In The Matter Of:

City Council Meeting

City of Doraville, State of Georgia

Mid-Year Budget Review

February 03, 2009

American Court Reporting Company, Inc.

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Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2217

(404) 892-1331 - 1-800-445-2842

Original File 57594.TXT

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF DORAVILLE
STATE OF GEORGIA

MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

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Transcript of the proceedings held in the City Council Room at Doraville City Hall, 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia, Mayor Ray Jenkins presiding, before Theresa Bretch, Certified Court Reporter, commencing at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

* * *

APPEARANCES:

Doraville City Council:

Hon. Ray Jenkins, Mayor

Councilmember Maria Alexander
Councilmember Brian Bates
Councilmember Robert Spangler
Councilmember Donna Pittman
Councilmember Bob Roche
Councilmember Pam Fleming

Murray J. Weed, City Attorney

Ms. Rhonda Blackmon, City Clerk

Ms. Priscilla Murphy, Financial Consultant

P R O C E E D I N G S

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

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming is not here.

Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Here.

MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. This is a special-called meeting on the budget, and we'll just get right into it.

Priscilla, you want to get it started?

MS. MURPHY: I wanted to talk to y'all about revenues a little bit first, but Scott, the City Planner, is around here somewhere, and when he comes in, I'd like to talk about his

department so he can go too.

But of the three pages that I handed out, one has to do with the estimate for the workman's comp for the 2009 year. The other one is the page from the Police Department for the items that they've already talked to you about last week. And then there is one page that's just revenues, because last week there seemed to be concern about the revenues and the ones that need to be lowered.

And the ones that have the little stars beside them are the ones that the Mayor and I talked about, and this is what we're estimating that we more realistically are going to get. And it's quite a good bit of money. Most of them were lowered.

There was only Tanker/Taxi Permits that was increased and Miscellaneous Income that was increased and Rental Income from the cell tower that was increased, and then the Part Time Job Surcharge that's new to the Police Department that had an increase.

But the rest were lowered, some of them pretty significantly, such as Property Taxes, Building Permits. They were the biggest ones.

Page 5

And actually Business/Occupational Tax was also lowered by $200,000. And I checked with Sandra even as to what she has receivable for Occupational Taxes right now to get a better estimate of what we really think we're going to receive.

MAYOR JENKINS: You had made a statement of revenues are way down; is that correct?

MS. MURPHY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: What would be the total dollars you and the Mayor would think?

MS. MURPHY: It's close to $800,000.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I came up with $785,000. $784,000.

MS. MURPHY: I got $794,100.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. Obviously I missed something.

MAYOR JENKINS: And of course we have some items we can move around, and of course Priscilla will explain that to you. Mainly in the Parks we have some money and of course in --

MS. MURPHY: The largest area that we haven't spent the money is in Parks but there is money that we are going to spend there before

Page 6

the end of the year.

The other part is for the City Inspector, but we plan on using some of that to transfer over to the additional expenses that the City Planning Department needs. There's other areas that we're short such as legal expenses, other areas in general government, and we still need to address the salary adjustment that we need to make in the Police Department.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And I think you said, too, that part of the Inspector's salary was going to cover the new Permits person?

MS. MURPHY: Well, part of the Inspector's salary, what was left, needs to cover the subcontractor, the Building Inspector himself, and we need to add a little bit in the City Planning Department to cover the Permits person and --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: When you say "add," you mean "transfer."

MS. MURPHY: Transfer.

At some point, because there's so much to add, like from legal and some of the things in general government, we're going to run out of

Page 7

places to transfer from.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I mean, obviously that's the main question is, you know, we're rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. We don't have the income. So we have to figure out whether we're going to spend $800,000 out of savings or if we're going to find ways to cut the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So this $794,000 is just till now. That's not going to -- is it in anticipation of the rest of the year?

MS. MURPHY: No. This is what we think that we're going to bring in less than what we originally estimated.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: For the total for the year?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: For the whole year.

MS. MURPHY: For the whole year.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Rhonda, this is going to be a question that you'll probably be able to answer.

On the building permits, I know there's some talk of GM starting demo.

Page 8

Mayor, do you know anything about GM?

MAYOR JENKINS: No. Not on demos yet.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.

MAYOR JENKINS: I've got a little information on GM but it has nothing to do with that.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: If they do, is it one demo permit or is it multiple demo permits? Is it --

CLERK BLACKMON: It should be they'll need a land disturbance and then they'll need a demo, too, and then they'll need anything else that has to do with like the oil and all. I don't know what all of that's going to entail.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Is there any idea on what those permit fees will be?

CLERK BLACKMON: It's still based on $5 per thousand of the cost of construction. That's how we figure permits. Plus the review fees, which we need to raise. But right now, they max out at $650 for each permit.

MAYOR JENKINS: For each permit. How many do you think it would be during --

CLERK BLACKMON: It depends on what they're going to put there and what they're

Page 9

1 going to need to do. I couldn't tell you.
2 I know they're going to at least need a
3 demo and then they'll need --
4 MAYOR JENKINS: The demo --
5 CLERK BLACKMON: -- a building permit.
6 MAYOR JENKINS: -- I think we're mainly
7 concerned with. How much would we get out of
8 the demo?
9 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Only the demo
10 for this time, because I don't think you can
11 count on anything else --
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
13 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- for the
14 next couple years.
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. No con-
16 struction.
17 CLERK BLACKMON: Everything is based on
18 cost of construction, so it depends on what they
19 put on their application -- $5 per thousand.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: In other words, if they
21 spend 2 million dollars there, it's $5 per
22 thousand.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So what would
24 you guys do if a person such as GM can't fill
25 that blank in? Because I think the paper said

Page 10

1 or somewhere said that GM was going to go ahead
2 and do the demo themselves. So they would not
3 be the developer, so they wouldn't necessarily
4 have an estimate on what this other person would
5 be spending.
6 CLERK BLACKMON: But even if they do
7 the demo, they've got to contract, if it's
8 themselves, such as -- who was it? McDonald's,
9 when they did their building down there.
10 McDonald's did their own work. They were their
11 own contractor. They still have to permit here
12 and they still have to pay to do the work.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right, but there
14 was --
15 CLERK BLACKMON: So either --
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- a known --
17 CLERK BLACKMON: Then you have --
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There was a known
19 building going or a known renovation going in
20 there; whereas, with GM, there's --
21 CLERK BLACKMON: Right. But even if
22 they stop at the demo, somebody still has to
23 contract to do the demo.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
25 CLERK BLACKMON: So they will still

Page 11

1 pay.
2 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I think what
3 the question -- I'm sorry.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No, no. You're
5 fine.
6 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: What is the
7 demo permit going to cost? because you can't
8 figure on any reconstruction as of yet.
9 CLERK BLACKMON: They can estimate what
10 their dem- -- they will come in and say, this
11 demo we estimate is going to cost us $50,000.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So it's $5 per --
13 CLERK BLACKMON: And then it's $5 per
14 thousand based on that.
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay. So it's
16 not on the construction.
17 CLERK BLACKMON: No.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It's on the cost
19 of the work.
20 CLERK BLACKMON: Whatever the work is.
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Got it. Got it.
22 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So if they say
23 2 million dollars on that?
24 CLERK BLACKMON: It's $5 per thousand.
25 Then you ad in admin fees and review fees for

Page 12

1 plans, because even if --
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Got you.
3 CLERK BLACKMON: -- it's a demo, we
4 still require site plans and so forth.
5 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I'm sorry.
6 What I was --
7 CLERK BLACKMON: I'm sorry.
8 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: What I was
9 getting from you was that we had to wait to see
10 what construction was going in.
11 CLERK BLACKMON: No, no, no. I'm
12 sorry. What I was saying was it would be in
13 phases. If they only do demo, they would just
14 get a demo permit and it would still cost them
15 $5 --
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It's $5 --
17 CLERK BLACKMON: -- per thousand of
18 whatever that --
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- per thousand
20 for the cost of the work.
21 CLERK BLACKMON: -- whatever work.
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Whether it's demo
23 or construction.
24 CLERK BLACKMON: Correct.
25 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: And that's a

Page 13

one-time charge --
CLERK BLACKMON: As long as they --
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- for the entire property.
CLERK BLACKMON: -- start work. Unless they do it --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: In phases.
CLERK BLACKMON: -- some other --
Right. If they don't start work within six months of receiving a demo, they have to renew it. There's a fee there.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.
CLERK BLACKMON: And then it still elapses in a year, so.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: But the main charge is going to be --
CLERK BLACKMON: One time.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- that one time.
CLERK BLACKMON: Correct.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: But then there can be penalties added or --
CLERK BLACKMON: Correct.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: How much was Star Towers? I know the renewal was like 500 bucks.

Page 14

CLERK BLACKMON: In the range of $134,000 in the beginning.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: For their demolition?
CLERK BLACKMON: Their original. Well, they had already gotten a building permit, too. So it would have been more than that. I don't know what the two were together, but I know they spent about a hundred and thirty-four.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So they had --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I think where we're going is it's not going to be a big chunk of money. It's not going to be 80 or 90 thousand dollars.
MAYOR JENKINS: No.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It's going to be like 10,000 or --
MAYOR JENKINS: We do have an ace in the hole in that the lawsuit that we're in with GM, if we come up with that, it would be right under a half a million dollars if we win it --
MS. MURPHY: Right.
MAYOR JENKINS: -- which we will win it but --
MS. MURPHY: I don't know that we'll

Page 15

win it --
MAYOR JENKINS: -- when we'll ever get the money --
MS. MURPHY: -- in this fiscal year.
MAYOR JENKINS: If it were to happen and we get it right away, we'll be in pretty good shape.
MS. MURPHY: If we did, but I doubt it'll be in this fiscal year.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
MAYOR JENKINS: Well, I do, too, but it's ongoing --
MS. MURPHY: Right.
MAYOR JENKINS: -- as we speak, so --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Priscilla, I know you explained it to me over here, and I was half listening and I apologize.
So walk me through. We dropped property taxes down by a million, and I've got two questions on that. One is that amount that's posted, as I've been told -- learn something new every day -- is the amount that's been billed by the County.
MS. MURPHY: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So it's not

Page 16

actually moneys that are in the bank.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So are we posting it assuming a hundred percent collection?
MS. MURPHY: We post it as accrual and it is billed out.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right; but are we posting it as a hundred percent collection rate?
MS. MURPHY: Right here, we are.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.
MS. MURPHY: And we have a pretty good collection rate with the County, and they're very aggressive. And since it's only the County's bill, we end up getting our money pretty quickly.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Got you.
What precipitated us putting a line item budget of 3.2 million when our year-to-date in June of last year was only 2.7? So we raised property taxes by half a million dollars or estimated -- raised the budget by half a million dollars, and I'm just kind of curious as to where those numbers came from.
MS. MURPHY: I think part of it is they give us a digest or anticipated digest in April

Page 17

when we're trying to set our millage rate, but it's not the final digest that they use to actually assess the taxes. And it may be -- and I don't know for sure, but I think some of it has to do with General Motors closing down and some of the personal property equipment already being removed from the buildings, because that's in here too, and they asked for reassessment of some of their stuff.

People asked for their assessment to be looked at. So when they give us the information, it's an estimate of the digest right then, and it changes right up till the point that they bill it.

But we have to set the millage rate early, and they don't set the actual -- get the firm or final digest till late June or early July, and that's after we have already approved our budget.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I don't remember for sure. I don't know that they had actually announced the shutdown dated September something, of the GM plant, back in June, did they?

MS. MURPHY: No. I understand that.

Page 18

But I think over the years they had been shutting down parts of the plant and maybe they had removed some of the equipment that they had been paying personal property taxes on.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I appreciate that. It just seems that we took a -- you know, hindsight's always 20/20, but --

MS. MURPHY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- you know, by raising our property tax estimate by half a million dollars, that seems --

MS. MURPHY: And I think --

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- to be huge.

MS. MURPHY: -- we thought we was going to have more -- more already built out near the BrandsMart location or maybe even the Star Towers would have been further along or something. There was some -- I don't know how much we thought we were going to get or had, but --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, there was talk of having H Mart up and running.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah, but that property wasn't even under construction in 2008, so --

Page 19

MS. MURPHY: Right, but --

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- you know, at that --

MS. MURPHY: -- it might have had something to do with we thought that the Star Towers were really going to get in construction.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But even then, that wouldn't have been until the 2009 property tax assessment. So I'm befuddled that we raised it by half a million over the previous year's actuals. That's frustrating to me.

The other question would be, is the HTRG moneys in this or is that -- if that ever gets released by the State, is that going to be an addition?

MS. MURPHY: It's in this, but this will probably be the last year we get it.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So it's in the 2.8 million dollar number?

MS. MURPHY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So that 2.8 million dollar number is assessed and the grant relief moneys from the State --

MS. MURPHY: It all flows back through the County, though.

Page 20

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So there is the potential of if the State doesn't fund that, that that's another 48 or 50 thousand dollar --

MS. MURPHY: But the County thinks that we're going to get this year just fine. It's the future years that we probably won't get.

MAYOR JENKINS: Do you feel like on our franchise, that we will hang in about the same as what -- we lost General Motors but we don't lose them before --

MS. MURPHY: We didn't lose them --

MAYOR JENKINS: -- budget time.

MS. MURPHY: -- the whole year.

I am a little concerned about the Georgia Power franchise, but we'll know soon enough, the end of this month.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

MAYOR JENKINS: We'll know in March.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, and that -- I guess that leads me to the other questions is we had eight hundred forty-eight in year-to-date actual last year and we budgeted eight hundred and eighty, so we bumped it by $32,000, knowing that General Motors was closing.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I think, if I

Page 21

1 remember correctly, Mr. Bates, we were
2 anticipating a lot more new business coming in
3 last --
4 MS. MURPHY: I think that's one reason
5 that the permits were higher, the business
6 license were higher and these other items.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There is no
8 question that the economic downturn that hit,
9 you know, in August/September is impacting this
10 budget. And you know, those line items like
11 building permits and things like that, you know,
12 that's just one of those where you suck it up.
13 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: That tells the
14 true tale right there.
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There's nothing
16 much that we could have done about that. That's
17 just a reality, a sad reality, that us and every
18 other city and municipality is in.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah, because
20 remember the building permits were like three
21 times what we budgeted last time, so --
22 MS. MURPHY: Right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And they'd had
24 the groundbreaking for Star Towers.
25 I'm with you. I mean I sat up here and

Page 22

1 ranted and raved about this back then, too. I
2 was not comfortable with the revenue numbers.
3 The good news is we're beginning to see
4 reality now, and hopefully we can do something
5 about it now so it doesn't get too bad. It's
6 going to be bad, anyway.
7 MAYOR JENKINS: We've got a few new
8 buildings coming out of the ground, which is
9 Peachtree Pavilion, and H Mart's supposed to
10 start this week. Of course how long it'll take
11 them to get in business, I don't know. Got a
12 number of good businesses over there, and --
13 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: What percent
14 are they filled?
15 MAYOR JENKINS: I don't think they even
16 --
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I haven't seen
18 anybody in there at all. I drove by the other
19 day.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: I know there's two
21 banks and --
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There's a new
23 restaurant that's opened up, is that right --
24 CLERK BLACKMON: That's correct.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- the Japanese

Page 23

1 restaurant?
2 CLERK BLACKMON: Haru Ichiban or
3 something like that.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Are they open?
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah.
6 CLERK BLACKMON: They -- they --
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I drove by it. I
8 didn't know if they were open.
9 CLERK BLACKMON: They just completed,
10 so, or are in the process of completing.
11 And then the H Mart grocery itself did
12 just pick up their permit at the end of last
13 week.
14 So I did the numbers for January 1st
15 through today for permits, and it was $25,000,
16 which is a little better, for the past five
17 weeks, but we're still getting hit hard.
18 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: When are they
19 looking to open?
20 MAYOR JENKINS: It shouldn't take them
21 very long because the shell of the building's
22 already there.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I bumped into the
24 developer here at City Hall, and I think he told
25 me June or July. But he did say that they had a

Page 24

1 number of the small tenants that were waiting
2 until H Mart actually got open before they move
3 forward, because they want the traffic.
4 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yeah, I can
5 understand.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No sense in
7 building a business and not have the traffic
8 there.
9 CLERK BLACKMON: And that is underway.
10 MAYOR JENKINS: Plaza -- is that Plaza
11 One on that end or --
12 CLERK BLACKMON: That's Peachtree
13 Pavilion.
14 MAYOR JENKINS: They're getting ready
15 to move in too.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Do we have
17 anything going at Plaza One?
18 CLERK BLACKMON: Not anything new right
19 now.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Do you know
22 what's going in Mustache Mike's?
23 CLERK BLACKMON: No. There's a couple
24 that -- somebody came in today for a new --
25 they're going to be putting something by the

Page 25

1 Mozart Bakery, and I turned him away because he
2 didn't have all of his paperwork, so we didn't
3 look at it. But he talked to Scott and I, both.
4 They're putting something over there that was
5 going to be in the $35,000 range for
6 construction, a good interior buildout.
7 I don't know anything else. Nothing
8 else has come in. So if there's something in
9 the works --
10 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Are they
11 putting another restaurant in there, or we don't
12 know?
13 CLERK BLACKMON: I don't know.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And what about
15 Atlanta Inn?
16 CLERK BLACKMON: They're still working
17 off a demo permit. I haven't heard anything
18 else about anything.
19 MAYOR JENKINS: They've started demo.
20 CLERK BLACKMON: Right. I haven't
21 heard or gotten any other plans other than the
22 demo, though, so I don't know when the
23 construction or any of that's going to be.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, they got
25 the iron up on the other half, but I don't think

Page 26

1 they've done anything else on that.
2 MS. MURPHY: While Scott is here, on
3 the statement from last week, on page 18, the
4 main thing that we need to change is increase
5 the salaries, which is going to increase the
6 Social Security and the Medicare, but only
7 increase the salaries now like by $20,000 to
8 finish this year out. And we need to add
9 advertising and signs so we can do all of the
10 public notice advertising under his department.
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Are we going to
12 move those out of City Hall and put them in --
13 MS. MURPHY: We need them in both
14 areas. Right now, City Hall has been paying for
15 some of the public hearings that could be here,
16 so we're going to have them in both areas and
17 split it up.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay. Are we
19 going to split out what's already been done or
20 are we just going to do it from today forward?
21 MS. MURPHY: Whatever Scott wants to
22 do.
23 And Scott and I have been talking about
24 changing the fee schedule because we need to,
25 desperately, for all the variances and rezoning,

Page 27

1 and that's one place where we need to correct
2 our revenue.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I know I talked
4 with the Clerk last week. We're not even
5 covering or we're barely covering
6 Mr. Calcaterra's costs on inspections. That
7 doesn't cover her work or paperwork or anybody
8 else's time.
9 So I did have that on the agenda, so
10 that'll be back for the 17th so we can, you
11 know, adjust that. It's not much, but at least
12 we won't be losing money.
13 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: So you've
14 compared it to some of the other municipalities
15 around, Mr. Bates?
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I have not, but
17 that's relatively easy to do.
18 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Let's do that.
19 CLERK BLACKMON: Scott has, and he and
20 I have talked about this since he's been here,
21 about upping all the fees, not just inspections.
22 But we're low on a lot of things in permitting.
23 MS. MURPHY: And the only other revenue
24 that I know of now is the Police Department has
25 got some gambling proceeds that's going to be

Page 28

1 coming in to the general fund of about $10,000.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's in
3 addition to what we got?
4 CHIEF KING: Yes, sir.
5 MS. MURPHY: Yes.
6 CHIEF KING: It's pending right now in
7 the courts.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The insurance
9 reimbursement, did you get reimbursed for
10 Mr. Chupp's truck or was that last fiscal year?
11 CLERK BLACKMON: No. That was the
12 beginning of this one, and we did.
13 MS. MURPHY: It might have been right
14 at the very end. I'll check. I think it's at
15 the very end, but we didn't get another vehicle
16 purchased.
17 CLERK BLACKMON: Right.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Because he
19 was given a truck.
20 MS. MURPHY: Right.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So we don't
22 know if that was posted on last year revenues?
23 MS. MURPHY: I believe it was right at
24 the very end of the other one.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, I don't

Page 29

1 know. If you could check on that, because the
2 draft three of the June revenues doesn't show
3 any moneys on Insurance Reimbursement.
4 MS. MURPHY: Okay.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It just shows
6 year --
7 MS. MURPHY: And it may just be under
8 Reimbursements. I'll check under there, too.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay. Yeah,
10 there is a big line item under general
11 reimbursements in June.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So you have
13 Reimbursements-Salaries and Reimbursements?
14 MS. MURPHY: Usually the
15 Reimbursements-Salaries is when we participate
16 with other agencies, we get part of their
17 overtime back, and the Police Department applies
18 for that to come in. And we're going to have
19 some more -- we're going to have that coming in.
20 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay. So we
21 don't know what these general reimbursements of
22 $3720 is.
23 MS. MURPHY: Which one are you looking
24 at?
25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: 36. I'm

Page 30

1 sorry. Page 4, line 36.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you.
3 MS. MURPHY: Oh. Some of that is when
4 we have employee -- well, employees to leave,
5 and they pay for their health insurance for a
6 few months until they're officially put on COBRA
7 too.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: While I'm
9 thinking of it, not tonight, obviously, but it
10 would be good to get a balance sheet at some
11 point so we can look at that.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Chief, can you
13 call Sandy Springs and John's Creek and tell
14 them to arrest more people?
15 CHIEF KING: They're arresting them at
16 a pretty good rate, sir.
17 The only issue there is our food budget
18 line has gone over. So you know, we're getting
19 pretty good -- I think we're getting pretty good
20 revenues. I think once the weather starts
21 clearing up a little bit, sir, I think we'll
22 also -- you now, not only they will be
23 increasing their cases but so will our officers.
24 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Did you ever
25 check into that catering place sometime last

Page 31

1 year we talked about over on Flowers Road?
2 There was a new catering place came in.
3 CHIEF KING: Yes, sir. You're talking
4 about the office complex over there by Flowers
5 and Tilly Mill?
6 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I did not go
7 to their grand opening, Chief, so I'm not sure
8 exactly where it was at, but I --
9 CHIEF KING: We -- we've talked to
10 them, but I'll tell you, sir, the lady at --
11 SERGEANT LOPEZ: It's Good Life Foods.
12 CHIEF KING: -- Good Life Foods has
13 been giving us a really good price. We put out
14 bids for it, and there's not a whole lot of
15 people interested in delivering. That's the
16 great advantage is that it saves us money and
17 time because they deliver the food. It's pretty
18 convenient. Right now we're going through the
19 peanut scare so we're having to remove all the
20 peanuts out of the diet for the people, the
21 inmates.
22 It's a lady who is related to the
23 person that owns Grandma's Biscuits. They're
24 the ones who have been doing it for years and
25 been doing a pretty good job.

Page 32

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we got a
2 McDonald's right down --
3 CHIEF KING: We'll put it out for bids
4 again, sir, you know, as the year comes and see
5 if they want to participate.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I say we got a
7 McDonald's right down the street. Serve Happy
8 Meals.
9 CHIEF KING: No, sir. The price of
10 those restaurants cannot beat the contract we
11 got, sir, and they won't deliver.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I was just . . .
13 MS. MURPHY: You're going to notice
14 that we didn't change anything about Municipal
15 Court Fines for right now, because springtime is
16 coming, and now that we're at full force, the
17 Chief tells me that traffic enforcement will be
18 out there. We want to wait and see a couple
19 more months, because it already is increasing,
20 what we're bringing in, and see what it does
21 before we make any changes.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And this
23 includes the Quality of Life and everything?
24 MS. MURPHY: Yes.
25 But we did lower the Redlight Camera.

Page 33

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you.
CHIEF KING: We also got a new bonding schedule.
MS. MURPHY: Oh, yeah. And we increased the bonding schedule, so we want to see what that does.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Oh. The fine and --
CHIEF KING: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The fine schedule.
CHIEF KING: Y'all just adjusted just recently the bonds and the fines, and we need to kind of watch. I would recommend that we watch it for maybe a couple months, because it's going to make an impact. I think we've already been seeing some of those revenues coming in at higher rates than we have been in previous months.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And I guess my concern is that, you know, we're talking about maybe raising some fees and raising some bonds, but, you know, we're talking maybe 10 grand here, 20 grand there. I mean even if you add

Page 34

all that up, I still am not hearing more than a hundred grand possible revenue that's not here. Is that a fair assessment?
MAYOR JENKINS: Yes, but we're hoping for better than that.
MS. MURPHY: Until we get into big building permits, things like that, it may be a hundred or two hundred grand.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You know, I'm still -- I just think that with your new budget, basically we're talking about $800,000 less than we budgeted for in terms of revenue.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And we shouldn't hang our hat on anything else. I mean we can all hope, of course, but we've got to do something about this $800,000.
MAYOR JENKINS: Well, the $800,000, it's a good possibility our revenue will come up, we hope.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we hoped before, and now we're $800,000 less revenue than we thought we were going to get.
MAYOR JENKINS: That's right. I agree with you.

Page 35

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: The reality is out there, Mayor. I'm sorry, but --
MAYOR JENKINS: I agree with you. I'm not going --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- I wish it wasn't.
MAYOR JENKINS: -- against you. I say we're hoping. I'm looking positive that it's going to come up.
If it don't, we'll have to move some money around again. And that's the times. That's what we're here for.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I got that. I think we all do.
I just think that we have to go beyond moving money around.
MAYOR JENKINS: Well, we might have to.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Rhonda, did you guys --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I don't see how we can avoid it.
MAYOR JENKINS: I'm saying that I hope we can work together and get through this one, and then maybe we can prevent it in the future. We got to. We can't continue to do this.

Page 36

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I don't mean to jump around, but if no one minds, we've still got this million and a quarter for parks. How much of that is encumbered or allocated that we have to spend?
MS. MURPHY: I'm not sure what we're going to get completed before the end of this fiscal year, to be honest with you.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, because English Oak Park is the only one that's on the books right now, and that's $300,000 roughly?
MS. MURPHY: Right. And Autumn Park was handled through Stormwater, what we've done so far, so at the --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I won't move on doing any more in -- if it's all right with you, I won't move on doing anything else in Northwoods until we get this resolved. I would say we're probably safe in, you know, the 1.2 less the three hundred for English Oak being there.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: You know, granted, it's still coming out of the same pot, which is the Surplus account, but --

Page 37

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No. What I guess
2 I'm saying is this 1.2, I mean how much of that
3 do we have to spend?
4 MS. MURPHY: Three hundred.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And I think
6 that that three hundred, I think we were also
7 going to offset some of that by your Tree Bank
8 money.
9 MS. MURPHY: Right.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Because I
12 think that three hundred included trees also.
13 MS. MURPHY: We could probably get away
14 with two fifty, the two hundred and fifty.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean I realize
16 that this million and a quarter basically was
17 coming out of savings already, but --
18 MS. MURPHY: Right.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- if we could
20 cross that line out, how much of that could we
21 cross out?
22 MS. MURPHY: We need to save two fifty.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry?
24 MS. MURPHY: We need to save at least
25 250,000.

Page 38

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. But my
2 question is how much can we cross out?
3 Believe me, I want to fix the parks,
4 too. I want to fix Halpern Park. They've been
5 waiting a long, long time, and I understand all
6 that, but we don't have the money, so --
7 MS. MURPHY: Well, I guess we could use
8 the million dollars somewhere else and leave the
9 250,000.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, that's
11 already savings. I would rather start by
12 putting it back and then go from there.
13 MS. MURPHY: Okay. Then, you can put a
14 million dollars back in savings, I guess.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. Because
16 it's not like that money's already spent.
17 MS. MURPHY: No.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Have you
19 started paying some invoices? because I think
20 they were going to invoice us as they went
21 along.
22 MS. MURPHY: There's a few, but I would
23 rather leave the two hundred and fifty until we
24 find out for sure and I talk to Carol and then
25 we make some adjustments before the end of the

Page 39

1 year than to come back and have to ask y'all to
2 increase it again.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm just trying
4 to look for things that we can do now that will
5 make this look --
6 MS. MURPHY: Better.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- you know,
8 better.
9 MS. MURPHY: But at the same time, you
10 know, you don't want your citizens or taxpayers
11 to not think that you're not going to take care
12 of the parks, which seems to be important to
13 them, too.
14 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I
15 understand that, but I'd be -- I don't want to
16 say we'll fix your parks but we're going to
17 start laying people off.
18 MS. MURPHY: Right.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean it's going
20 to take everything we can do here to not have to
21 go there, frankly. And that, to me, is the last
22 -- absolute last possible option is to actually
23 let go of people, and we're going to have to dip
24 into savings. I just -- I just think we need to
25 -- you know, now is the time to start earning

Page 40

1 our 1200 bucks a month here.
2 MS. MURPHY: And you always said that
3 you didn't want to see us lay off any people.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. I've
5 always believed that. Personally, I always
6 think it's not cost effective in the long run,
7 but that's --
8 MS. MURPHY: And it would be a shame
9 now since we've gotten more fully staffed.
10 MAYOR JENKINS: Well, actually, I've
11 said this before. That's what we have savings
12 for. I don't want to go into it, either,
13 because myself and the other mayors have held
14 onto money as much as we could. And that's the
15 reason we have this money, and it is for the
16 service of the citizens. And I think the
17 Council can work together and bring this out
18 even if we have to go into savings.
19 But we'll go into savings as we need
20 it, not necessarily at this particular time. Is
21 that correct?
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But we still have
23 to have a budget.
24 MS. MURPHY: We're going to need it.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: We still have to

Page 41

have -- before this budget review is over, we have to have a balanced budget that has some semblance of reality.

MAYOR JENKINS: I agree with that. We can bring it up with some of the Parks money. It'll only come to a conclusion of making it look good.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, no. What I'm saying is if we -- we decided last year that we would be willing to spend 1.25 million dollars on parks.

MAYOR JENKINS: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And what I'm saying is, you know, let's start there. How much do we have to spend of that? If we have to spend $250,000, then there's a million dollars we don't have to spend on parks --

MAYOR JENKINS: That's right.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- this fiscal year. We can spend it later on when the money starts rolling in, but right now it's not there.

MAYOR JENKINS: That's right.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If I had a choice between fixing parks and laying people off, I'm going to cut the fixing parks.

Page 42

MAYOR JENKINS: I'm with you.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You know, the hard part is we have to make sure that at the same time we don't hamstring our development department and we don't hamstring our City Hall people so that when someone does come in to get a permit, that there is someone there that can do their permit for them.

MAYOR JENKINS: We've got somebody. As of Monday morning, we have a new employee.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I got all that. I'm just saying that that's balance.

MS. MURPHY: We may have at least one or several employees that may be looking at retiring this year, anyway, or next year. And if the Council would be willing to maybe pay just the cost of their health insurance for a few months, something like that, they may consider retiring, and that may help reduce those salaries and enable those people to go ahead and retire, the ones that are just waiting to get old enough where their health insurance wouldn't be a problem. So we may have a couple people like that, or one.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: As long as we do

Page 43

that along with a hiring freeze.

MS. MURPHY: Well, are we fully staffed?

CHIEF KING: If we do lose anybody, we're not going to -- it'd be insane to try to replace them, sir, especially in the financial crisis we're in.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Priscilla, I found 500 more dollars for you.

CHIEF KING: Every penny counts.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Election qualifying fees are not listed as a revenue line item, and this is an election year.

MS. MURPHY: It would be in next year's budget.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Can we qualify earlier?

MS. MURPHY: They have to qualify in the last week of August.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, I tried.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, anyway, back to the parks. Can we change that dollar amount safely from 1.25 to $250,000?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, I think the original three twenty-seven, I think it was,

Page 44

Mr. Spangler -- I think that's what it was -- we were going to use some of the Tree Bank money, and the majority agreed on a smaller pavilion, so that's supposed to lower the price a little bit more. I think she still is not a hundred percent sure on the walking trail surface. But I mean it's not like we can't go back and adjust it to what it actually is.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

MS. MURPHY: Right. We could do that. And I'm not sure that it'll all get finished in this fiscal year, too.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I thought it was supposed to be finished within 120 days.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: They were supposed to have poured more concrete today, but I haven't been over there to check and see.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: They did.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Did they pour it? Okay.

MAYOR JENKINS: They were pouring it when I was over there. I hope they finished.

MS. MURPHY: That was one of the areas that the Mayor was in agreement that we can move money from for right now.

Page 45

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean -- maybe
2 I'm wrong. I thought back when we allocated
3 that money, we hadn't necessarily spent it all
4 at the time. We just said we're going to put
5 this aside --
6 MS. MURPHY: That's what we did.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- for parks.
8 Even though we only -- we had the two park
9 projects, it was not the whole million and a
10 quarter.
11 MS. MURPHY: That's correct.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean it seems
13 reasonable the first thing we could do is at
14 least get rid of whatever we haven't obligated
15 ourself to spend and start there.
16 MAYOR JENKINS: What are you saying,
17 Bob? Go ahead and -- how much do you think we
18 have left if --
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, that's my
20 question.
21 MAYOR JENKINS: -- we use the 250,000?
22 MS. MURPHY: I'm fine with leaving the
23 250,000 for right now until we find out more,
24 because I do remember what Maria is saying about
25 using some of the Tree Bank moneys, and that

Page 46

1 would be the perfect opportunity to do that in
2 that park.
3 MAYOR JENKINS: Use it -- we're going
4 to use it for trees.
5 MS. MURPHY: Right.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Right.
7 MS. MURPHY: But there was a good bit
8 of money in that budget, I believe, that was for
9 landscaping or trees.
10 MAYOR JENKINS: Oh, okay.
11 But what I'm saying what we need to do
12 is actually get a balance on this budget. Now,
13 do we need to take money out of the bank to
14 balance it and then work towards getting that
15 back in the bank? Is that what I picked up on
16 you saying?
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, this is
18 revenue from savings. This originally was from
19 savings.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: Right, right.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So it's not like
22 -- I mean the budget wasn't really balanced
23 before. It was a million and a quarter off
24 because we're taking the money out of savings.
25 MS. MURPHY: Right. It's typical for

Page 47

1 cities to use their surplus to buy -- to do
2 things like the parks or capital improvements.
3 That's not unusual.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: As long as it was
5 a capital improvement, that's fine, I understand
6 that, because you're converting capital from one
7 form to another, from dollar bills to grass.
8 MS. MURPHY: Right.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm just saying
10 at least we could start there and then go from
11 there. But that doesn't really solve our
12 revenue-versus-expenditures problem.
13 MS. MURPHY: And the Council really
14 does need to look at the fee schedule that
15 Scott's talking about.
16 There's some things -- and I'm not
17 saying that I'm for this or against it, but
18 y'all all know that on the sanitation we lose
19 money there because of the senior citizens.
20 We're losing money on recycling. There are
21 several areas that we are losing money. And
22 that's fine to do if that's what the Council --
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, we're --
24 MS. MURPHY: -- wishes to do.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I don't mean

Page 48

1 to interrupt. We're losing money on me on
2 sanitation let alone --
3 MS. MURPHY: Right.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- everybody
5 else.
6 MS. MURPHY: Right.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And this is going
8 to --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Haven't you been
10 paying your bill?
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. No, I --
12 But the reality is is what we get
13 billed by Advanced Disposal, and by the time you
14 factor in Sandra and the postage --
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and envelopes
17 and paper and --
18 MS. MURPHY: Right.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- you know,
20 answering the phone --
21 MS. MURPHY: And our sanitation now is
22 at -- I think it's right at $50 a quarter now.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And we're paying
24 Advanced a little over, like $50.47 or --
25 MS. MURPHY: Right.

Page 49

1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- $51. So even
2 just in the bill from them to us, we're in a
3 negative. Then by the time you factor in all
4 the overhead that we have to manage that --
5 That's why I'm an advocate of moving it
6 out to the property tax bill and us being out of
7 that collection side. Now, I know there are
8 some disadvantages to that.
9 MS. MURPHY: The reason that we haven't
10 done it in the past is the citizens like to pay
11 it quarterly or some of them do.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, but if it's
13 part of their escrow, then they're paying it
14 monthly, so --
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- you know, I --
17 MS. MURPHY: And it's also harder for
18 us to raise it and lower it when we need to as
19 we get those adjustments. So we need to be
20 careful what we decide it's going to be.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think
22 that's one of the things that we need to address
23 when we go out for RFPs is putting a cap in
24 there, and then we would estimate on what that
25 cap is, knowing it can never exceed that amount.

Page 50

1 I think that's one of the things, especially
2 when we asked for the rollback when the fuel
3 went down. And then we got this convoluted --
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- C.I. and
6 all this stuff, and I'm like, well, what the
7 heck does that mean? Are you going to, you
8 know, roll back our fees or not?
9 MS. MURPHY: And we could think about
10 increasing the millage rate overall for the
11 taxes and not having --
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The only problem
13 with that is that we're capped at 8 by
14 ordinance.
15 MS. MURPHY: Well, that's true, but
16 we're close to there now.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So that's only
18 half a mill --
19 MS. MURPHY: Yeah.
20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- so there's not
21 a whole lot of room there --
22 MS. MURPHY: Right.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and that's not
24 even -- even if we did that, we wouldn't impact
25 it until next fiscal year.

Page 51

1 MS. MURPHY: Right.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And even then, it
3 would be the latter half of the next fiscal
4 year.
5 MS. MURPHY: Right. And this -- we've
6 already billed sanitation in January. We'll
7 bill again in April. So we got one more shot in
8 this fiscal year if we do something about that.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: This will not be
10 a popular suggestion, but, you know, we're not
11 up here to be popular: the swimming pool.
12 If we're going to look at -- I don't
13 know what we're contractually obligated into
14 with the management company if we are, but
15 that's $43,000 that's sitting there, and we
16 bring in -- you know, granted, it's not
17 necessarily a revenue generator and it should be
18 revenue-neutral. But we brought in all of
19 $5,000 and we spent thirty-seven.
20 You know, like I said, it's not going
21 to be popular, but if we're looking at cutting
22 cost and saving moneys, there's an area that you
23 can mothball it for a year.
24 MS. MURPHY: And that may be something
25 you decide by the new fiscal year budget, too,

Page 52

1 if you don't want to decide until then, because
2 we won't have much expense. It's won't pick up
3 until --
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: When? May
5 and June?
6 MS. MURPHY: -- May and June.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we bought
9 the cover this year, so hopefully that would
10 reduce the expenses somewhat on the --
11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: You know, the
12 biggest expense is the management company.
13 MS. MURPHY: Yes.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I don't know
15 about y'all, but I don't get called very often.
16 But I got called regarding them and the poor --
17 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yeah.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- the poor way
19 in which the management company that we had
20 contracted with was actually managing or not
21 managing --
22 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Or not
23 managing, more likely.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- the pool.
25 MS. MURPHY: And I think Carol was

Page 53

1 looking at sending it out for bids, I think.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I think
3 that's a good idea. Do we know when the current
4 -- Well, again, we're --
5 MS. MURPHY: Or she may --
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- talking small
7 dollars.
8 MS. MURPHY: -- already be working on
9 it.
10 CLERK BLACKMON: Well, she was going to
11 put out for bids, but someone has taken over
12 that management company and she wanted to give
13 this lady a try because she impressed her, and
14 that was the last conversation I had with her,
15 about a month or so ago.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Got you.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: You know, also
18 we've had some senior citizens say that they
19 would not mind paying their sanitation. You
20 know, they're just automatically exempt. Maybe
21 it should become a service where they could just
22 come in if they want to be exempt, and those
23 that want to pay it can just pay it.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, there's --
25 MS. MURPHY: It's not automatic exempt.

Page 54

1 They do have to come in and say they want it.
2 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I'm saying
3 there are senior citizens who said they just
4 would rather pay.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: One of the
6 things that I had looked at for taxes and for
7 sanitation is Dekalb County has an exemption
8 schedule for senior citizens and for disabled
9 persons. And it's not just based on your age,
10 it's also based on your income, because you
11 could have a senior citizen that has income of
12 over a hundred thousand a year. And they have a
13 chart -- which I have a copy if anyone wants it,
14 but it's like '07 -- and that could be another
15 thing, too: if you're this age and your income
16 is less than $15,000 a year, then you get it
17 free or something like that.
18 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: That's
19 something to look at, yeah.
20 MS. MURPHY: And that would affect next
21 year's.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Chamblee has
23 now -- they are not going to extend exemption
24 for senior citizens. For any new senior citizen
25 that moves into the city, they're no longer

Page 55

1 offering that as a service. But if you were
2 grandfathered in --
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- then
5 they'll continue your free sanitation, but
6 they're not giving it any longer as a free city
7 service.
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The reality is
9 that we've got to look at -- you know, I don't
10 think anything is off the table at this point.
11 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And that's not a
13 position that we've been in but it's a position
14 that we're in now.
15 MS. MURPHY: And we may need to look at
16 doing a Charter change about the millage rate,
17 too, if at all possible.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, I'm not
19 excited about that. I --
20 Do we know if the homestead exemption
21 is at fifty or --
22 MS. MURPHY: It's fifty.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Fifty.
24 MS. MURPHY: We could look at lowering
25 that.

Page 56

1 MAYOR JENKINS: It's at sixty-five,
2 isn't it?
3 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No, sir.
4 It's fifty.
5 MAYOR JENKINS: Did we drop it back?
6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No, sir. The
7 one that's on the Web page, I don't think that
8 we ever got approved. And so the ones the
9 ladies are operating off of and what the County
10 has is 50,000, which was approved, and that's
11 what we've been doing with the County. So we
12 need to get that corrected.
13 MS. MURPHY: It's been that way for a
14 while.
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm just not
16 excited about going at the property tax side
17 because the homestead grant relief we know is --
18 MS. MURPHY: Right.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- going away. I
20 mean that's --
21 Now what we're going to have to combat
22 is if we're going to get a property valuation
23 reduction if properties are devalued in the city
24 both on the residential and commercial side.
25 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: And what's the

Page 57

1 chances of that happening?
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Probably pretty
3 strong.
4 MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah, it is.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry?
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Probably pretty
7 strong.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, yeah,
9 somewhere around a hundred percent.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I guess, too
11 -- I don't know if y'all saw Channel 2 news.
12 Unfortunately, Chamblee was a victim of the
13 assessor's office in that they have that whole
14 block of condos and they valued it as the
15 building that was there.
16 Now, I checked our Clover Plaza and it
17 is cracked. But that's something we need to
18 sort of keep an eye on, too. If we can all just
19 make mental notes and say, hey, there's a new
20 thing here, and look at the County register and
21 make sure that they've got it valued at the new
22 value.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Just so everybody
24 knows, the ECO West building, which is about 1.5
25 million, was valued at $73,000. So talk about a

Page 58

1 huge hit on your digest, you know, 40 or 50
2 thousand dollars just in, you know, taxable
3 revenues that just went away because Dekalb
4 County's Tax Assessor's Office didn't do their
5 job. So we do need to watch that.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And that was
7 one thing, too, when I was looking.
8 BrandsMart's address is like 4600 but on the tax
9 register their address is 5000.
10 CLERK BLACKMON: 5000 Motors
11 Industrial.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yeah. So I
13 don't even know how --
14 CLERK BLACKMON: We have a couple of
15 things like that that are mixed up with Dekalb
16 because their GIS or the lady who actually does
17 the addresses --
18 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: That's what
19 she said, the GIS.
20 CLERK BLACKMON: Yeah. I've run into
21 that a couple times.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So if that
23 person wants to call 911 -- I mean not that you
24 don't know where BrandsMart is, but what address
25 would show up?

Page 59

1 CHIEF KING: We've had the problem
2 recently with the new bank, Touchmark, where
3 they're still reporting to Dekalb County, and it
4 has never been in Dekalb County, but the GIS
5 lines it up on the other side of Peachtree
6 Street because they're using a Peachtree Street
7 address. So we went and -- and once we identify
8 it, we talk to the Dekalb County GIS and they
9 also talk to their 911 center. And then we
10 ended up going to -- because we never really had
11 to do this before -- we ended up going to the
12 phone company to force that address to be
13 reported into our PSAT --
14 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay.
15 CHIEF KING: -- our 911 system. So
16 once we identify them, then we can force that
17 address through the phone company to route it.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I'm sure
19 we'll be getting a lot of those, maybe.
20 CLERK BLACKMON: Well, Scott and I are
21 going to also force, like if a contractor comes
22 in, we're going to make them go -- and we had
23 this happen at the Porsche --
24 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Uh-huh.
25 CLERK BLACKMON: -- the Ellis Porsche

Page 60

1 recently -- make them go and correct it at the
2 County before we will mess with them, because I
3 have to attach a parcel to a permit by the
4 parcel I.D., and if it comes up a different
5 address in my system versus theirs, we got to
6 have that in synch before I can really even
7 issue a permit. So we have been doing that, and
8 we'll make them correct it.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: All right. Well,
10 so far, we're going to change, set the 1.25 to
11 -- we didn't come up with a number yet.
12 MS. MURPHY: I come up with two fifty.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay, because
14 we could always fix it when it comes in.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: All right. Two
16 fifty.
17 Say we do a hiring freeze because,
18 unfortunately, there's this new town over there
19 that may, you know, grab a couple of our people.
20 MS. MURPHY: Well, when you say "hiring
21 freeze," does that mean the Building Inspector
22 that we just advertised for? Or not recently.
23 I don't know what happened to that or --
24 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Building
25 Inspector?

Page 61

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I think the Mayor said a couple meetings ago --
MS. MURPHY: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- that we were going to leave that position vacant --
CLERK BLACKMON: I don't think Priscilla was here.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- until such time as we decide to fully staff the Planning Department.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we're not advertising for anybody right now, are we?
MAYOR JENKINS: No.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Good.
And then last night, we resolved one issue, which is not a lot of money, apparently, but I guess we're not going to fill that position, the -- I forgot his name -- the gentleman we settled with for the --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Mr. McGee?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: McGee.
MAYOR JENKINS: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So we're not going to fill that position, but we haven't had it for a long time, anyway.

Page 62

MAYOR JENKINS: It's been a while, yes.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Do we know how many employees are in Public Works?
MS. MURPHY: About 15.
CLERK BLACKMON: I'd have to count them back up because there's two missing.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Library at full staff is how many?
CLERK BLACKMON: I think it's --
MS. MURPHY: Five, I --
CLERK BLACKMON: -- five.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And Chief, at full staff, certified, noncertified?
CHIEF KING: I'd have to go look at it, sir. I don't want to guess.
78 last time, but I want to make sure.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Is that total?
MS. MURPHY: Total.
CHIEF KING: But we are not filling in Lieutenant Lowe in Quality of Life. We're keeping that position empty. And you know, if we can -- if we can get some latitude with Lieutenant Hardy, we might be able to . . . because all he cares is just basically his health insurance is covered so he could reach

Page 63

retirement as Medicare kicks in. That's his biggest concern. If we can reach some kind of, potentially, an agreement with his health insurance, he will probably retire. That will be a pretty big salary there, and that position will not be filled.
MAYOR JENKINS: You're talking about Lieutenant Lowe. What is he doing now?
CHIEF KING: He's working in the jail also, sir, and that's where eventually people go. But we're not going to fill in his position in the Quality of Life. He will be replacing Lieutenant Hardy, but we will not replace that position.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: How many court employees?
CLERK BLACKMON: Four.
MS. MURPHY: Four.
CLERK BLACKMON: Five.
MS. MURPHY: Five.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Okay. We talked about outservicing the payroll department, it would be worth seeing if we can get that cheaper. And it may be that we can -- even if it costs what it costs today, we may get better

Page 64

service because I think one possible thing that would be a benefit would be an electronic timekeeping system which would reduce the number of hours that management and everybody spends on time sheets now. So even though the cost may be exactly the same, there's like a cost that's spread -- a savings that would spread out amongst the departments.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: While we're on payroll, where are we with direct deposit?
MS. MURPHY: Rhonda and I have to do some training, extra training with Wachovia.
We had stalled a little bit when the banking -- the things were going on with the bank and see where Wachovia was going to end up until we got a little bit more --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So now it's Wells Fargo, I think.
MS. MURPHY: -- comfortable, and we have to go through a little bit more training. But we should be able to do that and it not be a problem.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Any idea of how many employees are signed up for direct deposit?
MS. MURPHY: Probably at least half,

Page 65

1 something like that. At least half.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So that should be
3 a significant timesaver once that gets up and
4 running.
5 MS. MURPHY: And to be honest, I think
6 the timekeeping part we do need to work on
7 because that seems to be where all the -- a lot
8 of the time is, because once we get the time
9 sheets here, it takes about an hour to do the
10 payroll. And since we're doing it in this
11 accounting system and it's automatically making
12 all the journal entries and things that we need
13 and now it's automatically accruing the
14 workman's comp and other things that we need.
15 And even if you do outsource your
16 payroll, you still have to type in the number of
17 hours you want to pay the people, yourself. So
18 I don't see how it would really save time as far
19 as having to get it from an outside source and
20 then making big journal entries each week or
21 every two weeks to make all the accounting
22 entries that we need to make.
23 But I do think that we could save in
24 the timekeeping area somehow, and the Chief and
25 I have talked about that but --

Page 66

1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Surely there's a
2 piece of software out there somewhere that could
3 be integrated into --
4 MS. MURPHY: Well, there is.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- the server
6 that would --
7 MS. MURPHY: Do all that?
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- facilitate
9 that.
10 MS. MURPHY: I think so, yeah, there
11 probably is.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: There is.
13 MS. MURPHY: Right. But we're still
14 going to have to do some entry of the time or
15 something.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, that's the
17 whole point. You know, you may be able to go to
18 a payroll service that will actually bring in an
19 electronic timekeeping system --
20 MS. MURPHY: Right.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- for you.
22 MS. MURPHY: Well, our software --
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And that way, you
24 never --
25 MS. MURPHY: -- is capable of --

Page 67

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- have to key
2 anything.
3 MS. MURPHY: -- adding those
4 timekeeping systems to where it'll automatically
5 pull right into the software we already have.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right; and then
7 turn around and just shoot you an electronic
8 journal entry.
9 MS. MURPHY: Right. If it
10 automatically goes in, it will still process the
11 checks, the direct deposits, and still make the
12 journal entries that we need it to make.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And it costs
14 every time you run a payroll. So the second
15 step of that may be to do what Ms. Fleming was
16 talking about and start paying people every
17 other week instead of every week.
18 So if we do those two or three things,
19 we may be able to make an impact on not just
20 what we -- the dollar amount it costs to do
21 payroll --
22 MS. MURPHY: I don't know if it --
23 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- but the actual
24 hours that we --
25 MS. MURPHY: -- will be significant.

Page 68

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- spend with it.
2 MS. MURPHY: And I can tell you that
3 during these economic times, we have a lot of
4 employees that really count on their checks
5 every week. I'll be honest with you.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well --
7 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: At our
8 company, hourly is every week and management is
9 every two weeks.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I know.
11 MS. MURPHY: We've had that in the
12 past, too, with certain departments being weekly
13 and then other departments being every two
14 weeks.
15 But it seems like across the board in
16 all of our departments there seems to be a need
17 right now --
18 CLERK BLACKMON: Especially right now.
19 MS. MURPHY: -- to get them the checks
20 every week.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: So how soon do
22 you think we will have direct deposit up and
23 rolling now?
24 MS. MURPHY: I think the thing that we
25 have to take is online for security-type

Page 69

purposes so --
CLERK BLACKMON: Just a matter of getting through the audit and --
MS. MURPHY: Right.
CLERK BLACKMON: -- having the time to do that.
MS. MURPHY: Right. It's not that we have to go to a class.
CLERK BLACKMON: No.
MS. MURPHY: It's something that we can do online.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: So you have to have that before we can start it with them? Is that what you're saying?
CLERK BLACKMON: They are requiring it.
MS. MURPHY: They want all of that. And so it shouldn't take us long to get up and going.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Now that we know the name of the bank.
MS. MURPHY: Well, when the banks got a little shaky, we sort of slowed up a little bit.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's an idea. We could go to Congress and ask for a bailout for Doraville.

Page 70

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: While we're on sanitation, I apologize. I apologize. I should have brought this up earlier. First, I mentioned this to you last week, we're unbalanced in the budget from the beginning. We're off by $70,013.18.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I can identify that twenty-two. That's real easy.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It's the forty-eight that's in the hotel/motel tax that I can't see where that expenditure needs to come out of the general fund. So I'll worry about that as a side item or I'll let you worry about --
MS. MURPHY: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- finding that. But the twenty-two that's in Sanitation and Solid Waste, we could cut that from the general fund expenditures --
MS. MURPHY: We could.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- because that would then balance out the Sanitation revenue versus expenses. So that's $22,000 there or cut from the expenditure side, so I would recommend

Page 71

that we do that as well.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm almost wondering if it wouldn't be better -- I mean obviously we can sit here and we can look at the numbers and everything, but it almost seems like we need to sit down with the department heads and just go line by line.
MS. MURPHY: The Mayor and I --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No, not the Council, but the Mayor and Priscilla.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
But I'll be honest with you. I mean you can look at this and see that the largest part of our budget is our salaries and benefits. That's the bulk.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: A little bit over 70 percent, isn't it?
MS. MURPHY: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
MS. MURPHY: And there's not a lot of room left to offset this.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we said we're going to do a hiring freeze. I know other governmental entities are doing things like they're giving people time off, furloughs. I

Page 72

mean we still haven't talked about the other 118 grand that we owe people, but, you know, that -- I don't know what we do about that.
MS. MURPHY: Maybe now that we're fully staffed, there could be some time taken off and offset some of the comp time, but I don't know.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. Anything we can do to get that comp time number would be good.
But still, that's not going to help us from this expenditure standpoint, though. It's more like a --
CHIEF KING: But I think it helps you, sir, on the fact that it, you know, reduces the liabilities that you carry.
MS. MURPHY: Right.
CHIEF KING: We are working real hard to get that number down, sir, and we're making some big dents in it. Just the overtime alone, we have reduced -- let's see. We reduced 962 hours alone from last year to this year, so we're making some big dents on reducing our overtime. It clearly would --
You know, we're just trying to be prudent about how we, you know, approach that to

Page 73

1 make sure that there's no essential services --
2 you know, and the community is not affected.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I understand.
4 I'm looking for any ideas as far as, like you
5 said, the big number is the 70 percent that we
6 spend on people.
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Unfortunately,
8 the only way to adjust that is doing furloughs
9 or doing layoffs because you can't go to a 4/10
10 because you're still -- you can't go to a 10-
11 hour 4-day workweek because you're still doing
12 your 40 hours.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, that would
14 save in terms of -- I don't know what it costs
15 to --
16 CLERK BLACKMON: Utilities.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- keep the
18 lights on.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I would say --
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But the other
21 thing, I mean other towns have cut 10 percent
22 off people's salaries.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Chamblee's
24 public works does 4/10.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But that doesn't

Page 74

1 cut your payroll costs.
2 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No, but I
3 don't know. They must have figured it was cost
4 saving somehow. I don't know.
5 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry. What
6 was that?
7 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Chamblee's
8 public works does 4/10's. They're off on
9 Wednesdays.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. Exactly.
11 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, there
12 would definitely be a cost savings to the
13 employee because there would be less expenses as
14 far as gasoline and --
15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Travel.
16 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: -- yeah,
17 travel and whatever.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The library is
19 open six days a week?
20 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Uh-huh. We
21 just went to six days.
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: You know --
23 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: We may have to
24 go back.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- I think we

Page 75

1 might have to look back, look at putting it back
2 on a five-day, you know, a Tuesday/Wednesday/
3 Thursday closure.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: That was a
5 question that I had. I was parked at the
6 library one night just trying to figure out on
7 the -- thinking about the tax equity study.
8 I think that somewhere in our property
9 taxes that we are paying for Dekalb County
10 libraries and the only thing that they furnish
11 us are the books.
12 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: We talked about
13 this before, yes.
14 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And I know
15 when we talk about tax equity, that we are the
16 only municipality in the county that has this
17 type of thing. But I don't necessarily --
18 Again, I think just like Carol and the
19 arena, that we are supplying more to the
20 unincorporated area than we are to our
21 municipality. And I don't know. I mean I can't
22 see the County giving us any money, especially
23 right now, but that's just another thing that --
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: We're going to
25 send the County a bill.

Page 76

1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: A bill for
2 the library.
3 But I mean --
4 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Well, we're
5 getting more because one of the libraries over
6 here just closed, so we're getting all of their
7 patrons now.
8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And they're
9 building a new one in Tucker, which hopefully
10 will take -- you know, I don't know if that will
11 take some of Embry Hills traffic or not.
12 But it was just something I was
13 thinking about, that we incur that and they just
14 basically furnish the media on the inside.
15 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Who owns that
16 library?
17 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: We do.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: We do.
19 MS. MURPHY: We own the building.
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Do we have to be
21 associated with the County?
22 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think
23 there's some type -- that's a Susan-Fraysse
24 question, I'm sure --
25 MS. MURPHY: There's some benefit.

Page 77

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- the librarian.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we've got Lynn Watanabe.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: There's some kind of agreement. We have an agreement with them.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I think the biggest issue is the books, because of inter- --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- of transfers and, you know, you --
MS. MURPHY: And now it's not just books. It's also computers and --
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Right; exactly.
MS. MURPHY: -- internet access.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right; right.
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: The computers and everything.
MS. MURPHY: There's other benefits.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Court's five days a week?
CLERK BLACKMON: Uh-huh.
MS. MURPHY: Yes.

Page 78

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: When are they in session? Tuesdays and Thurs- --
MAYOR JENKINS: Tuesday and Thursday.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And the rest of the week they're doing paperwork and catch-up and filing and -- and court's only in session in the afternoons?
CLERK BLACKMON: Isn't it 1:00 to --
MS. MURPHY: Yeah. It takes the morning to get ready, I think --
CLERK BLACKMON: Right.
MS. MURPHY: -- and then court's in the afternoon.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: And so they seem pretty well caught up, then, because they're always over here.
CLERK BLACKMON: Yeah. They're running good.
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: And they have already cut back because they lost one employee and didn't replace.
CLERK BLACKMON: Corally is not planning on replacing that person.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right. And if they have any extra time, I mean you can

Page 79

certainly use it over here, but --
MS. MURPHY: Well, they have --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- without going into overtime.
MS. MURPHY: They have projects up there, too, that they're working on.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we may have to look at projects.
MS. MURPHY: Okay.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I mean any initiatives that aren't on a day-to-day operation --
MS. MURPHY: But I think they're --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- I mean we need to look very closely.
MS. MURPHY: -- handled within their 40-hour week, I think.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And Records, you guys, five days a week?
MAYOR JENKINS: I don't know.
John?
CHIEF KING: Yes.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Could Records go to four days?
CHIEF KING: I'm not sure. The only

Page 80

challenge we have there is when -- I've got to check, sir, because the only question I would have is, you know, getting the request or subpoenas from the courts, from other courts, and Open Records requests. So I'll have to ask, sir. I'll have to check with probably the City Attorney.
MS. MURPHY: We could start charging Councilpeople for their Open Records requests.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Fine by me.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I think they should pay.
MAYOR JENKINS: They don't pay?
MS. MURPHY: They haven't been paying. We've talked about it before, and it's been some confusion across some of the departments and where --
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I think if citizens --
MS. MURPHY: -- by law, we can charge.
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: -- have to pay, we should have to pay.
MS. MURPHY: And then in City Hall, we haven't charged at all. But I know there's a line, too, where there's information where the

Page 81

1 Councilperson just needs it; it's not
2 necessarily an Open Records request. So there's
3 some kind of policy that we need on that, too.
4 CLERK BLACKMON: I was going to bring
5 that up in the next meeting.
6 CHIEF KING: I've been charging.
7 MS. MURPHY: Well, some departments
8 have been charging.
9 CHIEF KING: I didn't know. I
10 apologize if that was policy. I --
11 MS. MURPHY: I don't think it's a
12 written policy.
13 CLERK BLACKMON: It's been a back-and-
14 forth. We've never come to a conclusion since
15 I've been here.
16 CHIEF KING: I was just relying on the
17 State law.
18 MS. MURPHY: Well, that's one of the
19 things we need to --
20 CLERK BLACKMON: I will bring it up. I
21 have some suggestions.
22 - - -
23 (Councilperson Fleming arrives.)
24 - - -
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, I actually

Page 82

1 concur with Mr. Roche. I think that the
2 department heads need to, you know, get together
3 with the Mayor and Ms. Murphy and kind of drill
4 down and come up with kind of a best, you know,
5 cost savings on items that are nonpayroll-
6 specific but then some recommendations on, you
7 know, how we can go and, you know, address that
8 component. Because this is going to continue
9 for the next fiscal year as well and so there's
10 going to need to be -- you know, because the
11 revenues just aren't going to magically
12 reappear. So I do concur with you, sir.
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I think it would
14 be better use of our time, too, if we could take
15 a week or two to do this and come back.
16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah, I would
17 absolutely, wholeheartedly agree.
18 MAYOR JENKINS: Do we want to discuss
19 what we just talked about, maybe five days
20 versus six on some of the departments like the
21 library?
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, yeah, and
23 just start with the library, maybe a four-day
24 workweeks other places. I don't know.
25 MS. MURPHY: And the library --

Page 83

1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You don't want me
2 involved with that. I'll rip everything apart,
3 you know. That's what I do.
4 MS. MURPHY: Those part-time people at
5 the library that we don't have all the
6 additional benefits on, they help enable the
7 library to stay open those days. And it's my
8 understanding that because we increased the
9 traffic so much at the library, that it's been
10 beneficial to staying open those extra days. So
11 that's one of the things that we could talk to
12 Lynn about and see if there would be a lot of
13 savings there.
14 MAYOR JENKINS: I think there would.
15 They do shift days on employees.
16 MS. MURPHY: Yes, they do. And they
17 use the part-time help to stay open.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I don't
19 mean any disrespect to any department heads or
20 any employees or whatever, but what I find is
21 everybody can always justify everything they're
22 doing and they will always tell you how --
23 You know, there's an old saying in
24 Washington if they cut $5 off the U.S. Parks and
25 Recreation budget, that the first thing they

Page 84

1 would do is turn off the elevator in the
2 Washington Monument.
3 And any time you go to do this, if you
4 don't show up with a chain saw and be ready to
5 use it, people will always find reasons and
6 always find justifications why they have to have
7 this money, they have to have these people,
8 whatever, and it just takes a very, very firm
9 hand unfortunately.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's, you know,
11 reality to all the department heads is we're
12 facing an $800,000 revenue shortfall --
13 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and this is --
15 we're all in this boat together, so you guys
16 paddle as fast as you can and we'll do what we
17 can to help steer the boat.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But I would
19 rather do salary cuts or furloughs or anything
20 before I have to lay off anybody.
21 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.
22 MS. MURPHY: We can get with the
23 department heads and get back with more --
24 something to present that's balanced and then
25 ask for the formal approval from the Council on

Page 85

1 the hiring freeze and offering the early
2 retirement or some kind of package for retiring.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, those we
4 could make motions on now, I think, couldn't we?
5 MS. MURPHY: On that part, you could.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So we were going
7 to move the 1.25 down to 250,000. Okay?
8 MS. MURPHY: Right.
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'd like to make
10 a motion that we change the 1.25 million dollars
11 out of surplus to $250,000.
12 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Why don't you
13 let Ms. Fleming know what's going on, Bob,
14 before we make a motion?
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If I understand
16 you correctly, I do not have my department head
17 here for her to even be aware of this drastic
18 cut that's happening to her department.
19 MS. MURPHY: That's true, because she's
20 working, I believe --
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That is
22 correct.
23 MS. MURPHY: -- in her department.
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: She is working.
25 And so I would ask that you not make the motion

Page 86

1 at this time without the department manager
2 being present.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. Okay.
4 MAYOR JENKINS: Can we do that, Bob,
5 after we talk to --
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's fine.
7 MAYOR JENKINS: -- our department
8 heads?
9 MS. MURPHY: Yeah.
10 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's fine.
11 We're basically saying our revenues are
12 going to be about $800,000 less. So no matter
13 what we do, we have to find that $800,000.
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Exactly. I
15 understand. I would just like to give
16 Ms. Stevens an opportunity to be aware of what
17 we need and also for her to give us some input,
18 please.
19 MAYOR JENKINS: Yeah. We're going to
20 talk to all the departments.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So I make a
22 motion that we would basically turn this back
23 over to the department heads and then reconvene
24 in what? a week? two weeks?
25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Two weeks?

Page 87

1 MAYOR JENKINS: Two weeks?
2 MS. MURPHY: And the hiring freeze, and
3 we can consider talking to the employees about
4 early retirement?
5 MAYOR JENKINS: We don't have to make a
6 motion on a hiring freeze.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Do we need a
8 motion for those too? I don't know.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I don't think so
10 at this time. I think that's kind of a
11 directive that --
12 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: The department
13 head is --
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- is coming out.
15 MAYOR JENKINS: Right.
16 Two weeks; is that right?
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah. The 17th
18 is a Council meeting so --
19 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And the 23rd
20 is a meeting.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: What about the
22 18th, then?
23 CLERK BLACKMON: The 17th is a Tuesday.
24 We don't have anything else the rest of that
25 week. We can leave the 18th and 19th of that

Page 88

1 week.
2 Are you back in town then?
3 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, what
4 about you with the audit? When would you be
5 comfortable?
6 MS. MURPHY: I'm not sure. I know the
7 auditor's going to be here the rest of this week
8 and I don't know if part of next week, and the
9 Clerks Conference is this week that you're
10 talking about, Rhonda, the --
11 CLERK BLACKMON: I think it ends on
12 that Monday or Tuesday.
13 MS. MURPHY: It starts on Monday and
14 ends on Wednesday.
15 But we can get back with the Council
16 after we get some input from the department
17 heads and get the meeting set up as quick as
18 possible.
19 MAYOR JENKINS: We can set it up within
20 two weeks.
21 MS. MURPHY: Oh, yes.
22 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You want to say
23 the 18th? Because that way, you guys wouldn't
24 have to come back and go --
25 MAYOR JENKINS: We had something on the

Page 89

18th. I can't put it in mind right now. We got something on the 18th.

Oh, no, no. That's something I got during the day.

That's on a Thursday, isn't it?

CLERK BLACKMON: Thursday is the 19th, I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. It'll be Wednesday. Can you pencil it in for the 18th?

MAYOR JENKINS: Wednesday. Okay.

MS. MURPHY: And it's not like the department heads are going to go out and spend any more money than they're spending. So we've got time --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Right.

MS. MURPHY: -- to adjust, because I imagine we'll be adjusting the budget again before the end of the year.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And you're confident that our workman's comp deductible is a thousand?

MS. MURPHY: I'll find out for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Okay.

MS. MURPHY: I'll call them tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Just because

Page 90

I know Suwanee's is 10,000, could you ask them if it would save us money if we increased that to 10,000 --

MS. MURPHY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- just to see? I don't have my numbers with me. Thank you for getting this.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And just as an FYI, I did get Decatur's workman's comp, and they're 225,000. There are 200 full-time employees and a fire department. Now, they're also self-insured, so I don't know how that impacts there and I don't know what their experience modification rate is. But when I got that number from them, I was frustrated that we were 75,000 more.

MS. MURPHY: Well, if we could classify most of our employees as clerical, we could save a lot more money, too.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: They're clerical guys. Just because they have a badge number --

MS. MURPHY: We've been very careful about trying to pick everybody out that is clerical or a part of their job is clerical like records and things.

Page 91

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: There you go. And give everybody guns. That way, they can't tell the difference; right?

CHIEF KING: There you go, sir.

MAYOR JENKINS: All right. We're set for the 18th; is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Six?

MAYOR JENKINS: What time, six o'clock?

CLERK BLACKMON: Not necessarily.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: We're going to check with the department heads.

CLERK BLACKMON: I'll email.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, we'll pencil it in and see what happens.

MAYOR JENKINS: That might work, but we'll let you know.

Six o'clock okay whatever day?

Did you want to make any kind of motion, Bob?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Just to adjourn, I guess, but that's Mr. Spangler's --

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I'll second that.

MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll.

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: I think Mr.

Page 92

Roche just did the job.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. Since Mr. Anderson showed up, I think we should adjourn.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.

CLERK BLACKMON: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.

MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.

- - -

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. the same day.)

-o0o-

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 E OF GEORGIA]
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17
18
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Theresa Bretch, CCR
Permit No. B-755
20
21 [SEAL]
22
23
24
25

$

$10,000 (1)
28:1
$134,000 (1)
14:2
$15,000 (1)
54:16
$20,000 (1)
26:7
$200,000 (1)
5:2
$22,000 (1)
70:24
$25,000 (1)
23:15
$250,000 (3)
41:16;43:23;85:11
$300,000 (1)
36:11
$32,000 (1)
20:23
$35,000 (1)
25:5
$3720 (1)
29:22
$43,000 (1)
51:15
$5 (9)
8:17;9:19,21;
11:12,13,24;12:15,
16;83:24
$5,000 (1)
51:19
$50 (1)
48:22
$50,000 (1)
11:11
$50.47 (1)
48:24
$51 (1)
49:1
$650 (1)
8:21
$70,013.18 (1)
70:6
$73,000 (1)
57:25
$784,000 (1)
5:15
$785,000 (1)
5:15
$794,000 (1)
7:10
$794,100 (1)
5:16
$800,000 (9)
5:13;7:7;34:11,17,
18,22;84:12;86:12,
13

0

07 (1)
54:14

1

1.2 (2)
36:19;37:2
1.25 (5)
41:10;43:23;
60:10;85:7,10
1.5 (1)
57:24
1:00 (1)
78:8
10 (2)
33:24;73:21
10- (1)
73:10
10,000 (3)
14:17;90:1,3
118 (1)
72:1
120 (1)
44:14
1200 (1)
40:1
15 (1)
62:4
17th (3)
27:10;87:17,23
18 (1)
26:3
18th (7)
87:22,25;88:23;
89:1,2,9;91:6
19th (2)
87:25;89:6
1st (1)
23:14

2

2 (3)
9:21;11:23;57:11
2.7 (1)
16:19
2.8 (2)
19:19,21
20 (1)
33:25
20/20 (1)
18:7
200 (1)
90:10
2008 (1)
18:24
2009 (2)
4:4;19:8
225,000 (1)
90:10
23rd (1)
87:19
250,000 (5)
37:25;38:9;45:21,
23;85:7

3

3.2 (1)
16:18
36 (2)
29:25;30:1

4

4 (1)
30:1
4/10 (2)
73:9,24
4/10's (1)
74:8
40 (2)
58:1;73:12
40-hour (1)
79:17
4600 (1)
58:8
48 (1)
20:3
4-day (1)
73:11

5

50 (2)
20:3;58:1
50,000 (1)
56:10
500 (2)
13:25;43:9
5000 (2)
58:9,10

7

70 (2)
71:17;73:5
75,000 (1)
90:16
78 (1)
62:16

8

8 (1)
50:13
80 (1)
14:13

9

90 (1)
14:13
911 (3)
58:23;59:9,15
962 (1)
72:20

A

able (5)
7:23;62:23;64:21;
66:17;67:19
absolute (1)
39:22
absolutely (1)
82:17
access (1)
77:17
account (1)
36:25
accounting (2)
65:11,21
accrual (1)
16:5
accruing (1)
65:13
ace (1)
14:18
across (2)
68:15;80:16
actual (3)
17:16;20:22;67:23
actually (13)
5:1;16:1;17:3,21;
24:2;39:22;40:10;
44:8;46:12;52:20;
58:16;66:18;81:25
actuals (1)
19:11
ad (1)
11:25
add (5)
6:17,21,24;26:8;
33:25
added (1)
13:22
adding (1)
67:3
addition (2)
19:15;28:3
additional (2)
6:4;83:6
address (10)
6:8;49:22;58:8,9,
24;59:7,12,17;60:5;
82:7
addresses (1)
58:17
adjourn (1)
91:20
adjust (4)
27:11;44:7;73:8;
89:16
adjusted (1)
33:13
adjusting (1)
89:17
adjustment (1)
6:8
adjustments (2)
38:25;49:19
admin (1)
11:25
Advanced (2)
48:13,24
advantage (1)
31:16
advertised (1)
60:22
advertising (3)
26:9,10;61:12
advocate (1)
49:5
affect (1)
54:20
affected (1)
73:2
afternoon (1)
78:13
afternoons (1)
78:7
again (7)
32:4;35:11;39:2;
51:7;53:4;75:18;
89:17
against (2)
35:7;47:17
age (2)
54:9,15
agencies (1)
29:16
agenda (1)
27:9
aggressive (1)
16:13
ago (2)
53:15;61:2
agree (4)
34:24;35:3;41:4;
82:17
agreed (1)
44:3
agreement (4)
44:24;63:3;77:6,6
ahead (3)
10:1;42:21;45:17
Alexander (64)
3:5,6;6:10;9:23;
24:21;25:10;28:8,18,
21;29:12,20,25;
32:22;33:1,8,11;
35:18;37:5,11;38:18;
43:24;44:15,19;46:6;
49:21;50:5;52:4;
54:5,22;55:4,23;
56:3,6;57:10;58:6,
12,18,22;59:14,18,
24;60:13;64:17;

68:7;73:23;74:2,7;75:4,14;76:1,8,17,22;77:1,10,15,19;86:25;87:19;88:3;89:19,23,25;90:5
allocated (2) 36:4;45:2
almost (2) 71:2,5
alone (3) 48:2;72:19,21
along (3) 18:17;38:21;43:1
always (10) 18:7;40:2,5,5;60:14;78:16;83:21,22;84:5,6
amongst (1) 64:8
amount (5) 15:20,22;43:23;49:25;67:20
announced (1) 17:22
anticipated (1) 16:25
anticipating (1) 21:2
anticipation (1) 7:11
apart (1) 83:2
apologize (4) 15:17;70:2,2;81:10
apparently (1) 61:16
application (1) 9:19
applies (1) 29:17
appreciate (1) 18:5
approach (1) 72:25
approval (1) 84:25
approved (3) 17:18;56:8,10
April (2) 16:25;51:7
area (4) 5:23;51:22;65:24;75:20
areas (6) 6:6,7;26:14,16;44:23;47:21
arena (1) 75:19
around (8) 3:24;5:20;27:15;35:11,16;36:2;57:9;67:7
arrest (1) 30:14
arresting (1) 30:15
arrives (1) 81:23
aside (1) 45:5
assess (1) 17:3
assessed (1) 19:22
assessment (3) 17:10;19:9;34:3
assessor's (2) 57:13;58:4
associated (1) 76:21
assuming (1) 16:4
Atlanta (1) 25:15
attach (1) 60:3
Attorney (1) 80:7
audit (2) 69:3;88:4
auditor's (1) 88:7
August (1) 43:19
August/September (1) 21:9
automatic (1) 53:25
automatically (5) 53:20;65:11,13;67:4,10
Autumn (1) 36:12
avoid (1) 35:21
aware (2) 85:17;86:16
away (5) 15:6;25:1;37:13;56:19;58:3

B

back (25) 17:23;19:24;22:1;27:10;29:17;38:12,14;39:1;43:22;44:7;45:2;46:15;50:8;56:5;62:6;74:24;75:1,1;78:20;82:15;84:23;86:22;88:2,15,24
back-and- (1) 81:13
bad (2) 22:5,6
badge (1) 90:21
bailout (1) 69:24
Bakery (1) 25:1
balance (5) 30:10;42:12;46:12,14;70:23
balanced (3) 41:2;46:22;84:24
bank (9) 16:1;37:7;44:2;45:25;46:13,15;59:2;64:15;69:20
banking (1) 64:14
banks (2) 22:21;69:21
barely (1) 27:5
based (5) 8:17;9:17;11:14;54:9,10
basically (6) 34:11;37:16;62:24;76:14;86:11,22
Bates (146) 3:7,8;7:21;8:3,7,15;9:12,15;10:13,16,18,24;11:4,12,15,18,21;12:2,16,19,22;13:7,12;15:15,25;16:3,7,10,16;18:5,9,13,23;19:2,7,18,21;20:1,19;21:1,7,15;22:22,25;23:5,23;24:6,16;25:14,24;26:11,18;27:3,15,16;28:2,25;29:5,9;30:2,12;36:9,15,23;43:8,11,16,20;47:23,25;48:4,7,11,16,19,23;49:1,12,16;50:12,17,20,23;51:2,9;52:7,11,14,18,24;53:16,24;55:3,8,12,18;56:15,19;57:2,6,23;61:20,23;62:2,7,12,17;63:15;64:9,23;65:2;66:1,5,8;70:1,8,11,17,22;71:16;73:7,19,25;74:15,18,22,25;75:24;76:18;77:8,11,18,22;78:1,4;79:18;80:10;81:25;82:16;84:10,14;87:9,14,17;90:8;91:22
beat (1) 32:10
become (1) 53:21
befuddled (1) 19:9
beginning (4) 14:2;22:3;28:12;70:5
beneficial (1) 83:10
benefit (2) 64:2;76:25
benefits (3) 71:14;77:21;83:6
beside (1) 4:12
best (1) 82:4
better (8) 5:4;23:16;34:5;39:6,8;63:25;71:3;82:14
beyond (1) 35:15
bids (4) 31:14;32:3;53:1,11
big (8) 14:12;29:10;34:6;63:5;65:20;72:19,22;73:5
biggest (4) 4:25;52:12;63:2;77:9
bill (8) 16:14;17:14;48:10;49:2,6;51:7;75:25;76:1
billed (4) 15:23;16:6;48:13;51:6
bills (1) 47:7
Biscuits (1) 31:23
bit (11) 3:23;4:15;6:17;30:21;44:5;46:7;64:13,16,20;69:22;71:16
BLACKMON (80) 3:4,7,9,13,15;8:10,17,24;9:5,17;10:6,15,17,21,25;11:9,13,17,20,24;12:3,7,11,17,21,24;13:2,5,8,13,17,20,23;14:1,5;22:24;23:2,6,9;24:9,12,18,23;25:13,16,20;27:19;28:11,17;53:10;58:10,14,20;59:20,25;61:6;62:5,9,11;63:17,19;68:18;69:2,5,9,15;73:16;77:24;78:8,11,17,22;81:4,13,20;87:23;88:11;89:6;91:9,12
blank (1) 9:25
block (1) 57:14
board (1) 68:15
boat (2) 84:15,17
Bob (4) 45:17;85:13;86:4;91:19
bonding (2) 33:3,6
bonds (2) 33:14,23
books (4) 36:11;75:11;77:9,14
both (4) 25:3;26:13,16;56:24
bought (1) 52:8
BrandsMart (2) 18:16;58:24
BrandsMart's (1) 58:8
bring (7) 7:14;40:17;41:5;51:16;66:18;81:4,20
bringing (1) 32:20
brought (2) 51:18;70:3
bucks (2) 13:25;40:1
budget (21) 3:19;7:8;16:18,21;17:19;20:12;21:10;30:17;34:10;40:23;41:1,2;43:15;46:8,12,22;51:25;70:5;71:14;83:25;89:17
budgeted (3) 20:22;21:21;34:12
Building (17) 4:25;6:16;7:24;9:5;10:9,19;14:6;21:11,20;24:7;34:7;57:15,24;60:21,24;76:9,19
buildings (2) 17:7;22:8
building's (1) 23:21
buildout (1) 25:6
built (1) 18:15
bulk (1) 71:15

bumped (2)
20:23;23:23
business (4)
21:2,5;22:11;24:7
Business/Occupational (1)
5:1
businesses (1)
22:12
buy (1)
47:1

C

Calcaterra's (1)
27:6
Call (5)
3:3;30:13;58:23;
89:24;91:24
called (2)
52:15,16
came (4)
5:14;16:23;24:24;
31:2
Camera (1)
32:25
can (58)
4:1;5:20;9:10;
11:9;13:22;22:4;
24:4;26:9;27:10;
30:11,12;34:15;
35:21,23,24;38:2,13;
39:4,20;40:17;41:5,
20;42:7;43:16,22;
44:24;49:25;51:23;
53:23;57:18;59:16;
60:6;62:22,22;63:2,
23,24;68:2;69:10,13;
70:8;71:4,4,13;72:8;
78:25;80:20;82:7;
83:21;84:16,17,22;
86:4;87:3,25;88:15,
19;89:9
cap (2)
49:23,25
capable (1)
66:25
capital (3)
47:2,5,6
capped (1)
50:13
care (1)
39:11
careful (2)
49:20;90:22
cares (1)
62:24
Carol (3)
38:24;52:25;75:18
carry (1)
72:15
cases (1)
30:23
catch-up (1)
78:5
catering (2)
30:25;31:2
caught (1)
78:15
cell (1)
4:19
center (1)
59:9
certain (1)
68:12
certainly (1)
79:1
certified (1)
62:13
chain (1)
84:4
chairs (1)
7:4
challenge (1)
80:1
Chamblee (2)
54:22;57:12
Chamblee's (2)
73:23;74:7
chances (1)
57:1
change (6)
26:4;32:14;43:22;
55:16;60:10;85:10
changes (2)
17:13;32:21
changing (1)
26:24
Channel (1)
57:11
charge (3)
13:1,16;80:20
charged (1)
80:24
charging (3)
80:8;81:6,8
chart (1)
54:13
Charter (1)
55:16
cheaper (1)
63:24
check (8)
28:14;29:1,8;
30:25;44:17;80:2,6;
91:11
checked (2)
5:2;57:16
checks (3)
67:11;68:4,19
CHIEF (31)
28:4,6;30:12,15;
31:3,7,9,12;32:3,9,
17;33:3,10,13;43:4,
10;59:1,15;62:12,14,
19;63:9;65:24;72:13,
17;79:22,25;81:6,9,
16;91:4
choice (1)
41:23
chunk (1)
14:12
Chupp's (1)
28:10
CI (1)
50:5
cities (1)
47:1
citizen (2)
54:11,24
citizens (9)
39:10;40:16;
47:19;49:10;53:18;
54:3,8,24;80:19
City (14)
3:24;6:2,5,18;
21:18;23:24;26:12,
14;42:5;54:25;55:6;
56:23;80:6,23
class (1)
69:8
classify (1)
90:17
clearing (1)
30:21
clearly (1)
72:23
clerical (4)
90:18,20,24,24
CLERK (81)
3:4,7,9,13,15;8:10,
17,24;9:5,17;10:6,
15,17,21,25;11:9,13,
17,20,24;12:3,7,11,
17,21,24;13:2,5,8,13,
17,20,23;14:1,5;
22:24;23:2,6,9;24:9,
12,18,23;25:13,16,
20;27:4,19;28:11,17;
53:10;58:10,14,20;
59:20,25;61:6;62:5,
9,11;63:17,19;68:18;
69:2,5,9,15;73:16;
77:24;78:8,11,17,22;
81:4,13,20;87:23;
88:11;89:6;91:9,12
Clerks (1)
88:9
close (2)
5:13;50:16
closed (1)
76:6
closely (1)
79:15
closing (2)
17:5;20:24
closure (1)
75:3
Clover (1)
57:16
COBRA (1)
30:6
collection (4)
16:4,8,12;49:7
combat (1)
56:21
comfortable (3)
22:2;64:19;88:5
coming (9)
21:2;22:8;28:1;
29:19;32:16;33:18;
36:24;37:17;87:14
commercial (1)
56:24
community (1)
73:2
comp (6)
4:4;65:14;72:6,8;
89:20;90:9
company (7)
51:14;52:12,19;
53:12;59:12,17;68:8
compared (1)
27:14
completed (2)
23:9;36:7
completing (1)
23:10
complex (1)
31:4
component (1)
82:8
computers (2)
77:14,19
con- (1)
9:15
concern (3)
4:9;33:22;63:2
concerned (2)
9:7;20:14
conclusion (2)
41:6;81:14
concrete (1)
44:16
concur (2)
82:1,12
condos (1)
57:14
Conference (1)
88:9
confident (1)
89:20
confusion (1)
80:16
Congress (1)
69:24
consider (2)
42:19;87:3
construction (9)
8:18;9:18;11:16;
12:10,23;18:24;19:6;
25:6,23
continue (3)
35:25;55:5;82:8
contract (3)
10:7,23;32:10
contracted (1)
52:20
contractor (2)
10:11;59:21
contractually (1)
51:13
convenient (1)
31:18
conversation (1)
53:14
converting (1)
47:6
convoluted (1)
50:3
copy (1)
54:13
Corally (1)
78:22
corrected (1)
56:12
correctly (2)
21:1;85:16
cost (15)
8:18;9:18;11:7,11,
18;12:14,20;40:6;
42:17;51:22;64:5,6;
74:3,12;82:5
costs (7)
27:6;63:25,25;
67:13,20;73:14;74:1
Council (8)
40:17;42:16;
47:13,22;71:10;
84:25;87:18;88:15
Councilmember (409)
3:4,6,7,8,9,11,12,
13,14,15,17;5:11,14,
17;6:10,20;7:2,9,16,
18,21;8:3,7,15;9:9,
12,13,15,23;10:13,
16,18,24;11:2,4,6,12,
15,18,21,22;12:2,5,8,
16,19,22,25;13:3,7,
12,15,18,21,24;14:3,
10,11,16;15:10,15,
25;16:3,7,10,16;
17:20;18:5,9,13,21,
23;19:2,7,18,21;
20:1,17,19,25;21:7,
13,15,19,23;22:13,
17,22,25;23:4,5,7,18,
23;24:4,6,16,21;
25:10,14,24;26:11,
18;27:3,13,16,18;
28:2,8,18,21,25;29:5,
9,12,20,25;30:2,8,12,
24;31:6;32:1,6,12,
22;33:1,8,11,21;
34:9,14,21;35:1,5,13,
18,20;36:1,9,15,23;

37:1,5,10,11,15,19,23;38:1,10,15,18;39:3,7,14,19;40:4,22,25;41:8,13,19,23;42:2,11,25;43:8,11,16,20,21,24;44:9,13,15,18,19;45:1,7,12,19;46:6,17,21;47:4,9,23,25;48:4,7,9,11,15,16,19,23;49:1,12,15,16,21;50:4,5,12,17,20,23;51:2,9;52:4,7,8,11,14,17,18,22,24;53:2,6,16,17,24;54:2,5,18,22;55:3,4,8,11,12,18,23;56:3,6,15,19,25;57:2,5,6,8,10,23;58:6,12,18,22;59:14,18,24;60:9,13,15,24;61:1,4,8,11,14,20,21,23;62:2,7,12,17;63:15,21;64:9,17,23;65:2;66:1,5,8,12,16,21,23;67:1,6,13,23;68:1,6,7,10,21;69:12,19,23;70:1,8,11,17,22;71:2,9,16,19,22;72:7;73:3,7,13,17,19,20,23,25;74:2,5,7,10,11,15,16,18,20,22,23,25;75:4,12,14,24;76:1,4,8,15,17,18,20,22;77:1,3,5,8,10,11,15,18,19,22;78:1,4,14,19,24;79:3,7,10,14,18,23;80:10,11,18,21;81:25;82:13,16,22;83:1,18;84:10,13,14,18;85:3,6,9,12,15,21,24;86:3,6,10,14,21,25;87:7,9,12,14,17,19,21;88:3,22;89:8,15,19,23,25;90:5,8,20;91:1,7,10,13,20,22,25
Councilpeople (1)
80:9
Councilperson (2)
81:1,23
count (3)
9:11;62:5;68:4
counts (1)
43:10
County (17)
15:23;16:12;19:25;20:4;54:7;56:9,11;57:20;59:3,4,8;60:2;75:9,16,22,25;76:21
County's (2)
16:14;58:4
couple (9)
9:14;24:23;32:18;33:16;42:23;58:14,21;60:19;61:2
course (5)
5:19,20,22;22:10;34:16
Court (2)
32:15;63:15
courts (3)
28:7;80:4,4
Court's (3)
77:22;78:6,12
cover (5)
6:12,16,18;27:7;52:9
covered (1)
62:25
covering (2)
27:5,5
cracked (1)
57:17
Creek (1)
30:13
crisis (1)
43:7
cross (3)
37:20,21;38:2
curious (1)
16:22
current (1)
53:3
cut (9)
7:8;41:25;70:19,24;73:21;74:1;78:20;83:24;85:18
cuts (1)
84:19
cutting (1)
51:21

D

dated (1)
17:22
day (4)
15:22;22:19;89:4;91:17
days (10)
44:14;74:19,21;77:22;79:19,24;82:19;83:7,10,15
day-to-day (1)
79:11
Decatur's (1)
90:9
decide (4)
49:20;51:25;52:1;61:9
decided (1)
41:9
deck (1)
7:4
deductible (1)
89:20
definitely (1)
74:12
Dekalb (7)
54:7;58:3,15;59:3,4,8;75:9
deliver (2)
31:17;32:11
delivering (1)
31:15
dem- (1)
11:10
demo (22)
7:25;8:8,8,12;9:3,4,8,9;10:2,7,22,23;11:7,11;12:3,13,14,22;13:10;25:17,19,22
demolition (1)
14:4
demos (1)
8:2
dents (2)
72:19,22
department (28)
4:1,5,21;6:5,9,18;26:10;27:24;29:17;42:5;61:10;63:22;71:6;82:2;83:19;84:11,23;85:16,18,23;86:1,7,23;87:12;88:16;89:12;90:11;91:11
departments (8)
64:8;68:12,13,16;80:16;81:7;82:20;86:20
depends (2)
8:24;9:18
deposit (3)
64:10,24;68:22
deposits (1)
67:11
desperately (1)
26:25
devalued (1)
56:23
developer (2)
10:3;23:24
development (1)
42:4
diet (1)
31:20
difference (1)
91:3
different (1)
60:4
digest (6)
16:25,25;17:2,12,17;58:1
dip (1)
39:23
direct (4)
64:10,24;67:11;68:22
directive (1)
87:11
disabled (1)
54:8
disadvantages (1)
49:8
discuss (1)
82:18
Disposal (1)
48:13
disrespect (1)
83:19
disturbance (1)
8:11
dollar (6)
19:19,22;20:3;43:22;47:7;67:20
dollars (16)
5:12;9:21;11:23;14:14,21;16:20,22;18:11;38:8,14;41:11,16;43:9;53:7;58:2;85:10
done (5)
21:16;26:1,19;36:13;49:10
Doraville (1)
69:25
doubt (1)
15:8
down (12)
5:8;10:9;15:19;17:5;18:2;32:2,7;50:3;71:6;72:18;82:4;85:7
downturn (1)
21:8
draft (1)
29:2
drastic (1)
85:17
drill (1)
82:3
drop (1)
56:5
dropped (1)
15:18
drove (2)
22:18;23:7
during (3)
8:23;68:3;89:4

E

earlier (2)
43:17;70:3
early (4)
17:16,17;85:1;87:4
earning (1)
39:25
easy (2)
27:17;70:9
ECO (1)
57:24
economic (2)
21:8;68:3
effective (1)
40:6
eight (3)
20:21,22;70:12
eighty (1)
20:23
either (2)
10:15;40:12
elapses (1)
13:14
Election (2)
43:11,13
electronic (3)
64:2;66:19;67:7
elevator (1)
84:1
Ellis (1)
59:25
else (11)
8:12;9:11;25:7,8,18;26:1;34:15;36:17;38:8;48:5;87:24
else's (1)
27:8
email (1)
91:12
Embry (1)
76:11
employee (4)
30:4;42:10;74:13;78:20
employees (11)
30:4;42:14;62:3;63:16;64:24;68:4;83:15,20;87:3;90:11,18
empty (1)
62:21
enable (2)
42:20;83:6
encumbered (1)
36:4
end (12)
6:1;16:14;20:16;23:12;24:11;28:14,15,24;36:7;38:25;64:15;89:18
ended (2)
59:10,11
ends (2)
88:11,14
enforcement (1)
32:17
English (2)
36:10,20
enough (2)

20:16;42:22
entail (1)
8:14
entire (1)
13:4
entities (1)
71:24
entries (4)
65:12,20,22;67:12
entry (2)
66:14;67:8
envelopes (1)
48:16
equipment (2)
17:6;18:3
equity (2)
75:7,15
escrow (1)
49:13
especially (4)
43:6;50:1;68:18;
75:22
essential (1)
73:1
estimate (8)
4:3;5:5;10:4;11:9,
11;17:12;18:10;
49:24
estimated (2)
7:15;16:21
estimating (1)
4:13
even (22)
5:3;10:6,21;12:1;
18:16,24;19:7;22:15;
27:4;33:25;40:18;
45:8;49:1;50:24,24;
51:2;58:13;60:6;
63:24;64:5;65:15;
85:17
eventually (1)
63:10
everybody (6)
48:4;57:23;64:4;
83:21;90:23;91:2
exactly (5)
31:8;64:6;74:10;
77:16;86:14
exceed (1)
49:25
excited (2)
55:19;56:16
exempt (3)
53:20,22,25
exemption (3)
54:7,23;55:20
expenditure (3)
70:13,25;72:11
expenditures (1)
70:20
expense (2)
52:2,12
expenses (5)
6:4,7;52:10;70:24;
74:13
experience (1)
90:14
explain (1)
5:21
explained (1)
15:16
extend (1)
54:23
extra (3)
64:12;78:25;83:10
eye (1)
57:18

F

facilitate (1)
66:8
facing (1)
84:12
fact (1)
72:14
factor (2)
48:14;49:3
fair (1)
34:3
far (5)
36:14;60:10;
65:18;73:4;74:14
Fargo (1)
64:18
fast (1)
84:16
fee (3)
13:11;26:24;47:14
feel (1)
20:7
fees (8)
8:16,20;11:25,25;
27:21;33:23;43:12;
50:8
few (4)
22:7;30:6;38:22;
42:18
fifty (10)
37:14,14,22;38:23;
55:21,22,23;56:4;
60:12,16
figure (4)
7:6;8:19;11:8;75:6
figured (1)
74:3
filing (1)
78:6
fill (4)
9:24;61:17,24;
63:11
filled (2)
22:14;63:6
filling (1)
62:19
final (2)
17:2,17
financial (1)
43:6
find (8)
7:8;38:24;45:23;
83:20;84:5,6;86:13;
89:22
finding (1)
70:17
fine (10)
11:5;20:5;33:8,11;
45:22;47:5,22;80:10;
86:6,10
Fines (2)
32:15;33:14
finish (1)
26:8
finished (3)
44:11,14,22
fire (1)
90:11
firm (2)
17:17;84:8
first (4)
3:23;45:13;70:3;
83:25
fiscal (11)
15:4,9;28:10;36:8;
41:19;44:12;50:25;
51:3,8,25;82:9
five (8)
23:16;62:10,11;
63:19,20;77:22;
79:19;82:19
five-day (1)
75:2
fix (4)
38:3,4;39:16;
60:14
fixing (2)
41:24,25
Fleming (8)
3:9;67:15;81:23;
85:13,15,21,24;
86:14
Flowers (2)
31:1,4
flows (1)
19:24
food (2)
30:17;31:17
Foods (2)
31:11,12
force (4)
32:16;59:12,16,21
forgot (1)
61:18
form (1)
47:7
formal (1)
84:25
forth (2)
12:4;81:14
forty- (1)
70:11
forty-eight (1)
20:21
forward (2)
24:3;26:20
found (1)
43:9
Four (3)
63:17,18;79:24
four-day (1)
82:23
franchise (2)
20:8,15
frankly (1)
39:21
free (3)
54:17;55:5,6
freeze (7)
43:1;60:17,21;
71:23;85:1;87:2,6
frustrated (1)
90:15
frustrating (1)
19:11
fuel (1)
50:2
full (3)
32:16;62:7,13
full-time (1)
90:10
fully (4)
40:9;43:2;61:9;
72:4
fund (4)
20:2;28:1;70:14,
20
furloughs (3)
71:25;73:8;84:19
furnish (2)
75:10;76:14
further (1)
18:17
future (2)
20:6;35:24
FYI (1)
90:9

G

gambling (1)
27:25
gasoline (1)
74:14
general (10)
6:7,25;17:5;20:9,
24;28:1;29:10,21;
70:14,19
generator (1)
51:17
gentleman (1)
61:19
Georgia (1)
20:15
gets (2)
19:14;65:3
GIS (4)
58:16,19;59:4,8
given (1)
28:19
giving (4)
31:13;55:6;71:25;
75:22
GM (8)
7:25;8:1,5;9:24;
10:1,20;14:20;17:23
goes (1)
67:10
good (21)
4:15;15:7;16:11;
22:3,12;25:6;30:10,
16,19,19;31:11,12,
13,25;34:19;41:7;
46:7;53:3;61:14;
72:9;78:18
government (2)
6:7,25
governmental (1)
71:24
grab (1)
60:19
grand (6)
31:7;33:24,25;
34:2,8;72:2
grandfathered (1)
55:2
Grandma's (1)
31:23
grant (2)
19:22;56:17
granted (2)
36:24;51:16
grass (1)
47:7
great (1)
31:16
grocery (1)
23:11
ground (1)
22:8
groundbreaking (1)
21:24
guess (9)
20:20;33:21;37:1;
38:7,14;57:10;61:17;
62:15;91:21
guns (1)
91:2
guys (6)
9:24;35:19;79:19;
84:15;88:23;90:21

H

half (11)
14:21;15:16;

16:20,21;18:10;
19:10;25:25;50:18;
51:3;64:25;65:1
Hall (5)
23:24;26:12,14;
42:5;80:23
Halpern (1)
38:4
hamstring (2)
42:4,5
hand (1)
84:9
handed (1)
4:2
handled (2)
36:13;79:16
hang (2)
20:8;34:15
happen (2)
15:5;59:23
happened (1)
60:23
happening (2)
57:1;85:18
happens (1)
91:14
Happy (1)
32:7
hard (3)
23:17;42:3;72:17
harder (1)
49:17
Hardy (2)
62:23;63:13
Haru (1)
23:2
hat (1)
34:15
head (2)
85:16;87:13
heads (10)
71:6;82:2;83:19;
84:11,23;86:8,23;
88:17;89:12;91:11
health (5)
30:5;42:17,22;
62:25;63:3
heard (2)
25:17,21
hearing (1)
34:1
hearings (1)
26:15
heck (1)
50:7
held (1)
40:13
help (5)
42:19;72:10;83:6,
17;84:17
helps (1)
72:13
hey (1)
57:19
higher (3)
21:5,6;33:19
Hills (1)
76:11
himself (1)
6:17
hindsight's (1)
18:7
hiring (7)
43:1;60:17,20;
71:23;85:1;87:2,6
hit (3)
21:8;23:17;58:1
hole (1)
14:19
homestead (2)
55:20;56:17
honest (4)
36:8;65:5;68:5;
71:12
hope (4)
34:16,20;35:22;
44:22
hoped (1)
34:21
hopefully (3)
22:4;52:9;76:9
hoping (2)
34:4;35:8
hotel/motel (1)
70:12
hour (2)
65:9;73:11
hourly (1)
68:8
hours (5)
64:4;65:17;67:24;
72:21;73:12
HTRG (1)
19:13
huge (2)
18:13;58:1
hundred (17)
14:9;16:4,8;20:21,
22;34:2,8,8;36:20;
37:4,6,12,14;38:23;
44:5;54:12;57:9

I

Ichiban (1)
23:2
ID (1)
60:4
idea (4)
8:15;53:3;64:23;
69:23
ideas (1)
73:4
identify (3)
59:7,16;70:8
imagine (1)
89:17
impact (3)
33:17;50:24;67:19
impacting (1)
21:9
impacts (1)
90:13
important (1)
39:12
impressed (1)
53:13
improvement (1)
47:5
improvements (1)
47:2
included (1)
37:12
includes (1)
32:23
Income (6)
4:18,19;7:5;54:10,
11,15
increase (5)
4:22;26:4,5,7;39:2
increased (6)
4:18,19,20;33:6;
83:8;90:2
increasing (3)
30:23;32:19;50:10
incur (1)
76:13
Industrial (1)
58:11
information (3)
8:5;17:12;80:25
initiatives (1)
79:11
inmates (1)
31:21
Inn (1)
25:15
input (2)
86:17;88:16
insane (1)
43:5
inside (1)
76:14
inspections (2)
27:6,21
Inspector (4)
6:3,16;60:21,25
Inspector's (2)
6:11,15
instead (1)
67:17
insurance (7)
28:8;29:3;30:5;
42:17,22;62:25;63:4
integrated (1)
66:3
inter- (1)
77:9
interested (1)
31:15
interior (1)
25:6
internet (1)
77:17
interrupt (1)
48:1
into (15)
3:20;23:23;30:25;
34:6;39:24;40:12,18,
19;51:13;54:25;
58:20;59:13;66:3;
67:5;79:4
invoice (1)
38:20
invoices (1)
38:19
involved (1)
83:2
iron (1)
25:25
issue (4)
30:17;60:7;61:16;
77:9
item (4)
16:18;29:10;
43:13;70:15
items (5)
4:6;5:20;21:6,10;
82:5

J

jail (1)
63:9
January (2)
23:14;51:6
Japanese (1)
22:25
JENKINS (74)
3:2,18;5:7,19;8:2,
4,22;9:4,6,20;14:15,
18,23;15:2,5,11,14;
20:7,12,18;22:7,15,
20;23:20;24:10,14,
20;25:19;34:4,18,24;
35:3,7,17,22;40:10;
41:4,12,18,22;42:1,
9;44:21;45:16,21;
46:3,10,20;56:1,5;
57:4;61:13,22;62:1;
63:7;78:3;79:20;
80:13;82:18;83:14;
84:21;86:4,7,19;
87:1,5,15;88:19,25;
89:10;91:5,8,15,24
Job (4)
4:20;31:25;58:5;
90:24
John (1)
79:21
John's (1)
30:13
journal (4)
65:12,20;67:8,12
July (2)
17:18;23:25
jump (1)
36:2
June (8)
16:19;17:17,23;
23:25;29:2,11;52:5,6
justifications (1)
84:6
justify (1)
83:21

K

keep (2)
57:18;73:17
keeping (1)
62:21
key (1)
67:1
kicks (1)
63:1
kind (10)
16:22;33:15;63:2;
77:6;81:3;82:3,4;
85:2;87:10;91:18
KING (26)
28:4,6;30:15;31:3,
9,12;32:3,9;33:3,10,
13;43:4,10;59:1,15;
62:14,19;63:9;72:13,
17;79:22,25;81:6,9,
16;91:4
knowing (2)
20:23;49:25
known (3)
10:16,18,19
knows (1)
57:24

L

ladies (1)
56:9
lady (4)
31:10,22;53:13;
58:16
land (1)
8:11
landscaping (1)
46:9
largest (2)
5:23;71:13
last (22)
4:7,8;16:19;19:17;
20:22;21:3,21;23:12;
26:3;27:4;28:10,22;
30:25;39:21,22;41:9;
43:19;53:14;61:15;
62:16;70:4;72:21
late (1)

17:17
later (1)
41:20
latitude (1)
62:22
latter (1)
51:3
law (2)
80:20;81:17
lawsuit (1)
14:19
lay (2)
40:3;84:20
laying (2)
39:17;41:24
layoffs (1)
73:9
leads (1)
20:20
learn (1)
15:21
least (8)
9:2;27:11;37:24;
42:13;45:14;47:10;
64:25;65:1
leave (5)
30:4;38:8,23;61:5;
87:25
leaving (1)
45:22
left (3)
6:15;45:18;71:21
legal (2)
6:6,24
less (7)
7:14;34:11,22;
36:20;54:16;74:13;
86:12
liabilities (1)
72:15
librarian (1)
77:2
libraries (2)
75:10;76:5
Library (11)
62:7;74:18;75:6;
76:2,16;82:21,23,25;
83:5,7,9
license (1)
21:6
Lieutenant (4)
62:20,23;63:8,13
Life (5)
31:11,12;32:23;
62:20;63:12
lights (1)
73:18
likely (1)
52:23
line (10)
16:17;21:10;
29:10;30:1,18;37:20;
43:12;71:7,7;80:25
lines (1)
59:5
listed (1)
43:12
listening (1)
15:17
little (15)
3:23;4:11;6:17;
8:4;20:14;23:16;
30:21;44:4;48:24;
64:13,16,20;69:22,
22;71:16
location (1)
18:16
long (10)
13:2;22:10;23:21;
38:5,5;40:6;42:25;
47:4;61:25;69:17
longer (2)
54:25;55:6
look (19)
25:3;30:11;39:4,5;
41:7;47:14;51:12;
54:19;55:9,15,24;
57:20;62:14;71:4,13;
75:1,1;79:8,15
looked (2)
17:11;54:6
looking (8)
23:19;29:23;35:8;
42:14;51:21;53:1;
58:7;73:4
LOPEZ (1)
31:11
lose (4)
20:10,11;43:4;
47:18
losing (4)
27:12;47:20,21;
48:1
lost (2)
20:9;78:20
lot (11)
21:2;27:22;31:14;
50:21;59:19;61:16;
65:7;68:3;71:20;
83:12;90:19
low (1)
27:22
Lowe (2)
62:20;63:8
lower (3)
32:25;44:4;49:18
lowered (4)
4:10,16,23;5:2
lowering (1)
55:24
Lynn (2)
77:4;83:12

M

magically (1)
82:11
main (3)
7:3;13:15;26:4
Mainly (2)
5:21;9:6
majority (1)
44:3
making (5)
41:6;65:11,20;
72:18,22
manage (1)
49:4
management (6)
51:14;52:12,19;
53:12;64:4;68:8
manager (1)
86:1
managing (3)
52:20,21,23
many (5)
8:23;62:3,8;63:15;
64:24
March (1)
20:18
Maria (1)
45:24
Mart (3)
18:22;23:11;24:2
Mart's (1)
22:9
matter (2)
69:2;86:12
max (1)
8:21
may (22)
17:3;29:7;34:7;
42:13,14,18,19,23;
51:24;52:4,6;53:5;
55:15;60:19;63:24,
25;64:5;66:17;67:15,
19;74:23;79:7
maybe (13)
18:2,16;33:16,23,
24;35:24;42:16;
45:1;53:20;59:19;
72:4;82:19,23
MAYOR (83)
3:2,18;4:12;5:7,12,
19;8:1,2,4,22;9:4,6,
20;14:15,18,23;15:2,
5,11,14;20:7,12,18;
22:7,15,20;23:20;
24:10,14,20;25:19;
34:4,18,24;35:2,3,7,
17,22;40:10;41:4,12,
18,22;42:1,9;44:21,
24;45:16,21;46:3,10,
20;56:1,5;57:4;61:2,
13,22;62:1;63:7;
71:8,10;78:3;79:20;
80:13;82:3,18;83:14;
84:21;86:4,7,19;
87:1,5,15;88:19,25;
89:10;91:5,8,15,24
mayors (1)
40:13
McDonald's (4)
10:8,10;32:2,7
McGee (2)
61:20,21
Meals (1)
32:8
mean (28)
6:21;7:2;21:25;
33:25;34:15;36:1;
37:2,15;39:19;44:7;
45:1,12;46:22;47:25;
50:7;56:20;58:23;
60:21;71:3,12;72:1;
73:21;75:21;76:3;
78:25;79:10,14;
83:19
media (1)
76:14
Medicare (2)
26:6;63:1
Meeting (6)
3:2,19;81:5;87:18,
20;88:17
meetings (1)
61:2
mental (1)
57:19
mentioned (1)
70:4
mess (1)
60:2
might (6)
19:4;28:13;35:17;
62:23;75:1;91:15
Mike's (1)
24:22
Mill (2)
31:5;50:18
millage (4)
17:1,15;50:10;
55:16
million (21)
9:21;11:23;14:21;
15:19;16:18,20,21;
18:11;19:10,19,22;
36:3;37:16;38:8,14;
41:10,16;45:9;46:23;
57:25;85:10
mind (2)
53:19;89:1
minds (1)
36:2
Miscellaneous (1)
4:18
missed (1)
5:18
missing (1)
62:6
mixed (1)
58:15
modification (1)
90:14
Monday (3)
42:10;88:12,13
money (33)
4:15;5:22,24,25;
14:13;15:3;16:14;
27:12;31:16;35:11,
16;37:8;38:6;40:14,
15;41:5,20;44:2,25;
45:3;46:8,13,24;
47:19,20,21;48:1;
61:16;75:22;84:7;
89:13;90:2,19
moneys (6)
16:1;19:13,23;
29:3;45:25;51:22
money's (1)
38:16
month (3)
20:16;40:1;53:15
monthly (1)
49:14
months (6)
13:10;30:6;32:19;
33:16,20;42:18
Monument (1)
84:2
more (26)
4:14;14:7;18:15,
15;21:2;29:19;
30:14;32:19;34:1;
36:16;40:9;43:9;
44:5,16;45:23;51:7;
52:23;64:16,20;
72:12;75:19;76:5;
84:23;89:13;90:16,
19
morning (2)
42:10;78:10
Most (2)
4:15;90:18
mothball (1)
51:23
motion (7)
85:10,14,25;86:22;
87:6,8;91:19
motions (1)
85:4
Motors (4)
17:5;20:9,24;
58:10
move (9)
5:20;24:2,15;
26:12;35:10;36:15,
17;44:24;85:7
moves (1)
54:25
moving (2)
35:16;49:5
Mozart (1)
25:1
much (15)

6:23;9:7;13:24;
18:19;21:16;27:11;
36:4;37:2,20;38:2;
40:14;41:15;45:17;
52:2;83:9
multiple (1)
8:8
Municipal (1)
32:14
municipalities (1)
27:14
municipality (3)
21:18;75:16,21
MURPHY (195)
3:22;5:10,13,16,
23;6:14,22;7:13,20;
14:22,25;15:4,8,13,
24;16:2,5,9,11,24;
17:25;18:8,12,14;
19:1,4,16,20,24;20:4,
11,13;21:4,22;26:2,
13,21;27:23;28:5,13,
20,23;29:4,7,14,23;
30:3;32:13,24;33:5;
34:6,13;36:6,12,22;
37:4,9,13,18,22,24;
38:7,13,17,22;39:6,9,
18;40:2,8,24;42:13;
43:2,14,18;44:10,23;
45:6,11,22;46:5,7,
25;47:8,13,24;48:3,
6,18,21,25;49:9,17;
50:9,15,19,22;51:1,5,
24;52:6,13,25;53:5,
8,25;54:20;55:15,22,
24;56:13,18;60:12,
20;61:3;62:4,10,18;
63:18,20;64:11,19,
25;65:5;66:4,7,10,
13,20,22,25;67:3,9,
22,25;68:2,11,19,24;
69:4,7,10,16,21;70:7,
10,16,21;71:8,11,18,
20;72:4,16;76:19,25;
77:13,17,21,25;78:9,
12;79:2,5,9,13,16;
80:8,14,20,23;81:7,
11,18;82:3,25;83:4,
16;84:22;85:5,8,19,
23;86:9;87:2;88:6,
13,21;89:11,16,22,
24;90:4,17,22
must (1)
74:3
Mustache (1)
24:22
myself (1)
40:13

N

name (2)
61:18;69:20
near (1)
18:15
necessarily (7)
10:3;40:20;45:3;
51:17;75:17;81:2;
91:9
need (46)
4:10;6:8,9,17;8:11,
11,12,20;9:1,2,3;
26:4,8,13,24;27:1;
33:14;37:22,24;
39:24;40:19,24;
46:11,13;47:14;
49:18,19,22;55:15;
56:12;57:17;58:5;
65:6,12,14,22;67:12;
68:16;71:6;79:14;
81:3,19;82:2,10;
86:17;87:7
needs (4)
6:5,15;70:13;81:1
negative (1)
49:3
new (19)
4:21;6:12;15:22;
21:2;22:7,22;24:18,
24;31:2;33:3;34:10;
42:10;51:25;54:24;
57:19,21;59:2;60:18;
76:9
news (2)
22:3;57:11
next (9)
9:14;42:15;43:14;
50:25;51:3;54:20;
81:5;82:9;88:8
night (2)
61:15;75:6
noncertified (1)
62:13
nonpayroll- (1)
82:5
Northwoods (1)
36:18
notes (1)
57:19
notice (2)
26:10;32:13
number (12)
19:19,22;22:12;
24:1;60:11;64:3;
65:16;72:8,18;73:5;
90:15,21
numbers (5)
16:23;22:2;23:14;
71:5;90:6

O

Oak (2)
36:10,20
obligated (2)
45:14;51:13
Obviously (4)
5:17;7:3;30:9;71:4
Occupational (1)
5:4
o'clock (2)
91:8,17
off (15)
25:17;39:17;40:3;
41:24;46:23;55:10;
56:9;70:6;71:25;
72:5;73:22;74:8;
83:24;84:1,20
offering (2)
55:1;85:1
office (3)
31:4;57:13;58:4
officers (1)
30:23
officially (1)
30:6
offset (3)
37:7;71:21;72:6
often (1)
52:15
oil (1)
8:13
old (2)
42:22;83:23
once (5)
30:20;59:7,16;
65:3,8
one (36)
4:3,4,7;8:8;13:17,
18;15:20;21:4,12;
24:11,17;27:1;28:12,
24;29:23;35:23;36:2,
10;42:13,24;44:23;
47:6;49:22;50:1;
51:7;54:5;56:7;58:7;
61:15;64:1;75:6;
76:5,9;78:20;81:18;
83:11
ones (7)
4:9,11,12,25;
31:24;42:21;56:8
one-time (1)
13:1
ongoing (1)
15:12
online (2)
68:25;69:11
only (20)
4:17;9:9;12:13;
16:13,19;26:6;27:23;
30:17,22;36:10;41:6;
45:8;50:12,17;73:8;
75:10,16;78:6;79:25;
80:2
onto (1)
40:14
open (11)
23:4,8,19;24:2;
74:19;80:5,9;81:2;
83:7,10,17
opened (1)
22:23
opening (1)
31:7
operating (1)
56:9
operation (1)
79:12
opportunity (2)
46:1;86:16
option (1)
39:22
order (1)
3:2
ordinance (1)
50:14
original (2)
14:5;43:25
originally (2)
7:15;46:18
ourself (1)
45:15
out (42)
4:3;6:25;7:6,7;
8:21;9:7;16:6;18:15;
22:8;26:8,12,19;
31:13,20;32:3,18;
35:2;36:24;37:17,20,
21;38:2,24;40:17;
45:23;46:13,24;49:6,
6,23;53:1,11;64:7;
66:2;70:13,23;75:6;
85:11;87:14;89:12,
22;90:23
outservicing (1)
63:22
outside (1)
65:19
outsource (1)
65:15
over (21)
6:4;15:16;18:1;
19:10;22:12;25:4;
30:18;31:1,4;41:1;
44:17,22;48:24;
53:11;54:12;60:18;
71:16;76:5;78:16;
79:1;86:23
overall (1)
50:10
overhead (1)
49:4
overtime (4)
29:17;72:19,23;
79:4
owe (1)
72:2
own (3)
10:10,11;76:19
owns (2)
31:23;76:15

P

package (1)
85:2
paddle (1)
84:16
page (5)
4:5,7;26:3;30:1;
56:7
pages (1)
4:2
paper (2)
9:25;48:17
paperwork (3)
25:2;27:7;78:5
parcel (2)
60:3,4
Park (5)
36:10,12;38:4;
45:8;46:2
parked (1)
75:5
Parks (15)
5:22,24;36:3;38:3;
39:12,16;41:5,11,17,
24,25;43:22;45:7;
47:2;83:24
Part (13)
4:20;6:2,11,14;
16:24;29:16;42:3;
49:13;65:6;71:14;
85:5;88:8;90:24
participate (2)
29:15;32:5
particular (1)
40:20
parts (1)
18:2
part-time (2)
83:4,17
past (3)
23:16;49:10;68:12
patrons (1)
76:7
Pavilion (3)
22:9;24:13;44:3
pay (13)
10:12;11:1;30:5;
42:16;49:10;53:23,
23;54:4;65:17;80:12,
13,21,22
paying (10)
18:4;26:14;38:19;
48:10,23;49:13;
53:19;67:16;75:9;
80:14
payroll (8)
63:22;64:10;
65:10,16;66:18;
67:14,21;74:1
Peachtree (4)
22:9;24:12;59:5,6

peanut (1)
31:19
peanuts (1)
31:20
penalties (1)
13:22
pencil (2)
89:9;91:14
pending (1)
28:6
penny (1)
43:10
People (21)
17:10;30:14;
31:15,20;39:17,23;
40:3;41:24;42:6,20,
24;60:19;63:10;
65:17;67:16;71:25;
72:2;73:6;83:4;84:5,
7
people's (1)
73:22
per (8)
8:18;9:19,21;
11:12,13,24;12:17,
19
percent (8)
16:4,8;22:13;44:6;
57:9;71:17;73:5,21
perfect (1)
46:1
permit (15)
8:8,16,21,22;9:5;
10:11;11:7;12:14;
14:6;23:12;25:17;
42:7,8;60:3,7
Permits (12)
4:17,25;6:12,18;
7:24;8:8,19;21:5,11,
20;23:15;34:7
permitting (1)
27:22
person (7)
6:13,19;9:24;10:4;
31:23;58:23;78:23
personal (2)
17:6;18:4
Personally (1)
40:5
persons (1)
54:9
phases (2)
12:13;13:7
phone (3)
48:20;59:12,17
pick (3)
23:12;52:2;90:23
picked (1)
46:15
piece (1)
66:2
Pittman (18)
3:11,12;52:17,22;
53:17;54:2,18;68:21;
69:12;74:20,23;
75:12;76:4;77:5;
78:14;80:11,18,21
place (3)
27:1;30:25;31:2
places (2)
7:1;82:24
plan (1)
6:3
Planner (1)
3:24
Planning (4)
6:5,18;61:9;78:23
plans (3)
12:1,4;25:21
plant (2)
17:23;18:2
Plaza (4)
24:10,10,17;57:16
please (2)
3:3;86:18
Plus (1)
8:19
point (5)
6:23;17:14;30:11;
55:10;66:17
Police (5)
4:5,21;6:9;27:24;
29:17
policy (3)
81:3,10,12
pool (2)
51:11;52:24
poor (2)
52:16,18
popular (3)
51:10,11,21
Porsche (2)
59:23,25
position (9)
55:13,13;61:5,18,
24;62:21;63:5,11,14
positive (1)
35:8
possibility (1)
34:19
possible (5)
34:2;39:22;55:17;
64:1;88:18
post (1)
16:5
postage (1)
48:14
posted (2)
15:21;28:22
posting (2)
16:3,8
pot (1)
36:24
potential (1)
20:2
potentially (1)
63:3
pour (1)
44:19
poured (1)
44:16
pouring (1)
44:21
Power (1)
20:15
precipitated (1)
16:17
present (2)
84:24;86:2
pretty (13)
4:24;15:6;16:11,
15;30:16,19,19;
31:17,25;57:2,6;
63:5;78:15
prevent (1)
35:24
previous (2)
19:10;33:19
price (3)
31:13;32:9;44:4
Priscilla (6)
3:21;5:21;15:15;
43:8;61:7;71:10
probably (11)
7:22;19:17;20:6;
36:19;37:13;57:2,6;
63:4;64:25;66:11;
80:6
problem (5)
42:23;47:12;
50:12;59:1;64:22
proceeds (1)
27:25
process (2)
23:10;67:10
projects (3)
45:9;79:5,8
properties (1)
56:23
Property (13)
4:24;13:4;15:19;
16:20;17:6;18:4,10,
24;19:8;49:6;56:16,
22;75:8
prudent (1)
72:25
PSAT (1)
59:13
public (5)
26:10,15;62:3;
73:24;74:8
pull (1)
67:5
purchased (1)
28:16
purposes (1)
69:1
put (10)
8:25;9:19;26:12;
30:6;31:13;32:3;
38:13;45:4;53:11;
89:1
putting (7)
16:17;24:25;25:4,
11;38:12;49:23;75:1

Q

qualify (2)
43:16,18
qualifying (1)
43:12
Quality (3)
32:23;62:20;63:12
quarter (5)
36:3;37:16;45:10;
46:23;48:22
quarterly (1)
49:11
quick (1)
88:17
quickly (1)
16:15
quite (1)
4:15

R

raise (2)
8:20;49:18
raised (3)
16:19,21;19:9
raising (3)
18:10;33:23,23
range (2)
14:1;25:5
ranted (1)
22:1
rate (8)
16:8,12;17:1,15;
30:16;50:10;55:16;
90:14
rates (1)
33:19
rather (4)
38:11,23;54:4;
84:19
raved (1)
22:1
reach (2)
62:25;63:2
ready (3)
24:14;78:10;84:4
real (2)
70:9;72:17
realistically (1)
4:14
reality (8)
21:17,17;22:4;
35:1;41:3;48:12;
55:8;84:11
realize (1)
37:15
really (10)
5:5;19:6;31:13;
46:22;47:11,13;
59:10;60:6;65:18;
68:4
reappear (1)
82:12
rearranging (1)
7:4
reason (3)
21:4;40:15;49:9
reasonable (1)
45:13
reasons (1)
84:5
reassessment (1)
17:8
receivable (1)
5:3
receive (1)
5:6
receiving (1)
13:10
recently (4)
33:14;59:2;60:1,
22
recommend (2)
33:15;70:25
recommendations (1)
82:6
reconstruction (1)
11:8
reconvene (1)
86:23
Records (6)
79:18,23;80:5,9;
81:2;90:25
Recreation (1)
83:25
recycling (1)
47:20
Redlight (1)
32:25
reduce (3)
42:19;52:10;64:3
reduced (2)
72:20,20
reduces (1)
72:14
reducing (1)
72:22
reduction (1)
56:23
regarding (1)
52:16
register (2)
57:20;58:9
reimbursed (1)
28:9
reimbursement (2)
28:9;29:3
Reimbursements (4)

29:8,11,13,21
Reimbursements-Salaries (2)
29:13,15
related (1)
31:22
relatively (1)
27:17
released (1)
19:14
relief (2)
19:23;56:17
relying (1)
81:16
remember (4)
17:20;21:1,20;
45:24
remove (1)
31:19
removed (2)
17:7;18:3
renew (1)
13:11
renewal (1)
13:25
renovation (1)
10:19
Rental (1)
4:19
replace (3)
43:6;63:13;78:21
replacing (2)
63:12;78:23
reported (1)
59:13
reporting (1)
59:3
request (2)
80:3;81:2
requests (2)
80:5,9
require (1)
12:4
requiring (1)
69:15
residential (1)
56:24
resolved (2)
36:18;61:15
rest (5)
4:23;7:11;78:4;
87:24;88:7
restaurant (3)
22:23;23:1;25:11
restaurants (1)
32:10
retire (2)
42:21;63:4
retirement (3)
63:1;85:2;87:4
retiring (3)
42:15,19;85:2
revenue (12)
22:2;27:2,23;34:2,
12,19,22;43:12;
46:18;51:17;70:23;
84:12
revenue-neutral (1)
51:18
revenues (11)
3:23;4:8,9;5:8;
28:22;29:2;30:20;
33:18;58:3;82:11;
86:11
revenue-versus-expenditures (1)
47:12
review (3)
8:19;11:25;41:1
rezoning (1)
26:25
RFPs (1)
49:23
Rhonda (4)
7:21;35:18;64:11;
88:10
rid (1)
45:14
right (111)
3:20;5:4;8:20;
9:12;10:13,21,24;
13:9;14:20,22;15:6,
10,13;16:2,7,9;
17:13,13;18:8;19:1;
20:17;21:14,22;
22:23;24:18;25:20;
26:14;28:6,13,17,20,
23;31:18;32:2,7,15;
34:13,24;36:11,12,
16,22;37:9,10,18;
38:1,15;39:18;40:4;
41:12,18,21,22;44:9,
10,25;45:23;46:5,6,
20,20,25;47:8;48:3,
6,15,18,22,25;49:15;
50:4,22;51:1,5;52:7;
55:3,11;56:18;60:9,
15;61:12;66:13,20;
67:5,6,9;68:17,18;
69:4,7;70:7,10;
71:11,19;72:16;
74:10;75:23;77:10,
15,18,18;78:11,24;
84:13;85:8;87:15,16;
89:1,15;91:3,5
rip (1)
83:2
Road (1)
31:1
Roche (138)
3:13,14;5:14,17;
6:20;7:2,18;13:24;
14:11,16;15:10;
17:20;18:21;20:17;
21:19,23;22:17;23:4,
7;30:8;32:1,6,12;
33:21;34:9,14,21;
35:1,5,13,20;36:1;
37:1,10,15,19,23;
38:1,10,15;39:3,7,14,
19;40:4,22,25;41:8,
13,19,23;42:2,11,25;
43:21;44:9;45:1,7,
12,19;46:17,21;47:4,
9;48:9,15;49:15;
50:4;52:8;53:2,6;
55:11;57:5,8;60:9,
15,24;61:11,14,21;
63:21;66:12,16,21,
23;67:1,6,13,23;
68:1,6,10;69:19,23;
71:2,9,19,22;72:7;
73:3,13,17,20;74:5,
10;76:15,20;77:3;
78:24;79:3,7,10,14,
23;82:1,13,22;83:1,
18;84:13,18;85:3,6,
9;86:3,6,10,21;87:7,
21;88:22;89:8,15;
90:20;91:1,7,13,20
roll (3)
3:3;50:8;91:24
rollback (1)
50:2
rolling (2)
41:21;68:23
room (2)
50:21;71:21
roughly (1)
36:11
route (1)
59:17
run (4)
6:25;40:6;58:20;
67:14
running (3)
18:22;65:4;78:17

S

sad (1)
21:17
safe (1)
36:19
safely (1)
43:23
salaries (5)
26:5,7;42:20;
71:14;73:22
salary (5)
6:8,12,15;63:5;
84:19
same (5)
20:8;36:24;39:9;
42:4;64:6
Sandra (2)
5:2;48:14
Sandy (1)
30:13
sanitation (10)
47:18;48:2,21;
51:6;53:19;54:7;
55:5;70:2,18,23
sat (1)
21:25
save (7)
37:22,24;65:18,23;
73:14;90:2,18
saves (1)
31:16
saving (2)
51:22;74:4
savings (15)
7:7;37:17;38:11,
14;39:24;40:11,18,
19;46:18,19,24;64:7;
74:12;82:5;83:13
saw (2)
57:11;84:4
saying (16)
12:12;35:22;37:2;
41:9,14;42:12;45:16,
24;46:11,16;47:9,17;
54:2;69:14;83:23;
86:11
scare (1)
31:19
schedule (6)
26:24;33:4,6,12;
47:14;54:8
Scott (7)
3:23;25:3;26:2,21,
23;27:19;59:20
Scott's (1)
47:15
second (2)
67:14;91:22
Security (1)
26:6
security-type (1)
68:25
seeing (2)
33:18;63:23
seem (1)
78:15
seemed (1)
4:8
seems (8)
18:6,11;39:12;
45:12;65:7;68:15,16;
71:5
self-insured (1)
90:12
semblance (1)
41:3
send (1)
75:25
sending (1)
53:1
senior (7)
47:19;53:18;54:3,
8,11,24,24
sense (1)
24:6
September (1)
17:22
SERGEANT (1)
31:11
Serve (1)
32:7
server (1)
66:5
service (6)
40:16;53:21;55:1,
7;64:1;66:18
services (1)
73:1
session (2)
78:2,6
set (7)
17:1,15,16;60:10;
88:17,19;91:5
settled (1)
61:19
several (2)
42:14;47:21
shaky (1)
69:22
shame (1)
40:8
shape (1)
15:7
sheet (1)
30:10
sheets (2)
64:5;65:9
shell (1)
23:21
shift (1)
83:15
shoot (1)
67:7
short (1)
6:6
shortfall (1)
84:12
shot (1)
51:7
show (3)
29:2;58:25;84:4
shows (1)
29:5
shutdown (1)
17:22
shutting (1)
18:2
side (6)
49:7;56:16,24;
59:5;70:15,25
signed (1)
64:24
significant (2)
65:3;67:25
significantly (1)
4:24
signs (1)
26:9

sit (2)
71:4,6
site (1)
12:4
sitting (1)
51:15
six (7)
13:10;74:19,21;
82:20;91:7,8,17
sixty-five (1)
56:1
slowed (1)
69:22
small (2)
24:1;53:6
smaller (1)
44:3
Social (1)
26:6
software (3)
66:2,22;67:5
Solid (1)
70:19
solve (1)
47:11
somebody (3)
10:22;24:24;42:9
somehow (2)
65:24;74:4
someone (3)
42:6,7;53:11
sometime (1)
30:25
somewhat (1)
52:10
somewhere (6)
3:24;10:1;38:8;
57:9;66:2;75:8
soon (2)
20:15;68:21
sorry (9)
11:3;12:5,7,12;
30:1;35:2;37:23;
57:5;74:5
sort (2)
57:18;69:22
source (1)
65:19
Spangler (42)
3:16,17;5:11;7:9,
16;9:9,13;11:2,6,22;
12:5,8,25;13:3,15,18,
21;14:3,10;20:25;
21:13;22:13;23:18;
24:4;27:13,18;30:24;
31:6;44:1,13,18;
56:25;61:1,4,8;
74:11,16;78:19;
85:12;87:12;91:10,
25
Spangler's (1)
91:21
speak (1)
15:14
special-called (1)
3:19
specific (1)
82:6
spend (14)
5:25;7:6;9:21;
36:5;37:3;41:10,15,
16,17,20;45:15;68:1;
73:6;89:12
spending (2)
10:5;89:13
spends (1)
64:4
spent (5)
5:24;14:9;38:16;
45:3;51:19
split (2)
26:17,19
spread (2)
64:7,7
Springs (1)
30:13
springtime (1)
32:15
staff (3)
61:9;62:8,13
staffed (3)
40:9;43:3;72:5
stalled (1)
64:13
standpoint (1)
72:11
Star (4)
13:24;18:16;19:5;
21:24
stars (1)
4:11
start (13)
13:5,9;22:10;
38:11;39:17,25;
41:14;45:15;47:10;
67:16;69:13;80:8;
82:23
started (3)
3:21;25:19;38:19
starting (1)
7:25
starts (3)
30:20;41:21;88:13
State (4)
19:14,23;20:2;
81:17
statement (2)
5:8;26:3
stay (2)
83:7,17
staying (1)
83:10
steer (1)
84:17
step (1)
67:15
Stevens (1)
86:16
still (27)
6:8;8:17;10:11,12,
22,25;12:4,14;13:13;
23:17;25:16;34:1,10;
36:2,24;40:22,25;
44:5;59:3;65:16;
66:13;67:10,11;72:1,
10;73:10,11
stop (1)
10:22
Stormwater (1)
36:13
street (3)
32:7;59:6,6
strong (2)
57:3,7
struction (1)
9:16
study (1)
75:7
stuff (2)
17:9;50:6
subcontractor (1)
6:16
subpoenas (1)
80:4
suck (1)
21:12
suggestion (1)
51:10
suggestions (1)
81:21
supplying (1)
75:19
supposed (4)
22:9;44:4,14,16
Surcharge (1)
4:21
sure (16)
17:4,21;31:7;36:6;
38:24;42:3;44:6,11;
57:21;59:18;62:16;
73:1;76:24;79:25;
88:6;89:22
Surely (1)
66:1
surface (1)
44:6
Surplus (3)
36:25;47:1;85:11
Susan-Fraysse (1)
76:23
Suwanee's (1)
90:1
swimming (1)
51:11
synch (1)
60:6
system (5)
59:15;60:5;64:3;
65:11;66:19
systems (1)
67:4

T

table (1)
55:10
tale (1)
21:14
talk (12)
3:22,25;7:25;
18:22;38:24;57:25;
59:8,9;75:15;83:11;
86:5,20
talked (13)
4:6,13;25:3;27:3,
20;31:1,9;63:21;
65:25;72:1;75:12;
80:15;82:19
talking (11)
26:23;31:3;33:22,
24;34:11;47:15;
53:6;63:7;67:16;
87:3;88:10
Tanker/Taxi (1)
4:17
Tax (10)
5:1;18:10;19:9;
49:6;56:16;58:4,8;
70:12;75:7,15
taxable (1)
58:2
Taxes (9)
4:24;5:4;15:19;
16:20;17:3;18:4;
50:11;54:6;75:9
taxpayers (1)
39:10
tells (2)
21:13;32:17
tenants (1)
24:1
terms (2)
34:12;73:14
that'll (1)
27:10
theirs (1)
60:5
thinking (3)
30:9;75:7;76:13
thirty-four (1)
14:9
thirty-seven (1)
51:19
though (5)
19:25;25:22;45:8;
64:5;72:11
thought (6)
18:14,19;19:5;
34:23;44:13;45:2
thousand (12)
8:18;9:19,22;
11:14,24;12:17,19;
14:14;20:3;54:12;
58:2;89:21
three (9)
4:2;21:20;29:2;
36:20;37:4,6,12;
43:25;67:18
Thurs- (1)
78:2
Thursday (4)
75:3;78:3;89:5,6
till (3)
7:10;17:13,17
Tilly (1)
31:5
timekeeping (5)
64:3;65:6,24;
66:19;67:4
times (4)
21:21;35:11;
58:21;68:3
timesaver (1)
65:3
Titanic (1)
7:5
today (5)
23:15;24:24;
26:20;44:16;63:25
together (5)
14:8;35:23;40:17;
82:2;84:15
told (2)
15:21;23:24
tomorrow (1)
89:24
tonight (1)
30:9
took (1)
18:6
total (4)
5:12;7:16;62:17,
18
Touchmark (1)
59:2
towards (1)
46:14
tower (1)
4:19
Towers (4)
13:25;18:17;19:6;
21:24
town (2)
60:18;88:2
towns (1)
73:21
traffic (5)
24:3,7;32:17;
76:11;83:9
trail (1)
44:6
training (3)
64:12,12,20
transfer (4)
6:4,21,22;7:1

transfers (1)
77:11
Travel (2)
74:15,17
Tree (3)
37:7;44:2;45:25
trees (3)
37:12;46:4,9
tried (1)
43:20
truck (2)
28:10,19
true (3)
21:14;50:15;85:19
try (2)
43:5;53:13
trying (5)
17:1;39:3;72:24;
75:6;90:23
Tucker (1)
76:9
Tuesday (3)
78:3;87:23;88:12
Tuesday/Wednesday/ (1)
75:2
Tuesdays (1)
78:2
turn (3)
67:7;84:1;86:22
turned (1)
25:1
twenty-seven (1)
43:25
twenty-two (2)
70:9,18
two (22)
14:8;15:20;22:20;
34:8;37:14,14,22;
38:23;45:8;60:12,15;
62:6;65:21;67:18;
68:9,13;82:15;86:24,
25;87:1,16;88:20
type (3)
65:16;75:17;76:23
typical (1)
46:25

U

unbalanced (1)
70:5
under (6)
14:21;18:24;
26:10;29:7,8,10
underway (1)
24:9
Unfortunately (4)
57:12;60:18;73:7;
84:9
unincorporated (1)
75:20
Unless (1)
13:5
unusual (1)
47:3
up (43)
5:14;14:20;16:14;
17:13;18:22;21:12,
25;22:23;23:12;
25:25;26:17;30:21;
34:1,20;35:9;41:5;
46:15;51:11;52:2;
58:15,25;59:5,10,11;
60:4,11,12;62:6;
64:15,24;65:3;68:22;
69:17,22;70:3;78:15;
79:5;81:5,20;82:4;
84:4;88:17,19
upping (1)
27:21
use (11)
17:2;38:7;44:2;
45:21;46:3,4;47:1;
79:1;82:14;83:17;
84:5
using (3)
6:3;45:25;59:6
Usually (1)
29:14
Utilities (1)
73:16

V

vacant (1)
61:5
valuation (1)
56:22
value (1)
57:22
valued (3)
57:14,21,25
variances (1)
26:25
vehicle (1)
28:15
versus (3)
60:5;70:24;82:20
victim (1)
57:12

W

Wachovia (2)
64:12,15
wait (2)
12:9;32:18
waiting (3)
24:1;38:5;42:21
walk (1)
15:18
walking (1)
44:6
wants (3)
26:21;54:13;58:23
Washington (2)
83:24;84:2
Waste (1)
70:19
Watanabe (1)
77:4
watch (3)
33:15,15;58:5
way (7)
5:8;52:18;56:13;
66:23;73:8;88:23;
91:2
ways (1)
7:8
weather (1)
30:20
Web (1)
56:7
Wednesday (3)
88:14;89:9,10
Wednesdays (1)
74:9
week (26)
4:7,8;22:10;23:13;
26:3;27:4;43:19;
65:20;67:17,17;68:5,
8,20;70:4;74:19;
77:23;78:5;79:17,19;
82:15;86:24;87:25;
88:1,7,8,9
weekly (1)
68:12
weeks (9)
23:17;65:21;68:9,
14;86:24,25;87:1,16;
88:20
Wells (1)
64:18
West (1)
57:24
what's (4)
24:22;26:19;
56:25;85:13
whereas (1)
10:20
whole (8)
7:18,20;20:13;
31:14;45:9;50:21;
57:13;66:17
wholeheartedly (1)
82:17
willing (2)
41:10;42:16
win (3)
14:21,23;15:1
wish (1)
35:5
wishes (1)
47:24
within (4)
13:9;44:14;79:16;
88:19
without (2)
79:3;86:1
wondering (1)
71:3
words (1)
9:20
work (14)
10:10,12;11:19,20;
12:20,21;13:5,9;
27:7;35:23;40:17;
46:14;65:6;91:15
working (7)
25:16;53:8;63:9;
72:17;79:6;85:20,24
workman's (4)
4:4;65:14;89:20;
90:9
works (4)
25:9;62:3;73:24;
74:8
workweek (1)
73:11
workweeks (1)
82:24
worry (2)
70:14,15
worth (1)
63:23
written (1)
81:12
wrong (1)
45:2

Y

y'all (6)
3:22;33:13;39:1;
47:18;52:15;57:11
year (40)
4:4;6:1;7:12,17,19,
20;13:14;15:4,9;
16:19;19:17;20:5,13,
22;26:8;28:10,22;
29:6;31:1;32:4;36:8;
39:1;41:9,20;42:15,
15;43:13;44:12;
50:25;51:4,8,23,25;
52:9;54:12,16;72:21,
21;82:9;89:18
years (4)
9:14;18:1;20:6;
31:24
year's (3)
19:10;43:14;54:21
year-to-date (2)
16:18;20:21