

1 IN THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH
2 STATE OF GEORGIA

3 IN THE MATTER OF:)
4 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES)
5)

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8 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

9
10 Tuesday, March 24, 2022

11 7:00 p.m.

12
13 Port Wentworth City Hall
14 7224 Georgia Highway 21
15 Port Wentworth, Georgia

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17 Elise M. Napier, CCR-2492
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2 CITY COUNCIL APPEARANCES

3 GARY NORTON - Mayor (The Moderator)

4 THOMAS BARBEE - Council Member At-Large

5 MARK STEPHENS - Council Member District 2
(By Telephone)

6 GABRIELLE NELSON - Council Member District 1

7 RUFUS BRIGHT - Council Member District 3

8 GLENN JONES - Council Member District 4

9 JOELLEN SMITH - Council Member At-Large

10 STEVE DAVIS - City Manager

11 SCOTT C. ROBICHAUX - City Attorney

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15 (NOTE: The following was transcribed from a live
16 appearance. Notations of "(inaudible)"
17 indicate individuals speaking over each other and
18 "(unintelligible)" indicates that an individual is
19 either speaking too rapidly or too softly so as to
20 not be intelligible.)
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1 THE MODERATOR: I'd like to thank everybody for
2 being here tonight. This is the March 2022 city
3 council meeting now in session. Thank you. Okay.
4 Rufus is going to do the prayer and the pledge.
5 Approval of the agenda.

6 MS. SMITH: I have something to add to the agenda.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. First I'd like the public
8 comments, I'd like a vote, please, on the public
9 comments being moved to the beginning of the evening so
10 people don't have to wait around for hours and the
11 other thing is number ten.

12 Number ten being the feasibility study, the Carl
13 Vinson Institute, I'd just like it to be amended to say
14 specifically that the institute studies for at least
15 two different possibilities splitting the city at I-95
16 and splitting the city at the old boundaries because if
17 they are not told -- if they are not given proper
18 direction, they won't know now -- what studies to do,
19 so at least these two studies and any other iterations
20 they think are appropriate.

21 NR, BARBEE: I agree.

22 THE MODERATOR: I think there will be four or five
23 of them.

24 MS. SMITH: Yeah. I mean, I want to give them
25 direction on the record.

1 NR, BARBEE: Okay. As far as the public comments,
2 I think we should leave it exactly where it sets.
3 Let's conduct the business of the city first.

4 MS. SMITH: Except a lot especially -- especially
5 a lot of older people, they -- it could be three, four
6 hours. I mean, I feel like the public is customers
7 and, you know, the customers have to come first so it's
8 just -- and they may say something that's germane to the
9 discussion later in the evening.

10 THE MODERATOR: But a lot of people come to speak
11 on zoning or something like that so if you send them
12 out there first, you know, they can't rebut anything
13 that the person just was trying to get the zoning
14 passed, you know, unless they hang around, I mean.

15 MS. SMITH: No. But sometimes, if I'm not
16 mistaken, there is public comments and then there is
17 comments for especially --

18 THE MODERATOR: Yeah. You're right. You're
19 right.

20 MS. SMITH: -- on the items.

21 THE MODERATOR: -- on the public hearing; right.

22 MS. SMITH: I don't mean changing that. I think
23 that's really great. I mean the actual just the
24 generic public comments like to say what's going on
25 with the garbage or --

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

2 MS. SMITH: -- why haven't the ditches be cleaned
3 or something. You know, I just think that this way
4 people don't have to wait for hours until -- because we
5 can go to 10:00 some nights. I see Gabby over there.
6 You want to -- councilwoman.

7 MS. NELSON: I agree with what Jo was saying.

8 MR. JONES: We're just not going to do both of
9 them, though. We're not going to do before and after
10 so I'm okay with.

11 MS. SMITH: Oh, no. I don't think so.

12 THE MODERATOR: All right. Do we need to put that
13 to vote when we get to item eight -- I mean --

14 MR. JONES: No. You're just going to move it to
15 now.

16 MS. SMITH: Mr. Robichaux, does it have to be on a
17 vote?

18 MR. ROBICHAUX: When we vote to approve the
19 agenda, it can be a motion to approve the agenda and
20 then it can be an amendment to move the public comments
21 to wherever we would like it moved to.

22 MS. SMITH: Okay.

23 THE MODERATOR: Who wants to do the approval? You
24 said you're going to do it, Ms. Smith? You going to do
25 the agenda?

1 MS. SMITH: Sure. Yes.

2 THE MODERATOR: All right. Adoption of minutes.

3 MR. ROBICHAUX: For the approval of the agenda,
4 there was a motion to approve the agenda. Was there an
5 amendment that we wanted to move it and where did we
6 want to move it to, the public comments? Did we want
7 to move it --

8 MR. JONES: She'll do that whenever she does make
9 the motion to approve the agenda; right?

10 MS. SMITH: He does things a little different. He
11 assigns people to make the motion and then he goes back
12 and we -- it's just the way he does it.

13 MR. JONES: My apologies.

14 MR. ROBICHAUX: Okay.

15 THE MODERATOR: All right. Adoption of the
16 minutes.

17 MR. BRIGHT: I'll do that but I want to add
18 something to that.

19 THE MODERATOR: All right.

20 MR. BRIGHT: They had an error that I nominated
21 three people for planning and it was Jeff Sopson, I
22 think that's right. We left it out in the minutes.

23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. That needs to be added?

24 MR. BRIGHT: Yes.

25 NR, BARBEE: Along with that and one thing can be

1 deleted. Delete my wife's name from there. They did
2 not -- she decided not to. Decided to do it because it
3 may be a conflict of interest and we don't -- none to
4 be -- give nobody nothing to talk about. Her name
5 could be deleted from that planning and zoning.

6 THE MODERATOR: All right. You got that, ma'am?
7 Thank you. Do we have any special guests?
8 Mr. Newsome, welcome. Okay. Elections and
9 appointments we don't have any of those. The consent
10 agenda?

11 NR, BARBEE: I'll do the consent agenda since it's
12 basically the same thing, it's just making a payment to
13 these two separate ones that have come before Council
14 before. I recommend that we just add them together and
15 vote on those, one entity under the consent. Clump A
16 and B together.

17 THE MODERATOR: All right. Do we have any
18 unfinished business? All right. Let's get started.
19 Rufus, will you lead us in prayer?

20 (Thereupon, a prayer followed by The Pledge of
21 Allegiance was recited.)

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Approval of the agenda.
23 Ms. Smith.

24 MS. SMITH: Okay. I move that the agenda be
25 approved with two changes: One, that public comments

1 be moved up from the end of the agenda to the beginning
2 for generic public comments not -- not zoning specific
3 public comments and that also that we for in 10-A that
4 for the province and institute we instruct them to look
5 at least two iterations of splitting the city I-95 and
6 the old boundaries pre-annexation as well as anything
7 else that might be appropriate.

8 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

9 MR. JONES: I'll second that.

10 THE MODERATOR: All right. Which one you second?
11 You want to do one at a time, move the public comments
12 to the top?

13 MS. SMITH: Sorry, I put them together.

14 THE MODERATOR: You're fine. You're fine.

15 MS. SMITH: Yeah. Can we please put the public --
16 I move that we put the public comments to the beginning
17 of the agenda.

18 THE MODERATOR: Okay. You second that?

19 MR. JONES: Yeah. I second that.

20 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

21 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
22 motion.)

23 THE MODERATOR: Did you hear Mr. Stephens?

24 MR. DAVIS: Aye.

25 THE MODERATOR: All right. Now, 10-A.

1 MS. SMITH: And I move that the Carl Vinson
2 Institute item agenda later on this evening that we
3 give them specific instructions when they are looking
4 at the possibility of splitting the city to look at
5 least at two widely talked about issues. The city
6 split at I-95 and split at the old boundaries
7 pre-annexation.

8 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

9 MR. JONES: I'll second that, also.

10 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

11 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
12 motion.)

13 THE MODERATOR: All right. You want to do the
14 public commence now then?

15 MS. SMITH: Sure.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

17 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: John Holland.

19 MR. HOLLAND: My name is John Holland. I'm the
20 commander of the community watch. I live in Galley
21 Lane in Newport. I'd like to thank the fire department
22 and your medical professionals for all the care that
23 they gave my wife over the last three years. She
24 passed away in February. It's a big loss but those
25 people were some of the finest that I've ever come in

1 contact with. And I really wish that you, the Council,
2 can come to an agreement to work for everyone in Port
3 Wentworth no matter where we live, no matter what we
4 do.

5 You were reelected by us to represent us to do
6 what's best for us. And I think we need to get back to
7 that and that is what made Port Wentworth a great place
8 to live. Thank you.

9 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Holland. All
10 right. Chris Hanks.

11 MR. HANKS: Good evening, Council. My name is
12 Chris Hanks. I live at 30 Raintree Way, and I'm glad
13 to see most of you here this evening. I have a few
14 questions, been following most of the news from the
15 city's website left side, right side, whatever.
16 Mr. Mayor, who was invited to your invite only session
17 that you had?

18 THE MODERATOR: Invite only?

19 MR. HANKS: Yes, sir.

20 THE MODERATOR: I talked to Ron Stephens. He
21 brought Lester Jackson and -- and Bill Hitchens.

22 MR. HANKS: And who from the community was invited
23 out to your --

24 THE MODERATOR: Nobody.

25 MR. HANKS: And do you think that's fair for --

1 THE MODERATOR: Well, I just --

2 MR. HANKS: -- the citizens of Port Wentworth?

3 THE MODERATOR: -- wanted to know what they were
4 doing with this. In the end I thought it was fair but
5 I didn't know where we were going. I'm a pretty fair
6 guy, Chris.

7 MR. HANKS: Well, whenever you have a private
8 meeting trying to --

9 THE MODERATOR: It was not private.

10 MR. HANKS: -- trying to determine --

11 THE MODERATOR: It was not a private meeting.

12 MR. HANKS: -- the outcome of the city. Right now
13 I feel like you argue like my ten and 14 year olds.
14 Every time I turn around there is something new going
15 on. You may get along for five seconds. You turn
16 around arguing like a bunch of damn kids.

17 It's not fair to us. It's not fair to these
18 people sitting out here to have their time. On record,
19 who would be willing to say that they are -- they want
20 a dissolved city and who wants a split city or who just
21 wants us to stay the same? Does anybody?

22 UNKNOWN FEMALE: I don't want to stay the same I
23 want us to all get along.

24 MR. HANKS: Right. So get along.

25 UNKNOWN FEMALE: -- I do not support whether or

1 not --

2 MR. HANKS: Who is willing to say that they want a
3 split, save the city or just getting rid of the --

4 THE MODERATOR: I'll say I'm willing to let the
5 Carl Vinson Institute do a study.

6 MR. HANKS: Okay.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay? Is that fair enough?

8 MR HANKS: I mean, that wasn't one of the option
9 for sure.

10 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Bright?

11 MR. BRIGHT: Well, my viewpoint blank you say we
12 argue. I don't have time to argue.

13 MR. HANKS: I agree. There is many other
14 important things going on.

15 MR. BRIGHT: Many things facing the city and this
16 city is the place I call home. I love this place that
17 I call home and what I've fighting for, what I'm going
18 to work for is make this a united city that's greater
19 than what it was before.

20 THE MODERATOR: Absolutely. Mr. Barbee.

21 NR, BARBEE: I'm always for building a better Port
22 Wentworth. If it narrow on down a four letter word,
23 I'd have to say save, s-a-v-e. I love Port Wentworth
24 and that's one of the reasons I moved here ten years
25 ago and I will do whatever in my power to ensure that

1 we continue to move forward as a city and stay united
2 and save our great city. I think that Port Wentworth
3 is a great city.

4 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Jones. Thank you, Mr. Barbee.
5 I didn't mean to cut you off.

6 MR. BARBEE: No problem.

7 MR. JONES: Yes, sir. I'll tell you very quick
8 I've been in this city all my 63 years, right, and I
9 love this city. I tell them all the time no one loves
10 the city more than I do. There is people in here love
11 it as much but not as much. But I also represent the
12 area of downtown.

13 Just like we have districts, my constituents, my
14 area who call me, who ring my phone off the hook have
15 come by my house. Ever since 2005 when I had the
16 unpleasant decision of putting water rigs together;
17 right? And I thought it was the right thing to do on
18 the north and south end.

19 When your constituents come to you whether it's
20 the federal, state, county or city level and they come
21 to you and that's why the mayor has asked for this to
22 happen. We don't know what Carl Vinson is going to do.
23 It might be nothing but we going to at least take a
24 look at it. So when my constituents come to me, I have
25 to listen to what they say and that's what they asked.

1 That's why it is. There might not be nothing come out
2 of it. I love this city as much as anyone in this
3 room. I guarantee that. So you're right, we're going
4 to wait ans see what comes out of it.

5 MR. HANKS: What have your constituents asked of
6 you?

7 MR. JONES: They just want to see responsibility.
8 There are a lot of angry people, a lot of them mad.
9 Just like Mr. Barbee and just like Mr. Bright and just
10 like Gabby, everyone said we want to work together but
11 when your people come and ask you questions, we at
12 least want to take a look at it. That's all we want to
13 do.

14 We don' want to be grandstanding making a circus
15 out here, we just going to do what we have to do to
16 keep in city running and we're going to keep going. So
17 when you come and ask these kind of questions, you're
18 grandstanding in front of the TV people. Yes. That's
19 what you're doing and so that's what you're doing
20 because --

21 MR. HANKS: Mr. Jones, this became a circus a long
22 time ago.

23 THE MODERATOR: Hold on, let him finish his --

24 MR. JONES: Carl Vinson Institute months I imagine
25 to do, to do what they have got to do. But we're going

1 to keep on working with the city. This city council
2 we've got business to do. We've got developers going
3 to be doing in here tonight that want to build
4 developments. We're going to continue working. That
5 is something that's on this bill and nothing may come
6 out of it but that's what we're going to do. My
7 constituents asked me if that's what we could take a
8 look at and that's the least I can do, the very least I
9 can do.

10 THE MODERATOR: All right. Ms. Smith.

11 MS. SMITH: Mr. Hanks, I very much respect
12 Councilman Jones statement. He was elected to
13 represent his constituents and that's what everyone
14 should do. I was elected at large and perhaps some of
15 the people downtown may not yet believe it but my
16 ethical, moral obligation is to care about the people
17 downtown as much as on the northside and I would like
18 be given a chance; unfortunately, less than two months,
19 a month of being inaugurated the city was shut down.

20 I haven't had the chance to do my job and I would
21 like to be given the chance to prove to downtown that I
22 will care for them as much as the northside. And I do
23 approve of a study because there are so many people who
24 are, like Councilman Jones said, are pushing to get a
25 slate.

1 I'm a data person. I'm a very strong data person,
2 economist and I don't like to make decisions without
3 specific financial information.

4 MR. HANKS: Right.

5 MS. SMITH: So I do approve the study and I think
6 it would be very enlightening.

7 MR. HANKS: Right. And I have nothing against the
8 study at all, I'm just wondering who was -- who is
9 against it and who is for it and who wants things to
10 continue to be a one united. We talk about -- ever
11 since I've lived here, I've lived here since 2008. I
12 came here to join and work for the fire department here
13 volunteering my time until I had my kids and then I
14 left but I remained in the city because I enjoyed
15 living here.

16 My entire time that I've lived here has always
17 been the northside and downtown. You come back to it
18 this is almost like the northside versus the south.
19 Who cares? We're one Port Wentworth.

20 NR, BARBEE: I agree.

21 MR. HANKS: We have these secret meetings, we have
22 behind closed door meetings, we have conversations with
23 other people that don't even involve our city about the
24 future of our city without talking to everybody. Now,
25 I did start a petition to see who wanted to keep the

1 city of Port Wentworth the same. We had, let's see --

2 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Hanks?

3 MR. HANKS: Yes, sir.

4 MR. DAVIS: Council Member Stephens is on the
5 phone and would like to speak.

6 MR. HANKS: Okay.

7 MR. DAVIS: Hold on one second.

8 MR. STEPHENS: All right.

9 MR. DAVIS: Go ahead.

10 MR. STEPHENS: Okay. Mr. Hanks, can you hear me?

11 MR. DAVIS: Hold on one second. I'm trying folks,
12 let's try it again.

13 MR. STEPHENS: Mr. Hanks, can you hear me?

14 MR. HANKS: Yes, sir.

15 MR. STEPHENS: I understand where you're coming
16 from. I mean, the fact is that I know that you and I
17 we probably don't agree on much of anything but on this
18 we definitely do agree. We need one city and I'm going
19 to make about as plain and as loud.

20 We need one city, we deserve one city and all the
21 stuff that's been going on I'm sick of it, too, you
22 know, and I know that we have to, you know, take and
23 have the study done but, I mean, the fact is that we
24 need one city and besides, Ms. Smith and Mr. Barbee, I
25 am a council member that represents both sides because

1 my district covers both sides of Port Wentworth and
2 I've spoken to some of my constituents on the other
3 side of town and they are against it as well. So I
4 agree with you and we really do need to have one city.

5 MR. HANKS: Thank you, sir. Like I was saying, I
6 started an online petition to save our city to keep it
7 as it is without the fighting and arguing. 20 percent
8 of the voters that voted in the last election have
9 signed this petition. I think that's pretty good
10 considering our size.

11 MS. SMITH: Yeah.

12 MR. HANKS: Our general capabilities for internet
13 west based communications but I think it's pretty good
14 and those people want this to stay the same. They want
15 you to get along. they want City Hall to be the
16 meeting point for everyone here. We want the downtown,
17 the West Side, northside, whoever. We're all in one
18 boundary; right?

19 Just like anything else in the world today we got
20 people invading other boundaries. Those people are
21 standing up for themselves and they are pushing back
22 and they are saving their country and we need to save
23 our city. We don't want other entities coming in here
24 giving our fire protection or EMS protection or police
25 protection or a private company coming in and running

1 our water system, sewer system, none of that.

2 Most of us like it the way it is except for the
3 arguing, which kind of brings me back to another thing
4 is that with the development going on we seem to have a
5 lot of interest in warehouses. Now, I'm an I've lived
6 in big cities, I've lived in small cities, I've lived
7 in the bayous of Louisiana and a lot of things here are
8 nice.

9 It's a mix between big city life, small city life,
10 quiet country life, but why do we need so many
11 warehouses when we don't have a park for our kids to
12 play baseball? Why do we need warehouses when we have,
13 you know, we have more places to store our crap than we
14 do to eat?

15 THE MODERATOR: Well, Chris, we normally give
16 three minutes. I don't know how we got this far into
17 this. I appreciate what you're saying. I've been out
18 here 64 years. I was two years old when my parents
19 moved out here. I played ball, I coached ball, I've
20 been PTO president. I've done a lot of things out here
21 for this community and I love this community. But, you
22 know, you've been here since 2008, I've been here since
23 1958 and I love this city and I love you people out
24 there.

25 MR. HANKS: But just --

1 THE MODERATOR: I just want you to know that.

2 MR. HANKS: And I appreciate the extra time but,
3 you know, we need more stuff for families around here.
4 We have enough warehouses.

5 THE MODERATOR: I totally agree with you.

6 MR. HANKS: In just the last seven days 4,615 jobs
7 were posted. That's enough jobs, open jobs for 42
8 percent of the population no matter their age to have a
9 job in Port Wentworth. I think we got enough
10 warehouses. We need to start working for the families
11 around here.

12 THE MODERATOR: All right. Chris, thank you.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. JONES: Mr. Hanks?

15 MR. HANKS: Yes, sir.

16 MR. JONES: Mr. Mayor, if I could have one second.
17 I overstepped my bounds and I get a little aggravated
18 with all this and I wanted to publicly apologize. I
19 think you're a citizen here and I know you. I get a
20 little aggravated sometimes when all this is coming up.
21 It's very dear to my heart.

22 MR. HANKS: Well, that's the same way everybody
23 else is.

24 MR. JONES: And, yes, sir, I want to publicly
25 apologize. I should not have reacted the way I did to

1 you because I know you had to right speak and express
2 your feelings and your feelings are appropriate. I do
3 agree with you on just everything you said. We need to
4 come together as working hard for the city of Port
5 Wentworth and hopefully soon we're going to be having
6 that ballpark you talked about because I guarantee it,
7 it's something that's very close to me as well as
8 everything but I do appreciate you very much and thank
9 you.

10 MR. HANKS: I appreciate it. Thank you all for
11 your time. I accept your apology?

12 THE MODERATOR: Jessica Vick. Okay. Okay.
13 Sherrie Park.

14 MS. PARK: Here.

15 THE MODERATOR: Hey, David, would you start the
16 clock when she gets over here?

17 MS. PARK: I won't be long.

18 THE MODERATOR: How are you doing, ma'am?

19 MS. PARK: Hi. I'm fine. When I signed that
20 paper, I didn't know I was signing it standing up here.

21 THE MODERATOR: Name and mailing address?

22 MS. PARK: My mailing address, 14 Color Rain
23 Drive.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

25 MS. PARK: I hear so much misinformation. I hear

1 we could be unincorporated Savannah. I hear the town
2 the going to become two towns. I hear the old town
3 would become part of the port. Is there any way for
4 the Council to post the difference scenarios? I don't
5 even know about this council thing.

6 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am. There is. There is a
7 way when we do the Carl Vinson Institute, y'all will
8 know about it.

9 MS. PARK: Okay. But that way you can post it on
10 your web page and stuff so we can see the prose and the
11 cons of each of those different scenarios?

12 THE MODERATOR: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very much.
13 Hannah Ross.

14 MS. ROSS: Hannah Ross, 5 Hasty Pointe Road in
15 Port Wentworth. How are you doing, Council? I just
16 wanted to second what Mr. Hanks was talking about. The
17 warehouses I know, Gary, I've heard you talk before
18 about the pros of some of the warehouses going in.
19 They pay for a lot of like the plumbing and the
20 electricity going into certain areas we want to develop
21 later.

22 But I do want to guess kind of caution the Council
23 not to get too gung ho and forgot as a citizen I feel
24 sometimes like the city has forgotten where the city is
25 going, like what areas have been set aside for

1 residential, what areas are set aside for warehouses,
2 what areas we're going to be setting aside for
3 restaurants or community development, libraries, post
4 office, thing like that because every time I turn
5 around it's we're rezoning this area for warehouses,
6 we're rezoning this area for warehouses.

7 So just caution you guys to make sure you do know
8 the game plan when you're putting in warehouses. They
9 are great if they are doing what they are supposed to
10 do and helping us pay for stuff that we can't get in
11 without, you know, having to put that stuff in, but,
12 yeah, we want to make sure we're certainly groomed for
13 that stuff. It's all I have to say.

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Ms. Hannah. All right.
15 Janet Hester. I'm sorry, Ms. Herself. Start that
16 clock.

17 MS. HESTER: Well, I would like to also -- Janet
18 Hester, 440 Meinhard Road. Side note, this is not my
19 time. I want the Council and anybody in the audience
20 to please ride down Henley Road and Monteith and
21 Meinhard tomorrow or the next day and I want you to see
22 the impact of the warehouse that has been was approved
23 before the new comp plan was approved and it's going on
24 over there now.

25 I want you to look because these people, these

1 developers said, oh, we're going to do this and that
2 and then turn right around after they -- after they got
3 a rezoning the property was worth a \$1 million it went
4 to 10 million the night the old Council approved a
5 rezoning for it. Now, I want you to understand when
6 you ride by, I want you to really look before you
7 approve another rezoning and I want you to see what a
8 50 foot buffer really looks like to the people who are
9 living there. A lot of these folks sitting right here;
10 okay? That's first of all.

11 Second of all, in 1989 you-all annexed us,
12 downtown annexed us. You've given nothing to us. We
13 have no ball field, we have no facilities, we don't
14 have aged or senior facilities out here. Everything
15 still remains in downtown, which is by traffic, nearly
16 inaccessible depending on what time of day you go down
17 there, okay, so you've done nothing for the northside
18 that you-all named us years ago; okay?

19 In 2005 you-all have had, the downtown people have
20 had control of this city since you've annexed us. At
21 no point has anybody on the northside had any power or
22 control. At most we've had two seats. Now, according
23 to my math, that is not a controlling population on
24 Council; okay?

25 So for all intents and purposes since 1989 we have

1 had not had any power, but as soon as any election in
2 November 2021 gives us five votes on Council, suddenly
3 you want to dissolve this city, Mayor? Mr. Jones, now
4 you want to dissolve the city when you no longer have
5 power and control?

6 THE MODERATOR: No. It was more about people.

7 MS. HESTER: How -- do you understand what that
8 looks like?

9 THE MODERATOR: I know what it looks like.

10 MS. HESTER: Yes. That's what it is.

11 THE MODERATOR: No, it isn't.

12 MS. HESTER: Yes, that's what it is.

13 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Hester, your time is up.

14 MS. HESTER: You don't want to do anything. I'm
15 done.

16 THE MODERATOR: All right. Adoption of the
17 minutes.

18 MR. BRIGHT: I make a motion that there be a
19 correction for Jeff Soperton --

20 THE MODERATOR: Sopson.

21 MR. BRIGHT: I keep getting his name wrong and
22 I'll get it, and take Mrs. Margo Barbee off of the
23 list.

24 MR. BARBEE: Delete it.

25 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Make a motion to approve?

1 MR. STEPHENS: I'll second.

2 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

3 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
4 motion.)

5 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. All right.
6 Special guests, appointments? All right. Consent
7 agenda.

8 NR, BARBEE: I recommend that we group both of
9 these items together because what it is fixing of the
10 atrium Road and also Red Robin Road and stuff, third
11 payment for Atrium Road and a fourth payment of Red
12 Robin I would like to motion that we approve both of
13 these together.

14 THE MODERATOR: Get a second?

15 MR. JONES: I second it.

16 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

17 MR. STEPHENS: Stephens, aye.

18 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
19 motion.)

20 THE MODERATOR: Motion passes. We won't have any
21 unfinished business. New business, updated agreement
22 for legal services. Who has got that? Okay.

23 MR. ROBICHAUX: Mayor and Council, this is just --
24 this is an updated contract for legal services for me
25 to be the interim city attorney. The first we had put

1 forth had my rate actually reduced, the rate trying to
2 be a good steward of the city's money, works for
3 everybody.

4 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR. ROBICHAUX: And I've reduced the hourly rate
6 and I've actually capped the overall bill that I would
7 submit to the City Council per month and then let us
8 keep working for the city any hours over that it
9 actually accrues and then it can be put forth to a
10 future bill. It caps it at the monthly and it reduces
11 the overall rate. I'm just a little bit clearer for
12 the city legal services contract.

13 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Make a motion.

14 MS. SMITH: I make a motion to accept the updated
15 agreement for legal services.

16 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

17 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

18 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
19 motion.)

20 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Item B design building
21 memorandum for understanding -- for understanding
22 between Georgia Department of Transportation and the
23 City of Port Wentworth.

24 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. It's a no cost MOU with
25 GDOT to basically move a water line and it's not 100

1 percent that they will move the water line but it's
2 within the scope of their project so just in case they
3 have to move it, they can move it and they will do it
4 at their own expense. No cost to the city.

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Make a motion?

6 MS. SMITH: Can I make a motion before I say
7 something?

8 THE MODERATOR: You can go ahead.

9 MS. SMITH: I just have one question in terms of
10 liability on their COI. Can we put down the other
11 insured? Is that a possibility?

12 MR. ROBICHAUX: I'm looking at it right now.

13 THE MODERATOR: So what did you come with up with?

14 MR. ROBICHAUX: I was looking under the COI trying
15 to make under other insured. That would be something
16 that we need to bring back with them because this is a
17 pretty standard contract that they have.

18 MS. SMITH: Could we do that because I just, I
19 know, I see a nightmare with that if we're not covered.
20 I'm not for sure. Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: All right. So we're going to
22 table that?

23 MR. ROBICHAUX: We're going to table that until
24 the April meeting until we get that answer?

25 NR, BARBEE: Is that going to affect the project

1 or the Houlihan boat rent property?

2 MS. SMITH: Yes. It is. I don't want to delay
3 anything, I just want to protect us. How about --

4 MR, BARBEE: I think we're protected. If they
5 move it, they said they will fix it at no cost.

6 MS. SMITH: You know, there has been a light over
7 the issues.

8 MR. DAVIS: Can we have Robert Drew with CWS come
9 up?

10 THE MODERATOR: Where is this at?

11 MR. DREW: Robert Drew with Clearwater Solutions.

12 THE MODERATOR: Robert, where is this located?

13 MR. DREW: It's the Houlihan bridge. We have a
14 two inch water line. You have a two inch water line
15 that runs down Coastal Highway. It's just the city
16 manager said it's not supposed in conflict. I would
17 recommend we go ahead and approve it with the condition
18 you can add that provision and that way we go ahead and
19 get it on because they are waiting on this.

20 MS. SMITH: Okay.

21 MR. DREW: So that would be my recommendation.

22 THE MODERATOR: Robert, quick question: What's
23 the timeline on this? When are they going to be
24 complete with the Houlihan's project period?

25 MR. DREW: When you talk to the contractor, the

1 design build contractor, you kind of get different
2 answers and because it's a design build, it can be
3 pieced in differently than a typical design field
4 project. So I'm hearing maybe this summer we might see
5 something but also possibly this fall. So I can't
6 pinpoint the DOT on that. I apologize that I just
7 don't know.

8 NR, BARBEE: Once you do would you mind updating
9 the Council on it?

10 MR. DREW: Oh, absolutely.

11 MR. BARBEE: The ETA?

12 MR. DREW: I'm waiting on a callback so I'll find
13 out if I can get a more definitive answer.

14 NR, BARBEE: Thank you.

15 THE MODERATOR: All right. Ms. Smith, do you want
16 to --

17 MS. SMITH: Yes. I make a motion that we approve
18 this no cost design build memorandum with the caveat
19 that we approach the DOT and ask to be, that Port
20 Wentworth to be other insured on the CIO lot.

21 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody make a second on
22 that.

23 MR. BRIGHT: I second.

24 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

25

1 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
2 motion.)

3 THE MODERATOR: Motion passes. Okay. Item C,
4 purchase replacement of oxygen system for Novare USA
5 Corp. for the wastewater treatment facility.

6 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. CWS has requested that the
7 oxygen system at the wastewater treatment plant has
8 been down for some time. We're using portable oxygen
9 tanks to put into the treatment before they release it
10 and this system needs to be replaced and this is a sole
11 source purchase through Novare for our facility and the
12 cost is 29,679. It is very necessary.

13 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anyone want to make a
14 motion or anybody have any questions?

15 MR. JONES: I make a motion to approve.

16 NR, BARBEE: I second it.

17 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

18 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
19 motion.)

20 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Item D,
21 agreement for mutual aid for 165th Fire Department.

22 MR. DAVIS: Before the chief comes up, I just want
23 to let everyone know I apologize I put his e-mail in
24 the spot of the contract and in the agenda packet and I
25 apologize for that. There is an actual agreement but

1 hopefully after we get a clerk, we'll have less
2 clerical errors.

3 THE CHIEF: And, actually, you have actually seen
4 this same exact agreement last year.

5 MR, DAVIS: Yep.

6 THE CHIEF: Nothing has changed really. Every
7 time they have had a chain of command they want a new
8 agreement. You know, it's as simple as if they need
9 our help, we go, if we need their help, they help.
10 There is no cost to anybody. It's a great, you know,
11 my recommendation we go forward with this.

12 THE MODERATOR: We've been doing this a long time;
13 right?

14 THE CHIEF: Yes. Nothing changed.

15 THE MODERATOR: Does anyone want to make a motion?

16 MS. NELSON: I make a motion that we approve the
17 agreement for the mutual aid for the 165th Fire
18 Department.

19 MR. JONES: I'll second.

20 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

21 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
22 motion.)

23 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Before we get
24 to E I want to do one thing right here if y'all allow
25 me. Anderson and Haminger, could y'all come up to the

1 podium? I just wanted to commend y'all on a great job
2 during the St. Patrick's Day outing that y'all had,
3 eight-hundred-something tickets, 26 drug cases, 13
4 DUI's, several, 11 guns recovered. Y'all did a great
5 job. I appreciate every one of you. Thank you very
6 much. May have saved some lives.

7 All right. We're at item E, site plan review
8 application submitted by Paul Lamar -- Paul Learner,
9 PIN No. 7, dash, 0906, dash, 04, dash, 091 and 7, dash,
10 0906, dash, 04, dash, 063, Mulberry Boulevard extension
11 for a specific site plan, site plan to extend Mulberry
12 Boulevard in the MPO master plan overlay zoning
13 district. The public hearing is now open.

14 MR. PITMAN: Good evening, Council. My name is
15 Ray Pitman and I'm with Pitman Engineering and I'm
16 representing Bald Eagle Partners on the extension of
17 the Mulberry Road itself, which is about 5,000 feet
18 long. I do have a PDF that actually shows the location
19 of this. This is Rice Hope Plantation and, again, it's
20 simply the extension of a road that exists and it's
21 about 1,000 feet.

22 THE MODERATOR: Does anyone have any questions?

23 MR. PITMAN: It's kind of hard to see in this
24 particular exhibit but I have a mouse. There you go.
25 Exactly where the black streak is this is showing where

1 the extension of the roadway actually goes from and to
2 and everything to the south and north on that
3 particular exhibit is the master plan community for the
4 remaining portion of Rice Hope Plantation, so it's just
5 a road to serve the master plan for Rice Hope.

6 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Benton, you had a question?

7 MS. BENTON: Yes. Georgia Benton, 135 Saussy
8 Road. Question: My concern is how are we going to
9 approve plans with a master plan overlay if we never
10 did send into the state the new master plan for the new
11 changes?

12 MS. SMITH: If you --

13 MS. BENTON: Now, according to the --

14 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Benton --

15 NR, BARBEE: We're talking about a street map.

16 MS. BENTON: It does not matter.

17 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

18 MS. BENTON: It says master plan.

19 THE MODERATOR: He's talking about master plan for
20 what he's building.

21 MS. BENTON: It does not matter. He's still
22 saying master plan overlay. It does not matter. How
23 can we approve anything pertaining to any master plan
24 overlay? If the state has now given us consent on the
25 one we're supposed to have send in in July and holding

1 up funds that we're supposed to have. That doesn't
2 state. It does not matter. You're still looking at
3 what's supposed to be the new plan.

4 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Ms. Benton, thank you very
5 much.

6 MS. BENTON: And, excuse me, it got a lawyer there
7 and he ought to be able to straighten it out.

8 THE MODERATOR: Yes. I'm sure he's working on
9 that.

10 MS. SMITH: I'm sorry, sir, what is your name?

11 MR. PITMAN: My name is Ray pitman and, as a
12 matter of fact, this master plan was originally
13 approved by the state for every development that has
14 more than 200 units you have to submit to the state
15 through a development of regional impact and that
16 addresses water, sewer, traffic, et cetera. It was
17 submitted to the state as the HUD and it was also
18 approved by the state.

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Pitman.

20 MR. PITMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. WARNER: Could I just say very briefly?

22 THE MODERATOR: Sir, would you state your name?

23 MR. WARNER: Sure. Paul Warner, 120 Burch Circle,
24 I'm with Bald Eagle Partners. This is the master plan
25 that was approved approximately 15 years ago. The road

1 extension the right here, in yellow it's here, it's
2 black on the previous computer screen that my engineer,
3 Ray Pitman, just showed it. It hasn't changed at all,
4 not at all.

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

6 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS. NELSON: Attorney Robichaux, is what
8 Ms. Benton speaking about and what he's talking about
9 in the overlay plan are we talking about the old
10 overlay not the new one?

11 MR. WARNER: I'm not aware of any new overlay.

12 MS. SMITH: I think she was referring to the
13 comprehensive plan --

14 MR. BARBEE: She's talking about the comprehensive
15 plan.

16 MS. SMITH: And this is a master plan overlay for
17 the is Rice Hope Community Group.

18 THE MODERATOR: Is that what you needed?

19 MS. NELSON: Yes.

20 THE MODERATOR: Is there anybody else? You
21 through Ms. Smith and everybody? This public hearing
22 is now closed. Anyone want to make a motion?

23 NR, BARBEE: I make the motion that we approve
24 this extension of this road that already exists.

25 THE MODERATOR: Do I get a second on that?

1 MR. BRIGHT: Second.

2 MS. NELSON: Second.

3 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

4 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
5 motion.)

6 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. You got more?
7 Okay. Item F, subdivision application submitted by
8 Lamar Mercer, P.E., Thomas And Hutton Engineering,
9 Incorporated on behalf of BEP Rice Hope, LLC for PIN
10 Number 7, dash, 0906, dash, 04, dash, 069, 100 Lakeside
11 Boulevard located in the MPO master plan overlay zoning
12 district for the final plat of a major subdivision
13 Parkside phase 1-D, dash, 2 for the purpose of single
14 family homes. The public hearing is now open.

15 MR. MERCER: Good evening, Mayor Norton and
16 Council. I'm Lamar Mercer with Thomas And Hutton
17 Engineering Company. I'm here tonight on behalf our
18 client, BEP Rice Hope, LLC requesting your final
19 approval for a final plat. All construction is
20 completed for the 15 lots approximately three acre area
21 and all bonds have been submitted and approved by the
22 city. I'll be glad to address any questions now that
23 you have.

24 MS. SMITH: Mr. Mercer, this is isn't a master
25 plan overlay; correct?

1 MR. MERCER: It is. It is part of the Rice Hope
2 Development also.

3 NR, BARBEE: Part of the same one that you just
4 showed you on map and approved?

5 MR. MERCER: That is correct. We initially
6 approved in 2004.

7 NR, BARBEE: Four?

8 MR. MERCER: That's correct.

9 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Barbee, we've got all the
10 drainage problems right there fixed?

11 MR. MERCER: I'm sorry?

12 THE MODERATOR: The drainage problems you were
13 having back in the back of the area back there?

14 MR. MERCER: To the north of this? Yes. This is
15 complete.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you. Totally
17 different. Anybody else have any questions? All right
18 this public hearing is now closed.

19 MR. MERCER: Mayor, I'm sorry, may I? We do have
20 copies of the plat here tonight we'll leave with you
21 for everybody to sign.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Yeah. He's got them.

23 MR. DAVIS: I've got them.

24 MR. MERCER: You have all the copies you need?
25 Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Can I get someone to make a
2 motion?

3 MR. JONES: I make a motion to approve.

4 MR. BARBEE: I second that.

5 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

6 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
7 motion.)

8 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. All right.
9 Item G, subdivision application submitted by Jessica
10 Vick Roberts Civil Engineering, LLC on behalf of
11 Landmark 24 Homes of Savannah, LLC for PIN Number 7,
12 dash, 0906, dash, 01, dash, 031, Miller Park Circle
13 located in a PRM, plan residential multifamily zoning
14 district for a preliminary plat of a major subdivision
15 Rice Creek tract C-2 phase five for the purpose of
16 single family homes. This public is now open.

17 MS. VICK: Good evening. I'm Jessica Vick with
18 Robert Civil Engineering. I'm here on behalf of
19 Landmark 24, as Mayor Norton told you. I will answer
20 any questions and request approval of our subdivision.

21 THE MODERATOR: Anybody have any questions? Okay.
22 This public is hearing is now closed. Would someone
23 like to make a motion?

24 NR, BARBEE: I make the motion to approve.

25 MS. SMITH: I second.

1 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

2 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
3 motion.)

4 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Thank you very
5 much. All right. Item H, subdivision application
6 submitted by Jessica Vick, Robert Civil Engineering,
7 LLC on behalf of Landmark 24 Homes of Savannah, LLC for
8 PIN Number 7, dash, 0906, dash, 01, dash, 031, Miller
9 Park Circle, located in a PRM, planned residential
10 multifamily, zoning district for a preliminary plat for
11 major subdivision, Rice Creek Tract C-1 phase six for
12 the purpose of single family homes. The public hearing
13 is now open.

14 MS. VICK: Jessica Vick with Robert Civil
15 Engineering. Do you have any questions?

16 THE MODERATOR: Chris wants to speak. Come on up,
17 Chris.

18 MR. HANKS: Good afternoon. I'll keep it short
19 this time, I promise. But I do have a question
20 regarding the building of neighborhoods something that
21 maybe the City Council will consider. I'm not sure if
22 this is the right venue to address this but in May
23 31st, 2019 we had our most recent fire death. I'm very
24 involved with fire safety. My degree is in emergency
25 management and in August 10, 2020 we had a pretty major

1 house fire in my neighborhood, damaged two other homes
2 and I think this because of the wind and some other
3 issues going on that's what caused the damage.

4 Would the Council be willing to look at the lot
5 sizes. As I go through these neighborhoods and even my
6 own neighborhood my kids can use tin can phones to talk
7 to their neighbors if they wanted to. In the grand
8 scheme of thing, yes, we're getting more people in,
9 more taxpayers but it also comes at a risk of public
10 safety.

11 I'm not only for the residents but for the
12 personnel responding and their neighbors. I do have
13 something that somebody may or may not have heard of
14 called SPA-13-R, which is the sprinkler systems for
15 home fire protection. New builds usually cost around
16 \$1.35 a square foot to put in and a retro fit is
17 usually two to \$7 to put in these fire extinguishers or
18 fire sprinklers.

19 These sprinklers are shown to put an 80 percent
20 reduction of fire deaths in neighborhoods and I think
21 by considering this into our future plans with large
22 neighborhoods, single family dwelling homes that we can
23 either prevent one fire death or we can prevent this
24 spreading to neighbors houses and can prevent our,
25 protect our public safety employees.

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Chris. Anybody else?

2 MR. HICKS: Hubert Hicks, 145 Monteith Road.

3 You're doing all this building and shutting down a
4 school. You're going to bring in a lot of people in
5 here with kids. You need to either enlarge the school
6 in Port Wentworth to house more kids. It's something
7 need to be done about that.

8 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

9 MR. HICKS: You just can't put kids and take them
10 out of the neighborhood and not supply a school for
11 them to go to. So can you guys put your heads together
12 and work together? Stop the fussing and fighting so
13 like back in the days in Monteith our ancestors taught
14 kids to get along and take care of each other and work
15 together. Our parents worked together to keep us
16 together. Make this one city for our kids; okay?

17 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, sir. All right. Go
18 ahead, Mark. You got the floor, Mark Stephens.

19 MR. STEPHENS: Well, regarding the -- you know,
20 when we suggest, I'm thinking perhaps we ought to take
21 a day so we can take a look at what he is proposing to
22 see how we can incorporate that into our city.

23 MS. SMITH: Are you talking about the sprinklers
24 or the lot size now?

25 MR. STEPHENS: Actually take a look at both of

1 them.

2 MS. SMITH: Okay. Because just the only thing is
3 I think there are unforeseen consequences if we
4 mandated expanded lot sizes because our homes may no
5 longer be affordable and we're a very affordable
6 community and that does worry me a bit. I love the
7 idea of sprinkler, though.

8 THE MODERATOR: I do, too.

9 MR. STEPHENS: Well, I mean, it doesn't -- it
10 shouldn't cost anything to take a look at it. I mean,
11 even if we decide not to go with it, it's just, hey,
12 you know, let's take a look at it and see if perhaps it
13 can help us in the long run. If it's something that's
14 not feasible, we can put it aside and move on.

15 MS. SMITH: Yeah.

16 THE CHIEF: I agree with Mr. Hicks, we go back
17 away. The sprinkler systems are a good thing from a
18 firefighter's standpoint; however, it's illegal in the
19 state of Georgia to mandate people. You cannot put an
20 ordinance in requiring that except for a very specific
21 circumstances that you're probably not going fine. I
22 agree with him 100 percent. I would love it. If I
23 could, I would put one in my house; unfortunately, we
24 cannot put those in place.

25 MS. SMITH: How about during the build process?

1 THE CHIEF: You cannot require it, I mean, in
2 residential, you know, just a single family you cannot
3 require it. It's just not possible. I agree like
4 separation is great. I mean, ten foot is not enough.

5 THE MODERATOR: Yeah.

6 THE CHIEF: You know, I agree 100 percent;
7 however, that's just the facts, so...

8 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

9 THE CHIEF: Okay.

10 THE MODERATOR: Go ahead, Mr. Hall.

11 MR. HALL: They are increasing the size of Rice
12 Creek tremendously according to what I'm reading here.
13 Is there going to be a third entrance?

14 THE MODERATOR: Sir, I think he's talking about
15 Rice Hope.

16 MR. HALL: This is Rice Creek.

17 THE MODERATOR: I thought he was talking about
18 Rice Creek. Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Hall.

19 MR. HALL: They said they want to put in two major
20 subdivisions behind Rice Creek. The two entrances you
21 got now are barely sufficient for what's there. Is
22 there going to be a third entrance exit plan for that
23 area? I think it would only assist the people living
24 there so that everybody doesn't get super frustrated
25 coming in and out of that location.

1 MS. NELSON: And I would echo, sir, and I
2 appreciate your comments because I brought that up
3 frequently that we needed a new entrance, we also need
4 more stoplights in this community so I definitely echo
5 with your sentiments. Thank you.

6 MR. HALL: Thank you.

7 THE MODERATOR: Mr. Vick, do you have any
8 information on another road or would it be the same
9 roads?

10 MR. VICK: So Rice Creek is previously pre-master
11 plan so the entrance, exits already there, there is
12 already houses so these 25 lots are going in the very
13 back, so this is just no new place for us to put an
14 additional entrance with basics.

15 THE MODERATOR: Okay. All right. Thank you,
16 ma'am.

17 MS. SMITH: We have another speaker.

18 MS. HESTER: Regarding this sprinkler system in a
19 house, is it too much to ask a developer and the seller
20 of these homes to at least offer it as an option for
21 potential clients to put these things in their homes?
22 I understand you can't mandate it and I respect that;
23 however, is this a common practice that these
24 developers, the city could ask that they at least offer
25 it as part of the sales package to put it in or not put

1 it in. Is that something y'all could do?

2 MS. SMITH: Yeah. That's interesting we have a
3 response there.

4 THE MODERATOR: All right. Lance.

5 MR. LANCE: I'll go to a meeting and help you whet
6 that. That's a great idea just we cannot mandate it
7 but we can certainly suggest, hey, you know, what's the
8 cost? It's minimal. I just read it's repealed last
9 year by developers, so but I'll help you with that
10 just...

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Lance. Anyone else?
12 All right. This public hearing is now closed. Would
13 someone like to make a motion?

14 NR, BARBEE: I make a motion we approve it.

15 THE MODERATOR: Oh, I'm sorry, Rufus, we're okay.
16 Second?

17 MS. SMITH: I second it.

18 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

19 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
20 motion.)

21 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Okay.
22 Resolution proclamation item A, a resolution of the
23 Mayor and City Council of the city of Port Wentworth to
24 amend the zoning ordinance regarding the approval of
25 final plats second reading.

1 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Mayor, this has already been
2 before the Council and had a public hearing on this.
3 This is changing that the final plat series is to kind
4 of help with the transition. The final plat has
5 already been before Council twice and before planning
6 and zoning twice. The administrative check off for the
7 final approval being administrative task is really just
8 a checkoff to make sure all the different things that
9 were previously approved that they were done and other
10 cities do this and it's we recommend approval by
11 Council.

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Someone want to make a
13 motion?

14 MS. SMITH: I move that we approve this resolution
15 to make it an administrative process.

16 NR, BARBEE: I second it.

17 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

18 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
19 motion.)

20 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Item B,
21 resolution to support retreat and feasibility study.

22 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. As we previously spoke
23 privately today that we have yourself and all six
24 Council members have agreed to do the retreat and, you
25 know, I've had verbal commitment to the feasibility

1 study as well, located April the 19th for the retreat
2 in St. Simons and GMA has confirmed that they would
3 attend and host this retreat to do some training for
4 all of Council and basically this is a resolution to do
5 that and then the feasibility study through the Carl
6 Vinson Institute to look at some options and iterations
7 as previously discussed.

8 So with the either keeping the city, dividing the
9 city, moving to different iterations of the line to
10 start a discussion and have empirical data and numbers
11 to make those decisions with.

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anyone else? All right.
13 Someone want make a motion? Okay. Rufus, go ahead.

14 MR. BRIGHT: Mr. Davis, are we going to get credit
15 of new Council for the retreat because I asked that
16 question before.

17 NR, BARBEE: Yes. We have to contact GMA. They
18 will give you like a certificate.

19 MR. BRIGHT: No. I'm talking about for the
20 retreat.

21 NR, BARBEE: Yes. It's like three credit hours.

22 MR. BRIGHT: Okay.

23 MR. DAVIS: It is official training. Yes, sir.

24 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anyone want to make a
25 motion?

1 MS. SMITH: I'll move that we approve our
2 resolution to support the retreat as stated and a
3 motion that we support the feasibility study of Carl
4 Vinson Institute with the caveat at that least two
5 iterations of city boundaries are investigated to
6 splitting the I-95 and splitting the city at the old
7 boundaries pre-annexation.

8 MR. JONES: I'll second that.

9 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

10 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
11 motion.)

12 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Item C,
13 resolution to transmit comprehensive plan.

14 MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir. Mr. Mayor, the Council
15 approved the comp plan initial, initially back in July.
16 There was an additional administrative step that was
17 not taken and basically when we passed it previously,
18 it was submitted to CRC and it was reviewed by CRC and
19 some of the original UCA staff to make sure that it
20 complied with all the state rules and regulations,
21 which it did, but the final step is to pass a
22 transmittal resolution for formal adoption by the state
23 and that step did not happen and that's why we're
24 requesting it tonight.

25 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Any discussion?

1 MS. SMITH: Mr. City manager, and you're brand new
2 here so I'm in no asking, saying you did anything. I
3 don't know where that comprehensive plan is on the
4 website was the old one and there is not a new one in
5 the agenda packet so I actually haven't seen the new
6 revised comprehensive plan, the website is the old one
7 so I'm just not comfortable because this will come back
8 to haunt me if there is something wrong with this
9 comprehensive plan and they said, Councilman Smith, you
10 voted to transmit it to the state. I don't -- I can't
11 do that blindly, so is there a way for us to see that?

12 MR. DAVIS: Right now, no. But it has passed
13 Council. It was by the previous Council obviously
14 and --

15 NR, BARBEE: In 2021.

16 MS. SMITH: No. I'm saying I'm hesitant to vote
17 on it.

18 NR, BARBEE: You can recuse yourself if you would
19 like.

20 MS. SMITH: I just put no. I may vote. Yeah.
21 I'm just not comfortable approving something I haven't
22 seen. That's all. And I do understand that another
23 Council approved it already.

24 MR. JONES: Mr. City Attorney, is this --

25 NR, BARBEE: Three or four times.

1 MR. JONES: Is this such a big thing we got to
2 have? We couldn't wait to another month to allow her
3 to see it?

4 UNKNOWN MALE: If I could answer that, Councilman
5 Jones. Right now we are not in compliance with BCA and
6 not eligible.

7 THE MODERATOR: We need to get this passed.

8 MR. JONES: Exactly. I thought. I was asking a
9 question.

10 MS. SMITH: Public comment.

11 THE MODERATOR: Public comment. Okay. I didn't
12 see you, Ms. Hester. Sorry about that.

13 MS. HESTER: Okay. Before you vote on this.

14 MS. SMITH: I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

15 MS. HESTER: Before you vote on this just prove
16 it. It needs to be stated.

17 THE MODERATOR: We really don't -- Mr. Barbee just
18 brought to my attention we really don't have no public
19 comments because we voted on this back in --

20 MS. HESTER: All right. Well, there are many,
21 many, many, many more square feet of warehouses that
22 are going to be approved --

23 THE MODERATOR: Ms. Hester.

24 MS. HESTER: -- up here on these 400 acres that
25 the public needs to be made aware of?

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Ms. Hester. Have a
2 good day.

3 UNKNOWN FEMALE: And I don't understand what he
4 was saying, Mr. Mayor Pro Tem Barbee about the Council
5 has already approved this but I remember being a part
6 of the comprehensive plan and I do not remember Council
7 coming and I do not remember having very much input, if
8 any.

9 I don't see Mr. Murray. Oh, Mr. Murray from the
10 community. Mr. Murray was present, I was present but
11 there was not a big push for the community to have big
12 input. I remember the -- Ms. Trisha put something out
13 on their website trying to get it out, the information
14 out for people to read and have a part and have a say
15 in how the area was going to change but those two
16 meetings we had, we didn't have, if any, and I could be
17 mistaken. Mr. Murray, you're welcome to correct me but
18 we did not have --

19 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anyone want to make a
20 motion?

21 NR, BARBEE: I make a motion that we approve it.

22 THE MODERATOR: Is there a second?

23 MR. BRIGHT: Second.

24 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

25 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the

1 motion.)

2 THE MODERATOR: Opposed?

3 MS. SMITH: Nay.

4 MS. NELSON: Nay.

5 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. All right. We
6 need to adjourn to executive session. Would someone
7 make a motion to adjourn?

8 MS. SMITH: I make a motion to adjourn to
9 executive session.

10 NR, BARBEE: Second.

11 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

12 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
13 motion.)

14 (The council members adjourned for their executive
15 session.)

16 MR. BARBEE: I'd like to make a motion that we
17 reconvene our regular City Council meeting for March
18 24th, 2022.

19 THE MODERATOR: Can I get a second on that?

20 MR. BRIGHT: Second.

21 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

22 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
23 motion.)

24 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes.

25 MR. BARBEE: I also would make a motion that we

1 hire the recommendation of city clerk by our city
2 manager, Steve Davis.

3 MS. SMITH: Second.

4 THE MODERATOR: All in favor?

5 (Thereupon, City Council members voted on the
6 motion.)

7 THE MODERATOR: The motion passes. Would someone
8 make a motion to adjourn?

9 MR. BRIGHT: I make a motion to adjourn.

10 MR. BARBEE: Oh, I think remember it was partial
11 public comments and at the end was other public
12 comments?

13 MS. SMITH: No.

14 MR. BARBEE: No?

15 THE MODERATOR: We're done.

16 MR. CURRY: Say that again now because my
17 understanding was excluding the ending --

18 THE MODERATOR: Mister, your name was not on that
19 list.

20 MR. CURRY: You're right because she motioned to
21 change it. Y'all had already taken up the paper so
22 I --

23 THE MODERATOR: So --

24 MR. CURRY: But I assumed that I would still have
25 that opportunity because it's still on the agenda.

1 MR. DAVIS: But they moved it up.

2 MR. JONES: They changed it. Go ahead, if
3 everybody is okay, let him speak.

4 MS. SMITH: Yeah.

5 MR. CURRY: All right. James Curry --

6 THE MODERATOR: We can't keep doing this.

7 MR. CURRY: I know it. James Curry, I'm a former
8 councilman here. I don't know, I think councilman
9 Jones on Council then when I came in. I was the first
10 person of color on Council. Something happened during
11 that time because then Port Wentworth was at large city
12 all the way. There was no districts.

13 THE MODERATOR: Top six footers.

14 MR. CURRY: Right. There was no districts so
15 Ms. Della Steel asked Regina Thomas to come and hear us
16 and we asked for districts because the northside said
17 that they weren't being represented and I got calls
18 from Lester Jackson, the Justice Department asking me
19 questions about districts.

20 Regina Thomas explained to the people downtown
21 before this happened that she was doing it for the
22 city. Because at that time the city was at large and
23 no one perceived at that time that population would be
24 on this side, which meant that everybody at large would
25 be from the northside but she did the city a favor

1 because a lot of people kicked against it and she
2 explained to y'all that because you have districts
3 you'll always have representation downtown and you'll
4 always have representation on the northside.

5 So all the years I was on Council, that time it
6 was only two seats, me and Mike Howard. We didn't get
7 everything we wanted. We were gracious to get those
8 things that we did get passed but I saw all this ruckus
9 on the news about splitting cities and I remember
10 things that I had to go through but I still worked with
11 everybody else.

12 That is not called for. There is a saying that
13 it's not funny when the rabbit has the gun and what
14 happened was true. Ms. Thomas did what she did to
15 protect the city and now we're talking about tearing it
16 up because it's not falling in the hands of the way it
17 was before. Well, that's why she was preparing you for
18 that because she knew you didn't see it but she knew it
19 was going to happen.

20 THE MODERATOR: All right. Mr. Curry, your time
21 is up.

22 MR. CURRY: All right.

23 MR. DAVIS: He wants to register his vote as yes
24 for Mark Stephens.

25 MR. BARBEE: I make a motion that we adjourn.

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MR. JONES: Second.
THE MODERATOR: Meeting adjourned.
(City Council meeting concluded at 8:55 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E .

STATE OF GEORGIA:

COUNTY OF CHATHAM:

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was taken down, as stated in the caption, and the proceeding thereto was reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing pages 1 through 57 represent a true, complete, and correct transcript of the proceeding, and I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the proceeding; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

This, the 27th day of April, 2022.

Elise M. Napier, CCR-2492

1 COURT REPORTER DISCLOSURE

2 Pursuant to Article 8.B. of the Rules and Regulations
3 of the Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council of
4 Georgia which states: "Each court reporter shall tender a
5 disclosure form at the time of the taking of the deposition
6 stating the arrangements made for the reporting services of
7 the certified court reporter, by the certified court
8 reporter, the court reporter's employer, or the referral
9 source for the proceeding, with any party to the litigation,
10 counsel to the parties or other entity. Such form shall be
11 attached to the deposition transcript," I make the following
12 disclosure:

13 I am a Georgia Certified Court Reporter. I am here
14 with no contract/agreement to provide reporting services
15 with any party to the case, any counsel in the case, or any
16 reporter or reporting agency from whom a referral might have
17 been made to cover this deposition. I will charge the usual
18 and customary rates to all parties in the case, and a
19 financial discount will not be given to any party to this
20 proceeding.

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23
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