

In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

City Council Meeting

June 4, 2012

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Page 0

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF DORAVILLE

STATE OF GEORGIA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Transcript of the proceedings held at

Doraville City Hall, 3725 Park Avenue,

Doraville, Georgia, Mayor Donna Pittman

presiding; before Theresa Bretch, Certified

Court Reporter; commencing at approximately

7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2012.

Page 3

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Meeting come to order.

3 Please rise for the Pledge.

4 - - -

5 (Pledge of Allegiance)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PITTMAN: We do not have any

8 ceremonial presentations but I do believe we have an

9 announcement; if Ms. Dean would like to make the

10 announcement.

11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: This was brought to my

12 attention by a community member.

13 The Doraville Soap Box Derby team finished a

14 close second for the championship. The Jim Ellis

15 Chevy driven by Arturo Lopez Salez (ph) fought back

16 from an early loss and car problems to run the final

17 race of the day in double eliminations.

18 The Jim Ellis Porsche driven by Cameron

19 Wescott came back from a third-round crash caused by

20 her competitor's car crossing into her lane at the

21 finish line and taking out both cars. With four

22 broken wheels replaced, she nursed the car to fifth

23 place before losing to Arturo's strong Chevy in the

24 finals.

25 The stock class car sponsored by the

Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:

2 DORAVILLE CITY COUNCIL:

3 Mayor Donna Pittman

4 Councilmember Maria Alexander

5 Councilmember Brian Bates

6 Councilmember Trudy Jones Dean

7 Councilmember Pam Fleming

8 Councilmember Karen Pachuta

9 Councilmember Robert Patrick

10 Sandra Bryant, Acting City Clerk

11 Cecil G. McClendon, Jr., City Attorney

12 Leonid Felgin, Assistant City Attorney

13 Riley McLendon, LLC

14 315 Washington Avenue

15 Marietta, GA 30060

16 (770) 590-5900

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Page 4

1 Perimeter Mall CID driven by Alvero Lopez, no

2 relationship except best friends, finished fifth after

3 battling back after losing the rubber on one of his

4 wheels with the rough cars. All three cars were

5 built, painted and worked on in Doraville in

6 preparation for the event.

7 Special thanks to Brent at the Jim Ellis

8 paint shop, Doraville sponsors, and helpers Emily

9 Bishop, Ken Williams, and the Kiwanis Clubs of

10 Doraville and Dunwoody.

11 All three drivers drove with a lot of heart,

12 never gave up and came back after being out of the

13 event.

14 - - -

15 (Applause)

16 - - -

17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you very much.

18 A special guest. I would like to introduce

19 our new Parks & Rec. Director that will be starting,

20 Rip Robertson. If you'd like to stand and let

21 everybody --

22 MR. ROBERTSON: (Rising)

23 - - -

24 (Applause)

25 - - -

Page 5

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: We're really excited to have
2 you on board.
3 MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you. I'm excited to
4 be here.
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
6 Call the roll, please.
7 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.
9 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.
11 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Here.
13 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Here.
15 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Here.
17 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
18 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Here.
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
20 We have no minutes to approve tonight, the
21 minutes that we -- we'll probably have duplicate
22 minutes tonight and, yes, the next time. We did not
23 get them early enough to get it on the agenda.
24 Okay. Next is going to be Public Comments.
25 If you could please come to the podium, limit your

Page 6

1 comments to agenda items only, three minutes, and
2 state your name for the court reporter please.
3 Public comments? Yes, sir. You can come up
4 here if you like. And if you don't mind stating your
5 name please. That's fine. Thank you.
6 MR. ZUBAIR FARIDI: My name is Zubair
7 Faridi. I'm a resident of 4087 Tilly Mill Road.
8 And I'd like to comment on the sidewalk on
9 Tilly Mill Road which is one of the agenda items.
10 It's really important for me and I believe for a lot
11 of people that live on that stretch of Tilly Mill
12 Road.
13 There is no sidewalk going eastwards on
14 Tilly Mill towards Flowers Road, and we walk down the
15 road westwards on Tilly Mill with our children and we
16 walk on the road. And I walk with my kids and I see
17 other people that are walking on the road as well, and
18 I believe it's -- it's quite dangerous. There are
19 cars that are coming. Tilly Mill Road, there's heavy
20 traffic almost at all times, so I believe that project
21 is very important.
22 There are kids that are walking to the park,
23 the Halpern Park, which is down on Tilly Mill Road,
24 and, you know, I believe for all the residents that
25 are living on that stretch of Tilly Mill Road, the

Page 7

1 sidewalk project is very, very important for the kids.
2 Thanks to God we've never had an accident,
3 but I see that the cars are just crossing over the
4 kids and, you know, they're trying to prevent it, but,
5 you know, we're calling for something to happen if we
6 don't have that.
7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you very much. I
8 agree with you. I actually spoke with someone about
9 that today. So thank you.
10 Additional public comments?
11 MR. STUART ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.
12 I appreciate your comments about that
13 sidewalk. It's been necessary or needed for 30 or 40
14 years.
15 Agenda item is the Halpern Park. I noticed
16 that Luke has a possibility of a small committee, a
17 temporary committee, and if citizens were involved in
18 that committee, I would put forward myself for that.
19 And I also noticed looking at the financials
20 on that that the removal of the bench that's already
21 been removed, just an example, is still being budgeted
22 for.
23 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
24 Additional public comments? Mr. Hart?
25 MR. TOM HART: Thanks for the little plug

Page 8

1 about the Soap Box Derby race. And the little guy
2 that came in second in the Chevy just got a phone call
3 that the guy that won the championship may not go to
4 Akron, so we'll know by tomorrow whether that child
5 will go to the national event in Akron, Ohio, for the
6 national championships.
7 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Good. Excellent.
8 MR. HART: That's going to be real
9 important.
10 There are several things to comment on the
11 agenda. It's really chock full.
12 But I'm concerned about the condemnation
13 because I think the City has already red-lined itself.
14 You look at the schools, look at the trash dump in the
15 city, look about this is a dumping area for the
16 northern part of the county.
17 And I would hate to see us go on record as
18 being blighted when we've already been blighted by the
19 other governments around us. We need to stand up and
20 take a different look at it as a pro-growth issue to
21 not, you know, cause further deprecation to the city,
22 lower the property values even more, raise our taxes
23 up, raise our car -- All your insurance premiums go
24 up.
25 I think we need to take a hard to look at

Page 9

1 growing the city from the town center, from its core,
2 outward rather than trying to, you know, denigrate the
3 city and try to get some federal funding in here.
4 That's really worrisome to me.
5 The second thing is that all the capital
6 improvement items could be done by the Maintenance
7 Department if given some proper direction without
8 going to these where we get \$20.00 worth of -- we
9 spend \$20.00 and get a dollar's worth. We need to
10 spend a dollar's worth and get \$20.00 worth. We need
11 to leverage those dollars.
12 They need equipment in the Maintenance
13 Department to do some of these things. Well, for
14 instance, behind the jail, this wall could be a 2-to-1
15 slope, could be plantings, could be a real focal area
16 for the central city park.
17 I think that things like that are not being
18 considered, and Doraville needs to stop thinking in
19 this direction. It has to change its philosophy. You
20 know, I just spent the weekend with the mayors of the
21 different cities when we did the soap box derby race.
22 They just have a different direction in which they
23 want to take things. You start with quality begets
24 quality, and what we're trying to do is bring it down
25 to the lowest, lowest level possible and then beg that

Page 10

1 we get some development money, and then we had to
2 develop how they wanted the development. We need to -
3 - you know, we need to change gears here.
4 Thank you.
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Additional public comments?
6 - - -
7 (No response)
8 - - -
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: All right. Thank you.
10 Okay. Department head reports.
11 I did want to bring up, I know a month or so
12 ago we decided to tentatively make the agendas two
13 weeks in advance, and I'd like to get comments from
14 the Council on how they think that is working, because
15 it was not a voting item. And I'm wanting to go back
16 to the normal because we seem to be adding the week
17 of, and I just wanted to get some input from the
18 Council on how you thought that was working.
19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Oh, I think that what
20 we need to do first -- and this is probably later --
21 I'm kind of at a stalemate here because I don't know
22 where we are going. I don't know the direction in
23 which we want to take the city. So we need to talk
24 about things so we can see how we want to move and in
25 which direction.

Page 11

1 So it's hard for me to stand in my corner
2 spinning my plate while everyone else is in their
3 corner spinning their own plates without any kind of
4 cohesive plan.
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: The retreat is on the agenda
6 tonight --
7 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
8 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- but this is talking about
9 the agenda.
10 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I understand what --
11 But I haven't put anything on the agenda because I'm
12 waiting to see where we want to go.
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: So does the Council --
14 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I like -- I like -- I
15 like the way it is. I like having the extra time
16 because I'm able to do things.
17 MAYOR PITTMAN: I understand.
18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm able to do more
19 research and talk to people better with the time, so I
20 really like having the extra time.
21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, it wasn't voted on, so
22 it was temporary, and I think we're going to back to
23 the Wednesday, and if you want to get it on the
24 agenda, let's vote on it.
25 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.

Page 12

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: We can do that. Okay?
2 All right. Next is --
3 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Can I?
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes. Absolutely.
5 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I actually enjoyed
6 the extra time to work on it, and that actually gave
7 me an opportunity to go out and talk with some of the
8 residents about things that were on --
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Uh-huh.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- the agenda. I
11 know it wasn't a voting item, but if I could encourage
12 my colleagues to stick with it, I think it's a good
13 deal.
14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I like it, but I
15 think we need some flexibility to be able to add
16 things.
17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah.
18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Right. That would be better
19 if we could have some flexibility, because we ended up
20 the last time putting things on the agenda and then
21 putting things on the agenda the next day and things
22 on the agenda the next day. So there's things that
23 come along --
24 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: No. I have no --
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- as you progress.

Page 13

1 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I absolutely -- I have
2 no problem with flexibility. I like being flexible.
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That was my issue as
5 well, because the time we leave here tonight, we have
6 to have all of our documentation ready for Wednesday
7 by noon, and that just doesn't give us enough time for
8 ourselves to prepare for an agenda item two weeks from
9 now. So that was -- As long as we can be flexible,
10 that's fine.
11 MAYOR PITTMAN: So what would you suggest
12 about the flexibility? Just being able to add as you
13 go?
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, I think that's
15 a detriment to our Assistant --
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: It is terrible for them.
17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- Clerk right now,
18 so.
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I mean because, you
21 know, she's copying and re-copying and posting, so.
22 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, is there re-
23 copying? because it seems if we have the materials,
24 then it's copied once, and we get some things sooner
25 than others. If something is added, then we can

Page 14

1 have -- Or the final deadline is whatever, so if there
2 is anything left over, so that may be two, one with
3 the main agenda items so that we have time to go over
4 the materials that we have to go over; and then if
5 something is added.
6 Because it's not re-copying. It's just
7 copying more documentation, right?
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yeah, but every time
9 we change that, you have to print a new agenda.
10 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes.
11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, if we did this
12 electronically, I think that that would really improve
13 things as well.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But you still have to
15 create the agenda. So if we have a deadline of two
16 weeks ahead of time -- two weeks and three days --
17 when we submit all of our stuff by this Wednesday at
18 noon, the Clerk is going to create an agenda Wednesday
19 at 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, and then on Thursday, "Oh,
20 Brian has an item. Forgot about this." And then
21 Friday, Karen, "Oh, I forgot about this," and next
22 Tuesday, you know, Maria says, "Oh, forgot about
23 this," and all of a sudden now we've got four new
24 agendas --
25 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, maybe --

Page 15

1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- that all get posted
2 up on the Web site and then pulled back down, and then
3 we're all confused because we've got seven different
4 agendas.
5 So I'm flexible. I don't care. I was fine
6 with three days, I'm fine with two weeks, I'm fine
7 with 10 days. My concern if we start becoming
8 flexible is that it's going to get abused.
9 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And then there is no
11 set deadline and, "Oh, well. We're being flexible.
12 So it's the day before. Let me throw this on the
13 agenda."
14 We need a firm deadline that applies to us,
15 it applies to the community, it applies to the
16 businesses, that everybody knows that on X time before
17 the Council meeting is the deadline.
18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. I really --
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There will be
20 exceptions, but.
21 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I really appreciate the
22 extra time. And the thing is, keep in mind that most
23 of you have a lot more experience than I have, and
24 that is -- I mean that gives you a great advantage.
25 So a lot of this stuff, you already know. Either you

Page 16

1 were there when it was originally put on the agenda or
2 it's an ongoing matter or concern. And we're starting
3 from scratch and trying to figure out, "Okay. What is
4 this? What does this mean? In which direction do we
5 want to take this? What do the people think about
6 this?" So for me, it definitely helps me to have more
7 time being so new on Council.
8 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Alexander?
9 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I guess my
10 concern, to Ms. Fleming's point, is okay, we're at a
11 Council meeting now and we don't know how long it's
12 going to last, and then basically I've got tomorrow to
13 get whatever I want on the next agenda together to
14 have to Ms. Bryant by noon Wednesday. It's like, you
15 know, we don't even have 72 hours to prepare for the
16 next meeting.
17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: But if we could project
18 what our needs will be, I mean, because some of the
19 things that we're talking about we've talked about
20 before and we could just push out two weeks. "Okay,
21 this is a really important item but it's not
22 imperative that we hear this at the next meeting, so
23 I'm going to put this on the next agenda item." For
24 example, this. This will probably go on the next --
25 the agenda item two weeks from now.

Page 17

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: This is all really, really
2 good comments. Perhaps we're going to back to the old
3 way, and if you'd like to put it on the agenda so we
4 can work through it the next time, because this was a
5 trial basis. It wasn't voted on.
6 So if we want to do that, we need to get --
7 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: All right. Then we'll
8 vote on it.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: We'll put it on the
11 agenda.
12 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yeah. Thank you.
13 Okay. The next three items is going to be
14 our Stormwater director, Mr. Strickland.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Your retreat.
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: Oh, my goodness.
17 MR. STEVEN STRICKLAND: Do you want to talk
18 about your retreat?
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yeah. Hold on. I'm sorry.
20 Yes, actually to Ms. Dean's issue, a
21 retreat. We had talked about this, and I agree that
22 we certainly need to do this sooner than later.
23 I had made a suggestion sometime in June. I
24 know some of you will be traveling. So I really,
25 really -- If we could just come up with a date, it

Page 18

1 would be great. I know Suwanee said that we could
2 come back there.
3 Someone I think mentioned they had another
4 location. If they do, please come forward so we can
5 do that.
6 There's been several cities that have said
7 they had really, really great moderators, and also the
8 Carl Vinson Institute's got a really great moderator.
9 So I think we need to really focus on getting this
10 together.
11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: So what do you want
12 from us? Dates?
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: I would like dates, please.
14 And is everyone okay with Suwanee? If
15 you've got another location, that's great too, but we
16 need to reach out to them and make sure we can do it.
17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Civic Center.
18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm good with the Civic
19 Center.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I'm good with the
21 Civic Center.
22 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I don't care. I don't
23 care where it is. I just --
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Karen?
25 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I don't care. I

Page 19

1 understand the reasoning behind it, but I do want a
2 moderator because --
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes, I agree.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- I think --
5 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah. Me too.
6 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I'll go with that.
7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes. Mr. Bates?
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As long as there's a
9 facilitator, we could do it right here in Council
10 chambers. I don't care.
11 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: My preference is to go
13 outside the city because, again, that takes us away
14 from what's right here in front of us and lets us see
15 things in a different perspective. That has been my
16 perspective; that is my position on that. But if the
17 majority of Council wants to do it here, City Hall,
18 Civic Center, I'm fine.
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: I agree with Mr. Bates, it's
20 good to get away. There's no cost to us to do that.
21 I just need dates from everyone please.
22 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm not in favor of
24 getting a moderator at \$1,050 a day is my issue as
25 well.

Page 20

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, I think it's -- I
2 appreciate your thoughts, but I think it's very
3 important that we have a moderator, someone that is
4 not Council or Mayor.
5 So if y'all could just please -- My
6 preference would be to have it in Suwanee, and I can
7 reach out to them. If you guys can give me dates,
8 I'd appreciate it.
9 Okay. Now Mr. Strickland.
10 MR. STEVE STRICKLAND: Evening, Mayor and
11 Council.
12 This was brought to my attention at a
13 conference just as an overall good idea to have some
14 contractors -- to have an agreement with them, because
15 it is on-call, it would just be what we would need.
16 It won't cost us anything until we call them and say
17 this is what we want.
18 I'm basically just here to answer questions.
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: This is a contract
20 for tree removal services by Georgia Power.
21 MR. STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am, by Georgia
22 Power contractors.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: How often have we
24 had to call people out to remove dangerous trees?
25 MR. STRICKLAND: Our Maintenance Department

Page 21

1 can do a lot of the tree work that we need to, but
2 once you need a bucket truck, whether it's just too
3 tall, close to power lines.
4 These droughts over the years have really
5 been hard on the trees. This particular spring we've
6 had about four trees just not leaf out in our parks,
7 so this year we'll need to at least get that done.
8 It's not very often. We don't have a whole
9 lot of trees on our right-of-ways. There was never a
10 planting program. We have a lot of small stuff --
11 dogwoods, crape myrtles.
12 But basically once you need that equipment,
13 bucket truck, or if you're close to power lines, then
14 we really need to get a professional contractor in
15 here. Our Public Works Department can and has done a
16 lot of our tree work, but we don't have a bucket truck
17 and we can't -- you cannot work around power lines
18 unless you are certified.
19 And unfortunately, a lot of trees on the
20 right-of-way and power lines usually find themselves
21 next to each other, and then we would need this type
22 of contractor anyway.
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And is this being
24 paid out of the Tree Bank fund?
25 MR. STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.

Page 22

1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So these services
2 are more than just for right-of-way work.
3 MR. STRICKLAND: Oh, yeah. They're a full-
4 service tree contractor. They could do pretty much
5 anything that we ask them to up to and including
6 working close to power lines, which is very
7 specialized.
8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So I just want to get
9 a qualification on that. We've got a Public Works
10 Department that can remove trees in our parks and at
11 the facilities.
12 MR. STRICKLAND: Uh-huh.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Is this contract only
14 for trees that are over/under Georgia Power lines?
15 MR. STRICKLAND: No. Any tree that is
16 just -- requires a bucket truck to piece it out as
17 opposed to if we get our guys to do it, they're going
18 to drop it as a whole.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right.
20 MR. STRICKLAND: So it's just basically for
21 dangerous trees or trees that we require --
22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So it's for a tree
23 that --
24 MR. STRICKLAND: -- more than we do.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- can't be felled --

Page 23

1 MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- that has something
3 in its fall zone.
4 MR. STRICKLAND: Right, right.
5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Okay.
6 MR. STRICKLAND: Basically anything that our
7 Public Works Department cannot do.
8 MAYOR PITTMAN: And there's no charge unless
9 you just use them and in case of an emergency.
10 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, there's no -- yeah.
11 It's just an hourly charge for what we -- It's
12 on-call, which --
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So for a non-power
14 line tree, are there other firms that would be cheaper
15 that we could and should use?
16 MR. STRICKLAND: I think that this is very
17 competitive because we're getting a bulk rate that
18 Georgia Power gets. For the industry, I don't think
19 you'll be able to beat this price by much, and
20 certainly not with the certifications and the
21 insurance that these contractors carry to work doing
22 line trimming and working next to energized lines.
23 MAYOR PITTMAN: But if it's on the power
24 lines, do they not do that anyway?
25 MR. STRICKLAND: A lot of times what they

Page 24

1 like to do is if it's a dangerous tree, they'll cut it
2 to the point where it won't hit their power lines, and
3 so that's when you wind up with a dead stump that then
4 we will have to go out there and still deal with.
5 They do emergency work, you know: fell on the line.
6 If it's just a dead standing tree, they may or may not
7 think it's important enough to get to it because they
8 have emergency money. If it falls and takes a line
9 out, then that's different money that they can spend
10 to come out and do that. So a lot of times, they'll
11 just say, "Well, we'll wait, and if it falls on the
12 line, we'll come and take care of it."
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: So this is really just --
14 because our Public Works could do a lot of that, but
15 for an emergency like an ice storm or a tornado or
16 something like that. Is that --
17 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. That's the other
18 thing, lesson from cities that have been hit by
19 tornadoes. They're going to come out on an emergency
20 basis and they're going to get the streets cleared,
21 but all that debris is still going to be on the right-
22 of-way and we're still going to have to get that up.
23 And what they found was that they didn't
24 have anything in place. They didn't have someone they
25 could call. They didn't have an agreement so they

Page 25

1 were -- Plus they're on the list with everybody else
 2 that got hit by the tornado.
 3 This would put you first on the list. You
 4 know, you make a phone call; they show up. That is of
 5 course a worst-case scenario, but it would be good to
 6 have.
 7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Recently in our
 8 neighborhoods at least in District 1, maybe for the
 9 rest of Doraville as well --
 10 And I may be pronouncing this incorrectly
 11 but it's Asplundh?
 12 MR. STRICKLAND: Asplundh.
 13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- and they were
 14 trimming all of the trees that were close to wires.
 15 Now, is that contracted by Dekalb County --
 16 MR. STRICKLAND: No, that's Georgia --
 17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- contracted --
 18 MR. STRICKLAND: That's a --
 19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- by Georgia Power?
 20 MR. STRICKLAND: -- Georgia Power, yeah.
 21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And it's on their
 22 dollar, not ours; correct?
 23 MR. STRICKLAND: Correct.
 24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
 25 MAYOR PITTMAN: And you guys looked at this?

Page 26

1 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We've looked at the
 2 contract. It's a relatively typical contract you
 3 would get from Georgia Power. They're not
 4 particularly negotiable.
 5 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: But with the payment,
 6 it says it's payable within 20 days after owner's
 7 receipt of invoice. Maybe this is a Lisa question,
 8 but can we do that?
 9 MS. FERGUSON: Oh, yeah.
 10 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
 11 MAYOR PITTMAN: So do you need a motion to
 12 approve?
 13 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, a motion to approve
 14 entering into --
 15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Or disapprove.
 16 MR. STRICKLAND: -- the contract.
 17 ATTORNEY McLENDON: According to this
 18 agreement, it's standby, on-call services. We would
 19 need something to authorize us to enter into an
 20 agreement.
 21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Additional comments
 22 from the Council or if someone would like to make a
 23 motion one way or the other.
 24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I make a motion to
 25 approve.

Page 27

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Do I get a second?
 2 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
 3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
 4 ---
 5 (No response)
 6 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
 7 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
 8 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
 9 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
 10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
 11 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
 12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
 13 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
 14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
 15 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
 16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
 17 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
 18 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
 19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
 20 Next is the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.
 21 MR. STRICKLAND: This all has to do with our
 22 hazard mitigation plans. We have a plan with Dekalb
 23 County. For whatever reason, GEMA wants us to have an
 24 agreement in place with them. Again, this would be
 25 disaster relief and getting the federal FEMA disaster

Page 28

1 money. For one reason or another, they just want us
 2 to have an actual agreement in place with them, and so
 3 we do this by resolution.
 4 And they'll be asking every community in the
 5 state to do this. I don't know what facilitated it,
 6 but this is through our meetings with Dekalb County
 7 DEMA and then hazard mitigation.
 8 MAYOR PITTMAN: All right. And would we not
 9 need someone to head this, possibly from Pubic Safety?
 10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: That was going to be
 11 one of my questions is my experience --
 12 MR. STRICKLAND: I handed out -- Chief got a
 13 copy, Lisa got a copy, Luke got a copy, to make sure
 14 everyone knew their involvement. I don't think a
 15 whole lot would change. I'm not sure why GEMA -- they
 16 just want something in writing is my --
 17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. McLendon, your thoughts
 18 on that?
 19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I would agree. This is
 20 something that would happen on a statewide level.
 21 It's all about responding. It actually has a lot to
 22 do with receiving reimbursement in the event of an
 23 emergency --
 24 MR. STRICKLAND: It does.
 25 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- an emergency is

Page 29

1 declared.

2 But probably what we would want to do is

3 have our point person from the City --

4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Chief?

5 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- because you're going

6 to have the contract, but then somebody will have to

7 be interacting as they put forward the plan, and

8 they'll want us to jump through some hoops.

9 CHIEF KING: I might be able to add a little

10 bit more because we've done these every time we've had

11 a severe storm come into the city and we got

12 reimbursements from GEMA.

13 The Department of Homeland Security through

14 FEMA has required all local, state and federal, you

15 know, stakeholders to have a preset agreement system

16 before a disaster hits basically to make the process

17 of seeking reimbursement. Once the governor has

18 declared a disaster, a statewide disaster or, you

19 know, especially by counties, that opens up some

20 funding from the state, but when the president

21 approves it as a national, you know, disaster, that

22 opens the floodgates to federal funding.

23 This is to have the systems already in

24 place. What we've had to do in the past is the first

25 thing we had to do is sit down with the GEMA and the

Page 30

1 FEMA folks and sign an agreement that we were going to

2 seek reimbursement. This puts things in place to

3 streamline the process.

4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.

5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Mr. Strickland,

6 Article V, Participating Party Responsibilities on

7 page 2, it indicates that the Participating Party,

8 which is the City of Doraville, formulate procedures

9 and programs for intergovernmental cooperation in the

10 performance of the responsibilities.

11 Do we have any policies, procedures,

12 programs in place?

13 MR. STRICKLAND: Yes. Our hazard mitigation

14 plan is through Dekalb County. It's Dekalb County and

15 all the incorporated cities. And that, I believe, was

16 approved just a little over a year ago. So that is

17 our hazard mitigation plan as part of the overall plan

18 with Dekalb County that is -- I know it goes to GEMA

19 and I think it goes all the way up to FEMA.

20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: If we have a copy of

21 that, I would suggest that it go along with this

22 agreement so that at least it's in one place as a

23 document --

24 MR. STRICKLAND: That's ma'am.

25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- that that's what

Page 31

1 our procedures are. And it does in Section (b) answer

2 Mayor Pittman's comment about authorized represen-

3 tative. We do have to declare who the authorized

4 representative is.

5 MR. STRICKLAND: Okay. They didn't give us

6 a hard and fast deadline on this. Basically they just

7 said as soon as you can. So whatever we need to put

8 in place, I think we can put in place.

9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Chief, do we have someone in

10 your department that could take that role?

11 CHIEF KING: Normally I've been in the past,

12 ma'am, but I don't know what the decision you --

13 MAYOR PITTMAN: I think that's perfect,

14 actually. Thank you.

15 Ms. Alexander?

16 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: That was my

17 concern is because I guess I was looking at it from a

18 first responder kind of thing, you know, because one

19 of the responsibilities is routing transportation and

20 ensuring the delivery of medicines and goods. So I

21 have the same concerns that Councilman Patrick voiced.

22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates?

23 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm good.

24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Pachuta?

25 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Uh-huh.

Page 32

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Patrick?

2 Okay. So do we want to make a motion to

3 approve this? Can I get a motion?

4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Make a motion to

5 approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with GEMA.

6 MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second?

7 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.

8 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Should we put --

9 MAYOR PITTMAN: I was going to ask.

10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Second.

11 MAYOR PITTMAN: I was waiting on discussion.

12 Okay. So do you want to add that you want that

13 document attached as well as making Chief King our

14 lead person?

15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Friendly amendment

16 to my previous motion would be to include the federal

17 emergency policies that have already been submitted

18 and attach it to this agreement as well as Chief John

19 King be notated as the authorized representative for

20 our agreement.

21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Do you amend

22 your second?

23 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Second.

24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Second.

25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Discussion?

Page 33

1 ---
2 (No response)
3 ---
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Call the roll,
5 please.
6 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
7 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
8 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
10 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
12 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
14 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
15 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
16 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
17 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And I would note that
20 they attached a resolution that they're asking for us
21 to execute as part of the agreement, so I think by
22 that motion we are authorizing the execution of this
23 resolution to go back with the agreement.
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
25 Next on the agenda is the retaining wall

Page 34

1 behind the Police Department and the pool. Those of
2 you that have been on Council for awhile know that
3 this has been a discussion off and on. Mr. Strickland
4 and I talked about this and really wanted it back on
5 the agenda so we could make this a priority. This is
6 a huge issue and we really need to put this at the top
7 of our list. I believe this can be paid out of HOST
8 funds if the Council so wishes, but, and Mr. Bates may
9 already have that on his list.
10 But if you'd like to take it from here to
11 talk about it a little bit.
12 MR. STRICKLAND: That's what I was going
13 to . . . Anyone that's been around has known that this
14 has been a problem for awhile. I think all we're
15 looking feedback for, a lot of times, if you're going
16 to do a project, you hire an engineering firm, and
17 they do -- they take the project from there to
18 completion.
19 If you want a prequalifying contractor, they
20 put out the RFP, look at the bids, do project
21 management, see it to completion.
22 We had also talked about before, you do have
23 design/build firms out there. It's a company that has
24 an engineering section and a construction section.
25 Sometimes that's the easier way to go. Or you just

Page 35

1 have an engineering firm that did go out and RFP and
2 find the contractors to do the work.
3 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: And I do know -- and
4 this may be when you were on Council -- at some point,
5 wasn't there -- Chief may know -- a bid? I don't know
6 what it --
7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Four years ago.
8 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Okay.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mactec came out.
10 CHIEF KING: Mactec did a design and put it
11 out for the RFP process.
12 MAYOR PITTMAN: And I believe we have those.
13 Mr. Howe, did we not receive those documents or
14 information on that? A couple of weeks ago, we
15 requested it.
16 I just think that we need to put this on the
17 priority list because it truly is --
18 MR. STRICKLAND: Right.
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: I think it's dangerous.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I would like to
21 speak on this particular item because it is coming up
22 on the agenda shortly under the capital improvement
23 plans, which is New Business No. 2. The possibility
24 of having to use \$150,000 for the Police Department
25 wall if it happens to fall in, even though I know it's

Page 36

1 something we've got to take care of, the pool is
2 enclosed by a fence. I don't think that the Police
3 Department wall is the number one priority.
4 But looking at the photographs that Mr.
5 Bates took of the Honeysuckle Park bleacher wall,
6 which is utilized by children and adults on a
7 continual basis, to me, needs the top priority list
8 because it's in use.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: I agree that that is a
10 priority list, but this has been listed as a liability
11 for the City, and although it is taped off and roped
12 off, it's like weekly we're having it taped off and
13 roped off again. We had to have it done again today.
14 And yes, the pool is fenced in, but there's no way to
15 keep people from going back there, and if they step on
16 that, it is -- it is a huge liability.
17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: How much of Stormwater
18 funds can be used for this?
19 MR. STRICKLAND: Any storm pipe and anything
20 related -- it has to just be directly related to
21 stormwater. So they get in there and the pipes are --
22 they just have to be any stormwater conveyance
23 starting with a ditch or any pipe system.
24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And there is a
25 stormwater pipe in there that is --

Page 37

1 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. There's pipes at the
2 bottom of that wall.
3 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Does that mean that
4 it would be covered, could be covered entirely by
5 Stormwater?
6 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. Anything that is
7 related to the stormwater conveyance system.
8 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Well, great.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: I think the first step is --
10 I'll let you talk about it, but it's to go out for an
11 RFP for the -- what's the proper word you want to use?
12 MR. STRICKLAND: The design.
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: Design. To look at it,
14 yeah.
15 MR. STRICKLAND: The designing; feasibility,
16 design.
17 MAYOR PITTMAN: We've got some information
18 from Mactec if y'all want to --
19 MR. STRICKLAND: We got --
20 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- look at that again.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We're redoing some-
22 thing we did four years ago, and I am not in favor of
23 re-going back out for RFP --
24 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right.
25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- and more bids.

Page 38

1 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well --
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: We've already got a
3 design that I think that everybody approved --
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I have never --
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- at least
6 previous.
7 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- seen it. That
8 was before I --
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I know.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- was on Council.
11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I realize that. But
12 I think that we need to look at that particular and
13 you need to look at that particular design to see if
14 it's applicable for today's correction to the area
15 before we go and redo something we did four years ago.
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: We can pull that and send it
17 to the Council.
18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Also --
19 MR. STRICKLAND: So there were multiple
20 bids?
21 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I think we're just
22 talking about the design phase of the project, that
23 there was agreed-upon as to how it would be fixed, not
24 the bid for --
25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: There were

Page 39

1 multiple --
2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- the actual
3 construction.
4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- design options
5 that we had to review.
6 MR. STRICKLAND: Okay. And I --
7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There was --
8 MR. STRICKLAND: -- apologize. I was not
9 aware of that.
10 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: There was no agree-
11 ment to a particular design because of the dollar
12 amounts that were --
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: That's correct.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- associated to it,
15 and there just weren't budget funds available to do
16 any engineering design documents.
17 With the HOST moneys that are now available,
18 we've got to start chipping away at some of these
19 liability issues that the City is facing. And the
20 Honeysuckle Park facility is one of them; this is a
21 significant one.
22 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. Well, with this
23 project, can anyone from Public Works do any of this
24 work?
25 MR. STRICKLAND: That's not up to me to

Page 40

1 determine that. I don't know.
2 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Can anyone here answer
3 that question?
4 ATTORNEY McLENDON: It would depend on the
5 scope of the project. What I'm understanding, and I
6 don't actually know the wall by sight, but if it were
7 of a height that it would have to be an engineered
8 wall, which is really going to be one that -- Joe
9 might even be able to help me on that. Over what?
10 Five feet?
11 MR. STRICKLAND: Four feet.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That's a 20-plus foot
13 wall.
14 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes.
15 ATTORNEY McLENDON: It would have to be
16 engineered.
17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
18 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: If we could --
19 because that was before my time on Council so I
20 haven't seen any of the designs or the estimates --
21 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right.
22 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- or anything
23 either, but I know from being an audience member, it's
24 something that's been talked about for a long time,
25 and I've seen it.

Page 41

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: And it truly --
2 MR. STRICKLAND: At least 2008.
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- is a liability.
4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: But we're talking
5 about, again, to go back -- I know it's a later agenda
6 item, but things that need to be done -- I absolutely
7 agree with the sidewalk on Tilly. When I was
8 campaigning, it was scary for me to walk along that
9 road because it is -- there's a lot of traffic. And
10 so I think that we need to sit down and figure out
11 what the priorities are, which would be a great thing
12 to do at a retreat.
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: All right. So we'll try to
14 get the information, any information that we have in
15 the past, to get to the Council, information from
16 Mactec, if anybody happens to have any of that in your
17 files.
18 I just don't want this to go by the wayside.
19 I really want us to make sure something happens on
20 this. This is a liability for the City and it needs
21 to -- it's been pointed out now, and it needs to
22 happen.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, if I recall
24 correctly, I don't think that we have ever discussed
25 using Stormwater funds to assist in replacing that

Page 42

1 wall.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, we did not.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So this is new
4 information to us. So if we could definitely get a
5 copy of that and review it, because I think there's --
6 I know there's one outlet, you know, by the pool.
7 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. There's quite a bit
8 of pipe --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yeah.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yeah.
11 MR. STRICKLAND: -- running through that
12 area.
13 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I've always heard
14 that there's some spring that runs through there under
15 there. I don't know. I heard that's why the first
16 parking deck for MARTA sank.
17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Chief said two.
18 MR. STRICKLAND: Two?
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Chief said two.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: So I don't know if
21 that's --
22 MR. STRICKLAND: Yeah, there's definitely --
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- a factor.
24 MR. STRICKLAND: -- water coming through
25 there from the ridge all the way up to the MARTA

Page 43

1 station.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So do we want to put
3 this on the 18th's agenda?
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Please.
5 Okay. Thank you so much.
6 MR. STRICKLAND: Thank y'all.
7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,
8 Chief King.
9 CHIEF KING: Mayor and Members of the City
10 Council, we've received notice from one of our
11 additional 911 operators. He's turned in his notice
12 and he's leaving the City. And what I'm trying to do
13 is -- and obviously, we've coordinated with Lisa
14 Ferguson, our Finance Director, to get the authoriza-
15 tion to lift the hiring freeze so we can hire -- you
16 know, so we can start advertising.
17 The challenge with the current situation the
18 way we have it is the last radio operator that we had
19 turned in his notice in December, and it took us about
20 six months to actually hire a replacement for that
21 individual.
22 Now I have to start the training process.
23 And basically what I'm asking is the authorization
24 from the Mayor and the City Council to help us speed
25 up the process.

Page 44

1 The control measures here is obviously not
2 just the Mayor and Council but also, you know, the
3 positions are, you know, either authorized or
4 approved. The Finance Director gives me a thumbs-up
5 that the position is authorized, it is funded, it is
6 currently -- you know, that we have a budget for that
7 position. And then, you know, with the approval of
8 the Mayor, we'll go forward and try to hire somebody.
9 That is what I'm basically -- what I'm
10 basically trying to recommend that the City authorizes
11 us to do, especially with this position. But I'm
12 trying to speed up the process a little bit so we
13 could get -- try to get a replacement for this radio
14 operator. He's willing to stay with us and work out
15 his notice, so he's leaving in good terms. But we're
16 trying to get the replacement because right now, you
17 know, we're having to put sworn officers to cover that
18 911 position right now.
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you, Chief.
20 Ms. Alexander?
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No questions.
22 CHIEF KING: I'll stand by.
23 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates? Ms. Pachuta?
24 Mr. Patrick?
25 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Just want to hear

Page 45

1 one more time that the position's funded and --
2 CHIEF KING: Absolutely.
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: It is.
4 CHIEF KING: The control measures are the
5 Finance Director and the Mayor.
6 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Good enough.
7 The other item is is could we get an
8 organizational chart not just for the Police
9 Department but City-wide? And that's more to help --
10 CHIEF KING: Absolutely.
11 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- us make a
12 decision as to what ideal staffing is and then we
13 know.
14 CHIEF KING: With your permission if I may
15 be allowed, we've submitted an organization chart to
16 the Finance Director and I think to the Mayor's
17 office. What I would appreciate if at all possible if
18 we be allowed to when we submit, that I can tell you
19 what position is filled and which one is vacant but
20 not to put the names of the --
21 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Absolutely.
22 CHIEF KING: -- employees.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Absolutely.
24 CHIEF KING: As you can imagine, I'm
25 concerned about security, you know, for the officers,

Page 46

1 especially in the sense of --
2 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And that would be
3 true for City-wide. I don't want to know names. I
4 just want to know --
5 CHIEF KING: Yes.
6 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- positions.
7 Lisa, can we just give them?
8 MS. FERGUSON: I could give them the
9 position list. I don't have an organizational chart.
10 CHIEF KING: She's got the organizational
11 list but we can do basically a hierarchical chart.
12 And we submitted those; we just have to update. And
13 what I'll do is I'll have to take the names off and
14 then just tell you --
15 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: That's fine.
16 CHIEF KING: -- which one is filled and
17 which one's not.
18 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: That's fine.
19 CHIEF KING: We can do that, sir.
20 MAYOR PITTMAN: Perfect.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Thank you.
22 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: And for the City too;
23 right?
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes, we can do that.
25 Ms. Fleming?

Page 47

1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: How many do you
2 presently have on hand?
3 CHIEF KING: Ma'am, trying to count, right
4 now, we have -- I wish I'd have known that. I'm
5 trying to count in my head, ma'am, how many. Right
6 now I know that I'm using a captain and my secretary
7 to fill in the gaps.
8 Basically what I have, and please -- Ma'am,
9 if I can get back to you with that because I want to
10 be accurate. I don't want to just, you know, guess
11 through that. I'm just dealing with, you know,
12 Nichols left us.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: How many E911
14 positions do you require for that department?
15 CHIEF KING: Ma'am, normally I believe it's
16 eight, but that is -- you know, that's based on the --
17 on the adjustment that we did to the personnel manning
18 before.
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
20 CHIEF KING: And I don't want -- you know, I
21 don't want to guess.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And his -- you said
23 he's working out his --
24 CHIEF KING: He's working out his notice,
25 yes, ma'am.

Page 48

1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And when is he
2 leaving?
3 CHIEF KING: He's leaving in less than two
4 weeks.
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And is he going to
6 another police department?
7 CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am.
8 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: May I have that,
9 please?
10 CHIEF KING: Chamblee Police Department.
11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
12 CHIEF KING: He's getting a \$6,000 pay
13 raise.
14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Chief, last time I
15 called, I actually got Sergeant Rogers --
16 CHIEF KING: Yes.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- who's the
18 compliance officer.
19 CHIEF KING: She's my training officer,
20 grants officer, certification manager and training.
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And I understand that
22 Sergeant Lopez, who handles your finances, is also
23 serving desk duty in the 911 Center.
24 CHIEF KING: That is correct, sir.
25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: How many hours per

1 week are either of those plus any other POST-certified
 2 officers in the 911 Center?
 3 CHIEF KING: Herself -- Captain Brinkley,
 4 Sergeant Rogers, Sergeant Lopez. There's three sworn
 5 there. And then every once in awhile when they have
 6 some kind of an issue or, for example, when Sergeant
 7 Lopez had to come to the City Council, I had to bring
 8 Major Atkinson to work radio.
 9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: About how many hours a
 10 week would they be in there, roughly? And if you need
 11 to get to back to us --
 12 CHIEF KING: No, not a problem, sir. Right
 13 now, Sergeant Lopez is the prime example. She works
 14 12 hours in the radio room. And with the vacancy that
 15 we got with the notice, she will have to work two
 16 shifts so basically she'll work -- half of her duty
 17 week will be in radio and not --
 18 And the challenge with her is that she
 19 handles all our Opens Records requests, and we have
 20 massive numbers of Open Records. So what happens is
 21 we will answer the Open Records but it will take us
 22 longer to provide them the requested information
 23 because she's engaged in -- Like today. Mondays is
 24 her day she works radio. If you call our radio,
 25 you'll get Sergeant Lopez.

1 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you, Chief.
 2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Chief, on the
 3 question that I asked about how many E911 positions
 4 are allocated for that department, you said you're
 5 going to get back to me, and --
 6 CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am.
 7 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- I look forward to
 8 that information.
 9 CHIEF KING: Not a problem. Probably in the
 10 next 24 hours, ma'am, I'll respond.
 11 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Dean?
 12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: And overtime, with this
 13 vacancy and with the way it's set up now, are your
 14 employees having to work any overtime?
 15 CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am. Any -- right now,
 16 we -- even if we were fully manned right now, there's
 17 no current flexibility. If any of the employees, for
 18 example, takes vacation, I have to get one of the
 19 other employees to work overtime to cover that
 20 position or I have to bring in somebody off the road
 21 or, you know, Sergeant Lopez, Sergeant Rogers or
 22 Captain Brinkley to work that shift because there's no
 23 -- there's no flexibility.
 24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: All right. Okay.
 25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you. Do I get

1 a motion to lift the hiring freeze to hire a 911
 2 Dispatcher?
 3 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: So moved.
 4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Second?
 5 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Second.
 6 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
 7 - - -
 8 (No response)
 9 - - -
 10 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
 11 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
 12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
 13 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
 14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
 15 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
 16 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
 17 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
 18 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No.
 19 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
 20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
 21 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
 22 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
 23 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
 24 Next, Mr. Howe.
 25 Oh. Before he starts, I just wanted to say

1 we're going to remove Halpern Park Renovation Project.
 2 We'll put it back on for the 18th because we're going
 3 to allow Mr. Robertson to take the lead on that since
 4 he's our new Parks & Rec., and we'll be getting with
 5 him to acclimate him, so we're not going to discuss
 6 that tonight.
 7 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Can I? And I know
 8 Mr. Patrick has brought this up. If we can look at or
 9 they can look at the scope of work and see if there's
 10 anything that Public Works is able to do to remove
 11 from the scope of work.
 12 MAYOR PITTMAN: We can do that.
 13 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe also on
 14 that, that was items that were bid on that have
 15 already been completed.
 16 MAYOR PITTMAN: That's right.
 17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And Mayor Pittman, I
 18 would respectfully request to be included in updating
 19 Mr. Robertson on the progress that has been made since
 20 I have been working on this project for the last three
 21 years.
 22 MAYOR PITTMAN: (Nods head) All right.
 23 Thank you.
 24 Mr. Howe is going to --
 25 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm sorry. Before we

Page 53

1 start, but we don't have a liaison to department
2 heads, right?
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: No. I didn't assign anyone,
4 no. We did under a past administration but there were
5 -- No.
6 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. All right.
7 Because I would like to give our new director the
8 opportunity to do, to shine in his specialized field,
9 and I'm very, very confident that he'll do an
10 excellent job,
11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'm sure he will. I
12 totally agree with you. At this point in time, I've
13 dealt with Carol Stephens, who's now gone, I've dealt
14 with Scott Rogers who is now gone. Mr. Howe got it in
15 April. And so the familiarity of what's been designed
16 and the process that we went through for the last
17 three years to get where we are, all I would like
18 permission to do is update him on where we are at the
19 present time.
20 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. Well, and the
21 thing is is that the designs have changed; right?
22 Isn't that what we were talking about tonight, some of
23 the issues?
24 Anyway, the point is is that I'm very
25 excited about having a director come in and do an

Page 54

1 excellent job, and that's --
2 And welcome, by the way.
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
4 Okay. We are going to talk about Urban
5 Redevelopment Plan. I think you're going to give us a
6 little overview of that.
7 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. This is
8 purely for the sake of introducing a draft Urban
9 Redevelopment Plan to the public. It is available on
10 our Web site under the Government Section under the
11 Planning Documents tab. It is also available in our
12 Clerk's office.
13 So I want to preface my discussion with the
14 fact that this is not the public hearing. The State
15 requires that you hold a public hearing in order to
16 adopt an Urban Redevelopment Plan, and part of the
17 reason why I'm here tonight is to solicit feedback on
18 a potential date for the public hearing as well as the
19 document itself and the parameters of the proposed
20 Urban Redevelopment area.
21 So with that said, I want to take a minute
22 to clear up some misinformation or some
23 misunderstanding about the true intent of this Urban
24 Redevelopment Plan. We have one main goal here, and
25 that is to apply for opportunities on status for part

Page 55

1 if not all the city's commercial areas.
2 Opportunity Zone designation is a very
3 powerful State incentive. It has absolutely nothing
4 to do with condemnation, eminent domain or federal
5 funding, for that matter. It is a State tax credit
6 program. What it means is if any business who locates
7 or any exiting business who is within an Opportunity
8 Zone, as long as they create a minimum of two jobs,
9 they get a \$3,500 tax credit for every employee they
10 hire after that two, that two-person minimum.
11 So if you hire -- if you locate -- if you
12 open a business in an Opportunity Zone and you hire 10
13 people, well, that's \$35,000 that you can claim
14 against a hundred percent of your State income tax
15 liability at the end of the year. So that is really -
16 - the Urban Redevelopment Plan is really just a means
17 to one end.
18 The State requires several criteria in order
19 to be considered for an Opportunity Zone. The crux of
20 it is a poverty threshold. In order for your
21 application to even be considered, the area has to be
22 within or adjacent to a census tract with a 15 percent
23 or great poverty level. Now, unfortunately, that
24 poverty threshold exists for pretty much virtually the
25 whole town. So we have that.

Page 56

1 The other two criteria is that you designate
2 an Urban Redevelopment Area and adopt an Urban
3 Redevelopment Plan. So that Opportunity Zone has to
4 be within that plan and within that area.
5 But I think there's some confusion, because
6 the Urban Redevelopment Act was passed in 1955. It
7 sounds similar to the referendum that you-all passed
8 in November. That was the Redevelopment Powers law.
9 That was the 1985 law. All that does is allow a
10 jurisdiction to create a Tax Allocation District. It
11 requires a different plan, it requires different local
12 legislative requirements, so it's a different plan,
13 different act.
14 The 1955 Urban Redevelopment Act was passed
15 at a time when, you know, America was struggling with
16 blight and poverty. A lot of federal funds were being
17 directed towards rectifying poverty in America's urban
18 core, and most states like Georgia adopted state
19 legislation in order to capture those funds.
20 Since then, a lot of federal funding has
21 dried up for urban renewal, but the law is still very
22 relevant because it enables some very powerful tools,
23 none of which we're proposing in our plan, but it
24 allows -- most of the tools involve property
25 acquisition. It allows eminent domain under some

Page 57

1 circumstances. It does not address condemnations.
2 Land lease agreements, it allows local
3 governments to set up a land bank authority. It
4 allows local governments to set up a business or
5 community improvement district. It gives local
6 governments the ability to float revenue bonds. So it
7 does a lot of things.
8 It is very powerful and it's very broad, and
9 it does not require a referendum in order for you to
10 utilize it. All you have to do is have a plan and a
11 designated area in which you're going to utilize those
12 tools.
13 A plan says a number of different things.
14 The State says you have to list a -- you have to
15 outline a number of different things in order for it
16 to qualify. Chief among them is negative conditions.
17 So you spend part of the plan -- the plan, I spend the
18 first part of it talking about the Urban Redevelopment
19 Act, the urban redevelopment planning process. Then
20 you outline negative conditions.
21 We started out with a very small plan.
22 Right now our Urban Redevelopment area is the GM
23 property and the former Seaboard Oil property. It can
24 be expanded to include every commercial property in
25 the city if we want to. But we spent the meat of the

Page 58

1 plan talking about the negative conditions that exist
2 within that area, and most of you know what they are.
3 And so our implementation section, which is
4 where you have to start talking about what you're
5 going to do to rectify those issues, we listed
6 Opportunity Zone and we listed a TAD because it's been
7 approved. Both of those items are in our compre-
8 hensive planning, so that's why we included them.
9 It goes over a number of different things,
10 but the chief thing I want you all to know here
11 tonight is that's all this does. It allows us to
12 apply for Opportunity Zone status for our areas's
13 businesses.
14 Right now if a business came to open in
15 Doraville, they would be entitled to the Dekalb County
16 Tier 3 Job Tax Credit. State awards all God's
17 children tax credits but they assign each county to a
18 tier. 1 is the most impoverished or the most
19 distressed, 4 is the most affluent. The Tier 1
20 counties get the \$3,500 tax credit which is the same
21 as the Opportunity Zone. Dekalb is a Tier 3. We get
22 a \$1,250 tax credit. A business has to create at
23 least 15 jobs in order to obtain that tax credit. So
24 twelve fifty compared to thirty-five hundred, two jobs
25 created compared to 15, you know, it's a huge

Page 59

1 difference and it's a powerful incentive.
2 Cities all across the state are doing this.
3 We would be the first in Dekalb County to have an
4 Opportunity Zone, but Roswell, Sandy Springs, Acworth,
5 Smyrna, Marietta, Union City, Hapeville, East Point,
6 you name it, they got it, and Atlanta -- the State
7 just approved a new one for Atlanta. So it's not --
8 it's becoming something that you have to have nowadays
9 to compete and it's absolutely essential for areas
10 like GM or the Seaboard property where market forces
11 alone are not going to necessitate redevelopment; it's
12 just not.
13 You need some kind of incentive in place,
14 and this is how we start to rebuild and to bring in
15 new businesses and start to fill our staggering
16 vacancy rates. And this is how we get what we want
17 out at the GM plant, because our GM plant's going to
18 be competing with Ft. McPherson, which has one, with
19 The Gulch downtown which is in an Opportunity Zone.
20 Hapeville plant is an Opportunity Zone. So it's
21 essential.
22 We have to have it to compete. At the very
23 minimum, we need it for the GM property and former
24 industrial properties that are going to take some
25 remediation. But if at all possible, we'd include as

Page 60

1 many businesses as we can. We've talked to the
2 business community; they're overwhelmingly for it.
3 So I want you all to know that the plan is
4 out there. Please call me if you have any questions
5 or e-mail me. I'll be glad to talk to you about it,
6 and if the Council has any concerns or questions,
7 I'll --
8 **MAYOR PITTMAN:** Mr. Howe, thank you. That
9 was very good. I understand there are some rumors
10 about eminent domain. Could you please touch on that?
11 **MR. HOWE:** Right. Eminent domain is as old
12 as civilization. It predates the Urban Redevelopment
13 Act; it is discussed within the Urban Redevelopment
14 Act as to how to use it within the context of
15 redevelopment. But in order to use eminent domain
16 under the authority of the Urban Redevelopment Act,
17 you have to put it in your Urban Redevelopment Plan.
18 So we haven't done that. We haven't listed anything
19 that would involve us procuring property or condemning
20 property.
21 The sole focus is an Opportunity Zone, and
22 for 90 percent of the communities who adopt an Urban
23 Redevelopment Plan, that is their chief aim.
24 **COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK:** Is it true that
25 property values are going to fall --

Page 61

1 MR. HOWE: Absolutely not.
 2 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- if we adopt this?
 3 MR. HOWE: There's no evidence to support
 4 that whatsoever. You know, ultimately, if this works
 5 like it's worked so well in other cities, this is
 6 going to bring value to property. The additional
 7 business is going to boost our revenue, our tax
 8 digest. You know, that additional revenue could
 9 enhance services, it could lower taxes. So there's
 10 absolute -- it's hard to gather data about the
 11 Opportunity Zone program because the State doesn't
 12 requires cities and counties to report.
 13 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Okay.
 14 MR. HOWE: But there is no evidence
 15 whatsoever that an Opportunity Zone or an Urban
 16 Redevelopment Plan diminishes property value. In
 17 fact, the point is the exact opposite; it's to enhance
 18 property values.
 19 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: This isn't a land-
 20 grab attempt by the government in some back-door way
 21 that we're not --
 22 MR. HOWE: Absolutely. Georgia State law
 23 does not allow local government to do anything in a,
 24 you know, cloak-and-dagger type way. Everything has a
 25 very methodical public process.

Page 62

1 And eminent domain, I'm not an expert on
 2 eminent domain, but when it comes to the Urban
 3 Redevelopment Act, if you don't say you're going to do
 4 it in your plan, you can't do it. And if you want to
 5 do it at later date, you can; you just got to come
 6 back, you got to hold another public hearing and amend
 7 the plan. So we're not proposing that.
 8 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Can you understand
 9 why some residents might be hesitant to adopt a plan
 10 that means we have to take on some kind of conno-
 11 tations?
 12 MR. HOWE: Absolutely. If you look at the
 13 plan, the plan is very clear about what we intend to
 14 do. But if you start to read some of the commentary
 15 in some of the supplemental information about the
 16 Urban Redevelopment Act, you know, property
 17 acquisition is going to come up over and over again;
 18 eminent domain is going to come up over and over
 19 again.
 20 And these are really two different concepts.
 21 An Opportunity Zone and an Urban Redevelopment Plan
 22 are two different concepts. But in order to get the
 23 Opportunity Zone and the special tax credits, you've
 24 got to have a plan in place. So that is our
 25 motivation for doing it.

Page 63

1 Decatur did one not too long ago. They did
 2 one just for the purpose of acquiring a small tract of
 3 land so they could build a new fire department. I
 4 think they did another one to issue revenue bonds. So
 5 everybody really has a -- Most of the time, it's about
 6 an Opportunity Zone, but every now and then, you know,
 7 cities and counties go through the process to . . .
 8 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And I guess another
 9 question for you is is we would have the ability to
 10 vote on what areas are included within this or
 11 excluded within this?
 12 MR. HOWE: Yes, sir.
 13 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And so if we had a
 14 commercial corridor for retail, it could be put there
 15 or we would have the option of pulling it back until
 16 people we're not -- perhaps got past their concerns?
 17 MR. HOWE: Absolutely. It makes no sense at
 18 all to include any residential. Apartments are one
 19 thing because you can redevelop an apartment into a
 20 mixed-use; you can have office, retail on the bottom,
 21 you know, apartments or condos above. It makes sense
 22 to include some multi-family because of that, but no
 23 residential, no single-family residential neighborhood
 24 in the city is included. It would make no sense to do
 25 it. We have not thought about including the tank

Page 64

1 farms because they're likely not going to go anywhere
 2 any time soon.
 3 So we came up with two different scenarios:
 4 one that would include just the GM property and the
 5 Seaboard Oil facility, the other includes pretty much
 6 every commercial parcel in the city that is not indus-
 7 trial.
 8 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And are those
 9 available on the Web so we can take a look at it?
 10 MR. HOWE: Yes, sir. It's under the govern-
 11 ment section. There's a page called Planning
 12 Documents. The plan, the limited plan for the GM
 13 property is posted. We have produced all the material
 14 for an alternate plan that covers a broader area.
 15 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Could --? Sorry for
 16 taking up all the time with questions. Is it possible
 17 that you could contact or put together let's say a
 18 ghost business that moved into a vacant piece of
 19 property, that hired so many employees, and kind of
 20 show people what the benefit is to that business for
 21 being there?
 22 MR. HOWE: Sure. Well, it depends on how
 23 many employees.
 24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Just let's say three
 25 employees.

Page 65

1 MR. HOWE: Three employees would be three
 2 times three hundred -- thirty-five hundred, so --
 3 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: But if you could put
 4 something just as a little chart --
 5 MR. HOWE: Sure.
 6 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- maybe on the Web
 7 as well?
 8 MR. HOWE: Sure.
 9 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And if it's that
 10 much of a benefit, then our residents can tell us more
 11 about it.
 12 MR. HOWE: Absolutely.
 13 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
 14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Once we define this
 15 Urban Redevelopment for let's just say the GM plant
 16 and Seaboard, are we not allowed to two years from now
 17 also include or have a second Urban Redevelopment
 18 Plan?
 19 MR. HOWE: It would probably be less trouble
 20 just to amend the first one than to do a second
 21 altogether, but yes, ma'am.
 22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But it is available;
 23 it is something --
 24 MR. HOWE: Absolutely.
 25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- that could be

Page 66

1 done.
 2 And in regards to eminent domain, I just
 3 want to question, once we do this, Dekalb County
 4 cannot -- because we've designated an Urban
 5 Redevelopment Plan, Dekalb County cannot come in and
 6 say, "Well, we're going to do some eminent domain on
 7 this Urban Redevelopment Plan area."
 8 MR. HOWE: No, ma'am. No, ma'am. Again,
 9 getting into eminent domain, this is outside the
 10 context of the Urban Redevelopment Act; I would defer
 11 that to your attorney. But no; no, ma'am.
 12 Only the jurisdiction -- Dekalb cannot
 13 declare an Urban Redevelopment area in Doraville.
 14 Only we can do that and only we can produce a plan and
 15 adopt that.
 16 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Dean?
 17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm good.
 18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Alexander?
 19 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: In reading the
 20 plan, it looks like to implement it we would have to
 21 have a DDA or an RDA, and we have neither one of those
 22 at this time.
 23 MR. HOWE: No, we do not. You do not have
 24 an RDA. You can -- you can extend the power to
 25 implement to a DDA or an urban redevelopment agency.

Page 67

1 We are proposing to implement that. We're proposing
 2 to act as our own redevelopment agency and implement
 3 it ourselves.
 4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: It mentioned
 5 changing -- implementing zoning revisions for the
 6 proposed areas. And I think one of the reasons that
 7 Council changed the zone on that large piece of
 8 property over there was for sort of as a protection
 9 mode, and I just wanted to know a little bit more
 10 about proposing to going ahead and changing the zoning
 11 for the area without a development in the works.
 12 MR. HOWE: We do plan on changing the
 13 zoning, and Joe can tell you more about that, but the
 14 plan does not tell -- does not say when we're going to
 15 do it. It says at one point we will, and, you know, I
 16 think that is rooted in our comprehensive planning and
 17 our LCI.
 18 Form-based code is on the horizon at some
 19 point. We do not put a date on when we're going to do
 20 this. We just let the business community know that,
 21 you know, at some point, we're going to move toward a
 22 form-based code which will facilitate more economic
 23 development. It is simpler, it's predictable, and
 24 it's better than the conventional zoning that we have
 25 in place.

Page 68

1 But again, I developed that aspect of the
 2 plan in consultation with Joe, so he would be the best
 3 person to talk about zoning implementation.
 4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: You have some
 5 various chart in here, transportation projects, and
 6 under the source of funds we have listed SPLOST, but
 7 unfortunately we don't have SPLOST in Dekalb County.
 8 MR. HOWE: Yeah. Again, that came -- that
 9 was taken from our LCI. That was an issue, you know,
 10 when we were talking about passing the LCI. So you
 11 know, a lot of those figures would be replaced with
 12 HOST.
 13 You know, another potential revenue stream
 14 would be the T-SPLOST if that passes July 31st. So
 15 that is the infrastructure that . . .
 16 One thing I need to come back to the plan
 17 and include is the cost for lighting and underground
 18 infrastructure. That's one thing I left out. But
 19 everything as far as zoning implementation and needed
 20 infrastructure was taken directly from the LCI.
 21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And regarding the
 22 DDA or the RDA, I know that we have spoken as a
 23 Council, Councilmember Bates had on more than one
 24 agenda of us forming a DDA. And I assume that the DDA
 25 would then be responsible for the plan amendments to

1 the Urban Redevelopment Plan.
 2 MR. HOWE: The Council can give that
 3 authority to a DDA or it can choose to keep it here
 4 in-house. It's totally up to the governing body.
 5 Some DDA -- and I'm all for a DDA and I think it would
 6 be -- I think it's essential. But some actually
 7 implement an Urban Redevelopment Plan, sometimes it's
 8 the planning department or an economic development
 9 department. It just all depends.
 10 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates?
 11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm good. Thank you.
 12 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Pachuta?
 13 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: (Shakes head)
 14 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. So you would like us
 15 to set a date for a public hearing?
 16 MR. HOWE: Well, I talked to Lisa about
 17 potentially combining this with the millage-rate
 18 hearing on the 25th, so that may be the most
 19 efficient, but again, it's up to Council.
 20 I think we need at least that amount of time
 21 just for public review.
 22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Mayor Pittman, when
 23 I originally spoke to Mr. Howe back in April when he
 24 first brought this to our attention, I told him that I
 25 felt -- and I still feel -- I would be much more

1 comfortable if you put this in a PowerPoint and we had
 2 a town hall meeting so that the residents could come,
 3 and instead of looking on a computer and looking at
 4 all the pages, that they would see what you're
 5 talking about, because I don't think any of us up here
 6 on Council like the terms that are being used, okay?
 7 MR. HOWE: Well --
 8 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And I realize that,
 9 but I want them to be able to see the documentation
 10 through a PowerPoint if possible. So my preference
 11 would be not on the millage rate -- Well, we could do
 12 it then. We could do the millage rate first and then
 13 that meeting, I guess, but that would be my preference
 14 if that's at all possible.
 15 MR. HOWE: We -- we did.
 16 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I think we have to
 17 adopt the budget that night also.
 18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Both items are on the
 19 agenda. We probably need to put it on a separate
 20 night, a standalone.
 21 MR. HOWE: Yes, ma'am. And we did prepare a
 22 PowerPoint, and in the interest of time, we decided to
 23 hold off on that until the actual public hearing.
 24 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, I would like to
 25 -- I think that's an excellent idea because then we

1 can get feedback from the people in the community,
 2 because I have received so many phone calls on this
 3 and a lot of them were from very concerned people. So
 4 if we could educate people, and I, myself, could get a
 5 little more understanding, a better understanding, I
 6 think that would be a great way to do that and to be
 7 available to ask -- to have people ask you questions
 8 and just have it in a kind of look-and-see kind of
 9 format.
 10 MR. HOWE: Sure. Absolutely.
 11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I mean before the
 12 hearing so that that would give time for them to
 13 provide feedback to us.
 14 MAYOR PITTMAN: Education is good. So if we
 15 again can look at our calendars sometime this week and
 16 let us know so we could -- We're filling up quick, but
 17 we'll see what we can come up with with a town hall
 18 meeting.
 19 MR. HOWE: Okay.
 20 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you so much.
 21 MR. HOWE: Mayor, I have to excuse myself,
 22 but you know, if you have any questions about it or
 23 the plan or the process or the law, just please don't
 24 hesitate to call me or e-mail me. Thank you all.
 25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you so much.

1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Thank you.
 2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. We appreciate
 3 it.
 4 Mr. Cooley, did you have anything?
 5 MR. JOE COOLEY: No, ma'am.
 6 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Ferguson?
 7 MS. FERGUSON: No.
 8 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. We're going to take a
 9 five-minute break.
 10 ---
 11 (Brief recess)
 12 ---
 13 MAYOR PITTMAN: Meeting come back to order.
 14 Next on the agenda is a public hearing to amend
 15 Chapter 14, Sections-7 --
 16 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We've had the public
 17 hearing --
 18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay.
 19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- on this one at our
 20 last meeting. There were a couple of lingering
 21 questions that we pushed forward on this ordinance.
 22 We visited the ordinance several times.
 23 It's basically to bring our fees in line where it's
 24 referencing in the fee schedule, and then we added
 25 some procedure to give us a written procedure on

Page 73

1 variances, denial, etc., so if that actually became a
2 reality, we would be able to refer to this code to
3 tell us what the procedure should be, and we'd need to
4 go through that process.
5 If I am correct, there were two questions
6 that were lingering after the last meeting. Had a
7 chance to look at it.
8 One was regarding whether the variance if
9 granted could be limited to the owner as opposed to
10 running with the land. We looked at the issue, and I
11 think it is an appropriate method to limit it to the
12 owner and would recommend that we leave that language
13 in there. And I've done a little research on it and
14 could talk at length if you wanted to about that
15 issue, but I think it would be not a bad thing to
16 leave in the ordinance.
17 The other was regarding whether we could
18 charge for a hearing officer on this. And in the
19 context of this ordinance, especially the Sign
20 Ordinance, First Amendment, you know, a very delicate
21 ordinance, I don't think we should do that. Frankly,
22 I think having the hearing officer hopefully with the
23 sophistication of the issues that get presented in
24 these kind of cases, you might save money in the long
25 run by having a good opinion and order written that

Page 74

1 would not be something that would lead to protracted
2 litigation.
3 And I'm concerned that if we did try to push
4 that cost on the applicant, we'd have two problems.
5 One is it would be difficult in advance to assess what
6 that cost would be. It would be dependent on the
7 length and the scope of the hearing. And number two,
8 I think that the argument definitely would be made,
9 especially in the context of billboards, very serious
10 First Amendment challenges, they would say, "You've
11 actually taken away my right to appeal by trying to
12 force a cost on me, so I can't avail myself of my
13 First Amendment rights."
14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But now this appeal,
15 though, is going to come before Council, right? not
16 the hearing officer?
17 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If it goes before
18 Council, that gets rid of the issue. Yeah. Okay.
19 This goes before Council?
20 ATTORNEY FELGIN: Uh-huh.
21 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Okay. Right. I'd like
22 this before a hearing officer but I'm good with it.
23 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: And I had an issue with
24 the size, the size of the sign you said that you were
25 going to put in a size?

Page 75

1 ATTORNEY FELGIN: We got rid of the size.
2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: The size limitation on
3 the advertisement?
4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: On Section --
5 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: No. On public
6 notice.
7 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Public notice.
8 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Did that come out?
9 ATTORNEY FELGIN: Yeah, we took out the --
10 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, no. We wanted to
11 put something in.
12 ATTORNEY FELGIN: Well, we weren't sure
13 exactly what figure you all were thinking of.
14 ATTORNEY McLENDON: What section are we
15 talking about?
16 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: (d)(1), page four of
17 nine.
18 ATTORNEY FELGIN: We had a size in there
19 before, and we took it out because it seemed too
20 large, and I wasn't sure what size the Council were
21 looking to do.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Cooley, did you have a
23 thought?
24 MR. COOLEY: Yes. At the last meeting we
25 were talking about my recommendation. Well, based

Page 76

1 upon our other ordinance, this was four-and-a-half
2 feet. Our current sign is approximately six feet. So
3 as long as we, you know, keep --
4 We can work with six feet, you know,
5 whichever you-all prefer. I think a six-foot is a
6 good size because you can see it much better and it
7 keeps you from putting 8-1/2 by 11 and sticking it
8 somewhere on a tree --
9 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right.
10 MR. COOLEY: -- and nobody ever knowing
11 about it.
12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. Good.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But the one that you
14 previously did, the one that you showed us several
15 weeks ago, maybe even two months ago --
16 MR. COOLEY: Yes.
17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- is quite
18 appropriate because I have yet to see any city other
19 than us post with a 4 x 4 post in the ground with
20 these six-foot wooden signs.
21 MR. COOLEY: Right. Well --
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And I find that to
23 be very expensive. And the ones that you have showed
24 us before similar to the larger campaign signs are
25 very applicable -- I mean can be seen quite readily

Page 77

1 from the street.
2 MR. COOLEY: Right, and I believe those are
3 24 x 38 so a little over two by three which is a
4 little over six square feet, and that's the largest
5 sign that we could get that you could do a one-person
6 implementation on.
7 And that's the primary reason we went to it:
8 to cut down what we were paying for just the stickers
9 that were going on the big signs, and having to have
10 Public Works go out there and install them and then
11 uninstall them was just driving up the cost to the
12 point that it was unreasonable in my opinion. And
13 this way, one person can go out. It's visible, you
14 know, it's this large.
15 Now, there are some -- like, you know,
16 Dunwoody has, I think they do have a 12 square foot.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yeah.
18 MR. COOLEY: But if you look at their signs,
19 they're two metal posts, they're 6-1/2 foot metal
20 posts that have to have drivers and two people. Then
21 you have to attach the sign to it. It's a two-person
22 job. It's not something -- If we're going to do that,
23 we might as well stick with what we've got.
24 Again, you know, this was in a time when we
25 were trying to cut costs, the budget. But still, I

Page 78

1 think with the yellow coloring and everything we've
2 got, it stands out as good. It's the same color, and
3 actually the lettering's the same size as Dunwoody's.
4 I think ours is a quarter inch smaller, but we use all
5 caps where they use upper and lower cases. So it's
6 just as visible. They've got a little more verbiage
7 on it. You know, we say call, and they say call city
8 hall, blah, blah, blah, that type of thing.
9 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Put another way,
10 I've noticed some from the County where I have to pull
11 off the street and actually walk up to the sign and
12 read it. This'll be larger where I can at least drive
13 a little bit slowly and pick up the . . .
14 MR. COOLEY: Yeah. And we also have the
15 flexibility because we fill in some of the stuff at
16 the time --
17 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Okay.
18 MR. COOLEY: -- to better identify, I think,
19 ones that always -- like in Cobb County where it says
20 this is a variance for something but it doesn't give
21 you a clue.
22 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Got you.
23 MR. COOLEY: And that's -- you know, I go by
24 and I stop and I look at them and I still scratch my
25 head.

Page 79

1 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Okay. I'm not the
2 only one.
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: From a legal
4 standpoint, using the hand signs that, as Ms. Fleming
5 called them, the campaign signs, what happens if
6 someone removes them?
7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: What you would do is --
8 Joe probably does this -- we would post it out there,
9 take a picture of it and show that we posted it. If
10 somebody removes it, you would go out and replace it
11 upon notice, but we put it out there, and most places
12 I've ever seen take a picture when it's posted.
13 MR. COOLEY: We do dated pictures, make
14 sure. But we also go by and check like you're saying
15 just to make sure it's out there.
16 We had that one out there. I was afraid
17 that one was going to disappear on Buford Highway in
18 front of --
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Does it move?
20 MR. COOLEY: -- 5600.
21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The one in front of
22 Georgia Palace has moved around. At one point, it was
23 perpendicular to the street, a couple days later it
24 was parallel to the street, a few days later it was
25 further up towards the Waffle House, so it moved.

Page 80

1 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Need to keep an eye on
2 them.
3 MR. COOLEY: Yeah. The only thing I saw --
4 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We posted it with
5 sufficient time. We met the obligation of the law.
6 And I think Joe's correct; in one that we
7 know maybe problematic, probably good to put your eyes
8 on it and see that it stays.
9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I'm just -- I'm just
10 not comfortable with the small signs. My preference
11 is a Dunwoody-esque.
12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah, I agree.
13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But I understand the
14 cost standpoint and the manpower standpoint. I think
15 these are small and not as easy to read as, you know,
16 the larger signs. I found the white ones that we were
17 using difficult to read, but that's -- My preference
18 would be to put a minimum size requirement in here --
19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right.
20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- so that at some
21 future time down the road, we don't put 8-1/2 x 11
22 sheets of paper up.
23 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And I think we could
24 make that amendment very easily if we decide to make a
25 motion and pass this. In Section (d)(1), we would

Page 81

1 just say one sign and then amend in the language not
 2 less than however many square feet and then continue
 3 the sentence, and we would cover that, and you could
 4 say not less than whatever square footage y'all
 5 decide.
 6 MR. COOLEY: We do have a number of the
 7 signs that are preprinted, so I have absolutely no
 8 problem, you know. Let's use these up, you know, get
 9 our money's worth out of it. And then if there's, you
 10 know, concern, we've got a little more experience and
 11 see what's happening with them, see what type of
 12 feedback that you get from the public, and we can
 13 modify accordingly.
 14 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And if we do it as a
 15 not-less-than, we could always deviate upward, just
 16 staff.
 17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: And to Councilman
 18 Bates' point, I took a drive down Buford Highway. I
 19 think I sent an e-mail to you guys about it. There
 20 are so many signs up that shouldn't be up, and
 21 abandoned signs of companies that have left and their
 22 signs are here.
 23 And I was looking at our prohibited sign
 24 ordinance, and there's nothing -- there's nothing in
 25 that that addresses the dead signs, the vacant

Page 82

1 property signs, or even a sign constructed of
 2 nondurable material, you know, because there are so
 3 many like "for lease" signs and "for sale" signs, and
 4 they're stuck all up and down Buford Highway.
 5 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Sign ordinances are
 6 difficult and interesting ordinances. And again,
 7 we've said we're going to take on a complete new draft
 8 of the Sign Ordinance, which is a substantial project.
 9 But one of the issues that the law -- the
 10 way the law couches this is it says you can't address
 11 content. So what that means is I can't say, "That
 12 sign's not advertising a business," because if I'm the
 13 property owner, I might choose for that sign to
 14 continue to advertise the old business. Then you get
 15 into content and it gets difficult.
 16 What you really regulate is the number of
 17 signs, number available signs; you would regulate the
 18 maintenance of the signs.
 19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: And the material of the
 20 signs? I looked. I looked under MuniCode and I
 21 looked at a couple of cities and I got some samples,
 22 and there are a lot of cities that do.
 23 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Be careful when you look
 24 into other city sign ordinances because the Georgia
 25 Supreme Court has struck down lots of sign ordinances.

Page 83

1 And I don't know who has updated theirs and who has
 2 vetted it in a way that it would be constitutional,
 3 because when somebody -- when you go into sign-
 4 ordinance litigation, it's tough litigation.
 5 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: All right. But even
 6 like with abandoned property, for example, a time
 7 period: once a company leaves, you have 90 days to
 8 get rid of your sign or the city is authorized to do
 9 it or something, because that's just --
 10 ATTORNEY McLENDON: On a permanent sign?
 11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Uh-huh.
 12 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Because my thought would
 13 be okay. And this is actually a relatively interesting
 14 conversation if you ever wanted to have it because
 15 it's a fascinating body of the law; it's a deep body
 16 of the law because of the issue.
 17 And you have the business that was in the
 18 property and you have the owner of the property. Who
 19 owns the physical property? The business leaves. I'm
 20 the owner. I want that sign to say whatever I want it
 21 to say. That doesn't mean it's abandoned because the
 22 business has left.
 23 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, what about
 24 weathered or dilapidated?
 25 ATTORNEY McLENDON: That's a maintenance

Page 84

1 issue.
 2 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Dilapidation?
 3 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah.
 4 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Maintenance issue. And
 5 maintenance issues can absolutely be reviewed, and
 6 that's something that Community Development, the
 7 Quality of Life can definitely look at that.
 8 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, I say this
 9 because -- and we see. I mean if we could clean up
 10 even some of these old dilapidated signs, just get rid
 11 of them and make sure, because I'm seeing signs that
 12 are improperly placed, illegally placed, and they're
 13 not -- If we could be better at like collecting them.
 14 I know that people in the community do it all the
 15 time. And if we could just do that one thing, it's
 16 not going to cost the City any money, and I think that
 17 it would dramatically improve the aesthetics of some
 18 of our streets.
 19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Are you talking about
 20 like the temporary signs in rights of way?
 21 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, like the pill
 22 mill and things like that.
 23 ATTORNEY McLENDON: No one can place signs
 24 -- there's a pretty broad restriction that says you
 25 can't place signs in the right-of-way.

Page 85

1 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right, but they do.
 2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If it's in the right of
 3 way --
 4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right, right.
 5 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- they can be pulled.
 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: ^{Regarding the size}
 7 of the notification sign, my whole point was we're
 8 defining the size of a sign regarding a sign variance.
 9 We need to define the size of the sign in the Zoning
 10 Code because we don't have a size of a rezoning sign
 11 defined is what I was told by Legal.
 12 So my whole thing was we're getting into
 13 defining this, and it's just for a sign variance. We
 14 need to define it for the zoning.
 15 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Yeah. And you could
 16 easily tell me, "Cecil, go get me a six-foot -- no
 17 less than six-foot minimum sign," we could put that
 18 into the Zoning Code. We create that rule.
 19 You know, I think that's where we were is we
 20 talked about it, we decided let's just say a sign
 21 because the law does not require us to have a certain
 22 size of sign, and at that point it becomes the
 23 discretion of the staff to make sure that it was
 24 appropriately done.
 25 And you know, I think when we come back in

Page 86

1 tonight and say, "Well, let's talk about a minimum
 2 size," I don't have any problem with a minimum size.
 3 But when you create that rule in your ordinance, you
 4 live or die by that rule. If you say six foot and you
 5 have five-and-a-half square feet, this is potentially
 6 fatal to what you have done. And I mean we really
 7 just thought it might be appropriate to use your
 8 judgment based upon where the sign is being placed.
 9 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah, but I thought we
 10 talked about this at the last meeting, right? and when
 11 we talked about it, because I would feel much, much,
 12 much more comfortable with a minimum size as I stated
 13 at the last meeting.
 14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. I would make
 15 a motion to add to (d)(1) the second sentence, one
 16 sign not less than six square feet.
 17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Do I get a second?
 18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Second.
 19 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
 20 - - -
 21 (No response)
 22 - - -
 23 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
 24 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
 25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

Page 87

1 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
 2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
 3 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
 4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
 5 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
 6 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
 7 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
 8 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
 9 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
 10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
 11 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
 12 Next is under Old Business.
 13 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Okay. So now we got to
 14 vote on the ordinance. So that was a vote just to
 15 amend it?
 16 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yes, if they want to.
 17 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And then we would
 18 entertain a motion to pass the entire ordinance as
 19 amended.
 20 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Anything additional
 21 you want us to add?
 22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I -- Are you asking
 23 Council?
 24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Uh-huh.
 25 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I agree with Ms.

Page 88

1 Alexander, the zoning -- one of the two of you need to
 2 get into Chapter 23 and find out where the public
 3 hearing advertisements are located and make an
 4 amendment at that point to include not less than six
 5 square feet.
 6 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We can do that.
 7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Alexander,
 8 anything else?
 9 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No. Thank you.
 10 Ms. Fleming.
 11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: You're welcome.
 12 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates?
 13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No.
 14 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Pachuta? Mr. Patrick?
 15 Okay. Now you can make a motion.
 16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I make a motion to,
 17 let's see, pass as presented the changes to Ordinance
 18 14-7, I think 14-16 and 14 dash --
 19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: 20.
 20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: This says -5.
 21 14-20?
 22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, that's what
 23 the agenda item cover sheet says.
 24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Do I get a second?
 25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
 2 ---
 3 (No response)
 4 ---
 5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
 6 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
 7 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
 8 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
 9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
 10 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
 11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
 12 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
 13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
 14 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
 15 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
 16 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
 17 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
 18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Next is under
 19 Old Business, Tree Limb Removal. This has been talked
 20 about a couple of times. Mr. Bates.
 21 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes. Thank you,
 22 Mayor.
 23 I did not get any feedback from Council, so
 24 based upon lack thereof, I went ahead and drafted a
 25 proposed flyer to be distributed, disseminated by

1 someone, U.S. Post Office, Quality of Life, Advanced
 2 Disposal, neighborhood associations, City Hall.
 3 So this is now draft number 7-A for review,
 4 comment, language. If you get it back to me within a
 5 couple days, I'll make the adjustments and we'll get
 6 it back out electronically.
 7 But if we're comfortable with this, I would
 8 really like to get this out there as quickly as we can
 9 so that we've got a unified, consistent message to
 10 tell everybody so everybody knows what's supposed to
 11 happen, when it's supposed to happen and what it's
 12 supposed to be in, from the residents, to Advanced
 13 Disposal, to Public Works, to City Hall, to the Police
 14 Department, to Community Development. Nobody's on the
 15 same page on any of this, and we just need to get
 16 there.
 17 MAYOR PITTMAN: This is very good.
 18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And as Ms. Alexander
 19 has already caught, which is why we do these things,
 20 the narrative, the letter on the back, fourth
 21 sentence, fourth paragraph should read "First all yard
 22 debris must be bagged" -- must be paper bagged.
 23 So again, if you've got other comments,
 24 suggestions, e-mail or call me with them and we'll see
 25 if we can move this out.

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.
 2 Questions on this from the Council?
 3 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Just a quick
 4 question. If someone from the neighborhood complains
 5 about trash services, who is the contact at the City?
 6 Who is the go-to person that says, "I'll fix it?"
 7 CLERK BRYANT: (Raises hand.)
 8 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Thank you.
 9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Or you can just shoot an
 10 e-mail and we forward it immediately to Advanced.
 11 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Good enough.
 12 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Next on the agenda --
 13 Thank you, Mr. Bates.
 14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: You're welcome.
 15 MAYOR PITTMAN: It was very good.
 16 City Manager Search, Ms. Alexander.
 17 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mayor.
 18 As Council had previously discussed at several
 19 meetings, we issued an RFP for a recruitment service
 20 to assist us in hiring our first city manager.
 21 Included in the RFP was assistance with creating a job
 22 description for the city manager.
 23 I reviewed all the proposals we received
 24 back and was impressed with two of them that talked
 25 about interviewing us one-on-one, sort of evaluating

1 our personalities to look, you know, for a city
 2 manager with a certain management style. It mentioned
 3 that a person that meets all the qualifications still
 4 may not be the best fit for the City. It's based on
 5 interaction, communication skills and management
 6 style.
 7 And also on the top two out of three firms I
 8 chose, they had -- they mentioned citizen involvement,
 9 meeting with citizens, neighborhood associations to
 10 get their feedback on what they thought a city manager
 11 may be.
 12 So I was just looking for feedback from
 13 other Council members on the proposal and see if we
 14 wanted to interview any of the recruitment agencies or
 15 what the Council thoughts were.
 16 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: One of the other
 17 things that I looked for when I looked through them
 18 too was their experience working in metro Atlanta
 19 cities, because several of them did not have a lot
 20 of -- not only did not have metro Atlanta but did not
 21 have Georgia. So that was one of the other factors
 22 that I looked at.
 23 And I know there's still a lot of discussion
 24 whether or not to use a headhunter. I do think we
 25 should at least interview and at the same time come up

Page 93

1 with an alternative plan. But I think we should, you
2 know, get them to come in and tell us what exactly
3 they can do for us. So I kind of ordered mine in
4 which ones I thought were the best, but I think we
5 should at least bring in two.
6 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Anyone else?
7 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah. I think that we
8 are premature. I think that we need to change the
9 Charter to reflect what the Mayor's responsibilities
10 will be, what the city manager's responsibilities will
11 be.
12 And also when we're talking about the amount
13 of money, we have thirty thousand or around that
14 budgeted in 2013 for the city manager position. If we
15 find someone, we're going to say, "Hey, Mr.
16 Potential -- Mr. Administrator, wait until two
17 thousand -- January 1st --
18 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: -- two thousand --
20 Well, see, and the legislation says that we have a
21 full-time mayor until January 1st, 2014. So we're
22 going to be paying the full-time Mayor's salary, and
23 then we have to budget for a city manager at around
24 \$130,000, and then we have \$30,000 for the headhunter
25 fee, and now we're talking about \$230,000 which is

Page 94

1 kind of costly for something that's going to happen in
2 a year and seven months.
3 I spoke to a council member at Peachtree
4 Corners, and he has -- he and the city, because
5 they're recently formed, they developed a committee
6 using a couple of city managers and other people who
7 are experienced at this to determine what needs that
8 they will have, and it was a lot less than a head-
9 hunting firm.
10 Furthermore, we have on staff now -- we have
11 hired an HR firm specializing in municipalities, and
12 so with six or seven brains here --
13 I have a lot of HR experience myself, I
14 looked online, and this was just one city manager
15 search, and this has a ton of information, just things
16 to look for, things that the ideal candidate -- what
17 they are looking for.
18 -- if we sit down and we talk and we create
19 a list of those things that we are looking for, the
20 responsibilities that we want him or her to have and
21 at least try, put ourselves out there, put this
22 together, because we're not stupid people. And if we
23 work together, then we can combine our brainpower and
24 get something going that we can at least try instead
25 of paying someone without even attempting to do this

Page 95

1 as an elected body, and that's, I think -- I don't see
2 that there's any harm.
3 We're not going to find someone who's going
4 to be willing to wait until 2014 to start their job.
5 And there is the issue of money. We have about, what?
6 \$66,000 cushion on our budget now, and it doesn't make
7 up for this. We don't have this. We don't have this
8 money. And I think that that's a real consideration
9 and I think that's something that we need to take into
10 consideration seriously.
11 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
12 Ms. Fleming?
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I agree with Ms.
14 Dean in regards to the financial end of it. I've
15 always felt that way. And I have made the comment
16 that a retreat setting would be perfect for all seven
17 of us to get together and utilize the retreat, if
18 nothing else, putting our heads together to formulate
19 what we want to see in a city manager.
20 And so if we want to interview, that's fine,
21 but my preference would be to do it amongst us.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Patrick?
23 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I would agree with
24 Councilman Dean and Councilman Fleming.
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Pachuta?

Page 96

1 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I've already spoken.
2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates?
3 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, the motion was
4 made on April 2nd to start moving forward with the
5 process of evaluating a search committee. It is now
6 June the 4th, so two months have elapsed. There's
7 been nothing presented to this body to evaluate or
8 look at an alternative method of creating and
9 establishing a search committee -- the criteria, the
10 responsibility, the timelines, what happens if they
11 don't perform their duties, what their responsi-
12 bilities are, who's going to select the search
13 committee members, etc.
14 So we've heard this now for two months, and
15 nothing has been presented or brought forth as a
16 viable alternative. It's been talked about. This is
17 the third meeting now that it's been brought up for
18 consideration, but there's nothing to evaluate or
19 compare to.
20 The second piece is while I understand
21 putting the job description together is something that
22 we can do, I don't necessarily disagree with that,
23 the biggest piece for me on this whole search process.
24 And echoed throughout all five proposals were
25 statements that said -- and I'm going to read two of

1 them: (Reading) We realize that the best candidate is
2 often not looking for a new job, and this is the
3 person that we actively pursue to become a candidate.
4 An important part of the recruiter's work is selling
5 the community to the very best candidates including
6 those that are not actively looking for their next
7 job.

8 I don't want to be passive in this
9 recruitment process. And the last time we spoke about
10 this it was referenced about the golden boy from
11 California. Well, if it's the golden boy from
12 California or the golden girl from south Georgia, I
13 want us to be aggressive and proactive in finding this
14 person and make sure that it's a good fit for the
15 city, not hoping and praying that the job posting on
16 the International Association of City Managers
17 warrants and gives us a candidate that is going to be
18 a good fit for us.

19 The recruitment firms, all of them talk
20 about analyzing, evaluating and finding a person that
21 is the best fit for the city, not the most qualified.
22 And that to me is really an important distinction in
23 that we all know that Doraville is different, we are
24 unique. And I want to make sure that whomever we hire
25 is going to be a good fit for us, not just because

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Alexander?
2 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Thank you for your
3 comments. I think this is such an important move for
4 the city, and a city manager -- city administrator is
5 currently allowed under the Charter as it now stands.
6 I did in my documents find a -- I think it was a
7 dozen-page document that our attorneys forwarded to us
8 on what we needed to do, our next steps that we needed
9 to do. It was penned before the referendum passed.
10 Now the referendum has passed, and these are actions
11 that Council needs to take.

12 I thought that I -- it was ironic to me,
13 because some of the people that are consulting on
14 Peachtree Corners -- which, by the way, a city light;
15 it's not a full-functioning city -- have actually been
16 recruited by some of these people that responded to
17 our RFPs. So they were recruited.

18 I think it's an extremely important
19 decision. I think we need to get as much completely
20 objective input as we possibly can. And I did
21 appreciate the two of my top -- two of my top three
22 mentioning having citizen involvement and meeting with
23 neighborhood groups. I thought that was a very
24 important aspect.

25 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, I think that all

1 they've got the criteria and the qualifications that
2 we set at some meeting whether it's with the recruiter
3 or at a retreat with a facilitator or by drawing lots
4 out of a hat.

5 So this process to me is so critically
6 important. They are going to be tasked with so much
7 first-time stuff, the policies and processes and
8 procedures that the City doesn't have in place that we
9 critically need to have in place.

10 And this last week, the pool issue is a
11 perfect example. The Mayor should not have been
12 dealing with the pool issues every day of the week.
13 That should have been a staff function, a city manager
14 function, not the Mayor whose job is to promote and
15 market the city.

16 So I appreciate the desire and wants of
17 saving money and not doing a professional search, but
18 remember you get what you pay for, and this City has
19 done things so cheaply in the past to save the
20 almighty dollar. Look at the condition of our parks.
21 Look at the condition of our municipal buildings. We
22 have gone and we have been very cheap, and it's time
23 for us to invest in our future and go about this
24 process and hire someone that is going to help the
25 city grow and develop and be better than we left it.

1 of these are very, very good marketing tools and I
2 think that they had some good information.

3 But we still have a responsibility to convey
4 our needs to a headhunting firm. We can't say, "Go do
5 our work for us." We're going to have to convey our
6 needs to them. And we as a Council -- and this has
7 been my complaint from day one -- we do not
8 communicate well as a body, and that's --

9 You're right. You're right, Mr. Bates. We
10 have not talked about what our needs or what -- we
11 have not presented anything because we haven't
12 discussed this. We haven't had a time to sit down and
13 say, "Well, this is what I think our city needs to
14 focus on and this is the kind of person we need." So
15 it's our lack of communication among each other that I
16 think is something that must be addressed because we
17 still have to communicate to a head-hunting firm what
18 our needs and desires are, and so that's not just
19 going to appear.

20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Phase One of this
21 particular firm, Colin Baenziger & Associates:
22 (Reading) Typically we meet with the elected officials
23 individually and then as a group. We also want to
24 finalize the timeline for the recruitment. Further as
25 noted above, we routinely incorporate meetings with

1 other stakeholders.

2 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: That's nice.

3 Also, please, no offense taken to our newly-
4 hired department head because it's -- while it was
5 cheaply done, I'm very, very excited about having you
6 on board. So this does not -- you're not included in
7 this conversation.

8 But again, we have a year and a half, and so
9 I don't think that we are going to be able to find
10 someone who is going to wait until January 1st, 2014
11 to take the reins of a city manager. A city adminis-
12 trator is something to, again, fill in, fill in the
13 space, but we're having a difficult time finding a
14 city clerk.

15 We are unique and people know us, and if
16 they don't know us and if they're thinking about
17 joining our city in the capacity of managing it, then
18 they will learn about us. And so we have lots of
19 warts that will be exposed, and that's just who we
20 are; right? But it's not -- it's not going to be a
21 fancy firm that's going to mask that for us.

22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: All of the firms
23 talked about being very open and transparent in the
24 issues that a city manager is going to have to face.
25 If you read through the marketing materials that were

1 have our experience combined. We know better than
2 anyone else or we should know better than anyone else
3 what our needs as a city are, and that I think right
4 there is enough to at least begin the process.

5 If it doesn't work, if we cannot do, if we
6 have to pay yet again someone to find an employee for
7 our City, then we still have time, because, again, we
8 have a year. Nothing is going to change. The Mayor
9 is going to be a full-time mayor until January 1st,
10 2014. That's the way the legislation has been
11 written. That's a fact, and that's something that's
12 not going to move.

13 So even if we get someone next month, then
14 there's still going to be that overlap that's going to
15 cost us a lot of money that we don't have.

16 MAYOR PITTMAN: It sounds like several
17 issues are at hand, whether we want to actually inter-
18 view, whether we want to in the retreat put together
19 our game plan and then possibly interview or allow the
20 Council to take the lead on it. So that seems to be
21 the issues at hand, and a lot of great points made
22 from both sides.

23 I think at this point, Ms. Alexander, what
24 would you like to do?

25 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: We have been

1 presented to us, they very clearly talked about the
2 challenges of the various cities that they were
3 working with. So --

4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: No, I understand.

5 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- I don't think that
6 there's any desire of wanting to gloss over or hide
7 the warts of the City. Those are critically
8 important. And that's why to me it's very important
9 that you find the person that's most capable of
10 dealing with those warts --

11 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well --

12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- and not -- and not
13 hoping that somebody happens to see the job posting on
14 some Web site and applies and we get lucky. This is -
15 - this is much too critically important for us to hope
16 that we get lucky.

17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, there is a pool -
18 - there is a pool of people, city managers out there.
19 Whether they're employed or unemployed, they are
20 there.

21 Now, our job would be the same as a head-
22 hunting firm, and that is to access those people. We
23 have an HR company right now employed. We have
24 employed an HR firm that specializes in municipi-
25 palities, so we have that. We have that tool. We

1 discussing this since April. I mean it was a waste of
2 my time, it was a waste of these people's time. I
3 mean this just absolutely amazes me.

4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: No, it should not amaze
5 you because these points were made then originally.
6 And the point was made also, well, it's not going to
7 hurt to send out an RFP. So it's still -- it should
8 not be amazing, because I have not changed my position
9 on this at all. I haven't even wavered on my position
10 on this.

11 And so the fact that we now have the
12 materials in our hand -- And I've read them, and
13 they're nice. But I'm just saying I think that we can
14 do this ourselves. I think that people entrust our
15 judgment. They have entrusted us, which is why they
16 voted us in office. I think this is one of our
17 responsibilities that we should take on rather than
18 pass on to someone else.

19 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And we are not
20 passing on the responsibility, because we are going to
21 be the hiring party. They are going to be screening
22 candidates and bringing us the cream of the crop to
23 interview and all. So we're not shirking our
24 responsibilities or passing the buck to have someone
25 else make such an important decision. They are merely

1 a tool to assist us to move this city forward.
2 As I have mentioned before, it's already in
3 the Charter that we have a city administrator. We've
4 had previous city administrators. If you look at old
5 documents from '50s, they had a city administrator.
6 It's already in the Charter, and we have a list of
7 Charter changes that need to be made in addition to
8 that.

9 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, it's a cost.

10 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: As I mentioned
11 before, I was hoping to get the Mayor some help in
12 here and have this person in January 1 of 2013. But
13 now I feel like Council members don't even want to do
14 that; they want to wait till 2014.

15 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, how are going to
16 pay for it? We don't have the budget for that. The
17 Mayor's salary -- unless the Mayor is willing to take
18 a reduction in salary. We have a full-time Mayor and
19 we have no money to pay for an administrator,
20 certainly on the level that a city manager would be
21 paid, because we're talking close to \$130,000.

22 And right now, again, we have \$66,000 leeway
23 in our budget, and that's with a \$30,000 -- that's
24 with \$30,000 budgeted right now for the city manager,
25 and I find it very unlikely that we're going to find

1 somehow or another, we've managed to a balanced budget
2 this year. And I know that some people said it's not
3 possible to ask for a reduction in costs, and yet
4 somehow or another, we have it. I think it's simply a
5 matter of us asking the questions and doing the
6 legwork ourselves.

7 MAYOR PITTMAN: All right. I think we know
8 everybody's opinion.

9 Ms. Alexander, this is your agenda item.

10 Would you like to do?

11 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, I mean, it
12 seems like Council members aren't really even open to
13 it, so I don't want to call these people in here and
14 interview them and waste their time. That's
15 unprofessional.

16 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.

17 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: But Council
18 members that have made suggestions have had since
19 April 21st to bring something to the table, and that
20 hasn't been done either.

21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. And I'll
22 have to look back at the minutes, but I thought we had
23 discussed having staff contact city managers and
24 things to see their interest in helping us, and I have
25 not received a staff update on that.

1 an administrator willing to come in here to work for a
2 year for \$30,000.

3 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And we discussed
4 at the budget meeting with Ms. Ferguson that would
5 probably have to be adjusted.

6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And as a reminder, the
7 annexation takes effect on December 31st, and so as of
8 January 1st, 2013, there is a significant number of
9 new properties coming into the City that would be
10 paying property tax, occupation taxes, etc., so there
11 is additional revenue.

12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, additional
13 revenue but also additional cost to the City because
14 we're going to have to protect those properties --

15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And that's --

16 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: -- and do a lot of
17 other things that --

18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- already allocated.

19 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: And I think some of
20 the other concerns are is that we have a history of
21 spending money that we can't live within a budget on.
22 When I asked Ms. Ferguson for a history of deficit
23 spending since 2008, if I recall correctly, 2008, we
24 had an \$80,000 deficit; 2009, we had a million; 2010,
25 we had two million; 2011, a million-three. And

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: I know you --

2 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I can provide --

3 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- talked to some.

4 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I --

5 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I can provide my
6 materials. But again, I want to get a sense. There's
7 that communication issue that we have that, you know,
8 I can send you my communications with other people,
9 and you are free to contact them and ask questions or
10 engage in dialogue.

11 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Have they said they
12 are willing to come down and form a committee and sit
13 with us and --

14 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: The --

15 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- help us develop
16 this?

17 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- city adminis-
18 trator for Roswell has said that she's not going to
19 get involved in the decisionmaking whether to go with
20 a company or form a board on our own, but she has said
21 that she would be willing to sit in on such a board.
22 So that's one out of three people that I have
23 suggested we could have.

24 I can ask additional people. It would
25 probably be appropriate if the Mayor, who is the chief

1 executive of our city --
 2 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I believe that --
 3 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- put the question
 4 out.
 5 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- she was
 6 supposed -- That was what was asked April 2nd, so can
 7 we get an update on that?
 8 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, the only person that
 9 I've been able to contact, because I knew you
 10 contacted some people, was the mayor in Dunwoody. And
 11 he does not wish to sit on a committee -- not the
 12 mayor, but the city manager -- but he is more than
 13 willing to come together and give his thoughts and
 14 ideas and offer any input.
 15 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Is that the only one
 16 staff has contacted in two months?
 17 MAYOR PITTMAN: So does someone wish to make
 18 a motion or what would you like to do, Ms. Alexander?
 19 It's your item.
 20 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Well, does three
 21 -- Have the other Council members ranked who they
 22 would want to interview if they wanted to interview
 23 anyone?
 24 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm not at that point
 25 yet. I mean I still think that we should -- with the

1 evaluate and compare and contrast, I've got one option
 2 to look at.
 3 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
 4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And the one option is
 5 right now what I think is the best option, which is to
 6 find the best fit for the city.
 7 But I've got nothing to compare it to. And
 8 again, as Ms. Pachuta said and Ms. Alexander said,
 9 this has been talked about since April 2nd.
 10 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Mr. Patrick --
 11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The motion --
 12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: -- would you like to
 13 start a committee?
 14 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The motion was made on
 15 April 2nd by Councilwoman Pachuta to issue an RFP and
 16 to concurrently reach out to local city managers to
 17 determine feasibility of forming a panel to evaluate
 18 potential candidates which may be identified through
 19 state and national city manager associations.
 20 That's now two full months, and nothing has
 21 been done.
 22 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, here's the thing.
 23 Right now, it's very, very funny because --
 24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Hold that thought one
 25 second.

1 budgetary concerns that I have and with the other
 2 matters that we've discussed, I think that we have
 3 time to do this ourselves, and I -- and I -- you know,
 4 that's --
 5 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Well, I think it
 6 would be important if staff could contact more than
 7 one city manager to get input, because I can't even
 8 really seriously consider that option right now when I
 9 don't even know if there's interest.
 10 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, when you talk about
 11 input, about the city manager, or are you talking
 12 about input whether they're willing to work with us?
 13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, the proposal and
 14 suggestion has been to form a committee. But I don't
 15 know what the committee looks like, I don't know what
 16 it's structured, I don't know who's going to select
 17 the committee members. There's been nothing provided
 18 to provide me with how that is structured, looks,
 19 runs, process, etc., so --
 20 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: All right. We'll have
 21 something --
 22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- until there is --
 23 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: We'll have something to
 24 you.
 25 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: -- that to look at and

1 It is after nine o'clock and we need to
 2 extend the meeting to finish the agenda, so could I
 3 get a real quick motion to do that?
 4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So moved.
 5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Second?
 6 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Second.
 7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
 8 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'm going to vote
 9 against out of principle because it's my birthday.
 10 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, happy birthday.
 11 Okay. Call the roll, please.
 12 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
 13 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
 14 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
 15 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No.
 16 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
 17 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
 18 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
 19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
 20 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
 21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: No.
 22 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
 23 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
 24 MAYOR PITTMAN: It passed. Thank you.
 25 Now, I'm sorry, go ahead.

Page 113

1 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. So what was my
2 point? What were we --
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: You were talking about
4 committees.
5 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Oh, yeah. But the
6 committees, I mean we can -- we can start. We have
7 time. I mean that's the thing. My -- my -- It seems
8 funny to me that everything is presented before, so we
9 need to make this decision quickly, quickly, quickly,
10 quickly, because we're on a time deadline, and now
11 with this matter -- I mean because we have until
12 January 1st, 2014, I mean that is -- and unless --
13 unless there's been some discussion, I mean what's
14 going to happen if we get someone, for example, 2013?
15 Show that to me. How does that look?
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: So it sounds like Mr. Bates
17 is asking for y'all --
18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I will --
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- to come back together
20 with a plan.
21 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes. Okay. And we
22 will. I will absolutely. I will. Unless anyone --
23 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: We will have a plan.
24 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: -- has an objection, I
25 will start a committee.

Page 114

1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Put it on the agenda
2 for 6/18.
3 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay.
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. All right. Next is
5 the Ordinance to Revise Homestead Exemption, Mr.
6 McLendon.
7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Yes. If I'm correct,
8 this is the second reading of the ordinance. This
9 just conforms our ordinances to the referendum that
10 was passed changing the amount of the homestead
11 assessment to \$25,000.
12 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah, and I have to
13 bring it up again because it still makes me uncomfor-
14 table that we have the whereas currently authorizes
15 \$65,000, because it wasn't \$65,000; it was \$50,000.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: It was never
17 \$65,000.
18 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I know you said --
19 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I didn't pick up on
20 that.
21 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: But the code --
22 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: The code says it.
23 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: -- says it.
24 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: But it was not,
25 because it was never gone to the legislature,

Page 115

1 approved.
2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: The code said sixty-five
3 but it never actually --
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I know. The whereas
5 still makes me uncomfortable.
6 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Change it. Let's amend
7 it. I would say the motion to pass it would include
8 an amendment of changing that language from \$65,000 to
9 \$50,000.
10 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Well, you did
11 mention -- and I recall years ago -- Ms. Pittman may
12 have been on Council then -- they voted to change the
13 homestead exemption from fifty to sixty-five, but they
14 never sent it to the legislature, they never had a
15 vote on it, nothing. So it never got implemented, so
16 I think maybe that's --
17 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If it was \$50,000,
18 \$50,000 is what we were recognizing and what was being
19 enforced, then I would say we put \$50,000, and I would
20 recommend we amend that into that whereas clause.
21 Was I listening? I must have missed that.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Anything additional?
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, I do have a
24 question, then, since we're not lowering from sixty-
25 five to twenty-five, did we not pass a resolution or

Page 116

1 some type of ordinance to reduce it to \$25,000 that
2 should have already gone to MuniCode to be changed?
3 ATTORNEY McLENDON: The referendum was
4 approved. So by virtue of the referendum, this is us
5 conforming our ordinances to match that referendum, if
6 I'm correct.
7 ATTORNEY FELGIN: The referendum doesn't
8 change the Code.
9 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, no, no. I'm
10 talking about we had to do some type of either a
11 resolution or an ordinance to even go to a
12 referendum.
13 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: We did a resolution.
14 If I recall correctly, we did a resolution --
15 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I don't recall the
16 specifics of it.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- but we didn't --
18 I don't believe we changed the ordinance because we
19 needed to see if the referendum passed.
20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: All right.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: So I think we just
22 did a resolution.
23 ATTORNEY McLENDON: This is just going to
24 put our ordinances consistent with what's been
25 approved by the referendum. To that point, I think we

Page 117

1 need to make sure that the results of the referendum
2 have been appropriately communicated to the tax
3 commissioner and everybody who needs to be put on
4 notice that this is going to be the new homestead, but
5 I think that's a --
6 MS. FERGUSON: I sent a letter to Dekalb
7 County, the official notification.
8 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: How long ago did you
9 do that?
10 MS. FERGUSON: A month ago maybe.
11 ATTORNEY McLENDON: So we've given the
12 official. This is to bring our ordinances into
13 conformity.
14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I don't recall what
15 my tax assessment is, whether it showed fifty or
16 twenty-five.
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: It showed twenty-
18 five.
19 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: It showed twenty-
20 five.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: It did?
22 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah.
23 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I've got one
25 question. Wouldn't this have made sense to take care

Page 118

1 of this when -- I guess a month or so after the
2 referendum was adopted, and, I guess, by extension,
3 why is this coming up?
4 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Because it was in our
5 code.
6 Frankly, if it were up to me, I wouldn't put
7 a number like this in your code for the very reason
8 that you go change something under the law and then
9 you have to go back and find everywhere you've written
10 it in the code.
11 So why? Because somebody put the number in
12 the code, and this is when it came up for us to -- you
13 know, sort of hit the surface for us to change that.
14 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Okay. How is it
15 typically done in other cities?
16 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I haven't seen the -- I
17 can't quote you the language anywhere, but I can tell
18 you as a general concept it's similar to the concept
19 of taking your fees and putting them all in your fee
20 schedule.
21 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Right.
22 ATTORNEY McLENDON: If you load your fees
23 and everything, all the numbers through your code, you
24 got to remember to go change all the numbers. So, you
25 know, we've changed it here to twenty-five to be

Page 119

1 consistent with the way the ordinance reads, etc.
2 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: But you're also
3 saying this isn't what you would recommend.
4 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Due to the magnitude of
5 the issue on the table, I would just change it to
6 \$25,000.
7 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Okay.
8 ATTORNEY McLENDON: However, should I be
9 writing an ordinance, I would say the homestead
10 exemption shall be as approved by the voters, etc.
11 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Alexander?
12 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I have no issues.
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates? Ms. Pachuta?
14 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: No.
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Fleming?
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: The only question I
17 have of that is that one ordinance would apply, and we
18 could sit up here and -- because there's no dollar
19 amount stating what the taxation is?
20 ATTORNEY McLENDON: This ordinance doesn't
21 say it.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No. It states it
23 \$25,000.
24 No. But your statement was if you had it to
25 do, you would say that the homestead exemption shall

Page 120

1 be whatever the voters approved. But with that
2 statement, that -- I have issues with that.
3 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We're not doing it.
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, no, no. I
5 realize that. But I challenge your statement and I'd
6 like you to look at other cities if you don't mind --
7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Sure.
8 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- because I think
9 the number should be --
10 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Okay.
11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- in the ordinance.
12 ATTORNEY McLENDON: You know, it's one of
13 these that I'm good with what's here.
14 As a general rule as an attorney, I keep
15 numbers out of my codes when I know they are numbers
16 that change a lot.
17 I can look at it, and you know what? You
18 could be a hundred percent right. It's not something
19 that I thought through, because I looked at it and
20 said let's just change it to \$25,000.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Dean?
23 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: No.
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: So what do you want us to
25 do?

Page 121

1 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Well, I think this is
2 the second read, so we can adopt the ordinance as
3 amended.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. I make a
5 motion to adopt the ordinance as amended with sixty-
6 five to fifty thousand.
7 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Second.
8 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
9 ---
10 (No response)
11 ---
12 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Call the roll,
13 please.
14 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
15 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
16 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
18 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
20 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
22 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
24 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
25 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.

Page 122

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
2 Okay. We're going to move into New
3 Business.
4 This is actually my item. This is an
5 amendment to Chapter 10 for Cleanliness of Premises.
6 We have some properties in our city that are just
7 horrendous. I can think of one right now that the
8 grass is almost as tall as I am. We're working on it,
9 but because of our procedure, it just takes forever.
10 I mean you have to wait, for instance, on a
11 court date. Then you have to serve them, then you
12 have to wait for 10 days, 10 days, and then they got
13 to come back for a hearing. If they don't show up,
14 then it goes again. I mean ultimately it could be two
15 or three months.
16 So I asked them if we could please try to
17 streamline this where the process is a little simpler
18 and it doesn't take as long to do this. And I believe
19 that in this process you can cite them and serve them,
20 bring them into court, and if they don't show up in
21 court, then in the same day you can actually issue
22 something out to have the City go out and cut the
23 grass and then we can send them the bill.
24 And this is a lot shorter process and this
25 is, to me, something we really need to do, because the

Page 123

1 way it sits right now, that one yard is just --
2 they're -- they're all over the city.
3 So I wanted the Council -- hopefully, they
4 read this -- to take a look at this and provide your
5 input. I'd like to adopt this as soon as possible.
6 Do you want to add anything?
7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Just exactly when we
8 went and looked at the current ordinances, the way
9 they read, if somebody fails to cut their grass, you
10 have to go out, you serve them with a citation, you
11 wait 10 days. You set a hearing in front of the
12 court. That might take awhile to get it under a court
13 date. Then you end up having to go through that entire
14 process. You really can't put a lien on it anyhow
15 because you hadn't gone through the entire lien
16 process.
17 So as we were thinking about this, I
18 thought, why can't these run parallel? If I'm citing
19 someone for high grass, why can't I also serve them as
20 notice for a hearing on that to the extent of the City
21 abating the nuisance? Have both hearings concurrently
22 at the same time. If we actually get good service on
23 it, they don't show up in court, the judge at that
24 time can issue an order saying, "City, go cut the
25 grass." We can keep the costs of what we cut. And

Page 124

1 then at the time we bring them in on a failure-to-
2 appear warrant, we can put that as restitution for the
3 cost of the services we had to do to cut the grass.
4 And hopefully, they cut the grass and it's
5 easy. But this also provides the dual track of the
6 civil potential to get the judge to issue an order
7 without having to wait another month.
8 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yeah, because this -- right
9 now, I think we're looking at one property that's
10 almost going into two or three months, and it's just
11 ridiculous. We need to streamline this, and this is
12 really good.
13 I think that we can -- I would love to waive
14 the first reading and pass it tonight.
15 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I have a question about
16 this. When I was campaigning, I talked to a couple of
17 people who were cited because of grass issues or what-
18 ever, and it wasn't their issue. I mean they had
19 moved into the property after the citation, etc.
20 They went to court, the judge looked at the
21 documentation, looked at the proof and says, "Oh
22 you're right, you know. This doesn't belong to you.
23 You don't owe a fine but you owe us \$150.00 court
24 costs," and that just doesn't seem right.
25 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I've heard that example

Page 125

1 a couple of times, and generally what I think -- And I
2 don't know the specific facts of any case. I could
3 take a look at it and talk to the solicitor on it.
4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I can give you the --
5 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Generally if they have
6 been assessed court costs, that is a case where they
7 could have been found guilty, because it's very
8 typical in a criminal court that if you could find
9 someone guilty but if it's a good person, they
10 probably had a good reason, good cause on it, what
11 they would do is say, "You know what? You don't need
12 to be found guilty of any criminal charge. Just pay
13 me the court cost and keep your grass cut coming down
14 the road" --
15 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. This --
16 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- because it's really
17 about getting the grass cut.
18 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Right, but this isn't
19 that case.
20 ATTORNEY McLENDON: I don't know the facts.
21 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Okay. But if that is
22 happening, can we stop that from happening? And I can
23 provide you people that has happened to.
24 MAYOR PITTMAN: Actually, I've heard that
25 too, so it would be worth checking into.

Page 126

1 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yeah.
2 MAYOR PITTMAN: If we could check into that,
3 please, because I've heard the same thing.
4 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And the fine for
5 this particular item, lawn maintenance or cleanliness
6 of property, the fine stated is \$150.00. And I
7 believe in this case, they said, "Oh, well, we're
8 throwing out your case," or whatever. "You're going
9 to pay us the court costs, and the court costs are
10 \$150.00."
11 And so that's why I mentioned to Mayor
12 Pittman that court costs should be the same -- this is
13 my opinion -- the same regardless of whatever the fine
14 is. I mean if you've got a bad sign on a business
15 property and the fine is \$500.00 and they've already
16 corrected the fine by the time they've come in, and
17 the judge says, "Okay, we're going to throw you out,"
18 he charges them \$500.00 because that's what the fine
19 is and says, "Okay, well, that's what your court costs
20 are," and I have issue with that.
21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, we need to certainly
22 look into that. That's actually a separate issue, but
23 if you could look into that.
24 ATTORNEY McLENDON: It's an interesting
25 issue. You know, your enforcement in court --

Page 127

1 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: My guess is people
2 are plea-bargaining it down without realizing that's
3 what they're doing necessarily.
4 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well --
5 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: When the solicitor
6 says, "Okay, we won't charge you the fine but pay
7 court costs," they're actually plea-bargaining it
8 down. And maybe whoever did it didn't realize that's
9 what they were doing, which is why they always make
10 you sign a thing that you recognize that you're
11 representing yourself without an attorney.
12 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, this case was not
13 -- they said it wasn't that, but we could find out the
14 details and specifics, and yeah.
15 ATTORNEY McLENDON: We can find out. And
16 that's all -- really that's an interesting -- You
17 know, we're late in the night, but that's an
18 interesting issue about how you move forward with your
19 policies because that is one area that you are very
20 much bringing your policies to bear on that, such as
21 the sign issue you talked about on Buford Highway.
22 That is where the rubber hits the road on that, and
23 that is something where your enforcement should be
24 consistent, because that's where you're going to bring
25 the compliance.

Page 128

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: If you could check into that
2 and let --
3 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Sure.
4 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- all of us know, I'd
5 appreciate it.
6 But on the item that's at hand, your
7 thoughts?
8 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm good.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Fleming?
10 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I don't normally
11 waive first reading, but because this is a problem
12 totally around the city, I'll vote to waive the first
13 reading this time.
14 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Patrick?
15 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I'll do the same.
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Pachuta?
17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I'm fine.
18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates?
19 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I don't know. I'll
20 think about it.
21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Alexander?
22 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: We have an issue
23 with a burned-out home that was a public-safety issue
24 in Oakcliff, and we were told that we had to follow
25 the due process of the law, and I don't believe it was

1 municipal law, before we razed that house.
2 ATTORNEY McLENDON: State law. Because what
3 you're talking about there is you're talking about
4 there is a specific State law about how you go through
5 that process to knock down a house and to keep a lien
6 over the property, and it actually sets that out in
7 detail in Code Section 42, I think. In our ordinance
8 is the correct ordinance to mirror that. But that's
9 to maintain a lien over the property.

10 This is to abate a nuisance, and we will not
11 maintain a lien. If you go out there and cut this
12 grass, you have no lien on the property for it, but by
13 doing it in this manner, you have assessed it and
14 created the cost early enough that frankly we'll catch
15 them in the restitution phase of the criminal case.

16 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: And I guess my
17 concern is who is going to calculate that cost and get
18 it conveyed back to the courts to guarantee that we
19 recoup our expenditure?

20 ATTORNEY McLENDON: What we would do -- and
21 generally, if I were implementing this and we have
22 City staff that's available to do this, I would have
23 them go out there, I would have them keep their time,
24 I would assess what's a reasonable rate on the market
25 for that work to be done, and then that would be what

1 is your abandoned property or there's a property that
2 is more than just somebody's let their grass -- you
3 know, "I forgot to cut it last week."

4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I would be more happy
5 if there were some objectivity to this; i.e., a repeat
6 offender versus a subjectivity of, oh, I'm having a
7 bad day and so I believe that this house is not going
8 to get cut so I'm going to run them concurrent versus
9 I think they might be in compliance with a simple
10 warning.

11 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And you don't have that
12 right now, because what you have right now is -- And
13 that almost gets to just the discretion of citations
14 versus warnings, the whole nine yards. Because right
15 now, what we actually have is a code section that you
16 don't elect every time. Really, it doesn't generally
17 come into play until after they've gone through the
18 entire criminal process and either failed to appear or
19 continued to fail to cut the grass. And then that
20 would be the point where we sort of discovered in the
21 ordinances that you got to come in and all of a sudden
22 say, okay, well, I've gone through this one try to get
23 compliance, and now let me come and start this next
24 process to try to get compliance, and suddenly that's
25 60 to 90 days out.

1 I would calculate as the restitution amount.

2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Is this an absolute,
3 so in every property where Quality of Life is issuing
4 a citation, we're running concurrent or is it
5 subjective?

6 ATTORNEY McLENDON: You can. They can. It
7 is just another tool they have available to move
8 forward on that.

9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Who determines which
10 property gets run concurrent and which property runs
11 through the normal process?

12 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Basically it is limited
13 to the high-grass issues, but where you would do it,
14 frankly, if I were your staff person who was
15 implementing that policy for you, I would look to
16 properties that are foreclosed, abandoned, vacant,
17 look for ones that I say, "That one's not going to get
18 cut. That is problematic. We should begin," because
19 there will be an extra cost in this process.

20 Whereas, typically I would be doing a
21 citation, here I'm also going to be serving them with
22 a basically civil citation to come for this hearing,
23 so there's an additional sort of level of things going
24 on. And if I were implementing the policy, I would go
25 out and be looking for the properties that said there

1 But again, you know how I am with these
2 ordinances. This thing could read however you wanted
3 to make it read.

4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Most of the times, the ones
5 we're talking about don't show up for court anyway.
6 They don't.

7 ATTORNEY McLENDON: Generally, I would think
8 you would not --

9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yeah.

10 ATTORNEY McLENDON: -- run this con-
11 currently just because of the extra cost, etc. I'd
12 look for other property-maintenance issues that would
13 sort of be the clue that it's a chronic maintenance
14 issue such as multiple this is my repeat frequent
15 client.

16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Thank you.

17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Get a motion to waive
18 the first reading?

19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Motion to waive the
20 first reading.

21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Second?

22 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Second.

23 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?

24 - - -
25 (No response)

1 - - -

2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

3 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?

4 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

5 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

7 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?

8 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.

9 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?

10 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

11 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?

12 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

13 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?

14 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.

15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Motion to adopt.

17 MAYOR PITTMAN: So we need, yes, a motion to

18 adopt this ordinance.

19 Ms. Fleming, is that your motion?

20 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'd like to make a

21 motion to adopt the Amendment to Chapter 10, Article

22 II, Cleanliness of Premises as noted this evening.

23 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Second?

24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Second.

25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?

1 departments did not. And so I started and basically

2 took what was provided and came up with a list as

3 you've got.

4 There are two items on that list that are

5 extremely, extremely important. We talked about them

6 both earlier this evening but I want to make sure that

7 everybody understands the true nature of those two

8 projects. So I'm going to go through and show you the

9 wall of the Police Department. That's behind the

10 Police Department, between the P.D. and the pool.

11 There will be actually a better picture of this

12 particular tree in just a minute, but I want to do an

13 overview to make sure everybody understands where we

14 are.

15 This is the pool area. You can see where

16 Buford Highway is on the bottom right-hand corner, the

17 pool entrance on the left-hand side, the Baptist

18 church on the upper left, and the Police Department on

19 the upper right.

20 There are actually five stormwater intakes

21 on that upper property; one at the corner there of the

22 driveway and the pool, there's three over in the upper

23 -- towards the top there, and then there's a larger

24 one that's in between the pool and the commercial

25 building here. It's a larger one.

1 - - -

2 (No response)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.

5 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?

6 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.

7 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

8 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.

9 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?

10 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.

11 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?

12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.

13 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?

14 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.

15 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?

16 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.

17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 Next on the agenda is Capital Improvement

19 Priority List, Mr. Bates.

20 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Ms. Bryant, if you can

21 pull up that PowerPoint please.

22 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: As you-all noted, the

23 last several months have been -- I had asked the

24 department heads for a list of capital improvements.

25 There were some departments that did respond, other

1 All of these pipes feed -- this one right

2 here feeds, runs down there parallel with the pool,

3 and there's a Y connection here that brings in this

4 pipe and that pipe, and those three connect here and

5 then go all the way down to a much larger outflow

6 there out next to the press box.

7 This blue arrow there is pointing to a

8 stormwater intake that is well below grade, and I have

9 absolutely no idea. Hopefully, Mr. Strickland knows.

10 But there is a grate down there at the bottom that

11 drains the water somewhat, maybe to the spring.

12 The pool driveway, if you've not been down

13 there, it's probably a 40-foot decline from the top of

14 the driveway down to the bottom of the driveway. And

15 again, back up here, there's only one place for that

16 stormwater to go, and all that stormwater goes into

17 this one intake right there. It drains the entire

18 pool, the entire parking lot plus the driveway plus,

19 as Steven mentioned, there's this -- this hill down

20 here.

21 And I'll show you a good picture of that

22 here, has ravines cut through it. In fact, there it

23 is. There's the ravine. And it's hard to get a sense

24 of -- it's hard to get a sense of how tall that is,

25 but there's a tree that's fallen across the top of

Page 137

1 there. From the tree down to the surface of the
2 parking lot is probably 15 to 18 feet. So you've got
3 a pretty significant flow of water there into the
4 area.
5 This shows where we've got collapses that
6 are happening, the yellow showing sink holes, red
7 showing actual wall collapses that are partial
8 collapses, and then the dark blue area showing where
9 we've got timber retaining walls that are eroding and,
10 in some cases, have completely failed.
11 This is showing the press box along with the
12 rusted-out stormwater outflow pipe. It is completely
13 exposed there at the base, and that's probably a
14 three-foot hole below the pipe itself. I couldn't get
15 a good picture, but where the main pipe connects with
16 this pipe, that pipe is also rusted out. And you can
17 hear the water flowing but you can't see the water
18 flowing, so there is no connection from pipe to pipe.
19 This is an outflow from underneath the
20 bleachers. This was taken the day that the pool was
21 being drained, so you can clearly see the water
22 flowing underneath the bleachers. Where it comes
23 from, I don't have any idea. It doesn't make any
24 sense that there would be an outflow there, so
25 certainly the pipe up top is rusted or there's some

Page 138

1 other mechanism for the water to get through.
2 We've got the blue arrow showing where that
3 lower stormwater intake is and the yellow area showing
4 the corner of the wall that is in a various stage of
5 collapse.
6 From a different angle, showing the lower
7 intake and the two outflows, the larger pipe that's
8 rusted and then the smaller one that's coming out from
9 underneath the old seats.
10 The other piece that's really interesting --
11 and why they left the structure there, I don't know --
12 but you got the dugout there that abuts the fence to
13 the back of the Police Department. And so the
14 distance from the bleachers to the dugout is about
15 two-and-a-half feet and the distance from the dugout
16 to the actual fence is about four inches, so it's
17 really easy to make entrance into the back of the
18 Police Department.
19 Showing the sink holes, there are three sink
20 holes at the top of the wall. These are the three
21 largest. There's actually several smaller ones. A
22 full collapse of the wall. So we've got probably a
23 six-foot fully exposed area where we've got water
24 runoff that is not impeded at all.
25 The tree is holding up the wall. So

Page 139

1 literally there are no roots below that. The roots
2 are horizontal into the wall itself. And a couple of
3 the timber walls.
4 One of the things that I talked about in the
5 Capital Improvement List -- And to me it's critically
6 important as we move forward with looking at this wall
7 if we're going to maintain the pool, and I think we
8 should. It's an investment in the city. But let's
9 make this area a destination.
10 And whatever we do with that wall, to me,
11 needs to be big-picture and look at the entirety of
12 that property. I would hate to repair the wall and
13 then three years or five years when we've got a master
14 park plan, say, "Wow. We should have done X because
15 that would have made this area even better." So I
16 want to make sure that when we're looking at whatever
17 we do with the wall itself, that it becomes part of
18 much bigger master plan for that entire property.
19 The next piece that was talked about earlier
20 is going to be the bleachers at Honeysuckle Park.
21 Again you can see where the wall is clearly cracked
22 and you can actually see where the far end of the wall
23 is bowed out, and we'll get to specifically where
24 that's happening in just a moment.
25 Give you an overview of that particular

Page 140

1 area, you've got the concession stand, the football
2 field, the bleacher seating, the concrete seating and
3 then the wall and the sink hole.
4 This is the opposite end of the corner that
5 was cracking. You can clearly see that we've got a
6 number of sink holes there. We've got someone -- I'm
7 assuming Public Works -- has placed rock to try to
8 prevent/stop/slow the erosion. That clearly hasn't
9 happened as we've got at least three sink holes going
10 underneath that section of the platform.
11 The front of the wall showing again the rock
12 that's been placed. But clearly we've got water
13 issues, because the wall is discolored, it's cracked,
14 it's mildewy, moldy, and that runs the entire length
15 of that wall. And you can see in the upper right-hand
16 corner the cracks that run diagonally up and you can
17 see where the water is leaching through certain areas
18 of that wall there.
19 The lower end of this area -- to give you a
20 reference point again, there is the concession stand
21 -- we've got a stormwater intake at the lower end,
22 complete opposite end of where the wall is.
23 And it's difficult to see because there's no
24 scale there, but that pipe at the bottom end is
25 probably a four-foot pipe, certainly big enough for me

Page 141

1 to crawl in. I did not, but I could have easily gone
2 down into that pipe. There is no obstruction to
3 prevent anybody, anyone -- child, dog -- to venture
4 down into that. That is, to me, a pretty significant
5 issue that needs to be addressed.

6 So those are the two what I would consider
7 as we start looking at resources on allocating the
8 HOST moneys that we're going to start to get that are
9 specific and geared towards only capital-improvement
10 projects, those would be the two that I think we need
11 to focus on.

12 I understand and appreciate sidewalks
13 especially along a school district, but we've got some
14 pretty significant issues that we need to deal with
15 within the city itself.

16 MAYOR PITTMAN: That was an excellent job,
17 Mr. Bates. Great pictures. Thank you.

18 Council, input?

19 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: I'm very curious to see
20 how much of the Stormwater funds can be used for both
21 of these projects, it seems --

22 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yeah.

23 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: -- because clearly some
24 of it could be paid for with those funds.

25 And yeah, a very impressive presentation,

Page 142

1 and I see the -- I see the need.

2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Ms. Fleming?

3 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, on the
4 Stormwater funds, I mean we capture some of them here
5 and then some of them go to Dekalb County. These two
6 projects look like they're going to be much more than
7 what we keep, so I was curious as to whether either of
8 these are on our priority list with Dekalb County.

9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I wouldn't have the
10 answer to that question.

11 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.

12 MAYOR PITTMAN: I can certainly ask it,
13 though.

14 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But it's an
15 excellent job, Mr. Bates. Thank you very much.

16 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: The other -- the other
17 piece that we've talked about for some time, and it
18 was difficult to get photographs of it, is the Library
19 bathroom.

20 If you've not been in the Library bathroom,
21 you should go try it. And I don't mean to be flippant
22 about that, but the bathrooms are amazingly small.

23 There certainly is not room for a mother or father and
24 a child in them.

25 While we do have a family bathroom, that

Page 143

1 whole area is ripe for reconfiguration. It's poorly
2 laid out. It doesn't make any sense when you look at
3 it from a -- from a usability standpoint. We've
4 talked about that in the past. That was one of the
5 items that came in from the library director as far
6 as, you know, capital improvement projects. So I
7 would like to see that, you know, at least some
8 improvements to some of the facilities.

9 But as you can see, you know, even with my
10 modest list here, not including any moneys for the
11 Honeysuckle bleacher wall, we're looking at upwards of
12 \$400,000, probably upwards of half a million just on a
13 very modest list of engineered projects and things
14 that need to be taken care of, and at our \$150,000 or
15 \$200,000 a year in HOST revenues, we're going to have
16 a very long time to address and tackle some of these
17 projects.

18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Mr. Patrick?

19 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Brian did an
20 excellent job on putting this presentation together.
21 If we could use the Stormwater fees as much as
22 possible, I think that would be a fantastic idea.

23 As a resident of District 1, sidewalks are a
24 priority. It's not safe simply walking up or down the
25 streets. There's a way that I know we can perhaps

Page 144

1 address that topic but --

2 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, I just wanted to say
3 that I actually spoke with Dekalb County today. And I
4 think most of you know that the prior CEO had promised
5 sidewalks, so I took the other CEO to task. And so
6 they are supposed to come out and take a look, because
7 they ultimately do our sidewalks, and they did say if
8 the funding was there and they could do it, they would
9 do it. So they called today, they said that they
10 would get with us, go out there, assess it again, and
11 that's where we're at with that.

12 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: My understanding is
13 is that with transportation grants that come up in the
14 fall, it would be possible for us to leverage our 20
15 percent with a federal matching grant to cover the
16 difference. So if that's something Luke could look
17 into --

18 MAYOR PITTMAN: Uh-huh.

19 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: -- coming up, that
20 would be, I think, a very prudent usage.

21 But getting to some of the other critical
22 items that Brian has mentioned here, absolutely the
23 police wall needs to be taken care of. And I agree
24 with him from when we walked the site that if we could
25 have some kind of an overall plan that addresses

Page 145

1 enhancing or redeveloping that park.
2 The pool is a great magnet for the community
3 and it's -- I mean it's a jewel that needs to be taken
4 advantage of.
5 The bleachers, critical thing again. I
6 think if we were to look at Stormwater, I think we
7 could probably use some funds from that. It's
8 possible that our new Parks & Rec. Director may know
9 some other funding options for something in such a
10 state.
11 For the Library bathroom renovation, I think
12 that's a great idea.
13 I think we should also look to perhaps a
14 larger renovation of the Library. The last time Tammy
15 was here, she had commented that there's only one
16 power plug for someone with a laptop. And I think to
17 make the Library more user-friendly, that would
18 definitely be an asset or a benefit.
19 That's basically -- Oh. Council chambers
20 with the microphones, I think that's an absolutely
21 critical idea. What Trudy, the Mayor and Brian and I
22 saw at Dunwoody was awesome, and I think that if we
23 could have something like that here, that would
24 probably make us more accessible and create
25 efficiencies. So that's it.

Page 146

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Ms. Pachuta?
2 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yeah. I think it's
3 important to see if we can cover some of this with
4 Stormwater.
5 But I agree with Brian with the Police
6 Department wall, that we need to really integrate it.
7 And I mean we have this pool just kind of stuck in the
8 middle of these ugly old bleachers. You know when we
9 took away that park to build the Police station, you
10 know, we left --
11 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yeah.
12 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- all those old
13 structures.
14 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yeah.
15 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: I mean there used to
16 be bathrooms up there but they're not operational any
17 more.
18 But we need to think about incorporating the
19 whole thing into -- You know, we're doing Halpern now,
20 but we need to think about incorporating that whole
21 area --
22 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Absolutely.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- into a more
24 friendly environment.
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. Ms. Alexander?

Page 147

1 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I mentioned at our
2 first retreat we had, making that pool a destination
3 and maybe incorporating some other water effects and
4 at least, you know, picnic areas and all.
5 And we had talked about improving that
6 driveway. I was a victim of an almost head-on trying
7 to exit the pool when somebody was turning in. There
8 is no room for two cars to travel side by side getting
9 in that pool. And I know we had, I believe, reached
10 an agreement to acquire some property from the church,
11 but I didn't know where we stood on having an exit and
12 an enter driveway.
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, we have no documen-
14 tation here. But I believe Mr. Maloney was the head
15 of this, so he was able to provide documents, and
16 apparently there was -- this was completed before our
17 prior Mayor passed away. So we do own that small
18 portion there now that we could be able to do
19 something with.
20 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Did we buy it or did
21 we just --
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: No.
23 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: -- get a right-of-
24 way?
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: There was a sale

Page 148

1 transaction. I can get you all the copies of it.
2 We didn't have it here, but Mr. Maloney
3 provided it for us, so I can get copies to everybody.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Well, that's -- I mean
5 that goes into a much bigger discussion. We've got
6 the Clinicare building that's now been empty for
7 18-plus months. We've got, you know, poor signage
8 marketing it. So we either need to do something and
9 get revenue by having it occupied or let's -- you
10 know, part of the big picture, let's get rid of the
11 building, you know, and improve the, you know,
12 entrance and the signage into the pool area.
13 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Well, I believe that in
14 fact Susan Crawford had a discussion with the previous
15 Mayor about the Clinicare building and about turning
16 that into some sort of community facility where they
17 could have classes, reading groups, writing groups,
18 and even like a seniors' activity program might be a
19 good thing to develop.
20 But it's centrally located, and if it's
21 there and empty, then that might be something that --
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: That's correct. She and I
23 had -- she had approached me about it. And I know
24 there was some legalities in that that we were talking
25 about, and --

Page 149

1 ATTORNEY McLENDON: And it would be just
2 dependent on how you wanted to structure that
3 programming. I mean there's our programming right
4 there. We have somebody who probably knows how to put
5 programs together wildly.
6 So, you know, we got all these legalities
7 when you're allowing somebody else to do your
8 programming in a building. You've heard me. I hate
9 it, I bog down, I've got problems; I look at
10 liability, you know. And I have my programming person
11 here, makes it a lot easier, and that's something that
12 can be considered.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That building will
14 still require a major overhaul.
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Well, and that's the problem
16 with all of our buildings. I think as Mr. Bates had
17 stated earlier, our buildings, our parks have not been
18 maintained for years and years and years. And when we
19 had our inspector, our City Inspector look at it,
20 basically they're not -- We can't do anything with
21 them because there's so many repairs that need to be
22 done before they can be even -- Even to allow that,
23 there was a laundry list this long (gesturing) of
24 repairs that need to be made.
25 What did you want to say? I'm sorry.

Page 150

1 MS. SUSAN CRAWFORD: Well, could I say
2 something?
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Sure.
4 MS. CRAWFORD: Should I come up there?
5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Yeah. Come on.
6 MS. CRAWFORD: I did investigate this with
7 the late Mayor, and I -- I mean, to me, I guess my
8 standards are pretty low, but it looked like a pretty
9 usable building. I don't know.
10 But I would suggest that you not just tear
11 it down and make a wider road. I mean it's about the
12 only remaining older piece of architecture in the
13 city. Everything else is pretty much wiped out.
14 I don't know, Mr. Bates, if you've been in
15 it lately, but I think it's 1920's architecture on one
16 part and then there was another addition, and it could
17 be quite charming. I mean we could have art shows, we
18 could have poetry readings, we could have people
19 setting up workshops and classes.
20 We could have seed businesses where people
21 would come in and start a little enterprise with the
22 understanding that they wouldn't have to pay anything
23 until they got it started and with the understanding
24 they would then set up that shop, whatever it was,
25 something we wanted, within the city limits. And that

Page 151

1 way, we would be growing our city with businesses that
2 we actually want and giving an incentive to these
3 businesses.
4 It's a huge place and it's very much
5 divided. Ray Jenkins actually said that the repairs
6 that needed doing could be done easily by the staff,
7 and actually wanted to help, himself. I mean it's a
8 matter of painting and actually some nice things that
9 could be -- Yeah, there was quite a list, but it
10 didn't seem -- I mean it's not like that (indicating),
11 you know, where walls are falling in.
12 But I really hope that you will consider
13 that, because it would be a really nice, uniting thing
14 for the people, the residents who live here.
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: And as I expressed to you
16 before, I would put together the packet and bring it
17 to the Council to discuss if you would like --
18 MS. CRAWFORD: Okay. And I --
19 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- to move forward with it.
20 MS. CRAWFORD: I e-mailed you some written
21 ideas.
22 MAYOR PITTMAN: But you know, I'll just put
23 together something and get it on the agenda.
24 MS. CRAWFORD: Okay. Well, I didn't mean to
25 have this --

Page 152

1 MAYOR PITTMAN: No, that's okay.
2 MS. CRAWFORD: -- happen tonight.
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: That's fine.
4 MS. CRAWFORD: But I hope you will each
5 consider it. I know Ms. Alexander was actually the
6 one who pointed out the building at one point, so.
7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
8 MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you.
9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Mr. Bates? All right.
10 Thank you. Again, that was an excellent, excellent
11 presentation.
12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: And the bottom line is
13 that we've got to start making a -- the City does not
14 have a capital improvement plan. We don't have one
15 and we've not had one in a long time. We need to have
16 one. We need to have a short-term and a five-year and
17 a 20-year plan.
18 The bottom line -- and I shared this with
19 Councilman Patrick -- if we were to put \$200,000 into
20 every one of our buildings and all of our parks, we
21 would pay for that with HOST money in 12 years. So
22 we've got to prioritize this and make sure that we're
23 allocating, you know, the resources to deal with some
24 of the needs that we've got.
25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. So what would you

Page 153

1 like to do? Put this back on another agenda? What
2 would you like to do? Move it to talk about it at the
3 retreat or --
4 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I think ultimately we
5 need to make some decisions on the retreat and, you
6 know, then we need to make sure that Ms. Ferguson is
7 involved so that we've got, you know, some plans on,
8 you know, what we're going to do. Are we going to sit
9 on the HOST money or are we going to start allocating
10 it? What's the priority list? You know, certainly
11 our new Parks & Rec Director is going to be involved
12 in all of that.
13 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you. Thank you over
14 much.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I didn't remember
16 the bathrooms going to cost \$65,000 in the Library,
17 though.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: That was the estimate
19 that was provided to me.
20 Now remember, if you're going to reconfigure
21 those bathrooms, you're cutting through concrete and
22 you're redoing plumbing.
23 MAYOR PITTMAN: All right. Thank you.
24 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: So if we're going to
25 make those bathrooms ADA-compliant, then you've got

Page 154

1 some -- you've got some major reallocation of walls
2 and concrete to do.
3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. And I understand that
4 you wanted to move your City Signage item to the next
5 agenda?
6 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes, ma'am.
7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Okay. All right, Chief, I
8 believe you wanted to say something?
9 CHIEF KING: Yes, ma'am. Earlier,
10 Councilmember Fleming asked me a question about the
11 number of dispatchers, and I received the answer while
12 we've been here in the Council meeting.
13 We have eight authorized positions in our
14 911 center. We currently have seven employees
15 employed by the Police Department in 911.
16 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you, Chief.
17 Appreciate you doing that.
18 All right. I believe we have no additional
19 reports, committees, commissions, boards or
20 appointments, so we'll move into Public Comments.
21 Please limit your comments to three minutes and state
22 your name for the court reporter.
23 MS. CRAWFORD: It's me again. But I do hope
24 that each of you will consider that about the
25 community center.

Page 155

1 And I just wanted to say the Library is
2 wonderful. I think the Library and the Police
3 Department are just both wonderful departments and I
4 think that they make the city, not that the other
5 departments aren't wonderful, too.
6 But \$65,000 is actually more than our house
7 was assessed, and I just -- And who's going to use the
8 bathroom? We keep cutting the hours. So I mean I
9 just think we have to kind of have the priorities. I
10 think the bathroom does need fixing, and I'm totally
11 in agreement that the other things are a danger and
12 need to be fixed right away.
13 But maybe again we could just make some
14 improvements and utilize our wonderful Public Works
15 Department and keep the Library open, you know, as
16 much as possible. Thank you.
17 MAYOR PITTMAN: Additional public comments?
18 Mr. Coggins?
19 MR. RONNIE COGGINS: My name's Ronnie
20 Coggins.
21 I can probably answer your question as to
22 where the drain goes. The drain originally -- The
23 spring is under the new building, the two-story
24 training building down there. It's behind it. The
25 drain originally came from the spring around where the

Page 156

1 back gate to the Police Department is.
2 There should have been another open drain in
3 front of the dugout on the upper field right by the
4 back gate. There should have been another drain
5 there. That was originally a concrete walkway. It
6 picked up all the water that had drained down out of
7 the grandstands. It went into -- what used to be the
8 concession stand was built into that right there where
9 the other drain is. It goes down and joins the others
10 where the big one you said was rusted out, came out.
11 It all drains in there and goes back out under the
12 Chinese restaurant.
13 But we had a hard time with the spring.
14 When it rained, the upper field was muddy.
15 MAYOR PITTMAN: Additional public comments?
16 Mr. Hart.
17 MR. HART: I'd like to start off by I just
18 got a phone call, and we're going to the National
19 Championships in Akron, so they're real excited.
20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When is it, Tom?
21 MR. HART: I don't know. I have to go find
22 the money tomorrow. I'll let you know.
23 We're taking about the wall behind the
24 Police Department. What you saw is a bunch of --
25 you've got a bunch of pipes, you got a bunch of

Page 157

1 drains, because once upon a time, there was creek that
2 ran through there that started underneath the MARTA
3 station. MARTA found out because the garage fall
4 over. Then the City wanted to bore a hole through
5 there for the LCI project, and we had to remind them
6 you couldn't do that.

7 And on the other side, it's called Bubbling
8 Creek. And they celebrate it in Chamblee; Doraville
9 buries it in pipes. The first time you see it is
10 before the little bridge down on Chestnut. Okay. So
11 what happens is you have these valleys where you have
12 these streams, and if you just let the water flow into
13 the stream, you don't have to run these pipes
14 everywhere. Okay? So you compound the problem.

15 You talked about the structure, looking at
16 the big picture. You're looking at a big picture of
17 recreating Flowers Park but recreating and opening
18 those streams up so that it looks like something that
19 comes in an Atlanta park or you look like Thrasher
20 Park in Norcross. You're using the natural
21 environment, and instead of trying to fight the
22 environment, you try to build with it. Okay. So if
23 you look at it from that perspective.

24 The road was purchased -- well, it was
25 purchased from the church. The trees you see in front

Page 158

1 of the Library over here used to be where that road
2 was proposed. Okay. That lines with the traffic
3 light, runs next to the Clinicare building. Already
4 bought the thing, cleared it out. We got to take the
5 retaining wall out. The Maintenance Department was
6 ready to go, and then Ray passed away. Okay.

7 So the Clinicare building is made up of two
8 buildings, a front and rear building. They proposed
9 that Susan was going to use one of the buildings and
10 then the other building could be maybe a veterinary
11 clinic, that the City could invite vets from the area
12 to open a veterinary clinic right there. That would
13 draw people to the downtown center.

14 I was trying to rent the building on the
15 corner to open a coffee shop, and the downstairs was
16 going to be a movie production studio for the Speed
17 Channel, okay. That would bring some marketing heat
18 to the city.

19 It's not about spending money. It's about
20 looking at this thing from the natural environment,
21 maybe take the hill and make a two-to-one slope there
22 with plantings that you can see from this Library that
23 you envision.

24 The Library toilet doesn't cost \$65,000.
25 It's just somebody proposed it was going to be

Page 159

1 \$65,000. You get somebody like Mr. Ellis to draw up a
2 little plan. The Maintenance Department goes in
3 there, tears it out and puts a bathroom in. They're
4 capable of doing that.

5 So you have to look at these things as,
6 again, the big picture -- putting the driveways in,
7 look at the environment, the streams, maybe not
8 putting all these pipes back in. Thank you.

9 MS. CINDY BRADFORD: Cindy Bradford,
10 Northwoods.

11 About \$65,000 for a bathroom, I'm sure you
12 saw me kind of laugh about that. I've got a friend
13 that just added a 12 x 10 that looks like something on
14 Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous for \$15,000, so that
15 \$65,000 quote to me sounds like somebody saw us
16 coming. That reminds me of the \$10,000-for-a-hammer
17 type deal that goes on in government. And I just hope
18 before you pursue that, you get another quote, and I
19 can recommend some people if you'd like to have them
20 come give us a quote. That's outrageous. Thank you.

21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Additional public comments?
22 MS. GINNY CALVERT: Mr. Bates --
23 I'm Ginny Calvert. You know that.
24 -- you remind me of some very wonderful
25 memories I had of those bleachers when I watched our

Page 160

1 son play baseball over there all those years.

2 The newspaper had an article on things, on
3 city managers awhile back, and I think the one thing
4 that really stuck in my mind was that they should have
5 some knowledge or possible experience in state and
6 county law would be very helpful.

7 The annexation. When will we know about
8 that?

9 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: It's passed. It takes
10 effect December 31st this year.

11 MS. CALVERT: Wonderful. Do you know
12 approximately how much money we should be --

13 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: I don't have those
14 numbers with me.

15 MS. CALVERT: Do we have very many buildings
16 involved?

17 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes. It's mostly
18 commercial.

19 MS. CALVERT: Oh, that sounds wonderful to
20 me.

21 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you, Ms. Calvert.
22 Mr. Anderson.

23 MR. ANDERSON: Stuart Anderson.
24 On the \$65,000, Lynn wanted to redo the
25 whole office area, and that's why it was so much

1 money. It wasn't just the bathrooms; it was a -- it
 2 was a quote to redo that whole section, and it was an
 3 office discussion.
 4 When is the retreat? Have we decided?
 5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Soon as we get the dates.
 6 MR. ANDERSON: We haven't got a date yet.
 7 Okay. I guess that's it, but that's what the \$65,000
 8 was, was a renovation.
 9 MAYOR PITTMAN: Thank you.
 10 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Do you know when
 11 that was done? I'm sorry.
 12 MR. ANDERSON: It was -- Brian could
 13 actually answer that because we were going to do a
 14 study for \$15,000 and look at it, and I just wanted to
 15 do RFPs. And Lynn worked with two or three
 16 contractors, and that was what she came up with. They
 17 were going to redo that whole -- that whole section of
 18 work area there.
 19 MAYOR PITTMAN: It's been about --
 20 MR. ANDERSON: And the bathroom.
 21 MAYOR PITTMAN: -- two or three years ago.
 22 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. The bathroom was just
 23 a small part of it.
 24 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Could we get a copy
 25 of -- for the new folks, could we get a copy of

1 I don't think there's anybody left.
 2 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Motion to adjourn.
 3 MAYOR PITTMAN: Do I get a second?
 4 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Second.
 5 MAYOR PITTMAN: Discussion?
 6 MS. CRAWFORD: Happy birthday.
 7 MAYOR PITTMAN: Call the roll, please.
 8 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
 9 COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
 10 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
 11 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
 12 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Dean?
 13 COUNCILMEMBER DEAN: Yes.
 14 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
 15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
 16 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pachuta?
 17 COUNCILMEMBER PACHUTA: Yes.
 18 CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Patrick?
 19 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: Yes.
 20 ---
 21 (Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.)
 22 -o0o-
 23
 24
 25

1 something?
 2 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No, it --
 3 MR. ANDERSON: Because we didn't do the
 4 study.
 5 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: We didn't do the
 6 study.
 7 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Right; we never moved
 8 forward.
 9 MR. ANDERSON: But Lynn on her own talked to
 10 some contractors and stuff.
 11 COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK: I got you.
 12 COUNCILMEMBER BATES: But the problem with
 13 the Library is the whole back half of that office is
 14 so poorly laid out and configured, it is completely
 15 unusable. But the bathrooms about the back end of the
 16 break room. There's voids and wasted space throughout
 17 that entire area. When it was designed and built,
 18 they just did a really poor job. It's just -- it's
 19 just poor. There's no other way around it.
 20 MR. ANDERSON: The neat big room they have
 21 didn't help at all. There's lights transferring the -
 22 - going from one room to the next, and there's an air
 23 conditioner in the middle of the whole thing, and it's
 24 strange.
 25 MAYOR PITTMAN: Additional public comments?

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	76:7;80:21	50:10;77:3	90:3	147:10
\$	12 (4) 49:14;77:16;152:21; 159:13	25th (1) 69:18	8	acquiring (1) 63:2
\$1,050 (1) 19:24	14 (2) 72:15;88:18	2nd (4) 96:4;109:6;111:9,15	8-1/2 (2) 76:7;80:21	acquisition (2) 56:25;62:17
\$1,250 (1) 58:22	14-16 (1) 88:18	2-to-1 (1) 9:14	9	across (2) 59:2;136:25
\$10,000-for-a-hammer (1) 159:16	14-20 (1) 88:21	3	90 (3) 60:22;83:7;131:25	Act (11) 56:6,13,14;57:19; 60:13,14,16;62:3,16; 66:10;67:2
\$130,000 (2) 93:24;105:21	14-7 (1) 88:18	3 (2) 58:16,21	911 (7) 43:11;44:18;48:23; 49:2;51:1;154:14,15	actions (1) 99:10
\$15,000 (2) 159:14;161:14	15 (4) 55:22;58:23,25;137:2	3:00 (1) 14:19	A	actively (2) 97:3,6
\$150,000 (2) 35:24;143:14	18 (1) 137:2	30 (1) 7:13	abandoned (5) 81:21;83:6,21;130:16; 131:1	activity (1) 148:18
\$150.00 (3) 124:23;126:6,10	18-plus (1) 148:7	31st (3) 68:14;106:7;160:10	abate (1) 129:10	actual (5) 28:2;39:2;70:23; 137:7;138:16
\$20.00 (3) 9:8,9,10	18th (1) 52:2	38 (1) 77:3	abating (1) 123:21	actually (38) 7:8;12:5,6;17:20; 28:21;31:14;40:6;43:20; 48:15;69:6;73:1;74:11; 78:3,11;83:13;99:15; 103:17;115:3;122:4,21; 123:22;125:24;126:22; 127:7;129:6;131:15; 135:11,20;138:21; 139:22;144:3;151:2,5,7, 8;152:5;155:6;161:13
\$200,000 (2) 143:15;152:19	18th's (1) 43:3	4	ability (2) 57:6;63:9	Acworth (1) 59:4
\$230,000 (1) 93:25	1920's (1) 150:15	4 (3) 58:19;76:19,19	able (14) 11:16,18;12:15;13:12; 23:19;29:9;40:9;52:10; 70:9;73:2;101:9;109:9; 147:15,18	ADA-compliant (1) 153:25
\$25,000 (5) 114:11;116:1;119:6, 23;120:20	1955 (2) 56:6,14	4:00 (1) 14:19	above (2) 63:21;100:25	add (7) 12:15;13:12;29:9; 32:12;86:15;87:21; 123:6
\$3,500 (2) 55:9;58:20	1985 (1) 56:9	40 (1) 7:13	absolutely (24) 12:4;13:1;41:6;45:2, 10,21,23;55:3;59:9;61:1, 22;62:12;63:17;65:12, 24;71:10;81:7;84:5; 104:3;113:22;136:9; 144:22;145:20;146:22	added (4) 13:25;14:5;72:24; 159:13
\$30,000 (4) 93:24;105:23,24; 106:2	1st (6) 93:17,21;101:10; 103:9;106:8;113:12	40:07 (1) 6:7	abused (1) 15:8	adding (1) 10:16
\$35,000 (1) 55:13	2	40-foot (1) 136:13	abut (1) 162:15	addition (2) 105:7;150:16
\$400,000 (1) 143:12	2 (2) 30:7;35:23	42 (1) 129:7	abuts (1) 138:12	Additional (19) 7:10,24;10:5;26:21; 43:11;61:6,8;87:20; 106:11,12,13;108:24; 115:22;130:23;154:18; 155:17;156:15;159:21; 162:25
\$50,000 (5) 114:15;115:9,17,18,19	2:30 (1) 14:19	4th (1) 96:6	access (1) 102:22	address (4) 57:1;82:10;143:16; 144:1
\$500.00 (2) 126:15,18	20 (3) 26:6;88:19;144:14	5	accessible (1) 145:24	addressed (2) 100:16;141:5
\$6,000 (1) 48:12	2008 (3) 41:2;106:23,23	5 (1) 88:20	accident (1) 7:2	addresses (2) 81:25;144:25
\$65,000 (12) 114:15,15,17;115:8; 153:16;155:6;158:24; 159:1,11,15;160:24; 161:7	2009 (1) 106:24	5:00 (1) 14:19	acclimate (1) 52:5	adjacent (1) 55:22
\$66,000 (2) 95:6;105:22	2010 (1) 106:24	50s (1) 105:5	According (1) 26:17	adjourn (1)
\$80,000 (1) 106:24	2011 (1) 106:25	5600 (1) 79:20	accordingly (1) 81:13	
1	2013 (4) 93:14;105:12;106:8; 113:14	6	accurate (1) 47:10	
1 (5) 25:8;58:18,19;105:12; 143:23	2014 (6) 93:21;95:4;101:10; 103:10;105:14;113:12	6/18 (1) 114:2	acquire (1)	
10 (8) 15:7;55:12;122:5,12, 12;123:11;133:21; 159:13	20-plus (1) 40:12	60 (1) 131:25		
10:00 (1) 163:21	20-year (1) 152:17	6-1/2 (1) 77:19		
11 (2)	21st (1) 107:19	7		
	23 (1) 88:2	72 (1) 16:15		
	24 (2)	7-A (1)		

163:2 adjourned (1) 163:21 adjusted (1) 106:5 adjustment (1) 47:17 adjustments (1) 90:5 adminis- (2) 101:11;108:17 administration (1) 53:4 Administrator (6) 93:16;99:4;105:3,5, 19;106:1 administrators (1) 105:4 adopt (13) 54:16;56:2;60:22; 61:2;62:9;66:15;70:17; 121:2,5;123:5;133:16, 18,21 adopted (2) 56:18;118:2 adults (1) 36:6 advance (2) 10:13;74:5 Advanced (3) 90:1,12;91:10 advantage (2) 15:24;145:4 advertise (1) 82:14 advertisement (1) 75:3 advertisements (1) 88:3 advertising (2) 43:16;82:12 aesthetics (1) 84:17 affluent (1) 58:19 afraid (1) 79:16 again (36) 19:13;27:24;36:13,13; 37:20;41:5;62:17,19; 66:8;68:1,8;69:19; 71:15;77:24;82:6;90:23; 101:8,12;103:6,7; 105:22;108:6;111:8; 114:13;122:14;132:1; 136:15;139:21;140:11, 20;144:10;145:5; 152:10;154:23;155:13; 159:6 against (2) 55:14;112:9 agencies (1) 92:14	agency (2) 66:25;67:2 agenda (43) 5:23;6:1,9;7:15;8:11; 11:5,9,11,24;12:10,20, 21,22;13:8;14:3,9,15,18; 15:13;16:1,13,23,25; 17:3,11;33:25;34:5; 35:22;41:5;43:3,7; 68:24;70:19;72:14; 88:23;91:12;107:9; 112:2;114:1;134:18; 151:23;153:1;154:5 agendas (3) 10:12;14:24;15:4 aggressive (1) 97:13 ago (13) 10:12;30:16;35:7,14; 37:22;38:15;63:1;76:15, 15;115:11;117:8,10; 161:21 agree (14) 7:8;17:21;19:3,19; 28:19;36:9;41:7;53:12; 80:12;87:25;95:13,23; 144:23;146:5 agree- (1) 39:10 agreed-upon (1) 38:23 agreement (17) 20:14;24:25;26:18,20; 27:20,24;28:2;29:15; 30:1,22;32:5,18,20; 33:21,23;147:10;155:11 agreements (1) 57:2 ahead (4) 14:16;67:10;89:24; 112:25 Aid (2) 27:20;32:5 aim (1) 60:23 air (1) 162:22 Akron (3) 8:4,5;156:19 Alexander (76) 5:7,8;16:8,9;22:1; 27:7,8;31:15,16;33:6,7; 38:25;39:4;41:23;42:3, 9;44:20,21;51:3,11,12; 52:13;66:18,19;67:4; 68:4,21;70:16;85:6; 86:24,25;88:1,7,9,25; 89:6,7;90:18;91:16,17; 99:1,2;103:23,25; 104:19;105:10;106:3; 107:9,11,17;109:18,20; 111:8;112:12,13;114:16, 21,23;119:11,12;121:7,	14,15;128:21,22;129:16; 133:3,4;134:5,6;146:25; 147:1;152:5;163:2,8,9 Allegiance (1) 3:5 allocated (2) 50:4;106:18 allocating (3) 141:7;152:23;153:9 Allocation (1) 56:10 allow (5) 52:3;56:9;61:23; 103:19;149:22 allowed (4) 45:15,18;65:16;99:5 allowing (1) 149:7 allows (5) 56:24,25;57:2,4;58:11 almighty (1) 98:20 almost (5) 6:20;122:8;124:10; 131:13;147:6 alone (1) 59:11 along (5) 12:23;30:21;41:8; 137:11;141:13 alternate (1) 64:14 alternative (3) 93:1;96:8,16 although (1) 36:11 altogether (1) 65:21 Alvero (1) 4:1 always (5) 42:13;78:19;81:15; 95:15;127:9 amaze (1) 104:4 amazes (1) 104:3 amazing (1) 104:8 amazingly (1) 142:22 amend (8) 32:21;62:6;65:20; 72:14;81:1;87:15;115:6, 20 amended (3) 87:19;121:3,5 amendment (9) 32:15;73:20;74:10,13; 80:24;88:4;115:8;122:5; 133:21 amendments (1) 68:25	America (1) 56:15 America's (1) 56:17 among (2) 57:16;100:15 amongst (1) 95:21 amount (5) 69:20;93:12;114:10; 119:19;130:1 amounts (1) 39:12 analyzing (1) 97:20 ANDERSON (12) 7:11,11;160:22,23,23; 161:6,12,20,22;162:3,9, 20 angle (1) 138:6 annexation (2) 106:7;160:7 announcement (2) 3:9,10 apartment (1) 63:19 Apartments (2) 63:18,21 apologize (1) 39:8 apparently (1) 147:16 appeal (2) 74:11,14 appear (3) 100:19;124:2;131:18 Applause (2) 4:15,24 applicable (2) 38:14;76:25 applicant (1) 74:4 application (1) 55:21 applies (4) 15:14,15,15;102:14 apply (3) 54:25;58:12;119:17 appointments (1) 154:20 appreciate (11) 7:12;15:21;20:2,8; 45:17;72:2;98:16;99:21; 128:5;141:12;154:17 approached (1) 148:23 appropriate (4) 73:11;76:18;86:7; 108:25 appropriately (2) 85:24;117:2 approval (1)	44:7 approve (6) 5:20;26:12,13,25; 32:3,5 approved (10) 30:16;38:3;44:4;58:7; 59:7;115:1;116:4,25; 119:10;120:1 approves (1) 29:21 approximately (3) 76:2;160:12;163:21 April (8) 53:15;69:23;96:4; 104:1;107:19;109:6; 111:9,15 architecture (2) 150:12,15 area (32) 8:15;9:15;38:14; 42:12;54:20;55:21;56:2, 4;57:11,22;58:2;64:14; 66:7,13;67:11;127:19; 135:15;137:4,8;138:3, 23;139:9,15;140:1,19; 143:1;146:21;148:12; 158:11;160:25;161:18; 162:17 areas (6) 55:1;59:9;63:10;67:6; 140:17;147:4 areas's (1) 58:12 argument (1) 74:8 around (9) 8:19;21:17;34:13; 79:22;93:13,23;128:12; 155:25;162:19 arrow (2) 136:7;138:2 art (1) 150:17 Article (3) 30:6;133:21;160:2 Arturo (1) 3:15 Arturo's (1) 3:23 aspect (2) 68:1;99:24 Asplundh (2) 25:11,12 assess (3) 74:5;129:24;144:10 assessed (3) 125:6;129:13;155:7 assessment (2) 114:11;117:15 asset (1) 145:18 assign (2) 53:3;58:17
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<p>assist (3) 41:25;91:20;105:1</p> <p>assistance (1) 91:21</p> <p>Assistant (1) 13:15</p> <p>associated (1) 39:14</p> <p>Associates (1) 100:21</p> <p>Association (1) 97:16</p> <p>associations (3) 90:2;92:9;111:19</p> <p>assume (1) 68:24</p> <p>assuming (1) 140:7</p> <p>Atkinson (1) 49:8</p> <p>Atlanta (5) 59:6,7,92:18,20; 157:19</p> <p>attach (2) 32:18;77:21</p> <p>attached (2) 32:13;33:20</p> <p>attempt (1) 61:20</p> <p>attempting (1) 94:25</p> <p>attention (3) 3:12;20:12;69:24</p> <p>ATTORNEY (81) 26:1,17;28:19,25; 29:5;33:19;38:21;39:2; 40:4,15;66:11;72:16,19; 74:17,20,21;75:1,2,8,9, 12,14,18;79:7;80:1,4,23; 81:14;82:5,23;83:10,12, 25;84:4,19,23;85:2,5,15; 87:13,17;88:6;114:7,19; 115:2,6,17;116:3,7,15, 23;117:11;118:4,16,22; 119:4,8,20;120:3,7,10, 12,14;121:1;123:7; 124:25;125:5,16,20; 126:24;127:11,15; 128:3;129:2,20;130:6, 12;131:11;132:7,10; 149:1</p> <p>attorneys (1) 99:7</p> <p>audience (1) 40:23</p> <p>authority (3) 57:3;60:16;69:3</p> <p>authoriza- (1) 43:14</p> <p>authorization (1) 43:23</p> <p>authorize (1) 26:19</p>	<p>authorized (7) 31:2,3;32:19;44:3,5; 83:8;154:13</p> <p>authorizes (2) 44:10;114:14</p> <p>authorizing (1) 33:22</p> <p>avail (1) 74:12</p> <p>available (10) 39:15,17;54:9,11; 64:9;65:22;71:7;82:17; 129:22;130:7</p> <p>awards (1) 58:16</p> <p>aware (1) 39:9</p> <p>away (8) 19:13,20;39:18;74:11; 146:9;147:17;155:12; 158:6</p> <p>awesome (1) 145:22</p> <p>awhile (5) 34:2,14;49:5;123:12; 160:3</p>	<p>16:12;20:18;21:12; 22:20;23:6;29:16;31:6; 43:23;44:9,10;46:11; 47:8;49:16;72:23; 130:12,22;135:1; 145:19;149:20</p> <p>basis (3) 17:5;24:20;36:7</p> <p>Bates (117) 5:9,10;14:8,14;15:1, 10,19;19:7,8,12,19;22:8, 13,19,22,25;23:2,5,13; 27:9,10;31:22,23;33:8,9; 34:8;36:5;39:7,10,14; 40:12;44:23;48:14,17, 21,25;49:9;50:1,51:13, 14;68:23;69:10,11;79:3, 19,21;80:9,13,20;87:1,2; 88:12,13;89:8,9,20,21; 90:18;91:13,14;96:2,3; 100:9,20;101:22;102:5, 12;106:6,15,18;110:13, 22,25;111:4,11,14; 112:14,15;113:16; 119:13;121:16,17; 128:18,19;130:2,9; 131:4;132:16;133:5,6; 134:7,8,19,20,22; 141:17;142:9,15,16; 148:4;149:16;150:14; 152:9,12;153:4,18,24; 154:6;159:22;160:9,13, 17;162:2,7,12;163:10,11</p> <p>Bates' (1) 81:18</p> <p>bathroom (10) 142:19,20,25;145:11; 155:8,10;159:3,11; 161:20,22</p> <p>bathrooms (7) 142:22;146:16; 153:16,21,25;161:1; 162:15</p> <p>battling (1) 4:3</p> <p>bear (1) 127:20</p> <p>beat (1) 23:19</p> <p>became (1) 73:1</p> <p>become (1) 97:3</p> <p>becomes (2) 85:22;139:17</p> <p>becoming (2) 15:7;59:8</p> <p>beg (1) 9:25</p> <p>begets (1) 9:23</p> <p>begin (2) 103:4;130:18</p>	<p>behind (6) 9:14;19:1;34:1;135:9; 155:24;156:23</p> <p>belong (1) 124:22</p> <p>below (3) 136:8;137:14;139:1</p> <p>bench (1) 7:20</p> <p>benefit (3) 64:20;65:10;145:18</p> <p>best (9) 4:2;68:2;92:4;93:4; 97:1,5,21;111:5,6</p> <p>better (12) 11:19;12:18;67:24; 71:5;76:6;78:18;84:13; 98:25;103:1,2;135:11; 139:15</p> <p>bid (3) 35:5;38:24;52:14</p> <p>bids (3) 34:20;37:25;38:20</p> <p>big (8) 77:9;140:25;148:10; 156:10;157:16,16; 159:6;162:20</p> <p>bigger (2) 139:18;148:5</p> <p>biggest (1) 96:23</p> <p>big-picture (1) 139:11</p> <p>bilities (1) 96:12</p> <p>bill (1) 122:23</p> <p>billboards (1) 74:9</p> <p>birthday (3) 112:9,10;163:6</p> <p>Bishop (1) 4:9</p> <p>bit (6) 29:10;34:11;42:7; 44:12;67:9;78:13</p> <p>blah (3) 78:8,8,8</p> <p>bleacher (3) 36:5;140:2;143:11</p> <p>bleachers (7) 137:20,22;138:14; 139:20;145:5;146:8; 159:25</p> <p>blight (1) 56:16</p> <p>blighted (2) 8:18,18</p> <p>blue (3) 136:7;137:8;138:2</p> <p>board (4) 5:2;101:6;108:20,21</p> <p>boards (1) 154:19</p>	<p>body (6) 69:4;83:15,15;95:1; 96:7;100:8</p> <p>bog (1) 149:9</p> <p>bonds (2) 57:6;63:4</p> <p>boost (1) 61:7</p> <p>bore (1) 157:4</p> <p>both (8) 3:21;58:7;70:18; 103:22;123:21;135:6; 141:20;155:3</p> <p>bottom (8) 37:2;63:20;135:16; 136:10,14;140:24; 152:12,18</p> <p>bought (1) 158:4</p> <p>bowed (1) 139:23</p> <p>Box (5) 3:13;8:1;9:21;136:6; 137:11</p> <p>boy (2) 97:10,11</p> <p>BRADFORD (2) 159:9,9</p> <p>brainpower (1) 94:23</p> <p>brains (1) 94:12</p> <p>break (2) 72:9;162:16</p> <p>Brent (1) 4:7</p> <p>Brian (6) 14:20;143:19;144:22; 145:21;146:5;161:12</p> <p>bridge (1) 157:10</p> <p>Brief (1) 72:11</p> <p>bring (16) 9:24;10:11;49:7; 50:20;59:14;61:6;72:23; 93:5;107:19;114:13; 117:12;122:20;124:1; 127:24;151:16;158:17</p> <p>bringing (2) 104:22;127:20</p> <p>brings (1) 136:3</p> <p>Brinkley (2) 49:3;50:22</p> <p>broad (2) 57:8;84:24</p> <p>broader (1) 64:14</p> <p>broken (1)</p>
B				
	<p>back (44) 3:15,19;4:3,12;10:15; 11:22;15:2;17:2;18:2; 33:23;34:4;36:15;37:23; 41:5;47:9;49:11;50:5; 52:2;62:6;63:15;68:16; 69:23;72:13;85:25;90:4, 6,20;91:24;107:22; 113:19;118:9;122:13; 129:18;136:15;138:13, 17;153:1;156:1,4,11; 159:8;160:3;162:13,15</p> <p>back-door (1) 61:20</p> <p>bad (3) 73:15;126:14;131:7</p> <p>Baenziger (1) 100:21</p> <p>bagged (2) 90:22,22</p> <p>balanced (1) 107:1</p> <p>Bank (2) 21:24;57:3</p> <p>Baptist (1) 135:17</p> <p>base (1) 137:13</p> <p>baseball (1) 160:1</p> <p>based (5) 47:16;75:25;86:8; 89:24;92:4</p> <p>basically (19)</p>			

3:22 brought (6) 3:11;20:12;52:8; 69:24;96:15,17 BRYANT (69) 5:7,9,11,13,15,17; 16:14;27:7,9,11,13,15, 17;33:6,8,10,12,14,16; 51:11,13,15,17,19,21; 86:24;87:1,3,5,7,9;89:6, 8,10,12,14,16;91:7; 112:12,14,16,18,20,22; 121:14,16,18,20,22,24; 133:3,5,7,9,11,13;134:5, 7,9,11,13,15,20;163:8, 10,12,14,16,18 Bubbling (1) 157:7 buck (1) 104:24 bucket (4) 21:2,13,16;22:16 budget (11) 39:15;44:6;70:17; 77:25;93:23;95:6; 105:16,23;106:4,21; 107:1 budgetary (1) 110:1 budgeted (3) 7:21;93:14;105:24 Buford (5) 79:17;81:18;82:4; 127:21;135:16 build (3) 63:3;146:9;157:22 building (15) 135:25;148:6,11,15; 149:8,13;150:9;152:6; 155:23,24;158:3,7,8,10, 14 buildings (7) 98:21;149:16,17; 152:20;158:8,9;160:15 built (3) 4:5;156:8;162:17 bulk (1) 23:17 bunch (3) 156:24,25,25 buries (1) 157:9 burned-out (1) 128:23 Business (21) 35:23;55:6,7,12;57:4; 58:14,22;60:2;61:7; 64:18,20;67:20;82:12, 14;83:17,19,22;87:12; 89:19;122:3;126:14 businesses (7) 15:16;58:13;59:15; 60:1;150:20;151:1,3	buy (1) 147:20 C calculate (2) 129:17;130:1 calendars (1) 71:15 California (2) 97:11,12 Call (24) 5:6;8:2;20:16,24; 24:25;25:4;27:6;33:4; 49:24;51:10;60:4;71:24; 78:7,7;86:23;89:5; 90:24;107:13;112:11; 121:12;133:2;134:4; 156:18;163:7 called (5) 48:15;64:11;79:5; 144:9;157:7 calling (1) 7:5 calls (1) 71:2 CALVERT (6) 159:22,23;160:11,15, 19,21 came (13) 3:19;4:12;8:2;35:9; 58:14;64:3;68:8;118:12; 135:2;143:5;155:25; 156:10;161:16 Cameron (1) 3:18 campaign (2) 76:24;79:5 campaigning (2) 41:8;124:16 can (122) 6:3;10:24;12:1,3;13:9, 25;17:4;18:4,16;20:6,7; 21:1,15;22:10;24:9; 26:8;31:7,8;32:3;34:7; 36:18;38:16;39:23;40:2; 43:15,16;45:18,24;46:7, 11,19,24;47:9;52:7,8,9, 12;55:13;57:23;60:1; 62:5,8;63:19,20;64:9; 65:10;66:14,14,24,24; 67:13;69:2,3;71:1,15,17; 76:4,6,25;77:13;78:12; 81:12;84:5,7,23;85:5; 88:6,15;90:8,25;91:9; 93:3;94:23,24;96:22; 99:20;104:13;108:2,5,8, 24;109:6;113:6,6; 118:17;120:17;121:2; 122:7,19,21,23;123:24, 25;124:2,13;125:4,22, 22;127:15;130:6,6; 134:20;135:15;137:16,	21;139:21,22;140:5,15, 16;141:20;142:12; 143:9,25;146:3;148:1,3; 149:12,22;155:21; 158:22;159:19 candidate (4) 94:16;97:1,3,17 candidates (3) 97:5;104:22;111:18 capable (2) 102:9;159:4 capacity (1) 101:17 capital (7) 9:5;35:22;134:18,24; 139:5;143:6;152:14 capital-improvement (1) 141:9 caps (1) 78:5 captain (3) 47:6;49:3;50:22 capture (2) 56:19;142:4 car (5) 3:16,20,22,25;8:23 care (10) 15:5;18:22,23,25; 19:10;24:12;36:1; 117:25;143:14;144:23 careful (1) 82:23 Carl (1) 18:8 Carol (1) 53:13 carry (1) 23:21 cars (6) 3:21;4:4,4;6:19;7:3; 147:8 case (8) 23:9;125:2,6,19; 126:7,8;127:12;129:15 cases (3) 73:24;78:5;137:10 catch (1) 129:14 caught (1) 90:19 cause (2) 8:21;125:10 caused (1) 3:19 Cecil (1) 85:16 celebrate (1) 157:8 census (1) 55:22 center (10) 9:1;18:17,19,21; 19:18;48:23;49:2;	154:14,25;158:13 central (1) 9:16 centrally (1) 148:20 CEO (2) 144:4,5 ceremonial (1) 3:8 certain (3) 85:21;92:2;140:17 certainly (9) 17:22;23:20;105:20; 126:21;137:25;140:25; 142:12,23;153:10 certification (1) 48:20 certifications (1) 23:20 certified (1) 21:18 challenge (3) 43:17;49:18;120:5 challenges (2) 74:10;102:2 chambers (2) 19:10;145:19 Chamblee (2) 48:10;157:8 championship (2) 3:14;8:3 championships (2) 8:6;156:19 chance (1) 73:7 change (15) 9:19;10:3;14:9;28:15; 93:8;103:8;115:6,12; 116:8;118:8,13,24; 119:5;120:16,20 changed (6) 53:21;67:7;104:8; 116:2,18;118:25 changes (2) 88:17;105:7 changing (5) 67:5,10,12;114:10; 115:8 Channel (1) 158:17 Chapter (4) 72:15;88:2;122:5; 133:21 charge (5) 23:8,11;73:18;125:12; 127:6 charges (1) 126:18 charming (1) 150:17 chart (6) 45:8,15;46:9,11;65:4; 68:5	Charter (5) 93:9;99:5;105:3,6,7 cheap (1) 98:22 cheaper (1) 23:14 cheaply (2) 98:19;101:5 check (3) 79:14;126:2;128:1 checking (1) 125:25 Chestnut (1) 157:10 Chevy (3) 3:15,23;8:2 Chief (51) 28:12;29:4,9;31:9,11; 32:13,18;35:5,10;42:17, 19;43:8,9;44:19,22;45:2, 4,10,14,22,24;46:5,10, 16,19;47:3,15,20,24; 48:3,7,10,12,14,16,19, 24;49:3,12;50:1,2,6,9, 15;57:16;58:10;60:23; 108:25;154:7,9,16 child (3) 8:4;141:3;142:24 children (3) 6:15;36:6;58:17 Chinese (1) 156:12 chipping (1) 39:18 chock (1) 8:11 choose (2) 69:3;82:13 chose (1) 92:8 chronic (1) 132:13 church (3) 135:18;147:10;157:25 CID (1) 4:1 Cindy (2) 159:9,9 circumstances (1) 57:1 citation (5) 123:10;124:19;130:4, 21,22 citations (1) 131:13 cite (1) 122:19 cited (1) 124:17 cities (14) 9:21;18:6;24:18; 30:15;59:2;61:5,12; 63:7;82:21,22,92:19;
--	--	--	---	---

<p>102:2;118:15;120:6 citing (1) 123:18 citizen (2) 92:8;99:22 citizens (2) 7:17;92:9 City (106) 8:13,15,21;9:1,3,16; 10:23;19:13,17;29:3,11; 30:8;36:11;39:19;41:20; 43:9,12,24;44:10;46:22; 49:7;57:25;59:5;63:24; 64:6;76:18;78:7;82:24; 83:8;84:16;90:2,13; 91:5,16,20,22;92:1,4,10; 93:10,14,23;94:4,6,14; 95:19;97:15,16,21;98:8, 13,15,18,25;99:4,4,4,14, 15;100:13;101:11,11,14, 17,24;102:7,18;103:3,7; 105:1,3,4,5,20,24;106:9, 13;107:23;108:17; 109:1,12;110:7,11; 111:6,16,19;122:6,22; 123:2,20,24;128:12; 129:22;139:8;141:15; 149:19;150:13,25; 151:1;152:13;154:4; 155:4;157:4;158:11,18; 160:3 city's (1) 55:1 City-wide (2) 45:9;46:3 Civic (4) 18:17,18,21;19:18 civil (2) 124:6;130:22 civilization (1) 60:12 claim (1) 55:13 class (1) 3:25 classes (2) 148:17;150:19 clause (1) 115:20 clean (1) 84:9 Cleanliness (3) 122:5;126:5;133:22 clear (2) 54:22;62:13 cleared (2) 24:20;158:4 clearly (7) 102:1;137:21;139:21; 140:5,8,12;141:23 CLERK (70) 5:7,9,11,13,15,17; 13:17;14:18;27:7,9,11,</p>	<p>13,15,17;33:6,8,10,12, 14,16;51:11,13,15,17,19, 21;86:24;87:1,3,5,7,9; 89:6,8,10,12,14,16;91:7; 101:14;112:12,14,16,18, 20,22;121:14,16,18,20, 22,24;133:3,5,7,9,11,13; 134:5,7,9,11,13,15; 163:8,10,12,14,16,18 Clerk's (1) 54:12 client (1) 132:15 clinic (2) 158:11,12 Clinicare (4) 148:6,15;158:3,7 cloak-and-dagger (1) 61:24 close (6) 3:14;21:3,13;22:6; 25:14;105:21 Clubs (1) 4:9 clue (2) 78:21;132:13 Cobb (1) 78:19 code (16) 67:18,22;73:2;85:10, 18;114:21,22;115:2; 116:8;118:5,7,10,12,23; 129:7;131:15 codes (1) 120:15 coffee (1) 158:15 Coggins (3) 155:18,19,20 cohesive (1) 11:4 Colin (1) 100:21 collapse (2) 138:5,22 collapses (3) 137:5,7,8 colleagues (1) 12:12 collecting (1) 84:13 color (1) 78:2 coloring (1) 78:1 combine (1) 94:23 combined (1) 103:1 combining (1) 69:17 comfortable (4) 70:1;80:10;86:12;90:7</p>	<p>coming (9) 6:19;35:21;42:24; 106:9;118:3;125:13; 138:8;144:19;159:16 comment (5) 6:8;8:10;31:2;90:4; 95:15 commentary (1) 62:14 commented (1) 145:15 Comments (18) 5:24;6:1,3;7:10,12,24; 10:5,13;17:2;26:21; 90:23;99:3;154:20,21; 155:17;156:15;159:21; 162:25 commercial (6) 55:1;57:24;63:14; 64:6;135:24;160:18 commissioner (1) 117:3 commissions (1) 154:19 committee (14) 7:16,17,18;94:5;96:5, 9,13;108:12;109:11; 110:14,15,17;111:13; 113:25 committees (3) 113:4,6;154:19 communicate (2) 100:8,17 communicated (1) 117:2 communication (3) 92:5;100:15;108:7 communications (1) 108:8 communities (1) 60:22 community (14) 3:12;15:15;28:4;57:5; 60:2;67:20;71:1;84:6, 14;90:14;97:5;145:2; 148:16;154:25 companies (1) 81:21 company (4) 34:23;83:7;102:23; 108:20 compare (3) 96:19;111:1,7 compared (2) 58:24,25 compete (2) 59:9,22 competing (1) 59:18 competitive (1) 23:17 competitor's (1) 3:20</p>	<p>complains (1) 91:4 complaint (1) 100:7 complete (2) 82:7;140:22 completed (2) 52:15;147:16 completely (4) 99:19;137:10,12; 162:14 completion (2) 34:18,21 compliance (5) 48:18;127:25;131:9, 23,24 compound (1) 157:14 compre- (1) 58:7 comprehensive (1) 67:16 computer (1) 70:3 con- (1) 132:10 concept (2) 118:18,18 concepts (2) 62:20,22 concern (6) 15:7;16:2,10;31:17; 81:10;129:17 concerned (4) 8:12;45:25;71:3;74:3 concerns (5) 31:21;60:6;63:16; 106:20;110:1 concession (3) 140:1,20;156:8 concrete (4) 140:2;153:21;154:2; 156:5 concurrent (3) 130:4,10;131:8 concurrently (2) 111:16;123:21 condemnation (2) 8:12;55:4 condemnations (1) 57:1 condemning (1) 60:19 condition (2) 98:20,21 conditioner (1) 162:23 conditions (3) 57:16,20;58:1 condos (1) 63:21 conference (1) 20:13</p>	<p>confident (1) 53:9 configured (1) 162:14 conforming (1) 116:5 conformity (1) 117:13 conforms (1) 114:9 confused (1) 15:3 confusion (1) 56:5 connect (1) 136:4 connection (2) 136:3;137:18 connects (1) 137:15 conno- (1) 62:10 consider (5) 110:8;141:6;151:12; 152:5;154:24 consideration (3) 95:8,10;96:18 considered (4) 9:18;55:19,21;149:12 consistent (4) 90:9;116:24;119:1; 127:24 constitutional (1) 83:2 constructed (1) 82:1 construction (2) 34:24;39:3 consultation (1) 68:2 consulting (1) 99:13 contact (6) 64:17;91:5;107:23; 108:9;109:9;110:6 contacted (2) 109:10,16 content (2) 82:11,15 context (4) 60:14;66:10;73:19; 74:9 continual (1) 36:7 continue (2) 81:2;82:14 continued (1) 131:19 contract (6) 20:19;22:13;26:2,2, 16;29:6 contracted (2) 25:15,17</p>
--	---	---	---	--

<p>contractor (4) 21:14,22;22:4;34:19 contractors (6) 20:14,22;23:21;35:2; 161:16;162:10 contrast (1) 111:1 control (2) 44:1;45:4 conventional (1) 67:24 conversation (2) 83:14;101:7 convey (2) 100:3,5 conveyance (2) 36:22;37:7 conveyed (1) 129:18 Cooley (16) 72:4,5;75:22,24; 76:10,16,21;77:2,18; 78:14,18,23;79:13,20; 80:3;81:6 cooperation (1) 30:9 coordinated (1) 43:13 copied (1) 13:24 copies (2) 148:1,3 copy (7) 28:13,13,13;30:20; 42:5;161:24,25 copying (3) 13:21,23;14:7 core (2) 9:1;56:18 corner (8) 11:1,3;135:16,21; 138:4;140:4,16;158:15 Corners (2) 94:4;99:14 corrected (1) 126:16 correction (1) 38:14 correctly (3) 41:24;106:23;116:14 corridor (1) 63:14 cost (20) 19:20;20:16;68:17; 74:4,6,12;77:11;80:14; 84:16;103:15;105:9; 106:13;124:3;125:13; 129:14,17;130:19; 132:11;153:16;158:24 costly (1) 94:1 costs (10) 77:25;107:3;123:25;</p>	<p>124:24;125:6;126:9,9, 12,19;127:7 couches (1) 82:10 Council (52) 10:14,18;11:13;15:17; 16:7,11;19:9,17;20:4,11; 26:22;34:2,8;35:4; 38:10,17;40:19;41:15; 43:10,24;44:2;49:7; 60:6;67:7;68:23;69:2, 19;70:6;74:15,18,19; 75:20;87:23;89:23;91:2, 18;92:13,15;94:3;99:11; 100:6;103:20;105:13; 107:12,17;109:21; 115:12;123:3;141:18; 145:19;151:17;154:12 Councilman (5) 31:21;81:17;95:24,24; 152:19 COUNCILMEMBER (566) 3:11;5:7,8,9,10,11,12, 13,14,15,16,17,18;8:7; 10:19;11:7,10,14,18,25; 12:3,5,10,14,17,24;13:1, 4,14,17,20,22;14:8,11, 14,25;15:1,9,10,18,19, 21;16:9,17;17:7,10,15; 18:11,17,18,20,22,25; 19:4,5,6,8,12,22,23; 20:19,23;21:23;22:1,8, 13,19,22,25;23:2,5,13; 25:7,13,17,19,21,24; 26:5,10,24;27:2,7,8,9,10, 11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18; 28:10;30:5,20,25;31:16, 23,25;32:4,7,8,10,15,23, 24;33:6,7,8,9,10,11,12, 13,14,15,16,17;35:3,7,8, 20;36:17,24;37:3,8,21, 24,25;38:1,2,4,5,7,9,10, 11,18,25;39:4,7,10,14, 22;40:2,12,17,18,21,22; 41:4,23;42:2,3,9,10,13, 20,23;43:2;44:21,25; 45:6,11,21,23;46:2,6,15, 18,21,22;47:1,13,19,22; 48:1,5,8,11,14,17,21,25; 49:9;50:1,2,7,12,24; 51:3,5,11,12,13,14,15, 16,17,18,19,20,21,22; 52:7,13,17,25;53:6,11, 20;60:24;61:2,13,19; 62:8;63:8,13;64:8,15,24; 65:3,6,9,14,22,25;66:17, 19;67:4;68:4,21,23; 69:11,13,22;70:8,16,24; 71:11;72:1;74:14,23; 75:4,5,7,10,16;76:9,12, 13,17,22;77:17;78:9,17, 22;79:1,3,19,21;80:9,12, 13,19,20;81:17;82:19;</p>	<p>83:5,11,23;84:2,3,8,21; 85:1,4,6;86:9,14,18,24, 25;87:1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 10,22,25;88:9,11,13,16, 19,20,22,25;89:6,7,8,9, 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17, 21;90:18;91:3,8,11,14, 17;92:16;93:7,18,19; 95:13,23;96:1,3;99:2,25; 100:20;101:2,22;102:4, 5,11,12,17;103:25; 104:4,19;105:9,10,15; 106:3,6,12,15,16,18,19; 107:11,16,17,21;108:2, 4,5,11,14,15,17;109:2,3, 5,15,20,24;110:5,13,20, 22,23,25;111:3,4,10,11, 12,14,22;112:4,6,8,12, 13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20, 21,22,23;113:1,5,18,21, 23,24;114:1,3,12,16,18, 21,22,23,24;115:4,10, 23;116:9,13,17,20,21; 117:8,14,17,19,21,22,23, 24;118:14,21;119:2,7, 12,14,16,22;120:4,8,11, 21,23;121:4,7,14,15,16, 17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24, 25;124:15;125:4,15,18, 21;126:1,4;127:1,4,5,12; 128:8,10,15,17,19,22; 129:16;130:2,9;131:4; 132:16,19,22;133:3,4,5, 6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14, 16,20,24;134:5,6,7,8,9, 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,20, 22;141:19,22,23;142:3, 9,11,14,16;143:19; 144:12,19;146:2,11,12, 14,15,22,23;147:1,20, 23;148:4,13;149:13; 152:12;153:4,15,18,24; 154:6,10;160:9,13,17; 161:10,24;162:2,5,7,11, 12;163:2,4,8,9,10,11,12, 13,14,15,16,17,18,19 Councilwoman (1) 111:15 count (2) 47:3,5 counties (4) 29:19;58:20;61:12; 63:7 county (20) 8:16;25:15;27:23; 28:6;30:14,14,18;58:15, 17;59:3;66:3,5;68:7; 78:10,19;117:7;142:5,8; 144:3;160:6 couple (10) 35:14;72:20;79:23; 82:21;89:20;90:5;94:6; 124:16;125:1;139:2</p>	<p>course (1) 25:5 court (21) 6:2;82:25;122:11,20, 21;123:12,12,23;124:20, 23;125:6,8,13;126:9,9, 12,19,25;127:7;132:5; 154:22 courts (1) 129:18 cover (6) 44:17;50:19;81:3; 88:23;144:15;146:3 covered (2) 37:4,4 covers (1) 64:14 cracked (2) 139:21;140:13 cracking (1) 140:5 cracks (1) 140:16 crape (1) 21:11 crash (1) 3:19 Crawford (12) 148:14;150:1,4,6; 151:18,20,24;152:2,4,8; 154:23;163:6 crawl (1) 141:1 cream (1) 104:22 create (9) 14:15,18;55:8;56:10; 58:22;85:18;86:3;94:18; 145:24 created (2) 58:25;129:14 creating (2) 91:21;96:8 credit (6) 55:5,9;58:16,20,22,23 credits (2) 58:17;62:23 creek (2) 157:1,8 criminal (4) 125:8,12;129:15; 131:18 criteria (4) 55:18;56:1;96:9;98:1 critical (3) 144:21;145:5,21 critically (5) 98:5,9;102:7,15;139:5 crop (1) 104:22 crossing (2) 3:20;7:3 crux (1)</p>	<p>55:19 curious (2) 141:19;142:7 current (4) 43:17;50:17;76:2; 123:8 currently (5) 44:6;99:5;114:14; 132:11;154:14 cushion (1) 95:6 cut (17) 24:1;77:8,25;122:22; 123:9,24,25;124:3,4; 125:13,17;129:11; 130:18;131:3,8,19; 136:22 cutting (2) 153:21;155:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>d1 (3) 75:16;80:25;86:15 danger (1) 155:11 dangerous (5) 6:18;20:24;22:21; 24:1;35:19 dark (1) 137:8 dash (1) 88:18 data (1) 61:10 date (8) 17:25;54:18;62:5; 67:19;69:15;122:11; 123:13;161:6 dated (1) 79:13 Dates (5) 18:12,13;19:21;20:7; 161:5 day (11) 3:17;12:21,22;15:12; 19:24;49:24;98:12; 100:7;122:21;131:7; 137:20 days (12) 14:16;15:6,7;26:6; 79:23,24;83:7;90:5; 122:12,12;123:11; 131:25 DDA (8) 66:21,25;68:22,24,24; 69:3,5,5 dead (3) 24:3,6;81:25 deadline (7) 14:1,15;15:11,14,17; 31:6;113:10 deal (5)</p>
---	--	---	---	--

12:13;24:4;141:14; 152:23;159:17 dealing (3) 47:11;98:12;102:10 dealt (2) 53:13,13 Dean (135) 3:9,11;5:11,12;8:7; 10:19;11:7,10,14,18,25; 12:17,24;13:1,22;14:11, 25;15:9,18,21;16:17; 17:7;18:18,22;19:5,22; 26:5,10;27:11,12;32:8, 23;33:10,11;36:17; 37:24;38:1,18;39:22; 40:2,17,21;41:4;46:22; 50:11,12;51:15,16; 52:25;53:6,20;66:16,17; 70:24;71:11;74:23;75:4, 7,10,16;76:9,12;80:12, 19;81:17;82:19;83:5,11, 23;84:3,8,21;85:1,4; 86:9,18;87:3,4;89:10,11; 93:7,19;95:14,24;99:25; 101:2;102:4,11,17; 104:4;105:9,15;106:12, 16;107:16;108:2,5; 109:24;110:20,23;111:3, 10,12,22;112:16,17; 113:1,5,18,21,24;114:3; 120:22,23;121:18,19; 124:15;125:4,15,18,21; 126:1;127:4,12;128:8; 132:19;133:7,8;134:9, 10;141:19,23;148:13; 163:12,13 Dean's (1) 17:20 debris (2) 24:21;90:22 Decatur (1) 63:1 December (3) 43:19;106:7;160:10 decide (2) 80:24;81:5 decided (4) 10:12;70:22;85:20; 161:4 decision (5) 31:12;45:12;99:19; 104:25;113:9 decisionmaking (1) 108:19 decisions (1) 153:5 deck (1) 42:16 declare (2) 31:3;66:13 declared (2) 29:1,18 decline (1)	136:13 deep (1) 83:15 defer (1) 66:10 deficit (2) 106:22,24 define (3) 65:14;85:9,14 defined (1) 85:11 defining (2) 85:8,13 definitely (6) 16:6;42:4,22;74:8; 84:7;145:18 Dekalb (17) 25:15;27:22;28:6; 30:14,14,18;58:15,21; 59:3;66:3,5,12;68:7; 117:6;142:5,8;144:3 delicate (1) 73:20 delivery (1) 31:20 DEMA (1) 28:7 denial (1) 73:1 denigrate (1) 9:2 Department (37) 9:7,13;10:10;20:25; 21:15;22:10;23:7;29:13; 31:10;34:1;35:24;36:3; 45:9;47:14;48:6,10; 50:4;53:1;63:3;69:8,9; 90:14;101:4;134:24; 135:9,10,18;138:13,18; 146:6;154:15;155:3,15; 156:1,24;158:5;159:2 departments (4) 134:25;135:1;155:3,5 depend (1) 40:4 dependent (2) 74:6;149:2 depends (2) 64:22;69:9 deprecation (1) 8:21 Derby (3) 3:13;8:1;9:21 description (2) 91:22;96:21 design (10) 35:10;37:12,13,16; 38:3,13,22;39:4,11,16 design/build (1) 34:23 designate (1) 56:1 designated (2)	57:11;66:4 designation (1) 55:2 designed (2) 53:15;162:17 designing (1) 37:15 designs (2) 40:20;53:21 desire (2) 98:16;102:6 desires (1) 100:18 desk (1) 48:23 destination (2) 139:9;147:2 detail (1) 129:7 details (1) 127:14 determine (3) 40:1;94:7;111:17 determines (1) 130:9 detriment (1) 13:15 develop (4) 10:2;98:25;108:15; 148:19 developed (2) 68:1;94:5 development (7) 10:1,2;67:11,23;69:8; 84:6;90:14 deviate (1) 81:15 diagonally (1) 140:16 dialogue (1) 108:10 die (1) 86:4 difference (2) 59:1;144:16 different (18) 8:20;9:21,22;15:3; 19:15;24:9;56:11,11,12, 13;57:13,15;58:9;62:20, 22;64:3;97:23;138:6 difficult (7) 74:5;80:17;82:6,15; 101:13;140:23;142:18 digest (1) 61:8 dilapidated (2) 83:24;84:10 Dilapidation (1) 84:2 diminishes (1) 61:16 directed (1) 56:17	direction (6) 9:7,19,22;10:22,25; 16:4 directly (2) 36:20;68:20 Director (11) 4:19;17:14;43:14; 44:4;45:5,16;53:7,25; 143:5;145:8;153:11 disagree (1) 96:22 disappear (1) 79:17 disapprove (1) 26:15 disaster (6) 27:25,25;29:16,18,18, 21 discolored (1) 140:13 discovered (1) 131:20 discretion (2) 85:23;131:13 discuss (2) 52:5;151:17 discussed (7) 41:24;60:13;91:18; 100:12;106:3;107:23; 110:2 discussing (1) 104:1 Discussion (18) 27:3;32:11,25;34:3; 51:6;54:13;86:19;89:1; 92:23;112:7;113:13; 121:8;132:23;133:25; 148:5,14;161:3;163:5 Dispatcher (1) 51:2 dispatchers (1) 154:11 Disposal (2) 90:2,13 disseminated (1) 89:25 distance (2) 138:14,15 distinction (1) 97:22 distressed (1) 58:19 distributed (1) 89:25 District (5) 25:8;56:10;57:5; 141:13;143:23 ditch (1) 36:23 divided (1) 151:5 documen- (1) 147:13	document (4) 30:23;32:13;54:19; 99:7 documentation (4) 13:6;14:7;70:9;124:21 documents (7) 35:13;39:16;54:11; 64:12;99:6;105:5; 147:15 dog (1) 141:3 dogwoods (1) 21:11 dollar (4) 25:22;39:11;98:20; 119:18 dollars (1) 9:11 dollar's (2) 9:9,10 domain (11) 55:4;56:25;60:10,11, 15;62:1,2,18;66:2,6,9 done (21) 9:6;21:7,15;29:10; 36:13;41:6;60:18;66:1; 73:13;85:24;86:6;98:19; 101:5;107:20;111:21; 118:15;129:25;139:14; 149:22;151:6;161:11 Doraville (11) 3:13;4:5,8,10;9:18; 25:9;30:8;58:15;66:13; 97:23;157:8 double (1) 3:17 down (34) 6:14,23;9:24;15:2; 29:25;41:10;77:8;80:21; 81:18;82:4,25;94:18; 100:12;108:12;125:13; 127:2,8;129:5;136:2,5, 10,12,14,19;137:1; 141:2,4;143:24;149:9; 150:11;155:24;156:6,9; 157:10 downstairs (1) 158:15 downtown (2) 59:19;158:13 dozen-page (1) 99:7 draft (3) 54:8;82:7;90:3 drafted (1) 89:24 drain (6) 155:22,22,25;156:2,4, 9 drained (2) 137:21;156:6 drains (4) 136:11,17;156:11;
---	--	--	---	---

157:1
dramatically (1)
 84:17
draw (2)
 158:13;159:1
drawing (1)
 98:3
dried (1)
 56:21
drive (2)
 78:12;81:18
driven (3)
 3:15,18;4:1
drivers (2)
 4:11;77:20
driveway (7)
 135:22;136:12,14,14,
 18;147:6,12
driveways (1)
 159:6
driving (1)
 77:11
drop (1)
 22:18
droughts (1)
 21:4
drove (1)
 4:11
dual (1)
 124:5
Due (2)
 119:4;128:25
dugout (4)
 138:12,14,15;156:3
dump (1)
 8:14
dumping (1)
 8:15
Dunwoody (4)
 4:10;77:16;109:10;
 145:22
Dunwoody-esque (1)
 80:11
Dunwoody's (1)
 78:3
duplicate (1)
 5:21
duties (1)
 96:11
duty (2)
 48:23;49:16

E

E911 (2)
 47:13;50:3
earlier (4)
 135:6;139:19;149:17;
 154:9
early (3)
 3:16;5:23;129:14
easier (2)
 34:25;149:11

easily (4)
 80:24;85:16;141:1;
 151:6
East (1)
 59:5
eastwards (1)
 6:13
easy (3)
 80:15;124:5;138:17
echoed (1)
 96:24
economic (2)
 67:22;69:8
educate (1)
 71:4
Education (1)
 71:14
effect (2)
 106:7;160:10
effects (1)
 147:3
efficiencies (1)
 145:25
efficient (1)
 69:19
eight (2)
 47:16;154:13
Either (9)
 15:25;40:23;44:3;
 49:1;107:20;116:10;
 131:18;142:7;148:8
elapsed (1)
 96:6
elect (1)
 131:16
elected (2)
 95:1;100:22
electronically (2)
 14:12;90:6
eliminations (1)
 3:17
Ellis (4)
 3:14,18;4:7;159:1
else (11)
 11:2;25:1;88:8;93:6;
 95:18;103:2,2;104:18,
 25;149:7;150:13
e-mail (5)
 60:5;71:24;81:19;
 90:24;91:10
e-mailed (1)
 151:20
emergency (8)
 23:9;24:5,8,15,19;
 28:23,25;32:17
Emily (1)
 4:8
eminent (10)
 56:25;60:10,11,15;
 62:1,2,18;66:2,6,9
employed (4)
 102:19,23,24;154:15
employee (2)

55:9;103:6
employees (9)
 45:22;50:14,17,19;
 64:19,23,25;65:1;154:14
empty (2)
 148:6,21
enables (1)
 56:22
enclosed (1)
 36:2
encourage (1)
 12:11
end (11)
 55:15,17;95:14;
 123:13;139:22;140:4,19,
 21,22,24;162:15
ended (1)
 12:19
energized (1)
 23:22
enforced (1)
 115:19
enforcement (2)
 126:25;127:23
engage (1)
 108:10
engaged (1)
 49:23
engineered (3)
 40:7,16;143:13
engineering (4)
 34:16,24;35:1;39:16
enhance (2)
 61:9,17
enhancing (1)
 145:1
enjoyed (1)
 12:5
enough (8)
 5:23;13:7;24:7;45:6;
 91:11;103:4;129:14;
 140:25
ensuring (1)
 31:20
enter (2)
 26:19;147:12
entering (1)
 26:14
enterprise (1)
 150:21
entertain (1)
 87:18
entire (9)
 87:18;123:13,15;
 131:18;136:17,18;
 139:18;140:14;162:17
entirely (1)
 37:4
entirety (1)
 139:11
entitled (1)
 58:15
entrance (3)

135:17;138:17;148:12
entrust (1)
 104:14
entrusted (1)
 104:15
environment (5)
 146:24;157:21,22;
 158:20;159:7
envision (1)
 158:23
equipment (2)
 9:12;21:12
eroding (1)
 137:9
erosion (1)
 140:8
especially (6)
 29:19;44:11;46:1;
 73:19;74:9;141:13
essential (3)
 59:9,21;69:6
establishing (1)
 96:9
estimate (1)
 153:18
estimates (1)
 40:20
etc (8)
 73:1;96:13;106:10;
 110:19;119:1,10;
 124:19;132:11
evaluate (4)
 96:7,18;111:1,17
evaluating (3)
 91:25;96:5;97:20
even (23)
 8:22;16:15;35:25;
 40:9;50:16;55:21;76:15;
 82:1;83:5;84:10;94:25;
 103:13;104:9;105:13;
 107:12;110:7,9;116:11;
 139:15;143:9;148:18;
 149:22,22
Evening (3)
 20:10;133:22;135:6
event (4)
 4:6,13;8:5;28:22
everybody (11)
 4:21;15:16;25:1;38:3;
 63:5;90:10,10;117:3;
 135:7,13;148:3
everybody's (1)
 107:8
everyone (4)
 11:2;18:14;19:21;
 28:14
everywhere (2)
 118:9;157:14
evidence (2)
 61:3,14
exact (1)
 61:17
exactly (3)

75:13;93:2;123:7
example (9)
 7:21;16:24;49:6,13;
 50:18;83:6;98:11;
 113:14;124:25
Excellent (9)
 8:7;53:10;54:1;70:25;
 141:16;142:15;143:20;
 152:10,10
except (1)
 4:2
exceptions (1)
 15:20
excited (5)
 5:1,3;53:25;101:5;
 156:19
excluded (1)
 63:11
excuse (1)
 71:21
execute (1)
 33:21
execution (1)
 33:22
executive (1)
 109:1
Exemption (4)
 114:5;115:13;119:10,
 25
exist (1)
 58:1
exists (1)
 55:24
exit (2)
 147:7,11
exiting (1)
 55:7
expanded (1)
 57:24
expenditure (1)
 129:19
expensive (1)
 76:23
experience (7)
 15:23;28:11;81:10;
 92:18;94:13;103:1;
 160:5
experienced (1)
 94:7
expert (1)
 62:1
exposed (3)
 101:19;137:13;138:23
expressed (1)
 151:15
extend (2)
 66:24;112:2
extension (1)
 118:2
extent (1)
 123:20
extra (6)
 11:15,20;12:6;15:22;

130:19;132:11
extremely (3)
99:18;135:5,5
eye (1)
80:1
eyes (1)
80:7

F

face (1)
101:24
facilitate (1)
67:22
facilitated (1)
28:5
facilitator (2)
19:9;98:3
facilities (2)
22:11;143:8
facility (3)
39:20;64:5;148:16
facing (1)
39:19
fact (6)
54:14;61:17;103:11;
104:11;136:22;148:14
factor (1)
42:23
factors (1)
92:21
facts (2)
125:2,20
fail (1)
131:19
failed (2)
131:18;137:10
fails (1)
123:9
failure-to- (1)
124:1
fall (5)
23:3;35:25;60:25;
144:14;157:3
fallen (1)
136:25
falling (1)
151:11
falls (2)
24:8,11
familiarity (1)
53:15
family (1)
142:25
Famous (1)
159:14
fancy (1)
101:21
fantastic (1)
143:22
far (3)
68:19;139:22;143:5
FARIDI (2)

6:6,7
farms (1)
64:1
fascinating (1)
83:15
fast (1)
31:6
fatal (1)
86:6
father (1)
142:23
favor (2)
19:23;37:22
feasibility (2)
37:15;111:17
federal (9)
9:3;27:25;29:14,22;
32:16;55:4;56:16,20;
144:15
fee (3)
72:24;93:25;118:19
feed (1)
136:1
feedback (8)
34:15;54:17;71:1,13;
81:12;89:23;92:10,12
feeds (1)
136:2
feel (3)
69:25;86:11;105:13
fees (4)
72:23;118:19,22;
143:21
feet (12)
40:10,11;76:2,2,4;
77:4;81:2;86:5,16;88:5;
137:2;138:15
FELGIN (6)
74:20;75:1,9,12,18;
116:7
fell (1)
24:5
felled (1)
22:25
felt (2)
69:25;95:15
FEMA (4)
27:25;29:14;30:1,19
fence (3)
36:2;138:12,16
fenced (1)
36:14
FERGUSON (10)
26:9;43:14;46:8;72:6,
7;106:4,22;117:6,10;
153:6
few (1)
79:24
field (4)
53:8;140:2;156:3,14
fifth (2)
3:22;4:2
ifty (4)

58:24;115:13;117:15;
121:6
fight (1)
157:21
figure (3)
16:3;41:10;75:13
figures (1)
68:11
files (1)
41:17
fill (5)
47:7;59:15;78:15;
101:12,12
filled (2)
45:19;46:16
filling (1)
71:16
final (2)
3:16;14:1
finalize (1)
100:24
finals (1)
3:24
Finance (4)
43:14;44:4;45:5,16
finances (1)
48:22
financial (1)
95:14
financials (1)
7:19
find (18)
21:20;35:2;76:22;
88:2;93:15;95:3;99:6;
101:9;102:9;103:6;
105:25,25;111:6;118:9;
125:8;127:13,15;156:21
finding (3)
97:13,20;101:13
fine (19)
6:5;13:10;15:5,6,6;
19:18;46:15,18;95:20;
124:23;126:4,6,13,15,
16,18;127:6;128:17;
152:3
finish (2)
3:21;112:2
finished (2)
3:13;4:2
fire (1)
63:3
firm (11)
15:14;34:16;35:1;
94:9,11;100:4,17,21;
101:21;102:22,24
firms (5)
23:14;34:23;92:7;
97:19;101:22
first (23)
10:20;25:3;29:24;
31:18;37:9;42:15;57:18;
59:3;65:20;69:24;70:12;
73:20;74:10,13;90:21;

91:20;124:14;128:11,
12;132:18,20;147:2;
157:9
first-time (1)
98:7
fit (6)
92:4;97:14,18,21,25;
111:6
Five (8)
40:10;96:24;115:25;
117:18,20;121:6;
135:20;139:13
five-and-a-half (1)
86:5
five-minute (1)
72:9
five-year (1)
152:16
fix (1)
91:6
fixed (2)
38:23;155:12
fixing (1)
155:10
Fleming (114)
5:13,14;13:4,14,17,20;
17:15;18:17;19:23;
20:19;21:23;25:7,13,17,
19,21,24;27:13,14;30:5,
20,25;32:4,15;33:12,13;
35:7,20;37:21,25;38:2,5,
9,11;42:2;43:2;46:25;
47:1,13,19,22;48:1,5,8,
11;50:2,7,24;51:17,18;
52:17;53:11;65:14,22,
25;69:22;70:8;72:1;
76:13,17,22;79:4;87:5,6,
22,25;88:10,11,19,22;
89:12,13;95:12,13,24;
112:4,18,19;114:1;
115:23;116:9,20;117:8,
14,21,23;119:15,16,22;
120:4,8,11,21;121:20,
21;126:4;128:9,10;
133:9,10,16,19,20;
134:11,12;142:2,3,11,
14;149:13;153:15;
154:10;163:14,15
Fleming's (1)
16:10
flexibility (7)
12:15,19;13:2,12;
50:17,23;78:15
flexible (5)
13:2,9;15:5,8,11
flippant (1)
142:21
float (1)
57:6
floodgates (1)
29:22
flow (2)
137:3;157:12

Flowers (2)
6:14;157:17
flowing (3)
137:17,18,22
flyer (1)
89:25
focal (1)
9:15
focus (4)
18:9;60:21;100:14;
141:11
folks (2)
30:1;161:25
follow (1)
128:24
foot (4)
40:12;77:16,19;86:4
footage (1)
81:4
football (1)
140:1
force (1)
74:12
forces (1)
59:10
foreclosed (1)
130:16
forever (1)
122:9
Forgot (4)
14:20,21,22;131:3
form (3)
108:12,20;110:14
format (1)
71:9
Form-based (2)
67:18,22
formed (1)
94:5
former (2)
57:23;59:23
forming (2)
68:24;111:17
formulate (2)
30:8;95:18
forth (1)
96:15
forward (14)
7:18;18:4;29:7;44:8;
50:7;72:21;91:10;96:4;
105:1;127:18;130:8;
139:6;151:19;162:8
forwarded (1)
99:7
fought (1)
3:15
found (5)
24:23;80:16;125:7,12;
157:3
four (9)
3:21;14:23;21:6;35:7;
37:22;38:15;40:11;
75:16;138:16

<p>four-and-a-half (1) 76:1 four-foot (1) 140:25 fourth (2) 90:20,21 Frankly (4) 73:21;118:6;129:14; 130:14 free (1) 108:9 freeze (2) 43:15;51:1 frequent (1) 132:14 Friday (1) 14:21 friend (1) 159:12 Friendly (2) 32:15;146:24 friends (1) 4:2 front (8) 19:14;79:18,21; 123:11;140:11;156:3; 157:25;158:8 Ft (1) 59:18 full (3) 8:11;111:20;138:22 full- (1) 22:3 full-functioning (1) 99:15 full-time (4) 93:21,22;103:9; 105:18 fully (2) 50:16;138:23 function (2) 98:13,14 fund (1) 21:24 funded (2) 44:5;45:1 funding (7) 9:3;29:20,22;55:5; 56:20;144:8;145:9 funds (11) 34:8;36:18;39:15; 41:25;56:16,19;68:6; 141:20,24;142:4;145:7 funny (2) 111:23;113:8 further (3) 8:21;79:25;100:24 Furthermore (1) 94:10 future (2) 80:21;98:23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>game (1) 103:19 gaps (1) 47:7 garage (1) 157:3 gate (2) 156:1,4 gather (1) 61:10 gave (2) 4:12;12:6 geared (1) 141:9 gears (1) 10:3 GEMA (6) 27:23;28:15;29:12,25; 30:18;32:5 general (2) 118:18;120:14 generally (5) 125:1,5;129:21; 131:16;132:7 Georgia (14) 20:20,21;22:14;23:18; 25:16,19,20;26:3;56:18; 61:22;79:22;82:24; 92:21;97:12 gesturing (1) 149:23 gets (5) 23:18;74:18;82:15; 130:10;131:13 ghost (1) 64:18 GINNY (2) 159:22,23 girl (1) 97:12 given (2) 9:7;117:11 gives (4) 15:24;44:4;57:5;97:17 giving (1) 151:2 glad (1) 60:5 gloss (1) 102:6 GM (8) 57:22;59:10,17,17,23; 64:4,12;65:15 goal (1) 54:24 God (1) 7:2 God's (1) 58:16 goes (13)</p>	<p>30:18,19;58:9;74:17, 19;122:14;136:16; 148:5;155:22;156:9,11; 159:2,17 golden (3) 97:10,11,12 Good (39) 8:7;12:12;17:2;18:18, 20;19:20;20:13;25:5; 31:23;44:15;45:6;60:9; 66:17;69:11;71:14; 73:25;74:22;76:6,12; 78:2;80:7;90:17;91:11, 15;97:14,18,25;100:1,2; 120:13;123:22;124:12; 125:9,10,10;128:8; 136:21;137:15;148:19 goodness (1) 17:16 goods (1) 31:20 go-to (1) 91:6 govern- (1) 64:10 governing (1) 69:4 Government (4) 54:10;61:20,23; 159:17 governments (4) 8:19;57:3,4,6 governor (1) 29:17 grab (1) 61:20 grade (1) 136:8 grandstands (1) 156:7 grant (1) 144:15 granted (1) 73:9 grants (2) 48:20;144:13 grass (13) 122:8,23;123:9,19,25; 124:3,4,17;125:13,17; 129:12;131:2,19 grate (1) 136:10 great (13) 15:24;18:1,7,8,15; 37:8;41:11;55:23;71:6; 103:21;141:17;145:2,12 ground (1) 76:19 group (1) 100:23 groups (3) 99:23;148:17,17 grow (1)</p>	<p>98:25 growing (2) 9:1;151:1 guarantee (1) 129:18 guess (12) 16:9;31:17;47:10,21; 63:8;70:13;118:1,2; 127:1;129:16;150:7; 161:7 guest (1) 4:18 guilty (3) 125:7,9,12 Gulch (1) 59:19 guy (2) 8:1,3 guys (4) 20:7;22:17;25:25; 81:19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>half (4) 49:16;101:8;143:12; 162:13 Hall (6) 19:17;70:2;71:17; 78:8;90:2,13 Halpern (4) 6:23;7:15;52:1;146:19 hand (7) 47:2;79:4;91:7; 103:17,21;104:12;128:6 handed (1) 28:12 handles (2) 48:22;49:19 Hapeville (2) 59:5,20 happen (8) 7:5;28:20;41:22; 90:11,11;94:1;113:14; 152:2 happened (2) 125:23;140:9 happening (5) 81:11;125:22,22; 137:6;139:24 happens (8) 35:25;41:16,19;49:20; 79:5;96:10;102:13; 157:11 happy (3) 112:10;131:4;163:6 hard (8) 8:25;11:1;21:5;31:6; 61:10;136:23,24;156:13 harm (1) 95:2 Hart (6) 7:24,25;8:8;156:16,</p>	<p>17,21 hat (1) 98:4 hate (3) 8:17;139:12;149:8 hazard (4) 27:22;28:7;30:13,17 head (8) 10:10;28:9;47:5; 52:22;69:13;78:25; 101:4;147:14 head- (2) 94:8;102:21 headhunter (2) 92:24;93:24 headhunting (1) 100:4 head-hunting (1) 100:17 head-on (1) 147:6 heads (3) 53:2;95:18;134:24 hear (3) 16:22;44:25;137:17 heard (7) 42:13,15;96:14; 124:25;125:24;126:3; 149:8 hearing (20) 54:14,15,18;62:6; 69:15,18;70:23;71:12; 72:14,17;73:18,22;74:7, 16,22;88:3;122:13; 123:11,20;130:22 hearings (1) 123:21 heart (1) 4:11 heat (1) 158:17 heavy (1) 6:19 height (1) 40:7 help (8) 40:9;43:24;45:9; 98:24;105:11;108:15; 151:7;162:21 helpers (1) 4:8 helpful (1) 160:6 helping (1) 107:24 helps (1) 16:6 hensive (1) 58:8 here's (1) 111:22 Herself (1) 49:3</p>
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<p>hesitant (1) 62:9 hesitate (1) 71:24 Hey (1) 93:15 hide (1) 102:6 hierarchical (1) 46:11 high (1) 123:19 high-grass (1) 130:13 Highway (5) 79:17;81:18;82:4; 127:21;135:16 hill (2) 136:19;158:21 himself (1) 151:7 hire (10) 34:16;43:15,20;44:8; 51:1;55:10,11,12;97:24; 98:24 hired (3) 64:19;94:11;101:4 hiring (4) 43:15;51:1;91:20; 104:21 history (2) 106:20,22 hit (4) 24:2,18;25:2;118:13 hits (2) 29:16;127:22 Hold (5) 17:19;54:15;62:6; 70:23;111:24 holding (1) 138:25 hole (3) 137:14;140:3;157:4 holes (5) 137:6;138:19,20; 140:6,9 home (1) 128:23 Homeland (1) 29:13 Homestead (6) 114:5,10;115:13; 117:4;119:9,25 Honeysuckle (4) 36:5;39:20;139:20; 143:11 hoops (1) 29:8 hope (5) 102:15;151:12;152:4; 154:23;159:17 hopefully (4) 73:22;123:3;124:4;</p>	<p>136:9 hoping (3) 97:15;102:13;105:11 horizon (1) 67:18 horizontal (1) 139:2 horrendous (1) 122:7 HOST (7) 34:7;39:17;68:12; 141:8;143:15;152:21; 153:9 hourly (1) 23:11 hours (6) 16:15;48:25;49:9,14; 50:10;155:8 House (5) 79:25;129:1,5;131:7; 155:6 Howe (35) 35:13;51:24;52:24; 53:14;54:7;60:8,11; 61:1,3,14,22;62:12; 63:12,17;64:10,22;65:1, 5,8,12,19,24;66:8,23; 67:12;68:8;69:2,16,23; 70:7,15,21;71:10,19,21 HR (4) 94:11,13;102:23,24 huge (4) 34:6;36:16;58:25; 151:4 hundred (5) 55:14;58:24;65:2,2; 120:18 hunting (2) 94:9;102:22 hurt (1) 104:7</p>	<p>84:12 imagine (1) 45:24 immediately (1) 91:10 imminent (1) 55:4 impeded (1) 138:24 imperative (1) 16:22 implement (5) 66:20,25;67:1,2;69:7 implementation (4) 58:3;68:3,19;77:6 implemented (1) 115:15 implementing (4) 67:5;129:21;130:15, 24 important (21) 6:10,21;7:1;8:9;16:21; 20:3;24:7;97:4,22;98:6; 99:3,18,24;102:8,8,15; 104:25;110:6;135:5; 139:6;146:3 impoverished (1) 58:18 impressed (1) 91:24 impressive (1) 141:25 improperly (1) 84:12 improve (3) 14:12;84:17;148:11 improvement (7) 9:6;35:22;57:5; 134:18;139:5;143:6; 152:14 improvements (3) 134:24;143:8;155:14 improving (1) 147:5 incentive (4) 55:3;59:1,13;151:2 inch (1) 78:4 inches (1) 138:16 include (10) 32:16;57:24;59:25; 63:18,22;64:4;65:17; 68:17;88:4;115:7 included (6) 52:18;58:8;63:10,24; 91:21;101:6 includes (1) 64:5 including (4) 22:5;63:25;97:5; 143:10 income (1)</p>	<p>55:14 incorporate (1) 100:25 incorporated (1) 30:15 incorporating (3) 146:18,20;147:3 incorrectly (1) 25:10 indicates (1) 30:7 indicating (1) 151:10 individual (1) 43:21 individually (1) 100:23 indus- (1) 64:6 industrial (1) 59:24 industry (1) 23:18 information (11) 35:14;37:17;41:14,14, 15;42:4;49:22;50:8; 62:15;94:15;100:2 infrastructure (3) 68:15,18,20 in-house (1) 69:4 input (8) 10:17;99:20;109:14; 110:7,11,12;123:5; 141:18 inspector (2) 149:19,19 install (1) 77:10 instance (2) 9:14;122:10 instead (3) 70:3;94:24;157:21 Institute's (1) 18:8 insurance (2) 8:23;23:21 intake (5) 136:8,17;138:3,7; 140:21 intakes (1) 135:20 integrate (1) 146:6 intend (1) 62:13 intent (1) 54:23 inter- (1) 103:17 interacting (1) 29:7 interaction (1)</p>	<p>92:5 interest (3) 70:22;107:24;110:9 interesting (6) 82:6;83:13;126:24; 127:16,18;138:10 intergovernmental (1) 30:9 International (1) 97:16 interview (8) 92:14,25;95:20; 103:19;104:23;107:14; 109:22,22 interviewing (1) 91:25 into (44) 3:20;26:14,19;29:11; 63:19;64:18;66:9;82:15, 24;83:3;85:12,18;88:2; 95:9;106:9;115:20; 117:12;122:2,20;124:10, 19;125:25;126:2,22,23; 128:1;131:17;136:16; 137:3;138:17;139:2; 141:2,4;144:17;146:19, 23;148:5,12,16;152:19; 154:20;156:7,8;157:12 introduce (1) 4:18 introducing (1) 54:8 invest (1) 98:23 investigate (1) 150:6 investment (1) 139:8 invite (1) 158:11 invoice (1) 26:7 involve (2) 56:24;60:19 involved (5) 7:17;108:19;153:7,11; 160:16 involvement (3) 28:14;92:8;99:22 ironic (1) 99:12 issue (33) 8:20;13:4;17:20; 19:24;34:6;49:6;63:4; 68:9;73:10,15;74:18,23; 83:16;84:1,4;95:5; 98:10;108:7;111:15; 119:5;122:21;123:24; 124:6,18;126:20,22,25; 127:18,21;128:22,23; 132:14;141:5 issued (1) 91:19</p>
	I			
	<p>ice (1) 24:15 idea (7) 20:13;70:25;136:9; 137:23;143:22;145:12, 21 ideal (2) 45:12;94:16 ideas (2) 109:14;151:21 identified (1) 111:18 identify (1) 78:18 ie (1) 131:5 II (1) 133:22 illegally (1)</p>			

<p>issues (17) 39:19;53:23;58:5; 73:23;82:9;84:5;98:12; 101:24;103:17,21; 119:12;120:2;124:17; 130:13;132:12;140:13; 141:14</p> <p>issuing (1) 130:3</p> <p>item (18) 7:15;10:15;12:11; 13:8;14:20;16:21,23,25; 35:21;41:6;45:7;88:23; 107:9;109:19;122:4; 126:5;128:6;154:4</p> <p>items (11) 6:1,9;9:6;14:3;17:13; 52:14;58:7;70:18;135:4; 143:5;144:22</p>	<p>17:23;96:6</p> <p>jurisdiction (2) 56:10;66:12</p>	<p>laptop (1) 145:16</p> <p>large (3) 67:7;75:20;77:14</p> <p>larger (8) 76:24;78:12;80:16; 135:23,25;136:5;138:7; 145:14</p> <p>largest (2) 77:4;138:21</p> <p>last (16) 12:20;16:12;43:18; 48:14;52:20;53:16; 72:20;73:6;75:24;86:10, 13;97:9;98:10;131:3; 134:23;145:14</p> <p>late (2) 127:17;150:7</p> <p>lately (1) 150:15</p> <p>later (6) 10:20;17:22;41:5; 62:5;79:23,24</p> <p>laugh (1) 159:12</p> <p>laundry (1) 149:23</p> <p>law (17) 56:8,9,21;61:22; 71:23;80:5;82:9,10; 83:15,16;85:21;118:8; 128:25;129:1,2,4;160:6</p> <p>lawn (1) 126:5</p> <p>LCI (5) 67:17;68:9,10,20; 157:5</p> <p>leaching (1) 140:17</p> <p>lead (4) 32:14;52:3;74:1; 103:20</p> <p>leaf (1) 21:6</p> <p>learn (1) 101:18</p> <p>lease (2) 57:2;82:3</p> <p>least (16) 21:7;25:8;30:22;38:5; 41:2;58:23;69:20;78:12; 92:25;93:5;94:21,24; 103:4;140:9;143:7; 147:4</p> <p>leave (3) 13:5;73:12,16</p> <p>leaves (2) 83:7,19</p> <p>leaving (4) 43:12;44:15;48:2,3</p> <p>leeway (1) 105:22</p> <p>left (10)</p>	<p>14:2;47:12;68:18; 81:21;83:22;98:25; 135:18;138:11;146:10; 163:1</p> <p>left-hand (1) 135:17</p> <p>legal (2) 79:3;85:11</p> <p>legalities (2) 148:24;149:6</p> <p>legislation (3) 56:19;93:20;103:10</p> <p>legislative (1) 56:12</p> <p>legislature (2) 114:25;115:14</p> <p>legwork (1) 107:6</p> <p>length (3) 73:14;74:7;140:14</p> <p>less (8) 48:3;65:19;81:2,4; 85:17;86:16;88:4;94:8</p> <p>lesson (1) 24:18</p> <p>lets (1) 19:14</p> <p>letter (2) 90:20;117:6</p> <p>lettering's (1) 78:3</p> <p>level (5) 9:25;28:20;55:23; 105:20;130:23</p> <p>leverage (2) 9:11;144:14</p> <p>liability (7) 36:10,16;39:19;41:3, 20;55:15;149:10</p> <p>liaison (1) 53:1</p> <p>Library (14) 142:18,20;143:5; 145:11,14,17;153:16; 155:1,2,15;158:1,22,24; 162:13</p> <p>lien (6) 123:14,15;129:5,9,11, 12</p> <p>Life (3) 84:7;90:1;130:3</p> <p>Lifestyles (1) 159:14</p> <p>lift (2) 43:15;51:1</p> <p>light (2) 99:14;158:3</p> <p>lighting (1) 68:17</p> <p>lights (1) 162:21</p> <p>likely (1) 64:1</p>	<p>Limb (1) 89:19</p> <p>limit (3) 5:25;73:11;154:21</p> <p>limitation (1) 75:2</p> <p>limited (3) 64:12;73:9;130:12</p> <p>limits (1) 150:25</p> <p>line (9) 3:21;23:14,22;24:5,8, 12;72:23;152:12,18</p> <p>lines (10) 21:3,13,17,20;22:6,14; 23:22,24;24:2;158:2</p> <p>lingering (2) 72:20;73:6</p> <p>Lisa (5) 26:7;28:13;43:13; 46:7;69:16</p> <p>list (23) 25:1,3;34:7,9;35:17; 36:7,10;46:9,11;57:14; 94:19;105:6;134:19,24; 135:2,4;139:5;142:8; 143:10,13;149:23; 151:9;153:10</p> <p>listed (5) 36:10;58:5,6;60:18; 68:6</p> <p>listening (1) 115:21</p> <p>literally (1) 139:1</p> <p>litigation (3) 74:2;83:4,4</p> <p>little (20) 7:25;8:1;29:9;30:16; 34:11;44:12;54:6;65:4; 67:9;71:5;73:13;77:3,4; 78:6,13;81:10;122:17; 150:21;157:10;159:2</p> <p>live (4) 6:11;86:4;106:21; 151:14</p> <p>living (1) 6:25</p> <p>load (1) 118:22</p> <p>local (7) 29:14;56:11;57:2,4,5; 61:23;111:16</p> <p>locate (1) 55:11</p> <p>located (2) 88:3;148:20</p> <p>locates (1) 55:6</p> <p>location (2) 18:4,15</p> <p>long (13) 13:9;16:11;19:8;</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>jail (1) 9:14</p> <p>January (7) 93:17,21;101:10; 103:9;105:12;106:8; 113:12</p> <p>Jenkins (1) 151:5</p> <p>jewel (1) 145:3</p> <p>Jim (3) 3:14,18;4:7</p> <p>job (17) 53:10;54:1;58:16; 77:22;91:21;95:4;96:21; 97:2,7,15;98:14;102:13, 21;141:16;142:15; 143:20;162:18</p> <p>jobs (3) 55:8;58:23,24</p> <p>Joe (5) 40:8;67:13;68:2;72:5; 79:8</p> <p>Joe's (1) 80:6</p> <p>John (1) 32:18</p> <p>joining (1) 101:17</p> <p>joins (1) 156:9</p> <p>judge (4) 123:23;124:6,20; 126:17</p> <p>judgment (2) 86:8;104:15</p> <p>July (1) 68:14</p> <p>jump (1) 29:8</p> <p>June (2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>Karen (2) 14:21;18:24</p> <p>keep (13) 15:22;36:15;69:3; 76:3;80:1;120:14; 123:25;125:13;129:5, 23;142:7;155:8,15</p> <p>keeps (1) 76:7</p> <p>Ken (1) 4:9</p> <p>kids (4) 6:16,22;7:1,4</p> <p>kind (17) 10:21;11:3;31:18; 49:6;59:13;62:10;64:19; 71:8,8;73:24;93:3;94:1; 100:14;144:25;146:7; 155:9;159:12</p> <p>KING (35) 29:9;31:11;32:13,19; 35:10;43:8,9;44:22; 45:2,4,10,14,22,24;46:5, 10,16,19;47:3,15,20,24; 48:3,7,10,12,16,19,24; 49:3,12;50:6,9,15;154:9</p> <p>Kiwanis (1) 4:9</p> <p>knew (2) 28:14;109:9</p> <p>knock (1) 129:5</p> <p>knowing (1) 76:10</p> <p>knowledge (1) 160:5</p> <p>known (2) 34:13;47:4</p> <p>knows (4) 15:16;90:10;136:9; 149:4</p>	<p>laptop (1) 145:16</p> <p>large (3) 67:7;75:20;77:14</p> <p>larger (8) 76:24;78:12;80:16; 135:23,25;136:5;138:7; 145:14</p> <p>largest (2) 77:4;138:21</p> <p>last (16) 12:20;16:12;43:18; 48:14;52:20;53:16; 72:20;73:6;75:24;86:10, 13;97:9;98:10;131:3; 134:23;145:14</p> <p>late (2) 127:17;150:7</p> <p>lately (1) 150:15</p> <p>later (6) 10:20;17:22;41:5; 62:5;79:23,24</p> <p>laugh (1) 159:12</p> <p>laundry (1) 149:23</p> <p>law (17) 56:8,9,21;61:22; 71:23;80:5;82:9,10; 83:15,16;85:21;118:8; 128:25;129:1,2,4;160:6</p> <p>lawn (1) 126:5</p> <p>LCI (5) 67:17;68:9,10,20; 157:5</p> <p>leaching (1) 140:17</p> <p>lead (4) 32:14;52:3;74:1; 103:20</p> <p>leaf (1) 21:6</p> <p>learn (1) 101:18</p> <p>lease (2) 57:2;82:3</p> <p>least (16) 21:7;25:8;30:22;38:5; 41:2;58:23;69:20;78:12; 92:25;93:5;94:21,24; 103:4;140:9;143:7; 147:4</p> <p>leave (3) 13:5;73:12,16</p> <p>leaves (2) 83:7,19</p> <p>leaving (4) 43:12;44:15;48:2,3</p> <p>leeway (1) 105:22</p> <p>left (10)</p>	<p>14:2;47:12;68:18; 81:21;83:22;98:25; 135:18;138:11;146:10; 163:1</p> <p>left-hand (1) 135:17</p> <p>legal (2) 79:3;85:11</p> <p>legalities (2) 148:24;149:6</p> <p>legislation (3) 56:19;93:20;103:10</p> <p>legislative (1) 56:12</p> <p>legislature (2) 114:25;115:14</p> <p>legwork (1) 107:6</p> <p>length (3) 73:14;74:7;140:14</p> <p>less (8) 48:3;65:19;81:2,4; 85:17;86:16;88:4;94:8</p> <p>lesson (1) 24:18</p> <p>lets (1) 19:14</p> <p>letter (2) 90:20;117:6</p> <p>lettering's (1) 78:3</p> <p>level (5) 9:25;28:20;55:23; 105:20;130:23</p> <p>leverage (2) 9:11;144:14</p> <p>liability (7) 36:10,16;39:19;41:3, 20;55:15;149:10</p> <p>liaison (1) 53:1</p> <p>Library (14) 142:18,20;143:5; 145:11,14,17;153:16; 155:1,2,15;158:1,22,24; 162:13</p> <p>lien (6) 123:14,15;129:5,9,11, 12</p> <p>Life (3) 84:7;90:1;130:3</p> <p>Lifestyles (1) 159:14</p> <p>lift (2) 43:15;51:1</p> <p>light (2) 99:14;158:3</p> <p>lighting (1) 68:17</p> <p>lights (1) 162:21</p> <p>likely (1) 64:1</p>	<p>Limb (1) 89:19</p> <p>limit (3) 5:25;73:11;154:21</p> <p>limitation (1) 75:2</p> <p>limited (3) 64:12;73:9;130:12</p> <p>limits (1) 150:25</p> <p>line (9) 3:21;23:14,22;24:5,8, 12;72:23;152:12,18</p> <p>lines (10) 21:3,13,17,20;22:6,14; 23:22,24;24:2;158:2</p> <p>lingering (2) 72:20;73:6</p> <p>Lisa (5) 26:7;28:13;43:13; 46:7;69:16</p> <p>list (23) 25:1,3;34:7,9;35:17; 36:7,10;46:9,11;57:14; 94:19;105:6;134:19,24; 135:2,4;139:5;142:8; 143:10,13;149:23; 151:9;153:10</p> <p>listed (5) 36:10;58:5,6;60:18; 68:6</p> <p>listening (1) 115:21</p> <p>literally (1) 139:1</p> <p>litigation (3) 74:2;83:4,4</p> <p>little (20) 7:25;8:1;29:9;30:16; 34:11;44:12;54:6;65:4; 67:9;71:5;73:13;77:3,4; 78:6,13;81:10;122:17; 150:21;157:10;159:2</p> <p>live (4) 6:11;86:4;106:21; 151:14</p> <p>living (1) 6:25</p> <p>load (1) 118:22</p> <p>local (7) 29:14;56:11;57:2,4,5; 61:23;111:16</p> <p>locate (1) 55:11</p> <p>located (2) 88:3;148:20</p> <p>locates (1) 55:6</p> <p>location (2) 18:4,15</p> <p>long (13) 13:9;16:11;19:8;</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>lack (2) 89:24;100:15</p> <p>laid (2) 143:2;162:14</p> <p>Land (4) 57:2,3;63:3;73:10</p> <p>land- (1) 61:19</p> <p>lane (1) 3:20</p> <p>language (5) 73:12;81:1;90:4; 115:8;118:17</p>	<p>laptop (1) 145:16</p> <p>large (3) 67:7;75:20;77:14</p> <p>larger (8) 76:24;78:12;80:16; 135:23,25;136:5;138:7; 145:14</p> <p>largest (2) 77:4;138:21</p> <p>last (16) 12:20;16:12;43:18; 48:14;52:20;53:16; 72:20;73:6;75:24;86:10, 13;97:9;98:10;131:3; 134:23;145:14</p> <p>late (2) 127:17;150:7</p> <p>lately (1) 150:15</p> <p>later (6) 10:20;17:22;41:5; 62:5;79:23,24</p> <p>laugh (1) 159:12</p> <p>laundry (1) 149:23</p> <p>law (17) 56:8,9,21;61:22; 71:23;80:5;82:9,10; 83:15,16;85:21;118:8; 128:25;129:1,2,4;160:6</p> <p>lawn (1) 126:5</p> <p>LCI (5) 67:17;68:9,10,20; 157:5</p> <p>leaching (1) 140:17</p> <p>lead (4) 32:14;52:3;74:1; 103:20</p> <p>leaf (1) 21:6</p> <p>learn (1) 101:18</p> <p>lease (2) 57:2;82:3</p> <p>least (16) 21:7;25:8;30:22;38:5; 41:2;58:23;69:20;78:12; 92:25;93:5;94:21,24; 103:4;140:9;143:7; 147:4</p> <p>leave (3) 13:5;73:12,16</p> <p>leaves (2) 83:7,19</p> <p>leaving (4) 43:12;44:15;48:2,3</p> <p>leeway (1) 105:22</p> <p>left (10)</p>	<p>14:2;47:12;68:18; 81:21;83:22;98:25; 135:18;138:11;146:10; 163:1</p> <p>left-hand (1) 135:17</p> <p>legal (2) 79:3;85:11</p> <p>legalities (2) 148:24;149:6</p> <p>legislation (3) 56:19;93:20;103:10</p> <p>legislative (1) 56:12</p> <p>legislature (2) 114:25;115:14</p> <p>legwork (1) 107:6</p> <p>length (3) 73:14;74:7;140:14</p> <p>less (8) 48:3;65:19;81:2,4; 85:17;86:16;88:4;94:8</p> <p>lesson (1) 24:18</p> <p>lets (1) 19:14</p> <p>letter (2) 90:20;117:6</p> <p>lettering's (1) 78:3</p> <p>level (5) 9:25;28:20;55:23; 105:20;130:23</p> <p>leverage (2) 9:11;144:14</p> <p>liability (7) 36:10,16;39:19;41:3, 20;55:15;149:10</p> <p>liaison (1) 53:1</p> <p>Library (14) 142:18,20;143:5; 145:11,14,17;153:16; 155:1,2,15;158:1,22,24; 162:13</p> <p>lien (6) 123:14,15;129:5,9,11, 12</p> <p>Life (3) 84:7;90:1;130:3</p> <p>Lifestyles (1) 159:14</p> <p>lift (2) 43:15;51:1</p> <p>light (2) 99:14;158:3</p> <p>lighting (1) 68:17</p> <p>lights (1) 162:21</p> <p>likely (1) 64:1</p>	<p>Limb (1) 89:19</p> <p>limit (3) 5:25;73:11;154:21</p> <p>limitation (1) 75:2</p> <p>limited (3) 64:12;73:9;130:12</p> <p>limits (1) 150:25</p> <p>line (9) 3:21;23:14,22;24:5,8, 12;72:23;152:12,18</p> <p>lines (10) 21:3,13,17,20;22:6,14; 23:22,24;24:2;158:2</p> <p>lingering (2) 72:20;73:6</p> <p>Lisa (5) 26:7;28:13;43:13; 46:7;69:16</p> <p>list (23) 25:1,3;34:7,9;35:17; 36:7,10;46:9,11;57:14; 94:19;105:6;134:19,24; 135:2,4;139:5;142:8; 143:10,13;149:23; 151:9;153:10</p> <p>listed (5) 36:10;58:5,6;60:18; 68:6</p> <p>listening (1) 115:21</p> <p>literally (1) 139:1</p> <p>litigation (3) 74:2;83:4,4</p> <p>little (20) 7:25;8:1;29:9;30:16; 34:11;44:12;54:6;65:4; 67:9;71:5;73:13;77:3,4; 78:6,13;81:10;122:17; 150:21;157:10;159:2</p> <p>live (4) 6:11;86:4;106:21; 151:14</p> <p>living (1) 6:25</p> <p>load (1) 118:22</p> <p>local (7) 29:14;56:11;57:2,4,5; 61:23;111:16</p> <p>locate (1) 55:11</p> <p>located (2) 88:3;148:20</p> <p>locates (1) 55:6</p> <p>location (2) 18:4,15</p> <p>long (13) 13:9;16:11;19:8;</p>

40:24;55:8;63:1;73:24; 76:3;117:8;122:18; 143:16;149:23;152:15	lowering (1) 115:24	managing (1) 101:17	18:13,24;19:3,7,11,19; 20:1,4,10;23:8,23;24:13; 25:25;26:11,15,21;27:1, 3,6,19;28:8,17;29:4; 30:4;31:2,9,13,22,24; 32:1,6,9,11,21,25;33:4, 18,24;35:9,12,19;36:9; 37:9,13,17,20;38:16; 39:13;40:14;41:1,3,13; 42:17,19;43:4,7,9,24; 44:2,8,19,23;45:3,5; 46:20,24;50:11,25;51:4, 6,10,23;52:12,16,17,22; 53:3;54:3;60:8;65:13; 66:16,18;69:10,12,14, 22;70:18;71:14,20,21, 25;72:2,6,8,13,18;75:22; 86:17,19,23;87:11,16, 20,24;88:7,12,14,24; 89:1,5,18,22;90:17;91:1, 9,12,15,17;93:6,21; 95:11,22,25;96:2;98:11, 14;99:1;103:8,9,16; 105:11,17,18;107:7; 108:1,3,25;109:8,10,12, 17;110:10;111:24; 112:5,7,10,24;113:3,16, 19;114:4;115:22; 119:11,13,15;120:22,24; 121:8,12;122:1;124:8; 125:24;126:2,11,21; 128:1,4,9,14,16,18,21; 132:4,9,17,21,23;133:2, 15,17,23,25;134:4,17; 141:16;142:2,12; 143:18;144:2,18; 145:21;146:1,25;147:13, 17,22,25;148:15,22; 149:15;150:3,5,7; 151:15,19,22;152:1,3,7, 9,25;153:13,23;154:3,7, 16;155:17;156:15; 159:21;160:21;161:5,9, 19,21;162:25;163:3,5,7	longer (1) 49:22	managing (1) 101:17	12;131:11;132:7,10; 149:1
look (54) 8:14,14,15,20,25; 34:20;37:13,20;38:12, 13;50:7;52:8,9;62:12; 64:9;71:15;73:7;77:18; 78:24;82:23;84:7;92:1; 94:16;96:8;98:20,21; 105:4;107:22;110:25; 111:2;113:15;120:6,17; 123:4;125:3;126:22,23; 130:15,17;132:12; 139:11;142:6;143:2; 144:6,16;145:6,13; 149:9,19;157:19,23; 159:5,7;161:14	lowest (2) 9:25,25	manned (1) 50:16	12;131:11;132:7,10; 149:1			
look-and-see (1) 71:8	lucky (2) 102:14,16	manner (1) 129:13	McPherson (1) 59:18			
looked (15) 25:25;26:1;73:10; 82:20,20,21;92:17,17, 22;94:14;120:19;123:8; 124:20,21;150:8	Luke (3) 7:16;28:13;144:16	mannings (1) 47:17	mean (37) 13:20;15:24;16:4,18; 37:3;71:11;76:25;83:21; 84:9;86:6;104:1,3; 107:11;109:25;113:6,7, 11,12,13;122:10,14; 124:18;126:14;142:4, 21;145:3;146:7,15; 148:4;149:3;150:7,11, 17;151:7,10,24;155:8			
looking (22) 7:19;31:17;34:15; 36:4;70:3,3;75:21; 81:23;92:12;94:17,19; 97:2,6,124:9;130:25; 139:6,16;141:7;143:11; 157:15,16;158:20	Lynn (3) 160:24;161:15;162:9	manpower (1) 80:14	means (4) 55:6,16;62:10;82:11			
looks (5) 66:20;110:15,18; 157:18;159:13	M	many (15) 47:1,5,13;48:25;49:9; 50:3;60:1;64:19,23; 71:2;81:2,20;82:3; 149:21;160:15	measures (2) 44:1;45:4			
Lopez (8) 3:15;4:1;48:22;49:4,7, 13,25;50:21	ma'am (22) 20:21;21:25;30:24; 31:12;47:3,5,8,15,25; 48:7;50:6,10,15;54:7; 65:21;66:8,8,11;70:21; 72:5;154:6,9	Maria (1) 14:22	meat (1) 57:25			
losing (2) 3:23;4:3	Mactec (4) 35:9,10;37:18;41:16	Marietta (1) 59:5	mechanism (1) 138:1			
loss (1) 3:16	magnet (1) 145:2	market (3) 59:10;98:15;129:24	medicines (1) 31:20			
lot (34) 4:11;6:10;15:23,25; 21:1,9,10,16,19;23:25; 24:10,14;28:15,21; 34:15;41:9;56:16,20; 57:7;68:11;71:3;82:22; 92:19,23;94:8,13; 103:15,21;106:16; 120:16;122:24;136:18; 137:2;149:11	main (3) 14:3;54:24;137:15	marketing (4) 100:1;101:25;148:8; 158:17	meet (1) 100:22			
lots (3) 82:25;98:3;101:18	maintain (3) 129:9,11;139:7	MARTA (4) 42:16,25;157:2,3	Meeting (22) 3:2;15:17;16:11,16, 22;70:2,13;71:18;72:13, 20;73:6;75:24;86:10,13; 92:9;96:17;98:2;99:22; 106:4;112:2;154:12; 163:21			
love (1) 124:13	maintained (1) 149:18	mask (1) 101:21	meetings (3) 28:6;91:19;100:25			
low (1) 150:8	Maintenance (11) 9:6,12;20:25;82:18; 83:25;84:4,5;126:5; 132:13;158:5;159:2	massive (1) 49:20	meets (1) 92:3			
lower (7) 8:22;61:9;78:5;138:3, 6;140:19,21	Major (3) 49:8;149:14;154:1	master (2) 139:13,18	member (3) 3:12;40:23;94:3			
	majority (1) 19:17	match (1) 116:5	Members (8) 43:9;92:13;96:13; 105:13;107:12,18; 109:21;110:17			
	makes (5) 63:17,21;114:13; 115:5;149:11	matching (1) 144:15	memories (1) 159:25			
	making (3) 32:13;147:2;152:13	material (3) 64:13;82:2,19	ment (2) 39:11;64:11			
	Mall (1) 4:1	materials (5) 13:23;14:4;101:25; 104:12;108:6	mention (1) 115:11			
	Maloney (2) 147:14;148:2	matter (5) 16:2;55:5;107:5; 113:11;151:8	mentioned (10) 18:3;67:4;92:2,8; 105:2,10;126:11; 136:19;144:22;147:1			
	managed (1) 107:1	matters (1) 110:2	mentioning (1) 99:22			
	management (3) 34:21;92:2,5	may (16) 8:3;14:2;24:6,6;25:10; 34:8;35:4,5;45:14;48:8; 69:18;92:4,11;111:18; 115:11;145:8	merely (1) 104:25			
	manager (20) 48:20;91:16,20,22; 92:2,10;93:14,23;94:14; 95:19;98:13;99:4; 101:11,24;105:20,24; 109:12;110:7,11;111:19	maybe (15) 14:25;25:8;26:7;65:6; 76:15;80:7;115:16; 117:10;127:8;136:11; 147:3;155:13;158:10, 21;159:7	message (1) 90:9			
	managers (6) 94:6;97:16;102:18; 107:23;111:16;160:3	MAYOR (259) 3:2,7;4:17;5:1,5,19; 7:7,23;10:5,9;11:5,8,13, 17,21;12:1,4,9,18,25; 13:3,11,16,19;14:10; 16:8;17:1,9,12,16,19;	met (1) 80:5			
	manager's (1) 93:10		metal (2) 77:19,19			

<p>method (2) 73:11;96:8</p> <p>methodical (1) 61:25</p> <p>metro (2) 92:18,20</p> <p>microphones (1) 145:20</p> <p>middle (2) 146:8;162:23</p> <p>might (11) 29:9;40:9;62:9;73:24; 77:23;82:13;86:7; 123:12;131:9;148:18,21</p> <p>mildewy (1) 140:14</p> <p>Mill (9) 6:7,9,11,14,15,19,23, 25;84:22</p> <p>millage (2) 70:11,12</p> <p>millage-rate (1) 69:17</p> <p>million (3) 106:24,25;143:12</p> <p>million-three (1) 106:25</p> <p>mind (4) 6:4;15:22;120:6;160:4</p> <p>mine (1) 93:3</p> <p>minimum (8) 55:8,10;59:23;80:18; 85:17;86:1,2,12</p> <p>minute (2) 54:21;135:12</p> <p>minutes (6) 5:20,21,22;6:1; 107:22;154:21</p> <p>mirror (1) 129:8</p> <p>misinformation (1) 54:22</p> <p>missed (1) 115:21</p> <p>misunderstanding (1) 54:23</p> <p>mitigation (4) 27:22;28:7;30:13,17</p> <p>mixed-use (1) 63:20</p> <p>mode (1) 67:9</p> <p>moderator (4) 18:8;19:2,24;20:3</p> <p>moderators (1) 18:7</p> <p>modest (2) 143:10,13</p> <p>modify (1) 81:13</p> <p>moldy (1) 140:14</p>	<p>moment (1) 139:24</p> <p>Mondays (1) 49:23</p> <p>money (19) 10:1;24:8,9;28:1; 73:24;84:16;93:13;95:5, 8;98:17;103:15;105:19; 106:21;152:21;153:9; 156:22;158:19;160:12; 161:1</p> <p>moneys (3) 39:17;141:8;143:10</p> <p>money's (1) 81:9</p> <p>month (5) 10:11;103:13;117:10; 118:1;124:7</p> <p>months (11) 43:20;76:15;94:2; 96:6,14;109:16;111:20; 122:15;124:10;134:23; 148:7</p> <p>more (31) 8:22;11:18;14:7; 15:23;16:6;22:2,24; 29:10;37:25;45:1,9; 65:10;67:9,13,22;68:23; 69:25;71:5;78:6;81:10; 86:12;109:12;110:6; 131:2,4;142:6;145:17, 24;146:17,23;155:6</p> <p>most (14) 15:22;56:18,24;58:2, 18,18,19;63:5;69:18; 79:11;97:21;102:9; 132:4;144:4</p> <p>mostly (1) 160:17</p> <p>mother (1) 142:23</p> <p>motion (29) 26:11,13,23,24;32:2,3, 4,16;33:22;51:1;80:25; 86:15;87:18;88:15,16; 96:3;109:18;111:11,14; 112:3;115:7;121:5; 132:17,19;133:16,17,19, 21;163:2</p> <p>motivation (1) 62:25</p> <p>move (15) 10:24;67:21;79:19; 90:25;99:3;103:12; 105:1;122:2;127:18; 130:7;139:6;151:19; 153:2;154:4,20</p> <p>moved (7) 51:3;64:18;79:22,25; 112:4;124:19;162:7</p> <p>movie (1) 158:16</p> <p>moving (1)</p>	<p>96:4</p> <p>much (33) 4:17;7:7;22:4;23:19; 36:17;43:5;55:24;64:5; 65:10;69:25;71:20,25; 76:6;86:11,11,12;98:6; 99:19;102:15;127:20; 136:5;139:18;141:20; 142:6,15;143:21;148:5; 150:13;151:4;153:14; 155:16;160:12,25</p> <p>muddy (1) 156:14</p> <p>multi-family (1) 63:22</p> <p>multiple (3) 38:19;39:1;132:14</p> <p>municipi- (1) 102:24</p> <p>municipal (2) 98:21;129:1</p> <p>municipalities (1) 94:11</p> <p>MuniCode (2) 82:20;116:2</p> <p>must (4) 90:22,22;100:16; 115:21</p> <p>Mutual (2) 27:20;32:5</p> <p>myrtles (1) 21:11</p> <p>myself (5) 7:18;71:4,21;74:12; 94:13</p>	<p>10:2,3,20,23;12:15; 15:14;17:6,22;18:9,16; 19:21;20:15;21:1,2,7,12, 14,21;26:11,19;28:9; 31:7;34:6;35:16;38:12, 13;41:6,10;49:10;59:13, 23;68:16;69:20;70:19; 73:3;80:1;85:9,14;88:1; 90:15;93:8;95:9;98:9; 99:19;100:14;105:7; 112:1;113:9;117:1; 122:25;124:11;125:11; 126:21;133:17;141:10, 14;142:1;143:14;146:6, 18,20;148:8;149:21,24; 152:15,16;153:5,6; 155:10,12</p> <p>needed (6) 7:13;68:19;99:8,8; 116:19;151:6</p> <p>needs (19) 9:18;16:18;36:7; 41:20,21;94:7;99:11; 100:4,6,10,13,18;103:3; 117:3;139:11;141:5; 144:23;145:3;152:24</p> <p>negative (3) 57:16,20;58:1</p> <p>negotiable (1) 26:4</p> <p>neighborhood (5) 63:23;90:2;91:4;92:9; 99:23</p> <p>neighborhoods (1) 25:8</p> <p>neither (1) 66:21</p> <p>new (20) 4:19;14:9,23;16:7; 35:23;42:3;52:4;53:7; 59:7,15;63:3;82:7;97:2; 106:9;117:4;122:2; 145:8;153:11;155:23; 161:25</p> <p>newly- (1) 101:3</p> <p>newspaper (1) 160:2</p> <p>next (35) 5:22,24;12:2,21,22; 14:21;16:13,16,22,23, 24;17:4,13;21:21;23:22; 27:20;33:25;43:7;50:10; 51:24;72:14;87:12; 89:18;91:12;97:6;99:8; 103:13;114:4;131:23; 134:18;136:6;139:19; 154:4;158:3;162:22</p> <p>nice (4) 101:2;104:13;151:8, 13</p> <p>Nichols (1) 47:12</p>	<p>night (3) 70:17,20;127:17</p> <p>nine (3) 75:17;112:1;131:14</p> <p>nobody (1) 76:10</p> <p>Nobody's (1) 90:14</p> <p>Nods (1) 52:22</p> <p>nondurable (1) 82:2</p> <p>none (1) 56:23</p> <p>non-power (1) 23:13</p> <p>noon (3) 13:7;14:18;16:14</p> <p>Norcross (1) 157:20</p> <p>normal (2) 10:16;130:11</p> <p>Normally (3) 31:11;47:15;128:10</p> <p>northern (1) 8:16</p> <p>Northwoods (1) 159:10</p> <p>notated (1) 32:19</p> <p>note (1) 33:19</p> <p>noted (3) 100:25;133:22;134:22</p> <p>notice (11) 43:10,11,19;44:15; 47:24;49:15;75:6,7; 79:11;117:4;123:20</p> <p>noticed (3) 7:15,19;78:10</p> <p>notification (2) 85:7;117:7</p> <p>not-less-than (1) 81:15</p> <p>November (1) 56:8</p> <p>nowadays (1) 59:8</p> <p>nuisance (2) 123:21;129:10</p> <p>number (15) 36:3;57:13,15;58:9; 74:7;81:6;82:16,17; 90:3;106:8;118:7,11; 120:9;140:6;154:11</p> <p>numbers (6) 49:20;118:23,24; 120:15,15;160:14</p> <p>nursed (1) 3:22</p>
N				
<p>name (5) 6:2,5,6;59:6;154:22</p> <p>names (3) 45:20;46:3,13</p> <p>name's (1) 155:19</p> <p>narrative (1) 90:20</p> <p>national (5) 8:5,6;29:21;111:19; 156:18</p> <p>natural (2) 157:20;158:20</p> <p>nature (1) 135:7</p> <p>neat (1) 162:20</p> <p>necessarily (2) 96:22;127:3</p> <p>necessary (1) 7:13</p> <p>necessitate (1) 59:11</p> <p>need (75) 8:19,25;9:9,10,12;</p>				
O				

<p>o0o- (1) 163:22</p> <p>Oakcliff (1) 128:24</p> <p>objection (1) 113:24</p> <p>objective (1) 99:20</p> <p>objectivity (1) 131:5</p> <p>obligation (1) 80:5</p> <p>obstruction (1) 141:2</p> <p>obtain (1) 58:23</p> <p>obviously (2) 43:13;44:1</p> <p>occupation (1) 106:10</p> <p>occupied (1) 148:9</p> <p>o'clock (1) 112:1</p> <p>off (10) 34:3;36:11,12,12,13; 46:13;50:20;70:23; 78:11;156:17</p> <p>offender (1) 131:6</p> <p>offense (1) 101:3</p> <p>offer (1) 109:14</p> <p>office (8) 45:17;54:12;63:20; 90:1;104:16;160:25; 161:3;162:13</p> <p>officer (7) 48:18,19,20;73:18,22; 74:16,22</p> <p>officers (3) 44:17;45:25;49:2</p> <p>official (2) 117:7,12</p> <p>officials (1) 100:22</p> <p>often (3) 20:23;21:8;97:2</p> <p>of-way (1) 24:22</p> <p>Ohio (1) 8:5</p> <p>Oil (2) 57:23;64:5</p> <p>old (10) 17:2;60:11;82:14; 84:10;87:12;89:19; 105:4;138:9;146:8,12</p> <p>older (1) 150:12</p> <p>on-call (3) 20:15;23:12;26:18</p>	<p>once (9) 13:24;21:2,12;29:17; 49:5;65:14;66:3;83:7; 157:1</p> <p>one (93) 4:3;6:9;14:2;26:23; 28:1,11;30:22;31:18; 36:3;39:20,21;40:8; 42:6;43:10;45:1,19; 46:16;50:18;54:24; 55:17;59:7,18;63:1,2,4, 18;64:4;65:20;66:21; 67:6,15;68:16,18,23; 72:19;73:8;74:5;76:13, 14;77:13;79:2,16,17,21, 22;80:6;81:1;82:9; 84:15,23;86:15;88:1; 92:16,21;94:14;100:7, 20;104:16;108:22; 109:15;110:7;111:1,4, 24;117:24;119:17; 120:12;122:7;123:1; 124:9;127:19;131:22; 135:21,24,25;136:1,15, 17;138:8;139:4;143:4; 145:15;150:15;152:6,6, 14,15,16,20;156:10; 158:9;160:3;162:22</p> <p>one-on-one (1) 91:25</p> <p>one-person (1) 77:5</p> <p>ones (7) 76:23;78:19;80:16; 93:4;130:17;132:4; 138:21</p> <p>one's (2) 46:17;130:17</p> <p>ongoing (1) 16:2</p> <p>online (1) 94:14</p> <p>only (15) 6:1;22:13;66:12,14, 14;79:2;80:3;92:20; 109:8,15;119:16; 136:15;141:9;145:15; 150:12</p> <p>Open (10) 49:20,21;55:12;58:14; 101:23;107:12;155:15; 156:2;158:12,15</p> <p>opening (1) 157:17</p> <p>opens (3) 29:19,22;49:19</p> <p>operational (1) 146:16</p> <p>operator (2) 43:18;44:14</p> <p>operators (1) 43:11</p> <p>opinion (4)</p>	<p>73:25;77:12;107:8; 126:13</p> <p>opportunities (1) 54:25</p> <p>opportunity (19) 12:7;53:8;55:2,7,12, 19;56:3;58:6,12,21;59:4, 19,20;60:21;61:11,15; 62:21,23;63:6</p> <p>opposed (2) 22:17;73:9</p> <p>opposite (3) 61:17;140:4,22</p> <p>option (5) 63:15;110:8;111:1,4,5</p> <p>options (2) 39:4;145:9</p> <p>order (14) 3:2;54:15;55:18,20; 56:19;57:9,15;58:23; 60:15;62:22;72:13; 73:25;123:24;124:6</p> <p>ordered (1) 93:3</p> <p>ordinance (29) 72:21,22;73:16,19,20, 21;76:1;81:24;82:8; 83:4;86:3;87:14,18; 88:17;114:5,8;116:1,11, 18;119:1,9,17,20; 120:11;121:2,5;129:7,8; 133:18</p> <p>ordinances (11) 82:5,6,24,25;114:9; 116:5,24;117:12;123:8; 131:21;132:2</p> <p>organization (1) 45:15</p> <p>organizational (3) 45:8;46:9,10</p> <p>originally (6) 16:1;69:23;104:5; 155:22,25;156:5</p> <p>others (2) 13:25;156:9</p> <p>ours (2) 25:22;78:4</p> <p>ourselves (6) 13:8;67:3;94:21; 104:14;107:6;110:3</p> <p>out (89) 3:21;4:12;12:7;16:3, 20;18:16;20:7,24;21:6, 24;22:16;24:4,9,10,19; 28:12;34:7,20,23;35:1,9, 11;37:10,23;41:10,21; 44:14;47:23,24;57:21; 59:17;60:4;68:18;75:8, 9,19;77:10,13;78:2;79:8, 10,11,15,16;81:9;88:2; 90:6,8,25;92:7;94:21; 98:4;102:18;104:7; 108:22;109:4;111:16;</p>	<p>112:9;120:15;122:22, 22;123:10;126:8,17; 127:13,15;129:6,11,23; 130:25;131:25;136:6; 137:16;138:8;139:23; 143:2;144:6,10;150:13; 152:6;156:6,10,10,11; 157:3;158:4,5;159:3; 162:14</p> <p>outflow (4) 136:5;137:12,19,24</p> <p>outflows (1) 138:7</p> <p>outlet (1) 42:6</p> <p>outline (2) 57:15,20</p> <p>outrageous (1) 159:20</p> <p>outside (2) 19:13;66:9</p> <p>outward (1) 9:2</p> <p>over (24) 7:3;14:2,3,4;21:4; 30:16;40:9;58:9;62:17, 17,18,18;67:8;77:3,4; 102:6;123:2;129:6,9; 135:22;153:13;157:4; 158:1;160:1</p> <p>over/under (1) 22:14</p> <p>overall (3) 20:13;30:17;144:25</p> <p>overhaul (1) 149:14</p> <p>overlap (1) 103:14</p> <p>overtime (3) 50:12,14,19</p> <p>overview (3) 54:6;135:13;139:25</p> <p>overwhelmingly (1) 60:2</p> <p>owe (2) 124:23,23</p> <p>own (5) 11:3;67:2;108:20; 147:17;162:9</p> <p>owner (5) 73:9,12;82:13;83:18, 20</p> <p>owner's (1) 26:6</p> <p>owns (1) 83:19</p>	<p>15;35:3,8;38:4,7,10; 40:18,22;42:13,20,23; 44:23;51:19,20;52:7; 69:12,13;74:14;86:14; 87:7,8;88:14,16,20; 89:14,15;92:16;93:18; 95:25;96:1;107:21; 108:11,15;109:2,5,15; 110:5;111:8,15;112:8, 20,21;114:12,18,22,24; 115:4,10;116:13,17,21; 117:17,22;119:13;121:4, 22,23;127:1,5;128:16, 17;133:11,12;134:13,14; 146:1,2,12,15,23; 147:20,23;163:4,16,17</p> <p>packet (1) 151:16</p> <p>page (4) 30:7;64:11;75:16; 90:15</p> <p>pages (1) 70:4</p> <p>paid (4) 21:24;34:7;105:21; 141:24</p> <p>paint (1) 4:8</p> <p>painted (1) 4:5</p> <p>painting (1) 151:8</p> <p>Palace (1) 79:22</p> <p>palities (1) 102:25</p> <p>panel (1) 111:17</p> <p>paper (2) 80:22;90:22</p> <p>paragraph (1) 90:21</p> <p>parallel (3) 79:24;123:18;136:2</p> <p>parameters (1) 54:19</p> <p>parcel (1) 64:6</p> <p>park (14) 6:22,23;7:15;9:16; 36:5;39:20;52:1;139:14, 20;145:1;146:9;157:17, 19,20</p> <p>parking (3) 42:16;136:18;137:2</p> <p>Parks (9) 4:19;21:6;22:10;52:4; 98:20;145:8;149:17; 152:20;153:11</p> <p>part (12) 8:16;30:17;33:21; 54:16,25;57:17,18;97:4; 139:17;148:10;150:16;</p>
		P		
		Pachuta (89)		
		5:15,16;12:14;18:11, 25;19:4;20:23;27:2,15, 16;31:24,25;32:7;33:14,		

<p>161:23 partial (1) 137:7 Participating (2) 30:6,7 particular (9) 21:5;35:21;38:12,13; 39:11;100:21;126:5; 135:12;139:25 particularly (1) 26:4 Party (3) 30:6,7;104:21 pass (7) 80:25;87:18;88:17; 104:18;115:7,25;124:14 passed (11) 56:6,7,14;99:9,10; 112:24;114:10;116:19; 147:17;158:6;160:9 passes (1) 68:14 passing (3) 68:10;104:20,24 passive (1) 97:8 past (7) 29:24;31:11;41:15; 53:4;63:16;98:19;143:4 Patrick (109) 5:17,18;12:3,5,10; 17:10;18:20;19:6;26:24; 27:17,18;28:10;31:21; 32:1,10,24;33:16,17; 36:24;37:3,8;42:10; 44:24,25;45:6,11,21,23; 46:2,6,15,18,21;51:5,21, 22;52:8;60:24;61:2,13, 19;62:8;63:8,13;64:8,15, 24;65:3,6,9;75:5;77:17; 78:9,17,22;79:1;84:2; 87:9,10;88:14;89:16,17; 91:3,8,11;95:22,23; 106:19;108:4,14,17; 109:3;111:10;112:6,22, 23;113:23;117:19,24; 118:14,21;119:2,7,14; 121:24,25;128:14,15; 132:22;133:13,14,24; 134:15,16;141:22; 143:18,19;144:12,19; 146:11,14,22;152:19; 161:10,24;162:5,11; 163:18,19 pay (10) 48:12;98:18;103:6; 105:16,19;125:12; 126:9;127:6;150:22; 152:21 payable (1) 26:6 paying (4) 77:8;93:22;94:25;</p>	<p>106:10 payment (1) 26:5 PD (1) 135:10 Peachtree (2) 94:3;99:14 penned (1) 99:9 people (37) 6:11,17;11:19;16:5; 20:24;36:15;55:13; 63:16;64:20;71:1,3,4,7; 77:20;84:14;94:6,22; 99:13,16;101:15;102:18, 22;104:14;107:2,13; 108:8,22,24;109:10; 124:17;125:23;127:1; 150:18,20;151:14; 158:13;159:19 people's (1) 104:2 per (1) 48:25 percent (5) 55:14,22;60:22; 120:18;144:15 perfect (5) 31:13;46:20;91:1; 95:16;98:11 perform (1) 96:11 performance (1) 30:10 Perhaps (4) 17:2;63:16;143:25; 145:13 Perimeter (1) 4:1 period (1) 83:7 permanent (1) 83:10 permission (2) 45:14;53:18 perpendicular (1) 79:23 person (16) 29:3;32:14;68:3; 77:13;91:6;92:3;97:3, 14,20;100:14;102:9; 105:12;109:8;125:9; 130:14;149:10 personalities (1) 92:1 personnel (1) 47:17 perspective (3) 19:15,16;157:23 ph (1) 3:15 phase (3) 38:22;100:20;129:15</p>	<p>philosophy (1) 9:19 phone (4) 8:2;25:4;71:2;156:18 photographs (2) 36:4;142:18 physical (1) 83:19 pick (2) 78:13;114:19 picked (1) 156:6 picnic (1) 147:4 picture (9) 79:9,12;135:11; 136:21;137:15;148:10; 157:16,16;159:6 pictures (2) 79:13;141:17 piece (9) 22:16;64:18;67:7; 96:20,23;138:10; 139:19;142:17;150:12 pill (1) 84:21 pipe (18) 36:19,23,25;42:8; 136:4,4;137:12,14,15, 16,16,18,18,25;138:7; 140:24,25;141:2 pipes (7) 36:21;37:1;136:1; 156:25;157:9,13;159:8 PITTMAN (234) 3:2,7,4;17:5;1,5,19; 7:7,23;10:5,9;11:5,8,13, 17,21;12:1,4,9,18,25; 13:3,11,16,19;14:10; 16:8;17:1,9,12,16,19; 18:13,24;19:3,7,11,19; 20:1;23:8,23;24:13; 25:25;26:11,15,21;27:1, 3,6,19;28:8,17;29:4; 30:4;31:9,13,22,24;32:1, 6,9,11,21,25;33:4,18,24; 35:9,12,19;36:9;37:9,13, 17,20;38:16;39:13; 40:14;41:1,3,13;42:17, 19;43:4,7;44:19,23; 45:3;46:20,24;50:11,25; 51:4,6,10,23;52:12,16, 17,22;53:3;54:3;60:8; 65:13;66:16,18;69:10, 12,14,22;70:18;71:14, 20,25;72:2,6,8,13,18; 75:22;86:17,19,23; 87:11,16,20,24;88:7,12, 14,24;89:1,5,18;90:17; 91:1,9,12,15;93:6;95:11, 22,25;96:2;99:1;103:16; 107:7;108:1,3;109:8,17; 110:10;111:24;112:5,7,</p>	<p>10,24;113:3,16,19; 114:4;115:11,22;119:11, 13,15;120:22,24;121:8, 12;122:1;124:8;125:24; 126:2,12,21;128:1,4,9, 14,16,18,21;132:4,9,17, 21,23;133:2,15,17,23, 25;134:4,17;141:16; 142:2,12;143:18;144:2, 18;146:1,25;147:13,22, 25;148:22;149:15; 150:3,5;151:15,19,22; 152:1,3,7,9,25;153:13, 23;154:3,7,16;155:17; 156:15;159:21;160:21; 161:5,9,19,21;162:25; 163:3,5,7 Pittman's (1) 31:2 place (19) 3:23;24:24;27:24; 28:2;29:24;30:2,12,22; 31:8,8;59:13;62:24; 67:25;84:23,25;98:8,9; 136:15;151:4 placed (5) 84:12,12;86:8;140:7, 12 places (1) 79:11 plan (59) 11:4;27:22;29:7; 30:14,17,17;54:5,9,16, 24;55:16;56:3,4,11,12, 23;57:10,13,17,17,21; 58:1;60:3,17,23;61:16; 62:4,7,9,13,13,21,24; 64:12,12,14;65:18;66:5, 7,14,20;67:12,14;68:2, 16,25;69:1,7;71:23; 93:1;103:19;113:20,23; 139:14,18;144:25; 152:14,17;159:2 Planning (6) 54:11;57:19;58:8; 64:11;67:16;69:8 plans (3) 27:22;35:23;153:7 plant (3) 59:17,20;65:15 planting (1) 21:10 plantings (2) 9:15;158:22 plant's (1) 59:17 plate (1) 11:2 plates (1) 11:3 platform (1) 140:10 play (2)</p>	<p>131:17;160:1 plea-bargaining (2) 127:2,7 Please (30) 3:3;5:6,25;6:2,5;18:4, 13;19:21;20:5;27:6; 33:5;43:4;47:8;48:9; 51:10;60:4,10;71:23; 86:23;89:5;101:3; 112:11;121:13;122:16; 126:3;133:2;134:4,21; 154:21;163:7 Pledge (2) 3:3,5 plug (2) 7:25;145:16 plumbing (1) 153:22 Plus (4) 25:1;49:1;136:18,18 pm (1) 163:21 podium (1) 5:25 poetry (1) 150:18 point (25) 16:10;24:2;29:3;35:4; 53:12,24;59:5;61:17; 67:15,19,21;77:12; 79:22;81:18;85:7,22; 88:4;103:23;104:6; 109:24;113:2;116:25; 131:20;140:20;152:6 pointed (2) 41:21;152:6 pointing (1) 136:7 points (2) 103:21;104:5 Police (19) 34:1;35:24;36:2;45:8; 48:6,10;90:13;135:9,10, 18;138:13,18;144:23; 146:5,9;154:15;155:2; 156:1,24 policies (5) 30:11;32:17;98:7; 127:19,20 policy (2) 130:15,24 pool (24) 34:1;36:1,14;42:6; 98:10,12;102:17,18; 135:10,15,17,22,24; 136:2,12,18;137:20; 139:7;145:2;146:7; 147:2,7,9;148:12 poor (3) 148:7;162:18,19 poorly (2) 143:1;162:14 Porsche (1)</p>
---	---	--	---	---

<p>3:18 portion (1) 147:18 position (11) 19:16;44:5,7,11,18; 45:19;46:9;50:20;93:14; 104:8,9 positions (5) 44:3;46:6;47:14;50:3; 154:13 position's (1) 45:1 possibility (2) 7:16;35:23 possible (13) 9:25;45:17;59:25; 64:16;70:10,14;107:3; 123:5;143:22;144:14; 145:8;155:16;160:5 possibly (3) 28:9;99:20;103:19 post (4) 76:19,19;79:8;90:1 POST-certified (1) 49:1 posted (5) 15:1;64:13;79:9,12; 80:4 posting (3) 13:21;97:15;102:13 posts (2) 77:19,20 potential (5) 54:18;68:13;93:16; 111:18;124:6 potentially (2) 69:17;86:5 poverty (5) 55:20,23,24;56:16,17 Power (16) 20:20,22;21:3,13,17, 20;22:6,14;23:18,23; 24:2;25:19,20;26:3; 66:24;145:16 powerful (4) 55:3;56:22;57:8;59:1 PowerPoint (4) 70:1,10,22;134:21 Powers (1) 56:8 praying (1) 97:15 predates (1) 60:12 predictable (1) 67:23 preface (1) 54:13 prefer (1) 76:5 preference (7) 19:12;20:6;70:10,13; 80:10,17;95:21</p>	<p>premature (1) 93:8 Premises (2) 122:5;133:22 premiums (1) 8:23 preparation (1) 4:6 prepare (3) 13:8;16:15;70:21 preprinted (1) 81:7 prequalifying (1) 34:19 present (1) 53:19 presentation (3) 141:25;143:20;152:11 presentations (1) 3:8 presented (7) 73:23;88:17;96:7,15; 100:11;102:1;113:8 presently (1) 47:2 preset (1) 29:15 president (1) 29:20 press (2) 136:6;137:11 pretty (10) 22:4;55:24;64:5; 84:24;137:3;141:4,14; 150:8,8,13 prevent (2) 7:4;141:3 prevent/stop/slow (1) 140:8 previous (4) 32:16;38:6;105:4; 148:14 previously (2) 76:14;91:18 price (1) 23:19 primary (1) 77:7 prime (1) 49:13 principle (1) 112:9 print (1) 14:9 prior (2) 144:4;147:17 priorities (2) 41:11;155:9 prioritize (1) 152:22 priority (9) 34:5;35:17;36:3,7,10; 134:19;142:8;143:24;</p>	<p>153:10 proactive (1) 97:13 probably (22) 5:21;10:20;16:24; 29:2;50:9;65:19;70:19; 79:8;80:7;106:5;108:25; 125:10;136:13;137:2, 13;138:22;140:25; 143:12;145:7,24;149:4; 155:21 problem (10) 13:2;34:14;49:12; 50:9;81:8;86:2;128:11; 149:15;157:14;162:12 problematic (2) 80:7;130:18 problems (3) 3:16;74:4;149:9 procedure (4) 72:25,25;73:3;122:9 procedures (4) 30:8,11;31:1;98:8 process (30) 29:16;30:3;35:11; 43:22,25;44:12;53:16; 57:19;61:25;63:7;71:23; 73:4;96:5,23;97:9;98:5, 24;103:4;110:19; 122:17,19,24;123:14,16; 128:25;129:5;130:11, 19;131:18,24 processes (1) 98:7 procuring (1) 60:19 produce (1) 66:14 produced (1) 64:13 production (1) 158:16 professional (2) 21:14;98:17 program (4) 21:10;55:6;61:11; 148:18 programming (4) 149:3,3,8,10 programs (3) 30:9,12;149:5 progress (2) 12:25;52:19 pro-growth (1) 8:20 prohibited (1) 81:23 project (13) 6:20;7:1;16:17;34:16, 17,20;38:22;39:23;40:5; 52:1,20;82:8;157:5 projects (8) 68:5;135:8;141:10,21;</p>	<p>142:6;143:6,13,17 promised (1) 144:4 promote (1) 98:14 pronouncing (1) 25:10 proof (1) 124:21 proper (2) 9:7;37:11 properties (6) 59:24;106:9,14;122:6; 130:16,25 property (41) 8:22;56:24;57:23,23, 24;59:10,23;60:19,20, 25;61:6,16,18;62:16; 64:4,13,19;67:8;82:1,13; 83:6,18,18,19;106:10; 124:9,19;126:6,15; 129:6,9,12;130:3,10,10; 131:1,1;135:21;139:12, 18;147:10 property-maintenance (1) 132:12 proposal (2) 92:13;110:13 proposals (2) 91:23;96:24 proposed (6) 54:19;67:6;89:25; 158:2,8,25 proposing (5) 56:23;62:7;67:1,1,10 protect (1) 106:14 protection (1) 67:8 protracted (1) 74:1 provide (8) 49:22;71:13;108:2,5; 110:18;123:4;125:23; 147:15 provided (4) 110:17;135:2;148:3; 153:19 provides (1) 124:5 prudent (1) 144:20 Pubic (1) 28:9 Public (35) 5:24;6:3;7:10,24;10:5; 21:15;22:9;23:7;24:14; 39:23;52:10;54:9,14,15, 18;61:25;62:6;69:15,21; 70:23;72:14,16;75:5,7; 77:10;81:12;88:2;90:13; 140:7;154:20;155:14, 17;156:15;159:21;</p>	<p>162:25 public-safety (1) 128:23 pull (3) 38:16;78:10;134:21 pulled (2) 15:2;85:5 pulling (1) 63:15 purchased (2) 157:24,25 purely (1) 54:8 purpose (1) 63:2 pursue (2) 97:3;159:18 push (2) 16:20;74:3 pushed (1) 72:21 put (51) 7:18;11:11;16:1,2,3; 17:3,10;25:3;29:7;31:7, 8;32:8;34:6,20;35:10, 16;43:2;44:17;45:20; 52:2;60:17;63:14;64:17; 65:3;67:19;70:1,19; 74:25;75:11;78:9;79:11; 80:7,18,21;85:17;94:21, 21;103:18;109:3;114:1; 115:19;116:24;117:3; 118:6,11;123:14;124:2; 149:4;151:16,22; 152:19;153:1 puts (2) 30:2;159:3 putting (9) 12:20,21;76:7;95:18; 96:21;118:19;143:20; 159:6,8</p>
Q				
				<p>qualification (1) 22:9 qualifications (2) 92:3;98:1 qualified (1) 97:21 qualify (1) 57:16 quality (5) 9:23,24;84:7;90:1; 130:3 quarter (1) 78:4 quick (3) 71:16;91:3;112:3 quickly (5) 90:8;113:9,9,9,10 quite (6) 6:18;42:7;76:17,25;</p>

150:17;151:9 quote (5) 118:17;159:15,18,20; 161:2	8:8;9:15;95:8;112:3; 156:19 reality (1) 73:2 realize (5) 38:11;70:8;97:1; 120:5;127:8 realizing (1) 127:2 reallocation (1) 154:1 really (47) 5:1;6:10;8:11;9:4; 11:20;14:12;15:18,21; 16:21;17:1,1,24,25;18:7, 7,8,9;21:4,14;24:13; 34:4,6;40:8;41:19; 55:15,16;62:20;63:5; 82:16;86:6;90:8;97:22; 107:12;110:8;122:25; 123:14;124:12;125:16; 127:16;131:16;138:10, 17;146:6;151:12,13; 160:4;162:18 rear (1) 158:8 reason (6) 27:23;28:1;54:17; 77:7;118:7;125:10 reasonable (1) 129:24 reasoning (1) 19:1 reasons (1) 67:6 rebuild (1) 59:14 Rec (4) 4:19;52:4;145:8; 153:11 recall (6) 41:23;106:23;115:11; 116:14,15;117:14 receipt (1) 26:7 receive (1) 35:13 received (5) 43:10;71:2;91:23; 107:25;154:11 receiving (1) 28:22 Recently (2) 25:7;94:5 recess (1) 72:11 recognize (1) 127:10 recognizing (1) 115:18 recommend (5) 44:10;73:12;115:20; 119:3;159:19	recommendation (1) 75:25 reconfiguration (1) 143:1 reconfigure (1) 153:20 re-copying (2) 13:21;14:6 record (1) 8:17 Records (3) 49:19,20,21 recoup (1) 129:19 recreating (2) 157:17,17 recruited (2) 99:16,17 recruiter (1) 98:2 recruiter's (1) 97:4 recruitment (5) 91:19;92:14;97:9,19; 100:24 rectify (1) 58:5 rectifying (1) 56:17 red (1) 137:6 redevelop (1) 63:19 redeveloping (1) 145:1 Redevelopment (35) 54:5,9,16,20,24;55:16; 56:2,3,6,8,14;57:18,19, 22;59:11;60:12,13,15, 16,17,23;61:16;62:3,16, 21;65:15,17;66:5,7,10, 13,25;67:2;69:1,7 red-lined (1) 8:13 redo (4) 38:15;160:24;161:2, 17 redoing (2) 37:21;153:22 reduce (1) 116:1 reduction (2) 105:18;107:3 refer (1) 73:2 reference (1) 140:20 referenced (1) 97:10 referencing (1) 72:24 referendum (14) 56:7;57:9;99:9,10;	114:9;116:3,4,5,7,12,19, 25;117:1;118:2 reflect (1) 93:9 regarding (5) 68:21;73:8,17;85:6,8 regardless (1) 126:13 regards (2) 66:2;95:14 re-going (1) 37:23 regulate (2) 82:16,17 reimbursement (3) 28:22;29:17;30:2 reimbursements (1) 29:12 reins (1) 101:11 related (3) 36:20,20;37:7 relationship (1) 4:2 relatively (2) 26:2;83:13 relevant (1) 56:22 relief (1) 27:25 remaining (1) 150:12 remediation (1) 59:25 remember (4) 98:18;118:24;153:15, 20 remind (2) 157:5;159:24 reminder (1) 106:6 reminds (1) 159:16 removal (3) 7:20;20:20;89:19 remove (4) 20:24;22:10;52:1,10 removed (1) 7:21 removes (2) 79:6,10 renewal (1) 56:21 Renovation (4) 52:1;145:11,14;161:8 rent (1) 158:14 repair (1) 139:12 repairs (3) 149:21,24;151:5 repeat (2) 131:5;132:14	replace (1) 79:10 replaced (2) 3:22;68:11 replacement (3) 43:20;44:13,16 replacing (1) 41:25 report (1) 61:12 reporter (2) 6:2;154:22 reports (2) 10:10;154:19 represen- (1) 31:2 representative (2) 31:4;32:19 representing (1) 127:11 request (1) 52:18 requested (2) 35:15;49:22 requests (1) 49:19 require (5) 22:21;47:14;57:9; 85:21;149:14 required (1) 29:14 requirement (1) 80:18 requirements (1) 56:12 requires (6) 22:16;54:15;55:18; 56:11,11;61:12 research (2) 11:19;73:13 resident (2) 6:7;143:23 residential (3) 63:18,23,23 residents (7) 6:24;12:8;62:9;65:10; 70:2;90:12;151:14 resolution (8) 28:3;33:20,23;115:25; 116:11,13,14,22 resources (2) 141:7;152:23 respectfully (1) 52:18 respond (2) 50:10;134:25 responded (1) 99:16 responder (1) 31:18 responding (1) 28:21 response (9)
---	--	---	--	---

R

race (3)
3:17;8:1;9:21
radio (7)
43:18;44:13;49:8,14,
17,24,24
rained (1)
156:14
raise (3)
8:22,23;48:13
Raises (1)
91:7
ran (1)
157:2
ranked (1)
109:21
rate (4)
23:17;70:11,12;
129:24
rates (1)
59:16
rather (2)
9:2;104:17
ravine (1)
136:23
ravines (1)
136:22
Ray (2)
151:5;158:6
razed (1)
129:1
RDA (3)
66:21,24;68:22
re- (1)
13:22
reach (3)
18:16;20:7;111:16
reached (1)
147:9
read (13)
62:14;78:12;80:15,17;
90:21;96:25;101:25;
104:12;121:2;123:4,9;
132:2,3
readily (1)
76:25
reading (10)
66:19;97:1;100:22;
114:8;124:14;128:11,
13;132:18,20;148:17
readings (1)
150:18
reads (1)
119:1
ready (2)
13:6;158:6
real (5)

<p>10:7;27:5;33:2;51:8; 86:21;89:3;121:10; 132:25;134:2 responsi- (1) 96:11 Responsibilities (8) 30:6,10;31:19;93:9, 10;94:20;104:17,24 responsibility (3) 96:10;100:3;104:20 responsible (1) 68:25 rest (1) 25:9 restaurant (1) 156:12 restitution (3) 124:2;129:15;130:1 restriction (1) 84:24 results (1) 117:1 retail (2) 63:14,20 retaining (3) 33:25;137:9;158:5 retreat (13) 11:5;17:15,18,21; 41:12;95:16,17;98:3; 103:18;147:2;153:3,5; 161:4 revenue (8) 57:6;61:7,8;63:4; 68:13;106:11,13;148:9 revenues (1) 143:15 review (4) 39:5;42:5;69:21;90:3 reviewed (2) 84:5;91:23 Revise (1) 114:5 revisions (1) 67:5 rezoning (1) 85:10 RFP (9) 34:20;35:1,11;37:11, 23;91:19,21;104:7; 111:15 RFPs (2) 99:17;161:15 Rich (1) 159:14 rid (5) 74:18;75:1;83:8; 84:10;148:10 ridge (1) 42:25 ridiculous (1) 124:11 right (85) 10:9;12:2,18;13:17;</p>	<p>14:7;17:7;19:9,14; 22:19;23:1,4,4;28:8; 35:18;37:24;40:21; 41:13;44:16,18;46:23; 47:3,5;49:12;50:15,16, 24;52:16,22;53:2,6,21; 57:22;58:14;60:11; 74:11,15,21;76:9,21; 77:2;80:19;83:5;85:1,2, 4,4;86:10;100:9,9; 101:20;102:23;103:3; 105:22,24;107:7;110:8, 20;111:5,23;114:4; 116:20;118:21;120:18; 122:7;123:1;124:8,22, 24;125:18;131:12,12,14; 135:19;136:1,17;149:3; 152:9;153:23;154:7,18; 155:12;156:3,8;158:12; 162:7 right- (1) 24:21 right-hand (2) 135:16;140:15 right-of- (1) 147:23 right-of-way (3) 21:20;22:2;84:25 right-of-ways (1) 21:9 rights (2) 74:13;84:20 Rip (1) 4:20 ripe (1) 143:1 rise (1) 3:3 Rising (1) 4:22 Road (18) 6:7,9,12,14,15,16,17, 19,23,25;41:9;50:20; 80:21;125:14;127:22; 150:11;157:24;158:1 Robertson (5) 4:20,22;5:3;52:3,19 rock (2) 140:7,11 Rogers (4) 48:15;49:4;50:21; 53:14 role (1) 31:10 roll (11) 5:6;27:6;33:4;51:10; 86:23;89:5;112:11; 121:12;133:2;134:4; 163:7 Ronnie (2) 155:19,19 room (6) 49:14;142:23;147:8;</p>	<p>162:16,20,22 rooted (1) 67:16 roots (2) 139:1,1 roped (2) 36:11,13 Roswell (2) 59:4;108:18 rough (1) 4:4 roughly (1) 49:10 routinely (1) 100:25 routing (1) 31:19 rubber (2) 4:3;127:22 rule (4) 85:18;86:3,4;120:14 rumors (1) 60:9 run (8) 3:16;73:25;123:18; 130:10;131:8;132:10; 140:16;157:13 running (3) 42:11;73:10;130:4 runoff (1) 138:24 runs (6) 42:14;110:19;130:10; 136:2;140:14;158:3 rusted (4) 137:16,25;138:8; 156:10 rusted-out (1) 137:12</p>	<p>sank (1) 42:16 save (2) 73:24;98:19 saving (1) 98:17 saw (5) 80:3;145:22;156:24; 159:12,15 saying (4) 79:14;104:13;119:3; 123:24 scale (1) 140:24 scary (1) 41:8 scenario (1) 25:5 scenarios (1) 64:3 schedule (2) 72:24;118:20 school (1) 141:13 schools (1) 8:14 scope (4) 40:5;52:9,11;74:7 Scott (1) 53:14 scratch (2) 16:3;78:24 screening (1) 104:21 Seaboard (4) 57:23;59:10;64:5; 65:16 Search (7) 91:16;94:15;96:5,9, 12,23;98:17 seating (2) 140:2,2 seats (1) 138:9 second (33) 3:14;8:2;9:5;27:1,2; 32:6,7,10,22,23,24;51:4, 5;65:17,20;86:15,17,18; 88:24,25;96:20;111:25; 112:5,6;114:8;121:2,7; 132:21,22;133:23,24; 163:3,4 secretary (1) 47:6 Section (14) 31:1;34:24,24;54:10; 58:3;64:11;75:4,14; 80:25;129:7;131:15; 140:10;161:2,17 Sections-7 (1) 72:15 Security (2) 29:13;45:25</p>	<p>seed (1) 150:20 seeing (1) 84:11 seek (1) 30:2 seeking (1) 29:17 seem (3) 10:16;124:24;151:10 seeded (1) 75:19 seems (5) 13:23;103:20;107:12; 113:7;141:21 select (2) 96:12;110:16 selling (1) 97:4 send (4) 38:16;104:7;108:8; 122:23 seniors' (1) 148:18 sense (10) 46:1;63:17,21,24; 108:6;117:25;136:23, 24;137:24;143:2 sent (3) 81:19;115:14;117:6 sentence (3) 81:3;86:15;90:21 separate (2) 70:19;126:22 Sergeant (9) 48:15,22;49:4,4,6,13, 25;50:21,21 serious (1) 74:9 seriously (2) 95:10;110:8 serve (4) 122:11,19;123:10,19 service (3) 22:4;91:19;123:22 services (6) 20:20;22:1;26:18; 61:9;91:5;124:3 servicing (2) 48:23;130:21 set (8) 15:11;50:13;57:3,4; 69:15;98:2;123:11; 150:24 sets (1) 129:6 setting (2) 95:16;150:19 seven (5) 15:3;94:2,12;95:16; 154:14 several (10) 8:10;18:6;55:18;</p>
		S		
		<p>safe (1) 143:24 Safety (1) 28:9 sake (1) 54:8 salary (3) 93:22;105:17,18 sale (2) 82:3;147:25 Salez (1) 3:15 same (13) 31:21;58:20;78:2,3; 90:15;92:25;102:21; 122:21;123:22;126:3,12, 13;128:15 samples (1) 82:21 Sandy (1) 59:4</p>		

72:22;76:14;91:18; 92:19;103:16;134:23; 138:21 severe (1) 29:11 Shakes (1) 69:13 shall (2) 119:10,25 shared (1) 152:18 sheet (1) 88:23 sheets (1) 80:22 shift (1) 50:22 shifts (1) 49:16 shine (1) 53:8 shirking (1) 104:23 shoot (1) 91:9 shop (3) 4:8;150:24;158:15 shorter (1) 122:24 shortly (1) 35:22 short-term (1) 152:16 show (10) 25:4;64:20;79:9; 113:15;122:13,20; 123:23;132:5;135:8; 136:21 showed (5) 76:14,23;117:15,17,19 showing (9) 137:6,7,8,11;138:2,3, 6,19;140:11 shows (2) 137:5;150:17 side (4) 135:17;147:8,8;157:7 sides (1) 103:22 sidewalk (5) 6:8,13;7:1,13;41:7 sidewalks (4) 141:12;143:23;144:5, 7 sight (1) 40:6 sign (32) 30:1;73:19;74:24; 76:2;77:5,21;78:11; 81:1,23;82:1,5,8,13,24, 25;83:8,10,20;85:7,8,8, 9,10,13,17,20,22;86:8, 16;126:14;127:10,21	sign- (1) 83:3 signage (3) 148:7,12;154:4 significant (5) 39:21;106:8;137:3; 141:4,14 signs (25) 76:20,24;77:9,18; 79:4,5;80:10,16;81:7,20, 21,22,25;82:1,3,3,17,17, 18,20;84:10,11,20,23,25 sign's (1) 82:12 similar (3) 56:7;76:24;118:18 simple (1) 131:9 simpler (2) 67:23;122:17 simply (2) 107:4;143:24 single-family (1) 63:23 sink (6) 137:6;138:19,19; 140:3,6,9 sit (9) 29:25;41:10;94:18; 100:12;108:12,21; 109:11;119:18;153:8 site (4) 15:2;54:10;102:14; 144:24 sits (1) 123:1 situation (1) 43:17 six (8) 43:20;76:2,4;77:4; 86:4,16;88:4;94:12 six-foot (5) 76:5,20;85:16,17; 138:23 sixty- (2) 115:24;121:5 sixty-five (2) 115:2,13 size (18) 74:24,24,25;75:1,2,18, 20;76:6;78:3;80:18; 85:6,8,9,10,22;86:2,2,12 skills (1) 92:5 slope (2) 9:15;158:21 slowly (1) 78:13 small (9) 7:16;21:10;57:21; 63:2;80:10,15;142:22; 147:17;161:23 smaller (3)	78:4;138:8,21 Smyrna (1) 59:5 Soap (3) 3:13;8:1;9:21 sole (1) 60:21 solicit (1) 54:17 solicitor (2) 125:3;127:5 some- (1) 37:21 somebody (14) 29:6;44:8;50:20; 79:10;83:3;102:13; 118:11;123:9;147:7; 149:4,7;158:25;159:1,15 somebody's (1) 131:2 somehow (2) 107:1,4 someone (25) 7:8;18:3;20:3;24:24; 26:22;28:9;31:9;79:6; 90:1;91:4;93:15;94:25; 95:3;98:24;101:10; 103:6,13;104:18,24; 109:17;113:14;123:19; 125:9;140:6;145:16 sometime (2) 17:23;71:15 Sometimes (2) 34:25;69:7 somewhat (1) 136:11 somewhere (1) 76:8 son (1) 160:1 soon (4) 31:7;64:2;123:5;161:5 sooner (2) 13:24;17:22 sophistication (1) 73:23 sorry (6) 17:19;52:25;64:15; 112:25;149:25;161:11 sort (7) 67:8;91:25;118:13; 130:23;131:20;132:13; 148:16 sounds (5) 56:7;103:16;113:16; 159:15;160:19 source (1) 68:6 south (1) 97:12 space (2) 101:13;162:16 speak (1)	35:21 SPEAKER (1) 156:20 Special (3) 4:7,18;62:23 specialized (2) 22:7;53:8 specializes (1) 102:24 specializing (1) 94:11 specific (3) 125:2;129:4;141:9 specifically (1) 139:23 specifics (2) 116:16;127:14 speed (3) 43:24;44:12;158:16 spend (5) 9:9,10;24:9;57:17,17 spending (3) 106:21,23;158:19 spent (2) 9:20;57:25 spinning (2) 11:2,3 SPLOST (2) 68:6,7 spoke (5) 7:8;69:23;94:3;97:9; 144:3 spoken (2) 68:22;96:1 sponsored (1) 3:25 sponsors (1) 4:8 spring (6) 21:5;42:14;136:11; 155:23,25;156:13 Springs (1) 59:4 square (7) 77:4,16;81:2,4;86:5, 16;88:5 staff (11) 81:16;85:23;94:10; 98:13;107:23,25; 109:16;110:6;129:22; 130:14;151:6 staffing (1) 45:12 stage (1) 138:4 staggering (1) 59:15 stakeholders (2) 29:15;101:1 stalemate (1) 10:21 stand (7) 4:20;8:19;11:1;44:22;	140:1,20;156:8 standalone (1) 70:20 standards (1) 150:8 standby (1) 26:18 standing (1) 24:6 standpoint (4) 79:4;80:14,14;143:3 stands (2) 78:2;99:5 start (22) 9:23;15:7;39:18; 43:16,22;53:1;58:4; 59:14,15;62:14;95:4; 96:4;111:13;113:6,25; 131:23;141:7,8;150:21; 152:13;153:9;156:17 started (4) 57:21;135:1;150:23; 157:2 starting (3) 4:19;16:2;36:23 starts (1) 51:25 state (22) 6:2;28:5;29:14,20; 54:14;55:3,5,14,18; 56:18;57:14;58:16;59:2, 6;61:11,22;111:19; 129:2,4;145:10;154:21; 160:5 stated (3) 86:12;126:6;149:17 statement (3) 119:24;120:2,5 statements (1) 96:25 states (2) 56:18;119:22 Statewide (3) 27:20;28:20;29:18 stating (2) 6:4;119:19 station (3) 43:1;146:9;157:3 status (2) 54:25;58:12 stay (1) 44:14 stays (1) 80:8 step (2) 36:15;37:9 Stephens (1) 53:13 steps (1) 99:8 STEVE (1) 20:10 STEVEN (2)
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<p>17:17;136:19 stick (2) 12:12;77:23 stickers (1) 77:8 sticking (1) 76:7 still (20) 7:21;14:14;24:4,21, 22;56:21;69:25;77:25; 78:24;92:3,23;100:3,17; 103:7,14;104:7;109:25; 114:13;115:5;149:14 stock (1) 3:25 stood (1) 147:11 stop (3) 9:18;78:24;125:22 storm (3) 24:15;29:11;36:19 Stormwater (20) 17:14;36:17,21,22,25; 37:5,7;41:25;135:20; 136:8,16,16;137:12; 138:3;140:21;141:20; 142:4;143:21;145:6; 146:4 strange (1) 162:24 stream (2) 68:13;157:13 streamline (3) 30:3;122:17;124:11 streams (3) 157:12,18;159:7 street (4) 77:1;78:11;79:23,24 streets (3) 24:20;84:18;143:25 stretch (2) 6:11,25 Strickland (55) 17:14,17;20:9,10,21, 25;21:25;22:3,12,15,20, 24;23:1,4,6,10,16,25; 24:17;25:12,16,18,20, 23;26:13,16;27:21; 28:12,24;30:5,13,24; 31:5;34:3,12;35:18; 36:19;37:1,6,12,15,19; 38:19;39:6,8,25;40:11; 41:2;42:7,11,18,22,24; 43:6;136:9 strong (1) 3:23 struck (1) 82:25 structure (3) 138:11;149:2;157:15 structured (2) 110:16,18 structures (1)</p>	<p>146:13 struggling (1) 56:15 Stuart (3) 7:11,11;160:23 stuck (3) 82:4;146:7;160:4 studio (1) 158:16 study (3) 161:14;162:4,6 stuff (6) 14:17;15:25;21:10; 78:15;98:7;162:10 stump (1) 24:3 stupid (1) 94:22 style (2) 92:2,6 subjective (1) 130:5 subjectivity (1) 131:6 submit (2) 14:17;45:18 submitted (3) 32:17;45:15;46:12 substantial (1) 82:8 sudden (2) 14:23;131:21 suddenly (1) 131:24 sufficient (1) 80:5 suggest (3) 13:11;30:21;150:10 suggested (1) 108:23 suggestion (2) 17:23;110:14 suggestions (2) 90:24;107:18 supplemental (1) 62:15 support (1) 61:3 supposed (5) 90:10,11,12;109:6; 144:6 Supreme (1) 82:25 sure (27) 18:16;28:13,15;41:19; 53:11;64:22;65:5,8; 71:10;75:12,20;79:14, 15;84:11;85:23;97:14, 24;117:1;120:7;128:3; 135:6,13;139:16;150:3; 152:22;153:6;159:11 surface (2) 118:13;137:1</p>	<p>Susan (3) 148:14;150:1;158:9 Suwanee (3) 18:1,14;20:6 sworn (2) 44:17;49:4 system (3) 29:15;36:23;37:7 systems (1) 29:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>tab (1) 54:11 table (3) 107:19;114:14;119:5 tackle (1) 143:16 TAD (1) 58:6 talk (16) 10:23;11:19;12:7; 17:17;34:11;37:10;54:4; 60:5;68:3;73:14;86:1; 94:18;97:19;110:10; 125:3;153:2 talked (28) 16:19;17:21;34:4,22; 40:24;60:1;69:16;85:20; 86:10,11;89:19;91:24; 96:16;100:10;101:23; 102:1;108:3;111:9; 124:16;127:21;135:5; 139:4,19;142:17;143:4; 147:5;157:15;162:9 talking (23) 11:8;16:19;38:22; 41:4;53:22;57:18;58:1, 4;68:10;70:5;75:15,25; 84:19;93:12,25;105:21; 110:11;113:3;116:10; 129:3,3;132:5;148:24 tall (3) 21:3;122:8;136:24 Tammy (1) 145:14 tank (1) 63:25 taped (2) 36:11,12 task (1) 144:5 tasked (1) 98:6 tation (1) 147:14 tations (1) 62:11 tative (1) 31:3 tax (14) 55:5,9,14;56:10;</p>	<p>58:16,17,20,22,23;61:7; 62:23;106:10;117:2,15 taxation (1) 119:19 taxes (3) 8:22;61:9;106:10 team (1) 3:13 tear (1) 150:10 tears (1) 159:3 temporary (3) 7:17;11:22;84:20 tentatively (1) 10:12 terms (2) 44:15;70:6 terrible (1) 13:16 thanks (3) 4:7;7:2,25 theirs (1) 83:1 thereof (1) 89:24 thinking (4) 9:18;75:13;101:16; 123:17 third (1) 96:17 third-round (1) 3:19 thirty (1) 93:13 thirty-five (2) 58:24;65:2 This'll (1) 78:12 though (4) 35:25;74:15;142:13; 153:17 thought (14) 10:18;63:25;75:23; 83:12;86:7,9;92:10; 93:4;99:12,23;107:22; 111:24;120:19;123:18 thoughts (5) 20:2;28:17;92:15; 109:13;128:7 thousand (4) 93:13,17,19;121:6 Thrasher (1) 157:19 three (29) 4:4,11;6:1;14:16;15:6; 17:13;49:4;52:20;53:17; 64:24;65:1,1,2;77:3; 92:7;99:21;108:22; 109:20;122:15;124:10; 135:22;136:4;138:19, 20;139:13;140:9; 154:21;161:15,21</p>	<p>three-foot (1) 137:14 threshold (2) 55:20,24 throughout (2) 96:24;162:16 throw (2) 15:12;126:17 throwing (1) 126:8 thumbs-up (1) 44:4 Thursday (1) 14:19 Tier (4) 58:16,18,19,21 till (1) 105:14 Tilly (9) 6:7,9,11,14,15,19,23, 25;41:7 timber (2) 137:9;139:3 timeline (1) 100:24 timelines (1) 96:10 times (9) 6:20;23:25;24:10; 34:15;65:2;72:22;89:20; 125:1;132:4 tion (1) 43:15 today (5) 7:9;36:13;49:23; 144:3,9 today's (1) 38:14 together (15) 16:13;18:10;64:17; 94:22,23;95:17,18; 96:21;103:18;109:13; 113:19;143:20;149:5; 151:16,23 toilet (1) 158:24 told (3) 69:24;85:11;128:24 TOM (2) 7:25;156:20 tomorrow (3) 8:4;16:12;156:22 ton (1) 94:15 tonight (11) 5:20,22;11:6;13:5; 52:6;53:22;54:17;58:11; 86:1;124:14;152:2 took (8) 36:5;43:19;75:9,19; 81:18;135:2;144:5; 146:9 tool (3)</p>
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<p>102:25;105:1;130:7 tools (4) 56:22,24;57:12;100:1 top (10) 34:6;36:7;92:7;99:21, 21;135:23;136:13,25; 137:25;138:20 topic (1) 144:1 tornado (2) 24:15;25:2 tornadoes (1) 24:19 totally (4) 53:12;69:4;128:12; 155:10 touch (1) 60:10 tough (1) 83:4 toward (1) 67:21 towards (5) 6:14;56:17;79:25; 135:23;141:9 town (4) 9:1;55:25;70:2;71:17 track (1) 124:5 tract (2) 55:22;63:2 traffic (3) 6:20;41:9;158:2 training (4) 43:22;48:19,20; 155:24 transaction (1) 148:1 transferring (1) 162:21 transparent (1) 101:23 transportation (3) 31:19;68:5;144:13 trash (2) 8:14;91:5 trator (2) 101:12;108:18 travel (1) 147:8 traveling (1) 17:24 tree (16) 20:20;21:1,16,24; 22:4,15,22;23:14;24:1,6; 76:8;89:19;135:12; 136:25;137:1;138:25 trees (11) 20:24;21:5,6,9,19; 22:10,14,21,21;25:14; 157:25 trial (2) 17:5;64:7</p>	<p>trimming (2) 23:22;25:14 trouble (1) 65:19 truck (4) 21:2,13,16;22:16 Trudy (1) 145:21 true (4) 46:3;54:23;60:24; 135:7 truly (2) 35:17;41:1 try (13) 9:3;41:13;44:8,13; 74:3;94:21,24;122:16; 131:22,24;140:7; 142:21;157:22 trying (15) 7:4;9:2,24;16:3;43:12; 44:10,12,16;47:3,5; 74:11;77:25;147:6; 157:21;158:14 T-SPLOST (1) 68:14 Tuesday (1) 14:22 turned (2) 43:11,19 turning (2) 147:7;148:15 twelve (1) 58:24 twenty- (2) 117:17,19 twenty-five (3) 115:25;117:16;118:25 two (54) 10:12;13:8;14:2,15, 16;15:6;16:20,25;42:17, 18,19;48:3;49:15;55:8, 10;56:1;58:24;62:20,22; 64:3;65:16;73:5;74:4,7; 76:15;77:3,19,20;88:1; 91:24;92:7;93:5,16,19; 96:6,14,25;99:21,21; 106:25;109:16;111:20; 122:14;124:10;135:4,7; 138:7;141:6,10;142:5; 147:8;158:7;161:15,21 two-and-a-half (1) 138:15 two-person (2) 55:10;77:21 two-story (1) 155:23 two-to-one (1) 158:21 type (7) 21:21;61:24;78:8; 81:11;116:1,10;159:17 typical (2) 26:2;125:8</p>	<p>Typically (3) 100:22;118:15;130:20 U ugly (1) 146:8 ultimately (4) 61:4;122:14;144:7; 153:4 uncomfor- (1) 114:13 uncomfortable (1) 115:5 under (17) 35:22;42:14;53:4; 54:10,10;56:25;60:16; 64:10;68:6;82:20;87:12; 89:18;99:5;118:8; 123:12;155:23;156:11 underground (1) 68:17 underneath (5) 137:19,22;138:9; 140:10;157:2 understands (2) 135:7,13 unemployed (1) 102:19 unfortunately (3) 21:19;55:23;68:7 UNIDENTIFIED (1) 156:20 unified (1) 90:9 uninstall (1) 77:11 Union (1) 59:5 unique (2) 97:24;101:15 uniting (1) 151:13 unless (6) 21:18;23:8;105:17; 113:12,13,22 unlikely (1) 105:25 unprofessional (1) 107:15 unreasonable (1) 77:12 unusable (1) 162:15 up (77) 4:12;6:3;8:19,23,24; 10:11;12:19;15:2;17:25; 22:5;24:3,22;25:4; 29:19;30:19;35:21; 39:25;42:25;43:25; 44:12;50:13;52:8;54:22; 56:21;57:3,4;62:17,18; 64:3,16;69:4,19;70:5;</p>	<p>71:16,17;77:11;78:11, 13;79:25;80:22;81:8,20, 20;82:4;84:9;92:25; 95:7;96:17;114:13,19; 118:3,6,12;119:18; 122:13,20;123:13,23; 132:5;134:21;135:2; 136:15;137:25;138:25; 140:16;143:24;144:13, 19;146:16;150:4,19,24; 156:6;157:18;158:7; 159:1;161:16 update (4) 46:12;53:18;107:25; 109:7 updated (1) 83:1 updating (1) 52:18 upon (5) 76:1;79:11;86:8; 89:24;157:1 upper (8) 78:5;135:18,19,21,22; 140:15;156:3,14 upward (1) 81:15 upwards (2) 143:11,12 Urban (33) 54:4,8,16,20,23;55:16; 56:2,2,6,14,17,21;57:18, 19,22;60:12,13,16,17, 22;61:15;62:2,16,21; 65:15,17;66:4,7,10,13, 25;69:1,7 usability (1) 143:3 usable (1) 150:9 usage (1) 144:20 use (16) 23:9,15;35:24;36:8; 37:11;60:14,15;78:4,5; 81:8;86:7;92:24;143:21; 145:7;155:7;158:9 used (6) 36:18;70:6;141:20; 146:15;156:7;158:1 user-friendly (1) 145:17 using (6) 41:25;47:6;79:4; 80:17;94:6;157:20 usually (1) 21:20 utilize (4) 57:10,11;95:17; 155:14 utilized (1) 36:6</p>	<p>V vacancy (3) 49:14;50:13;59:16 vacant (4) 45:19;64:18;81:25; 130:16 vacation (1) 50:18 valleys (1) 157:11 value (2) 61:6,16 values (3) 8:22;60:25;61:18 variance (4) 73:8;78:20;85:8,13 variances (1) 73:1 various (3) 68:5;102:2;138:4 venture (1) 141:3 verbiage (1) 78:6 versus (3) 131:6,8,14 veterinary (2) 158:10,12 vets (1) 158:11 vetted (1) 83:2 viable (1) 96:16 victim (1) 147:6 view (1) 103:18 Vinson (1) 18:8 virtually (1) 55:24 virtue (1) 116:4 visible (2) 77:13;78:6 visited (1) 72:22 voiced (1) 31:21 voids (1) 162:16 vote (8) 11:24;17:8;63:10; 87:14,14;112:8;115:15; 128:12 voted (4) 11:21;17:5;104:16; 115:12 voters (2) 119:10;120:1</p>
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<p>voting (2) 10:15;12:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>Waffle (1) 79:25</p> <p>wait (9) 24:11;93:16;95:4; 101:10;105:14;122:10, 12;123:11;124:7</p> <p>waiting (2) 11:12;32:11</p> <p>waive (5) 124:13;128:11,12; 132:17,19</p> <p>walk (5) 6:14,16,16;41:8;78:11</p> <p>walked (1) 144:24</p> <p>walking (3) 6:17,22;143:24</p> <p>walkway (1) 156:5</p> <p>wall (34) 9:14;33:25;35:25; 36:3,5;37:2;40:6,8,13; 42:1;135:9;137:7;138:4, 20,22,25;139:2,6,10,12, 17,21,22;140:3,11,13,15, 18,22;143:11;144:23; 146:6;156:23;158:5</p> <p>walls (4) 137:9;139:3;151:11; 154:1</p> <p>wants (3) 19:17;27:23;98:16</p> <p>warning (1) 131:10</p> <p>warnings (1) 131:14</p> <p>warrant (1) 124:2</p> <p>warrants (1) 97:17</p> <p>warts (3) 101:19;102:7,10</p> <p>waste (3) 104:1,2;107:14</p> <p>wasted (1) 162:16</p> <p>watched (1) 159:25</p> <p>water (13) 42:24;136:11;137:3, 17,17,21;138:1,23; 140:12,17;147:3;156:6; 157:12</p> <p>wavered (1) 104:9</p> <p>way (30) 11:15;17:3;26:23; 30:19;34:25;36:14;</p>	<p>42:25;43:18;50:13;54:2; 61:20,24;71:6;77:13; 78:9;82:10;83:2;84:20; 85:3;95:15;99:14; 103:10;119:1;123:1,8; 136:5;143:25;147:24; 151:1;162:19</p> <p>wayside (1) 41:18</p> <p>weathered (1) 83:24</p> <p>Web (5) 15:2;54:10;64:9;65:6; 102:14</p> <p>Wednesday (5) 11:23;13:6;14:17,18; 16:14</p> <p>week (8) 10:16;49:1,10,17; 71:15;98:10,12;131:3</p> <p>weekend (1) 9:20</p> <p>weekly (1) 36:12</p> <p>weeks (10) 10:13;13:8;14:16,16; 15:6;16:20,25;35:14; 48:4;76:15</p> <p>welcome (3) 54:2;88:11;91:14</p> <p>weren't (2) 39:15;75:12</p> <p>Wescott (1) 3:19</p> <p>westwards (1) 6:15</p> <p>what- (1) 124:17</p> <p>what's (10) 19:14;37:11;53:15; 81:11;90:10;113:13; 116:24;120:13;129:24; 153:10</p> <p>whatsoever (2) 61:4,15</p> <p>wheels (2) 3:22;4:4</p> <p>whereas (4) 114:14;115:4,20; 130:20</p> <p>whichever (1) 76:5</p> <p>white (1) 80:16</p> <p>whole (17) 21:8;22:18;28:15; 55:25;85:7,12;96:23; 131:14;143:1;146:19, 20;160:25;161:2,17,17; 162:13,23</p> <p>whomever (1) 97:24</p> <p>who's (6)</p>	<p>48:17;53:13;95:3; 96:12;110:16;155:7</p> <p>whose (1) 98:14</p> <p>wider (1) 150:11</p> <p>wildly (1) 149:5</p> <p>Williams (1) 4:9</p> <p>willing (8) 44:14;95:4;105:17; 106:1;108:12,21; 109:13;110:12</p> <p>wind (1) 24:3</p> <p>wiped (1) 150:13</p> <p>wires (1) 25:14</p> <p>wish (3) 47:4;109:11,17</p> <p>wishes (1) 34:8</p> <p>within (14) 26:6;55:7,22;56:4,4; 58:2;60:13,14;63:10,11; 90:4;106:21;141:15; 150:25</p> <p>without (7) 9:7;11:3;67:11;94:25; 124:7;127:2,11</p> <p>won (1) 8:3</p> <p>wonderful (7) 155:2,3,5,14;159:24; 160:11,19</p> <p>wooden (1) 76:20</p> <p>word (1) 37:11</p> <p>work (28) 12:6;17:4;21:1,16,17; 22:2;23:21;24:5;35:2; 39:24;44:14;49:8,15,16; 50:14,19,22;52:9,11; 76:4;94:23;97:4;100:5; 103:5;106:1;110:12; 129:25;161:18</p> <p>worked (3) 4:5;61:5;161:15</p> <p>working (10) 10:14,18;22:6;23:22; 47:23,24;52:20;92:18; 102:3;122:8</p> <p>Works (14) 21:15;22:9;23:7; 24:14;39:23;49:13,24; 52:10;61:4;67:11;77:10; 90:13;140:7;155:14</p> <p>workshops (1) 150:19</p> <p>worrisome (1)</p>	<p>9:4</p> <p>worst-case (1) 25:5</p> <p>worth (6) 9:8,9,10,10;81:9; 125:25</p> <p>Wow (1) 139:14</p> <p>writing (3) 28:16;119:9;148:17</p> <p>written (5) 72:25;73:25;103:11; 118:9;151:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>y'all (5) 20:5;37:18;43:6;81:4; 113:17</p> <p>yard (2) 90:21;123:1</p> <p>yards (1) 131:14</p> <p>year (10) 21:7;30:16;55:15; 94:2;101:8;103:8;106:2; 107:2;143:15;160:10</p> <p>years (17) 7:14;21:4;35:7;37:22; 38:15;52:21;53:17; 65:16;115:11;139:13, 13;149:18,18,18;152:21; 160:1;161:21</p> <p>yellow (3) 78:1;137:6;138:3</p> <p>you-all (3) 56:7;76:5;134:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p>zone (19) 23:3;55:2,8,12,19; 56:3;58:6,12,21;59:4,19, 20;60:21;61:11,15; 62:21,23;63:6;67:7</p> <p>zoning (10) 67:5,10,13,24;68:3,19; 85:9,14,18;88:1</p> <p>ZUBAIR (2) 6:6,6</p>
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