is stopping that from

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1 continuing to happen, to see where in the
2 process it has broken down, where they were not
3 putting these into the system to go after and
4 collect or issue warrants or issue failures to
5 appear.
6 So part of this process is also making
7 sure that that fault does not continue to happen
8 and that we don't keep slipping.
9 MS. FLYNT: Sure.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: In the real
11 world, they call that reducing ESO.
12 MS. FLYNT: And the department head
13 who's in charge of collecting this $3,000,000 is
14 fully aware of the process to go through in
15 working with the -- Okay.
16 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: They're
17 having meetings.
18 MS. FLYNT: I've heard that "department
19 head" word a lot tonight, and I just want to
20 make sure I got it in too.
21 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Yeah.
22 They're having meetings. They had meetings last
23 week and they're having another meeting this
24 week.
25 MS. FLYNT: Okay.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. And this
2 is sort of a new issue that I wasn't aware of
3 until late last week. Do we know at this point
4 what time the $3,000,000 has occurred?
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It appears --
6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Is it one year?
7 five years? fifteen years?
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It appears to be
9 within the last five to six.
10 MR. ANDERSON: Could I ask a question
11 for clarity, of Mr. McLendon, primarily;
12 reality, I guess.
13 Other municipalities have, I know that
14 I've read through the years, they have a
15 percentage, shall we say -- and that's what I'm
16 asking for, how much people out of state, they
17 die, whatever. There's a percentage that all
18 municipalities have that they simply never --
19 We had one recently where we allow
20 people to come in and pay and not -- and not pay
21 their penalties.
22 MRS. JENKINS: Amnesty.
23 MR. ANDERSON: But I'm asking for the
24 percentage of how much can you collect out of
25 anything.

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1 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And I'll tell you,
2 you'll never collect everything, and every court
3 will be different based upon who the citations
4 are coming into court.
5 What you do is you put best practices
6 in place, and there are certain methods that
7 should be followed through the court. And this
8 is not a quick resolution. This is us coming in
9 and making sure all our processes are best
10 practices and moving forward, and then moving
11 forward through the prior issues to bring them
12 up into our best practices.
13 But this is not something that you snap
14 your fingers and it's done tomorrow. This is
15 something we start and we are committed to it
16 and continue and -- you know.
17 MS. FLYNT: We didn't get the
18 $3,000,000 overnight so we're not --
19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: What would be
20 collecting under the universe of citations we
21 have. A lot of things come into play.
22 MR. ANDERSON: No easy number.
23 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Uh-huh.
24 MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Motion to
25 adjourn?

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COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Mine still stands, or do I need to remake it?
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Second?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Second.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Any discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Call the roll, please.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Pachuta?
COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
CLERK McCAIN: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
MAYOR PRO TEM ALEXANDER: Thank you everyone.
- - -
(Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.)
-o0o-

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C E R T I F I C A T E
E OF GEORGIA]
TY OF DEKALB]
I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript taken down, as stated in the caption, and the eedings were reduced to typewriting under my ction and control.
I further certify that the transcript is a true correct record of the evidence given at the said eedings.
I further certify that I am neither a relative mployee or attorney or counsel to any of the ies, nor financially or otherwise interested in matter.
This the 24th day of June, 2011.

_____
Theresa Bretch, CCR
Permit No. B-755

[SEAL]

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