

JUNE 8, 2010

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA

PRESENT Mayor Willie Adams, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Pike
City Commissioners: Jon Howard, Dorothy Hubbard, Roger Marietta
Bob Langstaff, Jr., and Tommie Postell
City Manager: Alfred D. Lott
City Attorney: C. Nathan Davis

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Clerk read the call as follows:

June 4, 2010

Mayor and Board of City Commissioners
P.O. Box 447
Albany, Georgia

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

There will be a special called City Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., in room 120 of the Government Center Building located at 222 Pine Ave., Albany, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and/or approve the following:

1. SPLOST VI
2. Poverty Analysis
3. Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

Sincerely,

Alfred D. Lott
City Manager

/s/ Willie Adams, Jr.
MAYOR WILLIE ADAMS, JR.

/s/ Jon Howard
JON HOWARD, WARD I
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/ Dorothy B. Hubbard
DOROTHY HUBBARD, WARD II
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/ Christopher Pike
CHRISTOPHER PIKE, WARD III
MAYOR PRO TEM

/s/ Roger Marietta
ROGER MARIETTA, WARD IV
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via mail 6/4/10
BOB LANGSTAFF, JR., WARD V
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via mail 6/4/10
TOMMIE POSTELL, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

SPLOST VI UPDATE

James Taylor, Asst. City Manager, distributed the City Manager's recommendation and additional information pertaining to SPLOST VI (copy on file). He explained that the update that was distributed was due to a request from Commissioner Howard to add an aquatic facility to C. W. Heath Park with an estimated cost of \$1.0 million. Mr. Lott explained the process of the project assembly which was a mission of the staff of City Engineering. He advised that his list reflects the critical needs of the city, i.e., street paving, the air terminal, etc., as noted. Continuing with his presentation, Mr. Taylor discussed the projects, advising that the focus is on infrastructure, sustaining the ISO rating within the Fire Department, APD requirements, and to improve existing service delivery systems. He stated that the list represents approximately \$53.2 million of an

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estimated \$60,745,842 million SPLOST VI revenue projection over a six-year period of time. He added that approximately \$7.5 million of that amount is unassigned.

Mayor Adams asked for clarification on the Arena Dimmer. Wes Smith, Asst. City Manager, advised that this pertains to primary lighting at the Civic Center. Mayor Adams asked about the item Commissioner Howard referenced pertaining to a pool at CW Heath Park. Mr. Taylor stated that it will cost between \$800,000-1.0 million for a small, six-eight lane pool including a mini-water slide and locker rooms. In reply to Mayor Adams, Commissioner Howard stated that the estimate was obtained from the Recreation Department. Mayor Adams asked if this project fits in with the Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Lott advised that this is something new and is an addition to the Master Plan.

Commissioner Postell asked if Commissioners will be able to add projects. Mr. Lott explained that the list is his recommendation; the Commission can add/delete projects to his recommendation. He reminded the Commission that \$7.5 million is unassigned and available. Mr. Taylor explained that he is adding Commissioner Howard's project to attachment three, which is the entire list of all requests and not to the City Manager's list.

Mayor Adams asked about Commissioner Howard's project being added to the \$7.0 million unencumbered funds. Referring to the third attachment, Mr. Lott explained that people submitted ideas and requests which totaled \$190.0 million worth of proposed projects. Mayor Adams commented that the other Commissioners should have been afforded the same opportunity to submit projects as Commissioner Howard. Mr. Lott explained that there is a list of his recommendations along with a list from people all over town; Commissioner Howard's project was added to the overall list and is not on his recommended list. He explained that Commissioner Howard's action caused no disadvantage to the other Commissioners and that Mr. Taylor was letting the Commission know that that particular list now has another project added to it. Commissioner Postell suggested that nothing should be added until the entire Commission has had an opportunity to review. Mr. Taylor apologized for creating a misunderstanding.

Commissioner Marietta questioned the figures on the City Manager's list because of the high numbers of some. He commented on the Heritage House and the proposal submitted to ADICA to use funds with a bid being submitted by Sandy Hillsman to mitigate the asbestos and turn the entire structure to dirt with a cost of less than \$900,000; therefore, he said he feels the Heritage House demolition is high and suggested that the City not over commit. In reply to Mayor Adams, Mr. Lott stated that the \$1.5 million does not include purchase of the property. Mr. Taylor advised that Mr. Hillsman did not submit his proposal to ADICA, but rather to the property owner. In response to Commissioner Marietta on IT Technology, John Antoniewicz, IT Director, explained that IT is separate from the 911 technology; IT supports the City and County, etc., including the telephone system. Commissioner Marietta suggested that this could be a County project and asked why the City should pick up the entire tab on this project. Mr. Antoniewicz explained that his department provides support to both the city and county equally, both entities interact and are connected, therefore, it is difficult to separate which part of a switch is connected to either the City/County. In reply to Commissioner Marietta, Mr. Antoniewicz stated that he submitted the information only to the City. Mr. Lott interjected that this amount can be decreased by 42% and that the County can be asked to contribute this percentage. Commissioner Marietta mentioned the state's \$7 million for the Broad Avenue Bridge. Bruce Maples, Engineering Director, discussed the recent stakeholder's meeting in which 10-11 designs were submitted for consideration, along with cost estimations. He advised that based on the stakeholders meeting, the cost of the favored design is \$11.0 million; \$7.0 million has been allocated leaving \$4.0 million of unknown funding. He explained that the \$4.0 million is the shortfall between the \$11.0 million and \$7.0 million adding that at the last minute, WG&L reported it had \$1.3 million to relocate utilities, with that amount being put in along with money for AT&T's fiber lines; the \$7.0 million comes from leaving all those monies in there to ensure the funding was available to accomplish this task because of the bridge's priority as a project.

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Mayor Adams stated that it is his understanding that they will have to tunnel under the river to move the utilities and asked if this is included in that figure. Mr. Maples replied in the affirmative. Mayor Adams asked the cost. Mr. Maples stated that the \$1.3 million covers the water and gas main along with the boring.

In response to Commissioner Postell, Mr. Maples explained DOT has \$7.0 million for the bridge, unless another funding source is found for the \$4.0 million, this provides funding to complete the project. Commissioner Postell suggested proceeding with the Broad Avenue project adding that he supports restructuring the bridge.

Commissioner Hubbard expressed appreciation to the other Commissioners for standing up for the Broad Avenue Bridge. She asked if inflation was considered in the total cost. Mr. Taylor advised that the amounts listed are in current year dollars. Commissioner Hubbard expressed concern about infrastructure, alley paving, and tree roots growing into the curb and gutters and asked whether or not there is enough money to accommodate this.

Mayor Adams stated that Recreation has taken on responsibility for trees. Phil Roberson, Public Works Director, stated that the \$5.0 million will cover approximately 40 miles to resurface and correct faults in the pavement. Mr. Lott added that there is also \$1.0 million for restructuring. Mr. Roberson agreed, adding that streets were noted that have infrastructure issues. Commissioner Hubbard asked the percentage to take care of streets for repaving/resurfacing. Mr. Roberson stated that this is the typical amount that they put in every five years for resurfacing and reconstruction which will handle approximately 20% and should be adequate to handle what is needed. Commissioner Hubbard asked if Palmyra is included; Mr. Roberson replied in the affirmative, adding that it is the sidewalks.

Mentioning the \$3.0 million for the C&D Landfill, Commissioner Howard questioned if it is needed. Mr. Roberson explained that by having its own inert landfill, the City avoids a cost of approximately \$600,000/year. Prior to 1997, the City had to haul all that material to Dougherty County's landfill; the City's landfill is at the end of its lifespan with about 12 months left. He said we will need a new landfill or will have to go back with Dougherty County. Commissioner Howard commented on said being inundated with calls from citizens wanting to know when their alley will be paved. He said he feels that the public will vote for the SPLOST because they want their alley paved and the City should not reduce it, but maintain a minimum cost to pave alleys. He asked Mr. Lott the projected revenue. Mr. Lott replied approximately \$61.0 million. In reply to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Taylor advised that the overall total is approximately \$97.0 million. Commissioner Howard asked about the \$7.5 million that is uncommitted. Mr. Lott stated that the Commission can use this at their discretion. Commissioner Howard mentioned the form that was distributed some months back regarding SPLOST projects and discussed his reasons for requesting an update to CW Heath Park adding that the park is in Commissioner Hubbard's ward, but it abuts his ward and the benefit can be shared by both wards.

Mayor Adams suggested keeping infrastructure as the number one priority.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike asked if the federal government funds buses in relation to bus replacements. Mr. Taylor stated that the City has matching funds. In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Pike, Lee Burner, Transit Director, stated that the \$800,000 is for the match for two buses costing roughly \$350/400,000 each. Commissioner Langstaff asked the cost of the bus. Mr. Burner stated approximately \$350/375,000. Commissioner Langstaff asked if the \$800,000 would purchase two buses. Mr. Burner explained that what is budgeted is what is requested from FTA. Commissioner Langstaff asked if the amount should be \$80,000 instead of \$800,000. Mr. Taylor stated that we do not always get the funds that are requested. Mr. Burner stated that the entire amount is put in to ensure funding for the buses.

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In reply to Commissioner Langstaff, Mr. Lott clarified the two columns listed, explaining that there is a mission failure if the item in the left column is not done; the column on the right contains secondary priorities. Commissioner Langstaff asked who assigned priority numbers on the big 'wish list'. Mr. Taylor stated that those submitting projects, department heads and other agencies were expected to justify a project's priority. Commissioner Langstaff asked if there were any changes from priority one to two. Mr. Taylor stated that he can supply this information. Commissioner Langstaff asked if the list can be emailed in a spreadsheet; Mr. Taylor replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Langstaff suggested a facilitator to get through the list to make the best informed decision so that there could be some sort of agreement among the Commission. He noted the list with all the requests (\$190.0 million) and, commenting on the items that were requested, he asked why #1 items were not on the list – were they demoted to a #2 or for whatever reason i.e., stair noising at the Civic Center, 3rd Avenue extension to the river, etc. He asked for information on how the list was decided, how priorities were established and how a priority #2 could trump a #1 priority. Mr. Lott stated that this is his recommendation, which the Commission can change. Commissioner Langstaff asked the reasoning for the recommendations. He noted page five of the \$190.0 million 'wish list' list and commented on the request from the Fire Department and the ranking of the priority. Commissioner Marietta asked if the 911 Center can be partially funded by the County. Commissioner Langstaff agreed and suggested the savings and/or costs to the County. Regarding page six, he commented on APD's technology project. Mr. Taylor stated that this could be funded with the end of the year balance. Mr. Lott stated that this money is no longer available. Commissioner Langstaff again suggested having a facilitator to explain why priority one requests did not make the final list. Mr. Lott stated that reasons will be provided and the list can be modified as the Commission deems necessary. Mayor Adams asked who will facilitate, the cost, etc. Mr. Taylor stated that by July 7, a joint special called meeting will be necessary with the County to move forward and the intergovernmental agreement must be done by July 22. In reply to Mr. Lott, Mr. Taylor explained that the meeting on July 7 is for discussion of SPLOST projects and to determine if there are any joint projects and the division of costs. Using the Airport as an example, Commissioner Langstaff mentioned the \$4.0 million request being only the tip of the iceberg as it does not complete the project as federal funds are needed to build it. He asked the total cost. Yvette Aehle, Airport Director replied it is \$14.0 million; the \$4.0 million is the City's match. Mayor Adams asked if it includes the jet way; Ms. Aehle replied in the negative, adding that will be another \$600/700,000. She stated that FAA committed \$9.0 million for the runway. Mayor Adams asked why the money was not included for the jet bridge; Ms. Aehle explained FAA's stance after looking at the tight budget and SPLOST. Mayor Adams stated that it should be included. Commissioner Langstaff mentioned that knowing FAA committed \$9.0 million puts a different light on the matter - if \$9.0 million could be lost because the City did not allocate \$4.0 million. He asked if a timeline can be put on the project completion. Mr. Davis stated that it can sit or it can be moved to another project that was on the referendum. Commissioner Langstaff asked Mr. Lott about having a contingency, i.e., 10% for project overages, etc. He asked if this can be an item in the SPLOST. Mr. Davis said it can be put into the project and suggested that every project have a 10% build in. Mr. Lott stated that this was done in SPLOST V. He added that information pertaining to the Airport was in the City Manager's report. Mayor Adams asked if the jet bridge would increase income. Ms. Aehle replied that they are a nice thing to have, but present a large maintenance concern.

Regarding the use of a facilitator, Commissioner Postell stated that the final decision has to be made by the Commission and not a facilitator. He commented on Airport funding and its improvements, including maintenance. Regarding the unassigned \$7.5 million, he suggested that it be set aside and not allocated in case there is a new environmental study and/or other unexpected events. He suggested dividing the \$7.5 million to be utilized for other events. He said he does not need a facilitator telling him what to set as a priority. Mayor Adams apologized for bringing up the Carl Vinson Institute, adding that the City Manager suggested allocating \$1.0 million to each ward for alleys, etc. Commissioner Marietta suggested that it be more than \$7.0 million based on preliminary figures as discussed today. Mr. Lott stated that he will reduce IT by 42%, with the assumption that

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the County will pick it up on their SPLOST, which can be added to the \$7.5 million. He added that the bus issue can be cut in half and suggested leaving the Heritage House as recommended. He said he spoke with Mr. Hillsman about his plan, which hinges on someone using the steel for salvage, which reduces the cost to \$800,000.

Commissioner Howard asked about the funding for transit repair. Mr. Lott advised that issues have to be addressed or the building will not be usable. In reply to Commissioner Howard on the new proposed transit facility, Mr. Taylor explained where we are with the review, i.e., archeological, etc., before the report is released by DNR. David Hamilton, Transportation Planner, stated that a draft report of the environmental assessment should be completed by the end of October. Mr. Lott asked about the project completion; Mr. Hamilton explained the process, which included the assessment review being released for public review, etc., then proceeding with architect/engineering (six months) meaning it could be 18 months from October. Mr. Lott stated that only the administrative component will move into the Multi-Modal, therefore, the maintenance building will be needed. Mayor Pro Tem Pike said he toured the facility and they are in need of the money to repair the facility. Commissioner Howard asked the cost to build a new facility instead of repairing a 60 year old facility. Mr. Lott said this can be looked at. Mr. Burner stated that this is the cost of a new facility.

In reply to Mayor Adams about the Indian artifacts, Mr. Taylor advised that it could take 60 days to complete the ground penetrating radar.

Mr. Taylor reminded the Commission that the community projects were not included in the City Manager's list and that Mr. Roberson asked that the landfill be considered.

Commissioner Hubbard asked about the Thronateeska improvement and whether there is a description of what this will entail. Tommy Gregors, Director of Thronateeska, discussed the acquisition and rehabbing of an older building across the street from their office on Roosevelt to accommodate records that he is handling for the City. He said it will be humidity and climate controlled, fire proofed, etc., to comply with state guidelines. Commissioner Hubbard stated that the preservation of records for the entire City is something we have been working on, which is why she brought this up. Mr. Gregors stated that he is working with the County in order to not pass on operational costs. He advised that this project is dedicated to archives. In reply to Commissioner Hubbard, he added that this will comply with Georgia Codes on maintaining records, retention schedule, etc. In reply to Commissioner Hubbard, he explained that there would be opportunity for citizens to review the minutes, ordinances and resolutions and they will have a secure facility with limited access and lockers, in order to preserve the records to keep anyone from taking anything, etc., adding that there will be terminals for citizens to scan and review records.

Mayor Adams asked if there were appraisals on the building. Mr. Gregors said they had negotiated and gotten the owners down to \$150,000 from \$270,000. Mayor Adams asked if an engineering inspection was done for roofing, electrical, etc. Mr. Gregors said they have to replace the roof and explained the rehabbing of the building.

Commissioner Hubbard stated that the state will crack down on how records are being kept and suggested looking at this project in preserving our City records and to have them assessable to the public. She discussed a vision for the future with the building also being used to house records for surrounding counties. Mayor Adams agreed, adding that the City/County and WG&L could get together and build a building to accommodate expansion. He asked if this is a good use of funding or should we consider constructing a new building place for the preservation of the records. Mr. Gregors said the \$2.0 million includes the equipment, storage, etc., and that WG&L and the County have been approached about this. Mayor Adams asked if there is room for expansion. Mr. Gregors said they are looking at a 50 year life of the project in which digital storage will do away with paper records and documents will be destroyed based on the retention. He said there is an area on their campus where a new facility can be constructed and that the \$2.0 million will carry them forward.

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Commissioner Marietta stated that Recreation did not make the original list, specifically park improvements, in the amount of \$25,000 that referenced the ADA and National Playground Safety Act; he asked if this will need to be done regardless. Mr. Lott replied that the priority is infrastructure, street paving, the bridge, etc. He added that when renovations are complete they will be in compliance with the law.

Regarding Thronateeska, Commissioner Postell suggested considering a building that can be constructed to be expanded since there is no movement in the area in question. He agreed with having a facility to accommodate and house records, but said he does not support spending \$2.0 million to invest in a building that cannot be expanded. In reply to Commissioner Postell about the current housing locations of records, Mr. Gregors advised that some are at his location and others are in other locations. Commissioner Postell asked where the money came from to put down to hold the building. Mr. Gregors stated that it came from Thronateeska's operating budget and was authorized by his Board of Directors. In reply to Mayor Adams, Mr. Gregors stated that the Board made a deposit of \$500 to hold the building. He said that his Board was apprised of this and that they have vacant property on their campus that they can look at it to use for a new facility. Commissioner Postell asked to see something that can be expanded. He said that he went into the proposed building site, which is dilapidated and will take a lot to rehab.

Mayor Adams asked about the signaling and widening of Old Dawson Road. Mr. Maples stated that they have looked at this area to widen it and there are a lot of issues in this area. Mayor Adams asked if anyone has surveyed property owners, etc., as there are storm issues on both sides of the road.

Commissioner Howard asked when will there be an opportunity to discuss requests from other agencies. Mr. Lott said another meeting can be scheduled if it is the will of the Commission. Mayor Adams stated that if presentations were made to staff, he is satisfied with the process. Commissioner Howard commented that the Council on Aging is not making the list. Mr. Lott stated that a lot of things were built in SPLOST V, which was necessary and this SPLOST focuses on infrastructure and maintaining the ISO rating, etc. Mayor Adams stated that his \$1.0 million will probably go towards this project.

Commissioner Marietta commented on use of funds for APD and asked how funds will be spent now. Mr. Lott said he is required to make sure that the budget does not go over and there is an upcoming amendment to the budget. If there are overages, APD can purchase additional items.

Commissioner Hubbard commented on the 3rd Avenue extension and if permission from the railroad is required. Mr. Maples replied in the affirmative adding that a permit is required. Commissioner Hubbard asked about annual operating costs and if this will come from the general fund. Mr. Lott said operating funds are not expended from the General Fund and noted the operating cost listed in the general budget, which was considered.

Commenting on the senior center, Mayor Adams asked should there be over estimations, if there is a secondary list of priorities. Mr. Lott explained the management of SPLOST V and overages and/or money not used that was reallocated to projects that were already on the list. He said the senior center has to be added to the list even if it shows no money assigned to it. Mayor Adams stated that he feels a state of the art senior center takes priority over other things on the list and again asked that it be added to the list. Commissioner Marietta stated that there were legal questions regarding the senior center and asked what part of the senior center the City can legally fund. Mr. Davis discussed the agreement that he would prepare between the City and SOWGA Council on Aging.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike said he supports the senior citizen center, but expressed concern on the operation and operating expenses increasing. He asked if the City will have to fund this as was done for the RiverQuarium, etc., and asked the cost of the operation of the building when it is built. Mayor Adams stated that this region has no facility of this type,

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therefore, Albany cannot be marketed as a retirement area for senior citizens. He mentioned a program to be put in place to raise funds for operating the center. Mayor Pro Tem Pike suggested an explanation of the cost and how they plan to fund. Mayor Adams discussed funding that some seniors with liquid assets are willing to donate and suggested looking out for the senior population in the community.

Commissioner Marietta stated that he has been working with ASU, Darton and Albany Tech to get these institutes added to the list and asked that Mr. Taylor add them to the list. Mr. Lott explained that Mayor Adams committed money to the senior center project. Mayor Adams asked Commissioner Marietta if he will commit his money. Commissioner Marietta said he would.

In reply to Commissioner Postell about Phoebe Putney's commitment; Mayor Adams stated that they donated the facility. Commissioner Postell asked the City's obligation. Mayor Adams stated that the buildings could not be used; therefore, they will be torn down to build the new facility. Commissioner Postell commented on private donors and asked how much money the Council on Aging has and its contribution. Mayor Adams asked Mr. Taylor if he can provide this information. Commissioner Postell discussed the flooding of his ward as it pertains to Holloway and asked for information on the study. Mr. Lott stated that the Corps of Engineers did the study and he can provide the information. Commissioner Postell stated that addressing flooding in his ward is one of his priorities as homeowners in his ward are now mandated to carry flood insurance. Mayor Adams stated that when this was looked at, there was an oxbow bend in the river. Mr. Maples stated that the study was completed by the USGS in 2008/09 which had options – to remove the oxbow, remove the bridge, etc. He said he can provide a summary of the report, which gives information on the elevation of the river, etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike discussed alternatives with the Holloway project. Mr. Maples said they are looking at this. Mayor Pro Tem Pike asked that this be looked at in considering the SPLOST. Mr. Maples said at the referenced meeting, he was discussing numbers from memory from the 1990's. Discussion followed on acquiring the Heritage House, etc. Mayor Pro Tem Pike suggested getting Holloway off the list in order to help Ward 3 and 6.

Commissioner Langstaff asked how much is left in the bank now for Holloway. Mr. Lott stated \$10.0 million. Discussion followed with Mr. Maples advising that he is working on the agenda item to bring back this information.

Mr. Davis noted the deadlines, with July 29 being the absolute last day in order for it to get on the ballot to include a City/County resolution and intergovernmental agreement. Mr. Lott said they will present an updated list and that it will be on the next agenda for discussion.

POVERTY ANALYSIS

Mr. Lott stated that this pertains to questions and discussion from the last Commission retreat and the priority setting process which included crime and poverty in Albany. He added that discussion included who is doing what to address poverty and what can be done to deal with the situation. Based on this, he said he assigned a mission to Community Development to find a professional to look at the City of Albany and the area of poverty to define the problem, etc. Latoya Cutts, Community & Economic Development Director, stated that a consultant was hired to look at the circumstances in Albany and that Dr. V. Adams-Cooper, and her husband Anthony Cooper with VAAC, are both professors at Albany State University, and are present to discuss their report.

Dr. Cooper thanked all those who assisted in the preparation of the study and presented a power point presentation (copy on file). She mentioned the meetings that were held and those who assisted in providing information for her report.

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Commissioner Marietta stated that the green on the poverty map was based on data from 2000 and asked when he would be able to see data from 2010. Dr. Cooper stated that the information is from 2000, and that the 2010 data is not yet available. Mr. Lott advised that the information will be updated once the new census is complete.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Postell clarifying the income of the bottom 1/5; Dr. Cooper explained the rationale of numbers relating to a teenager starting out who has no children, a mortgage, or a lot of the expenses that comes with adulthood.

Commissioner Langstaff asked the definition of the 27% for the poverty level they were using. Dr. Cooper replied that it depends on the measuring that is provided by the federal government pertaining to families, as listed on page seven of the presentation. She supported her presentation by reading from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last book, "Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?" 1967.

Commissioner Marietta commented that many teen pregnancies are the results of statutory rape and asked if anyone has gone to the DA with this information. Mayor Adams replied that he had talked personally with the DA about this matter. He added that about 40% of these girls are impregnated by grown men. He suggested moving forward with prosecuting those adult men. Commissioner Marietta asked if the DA gave a commitment that he would prosecute these men. Mayor Adams replied that he was receptive, but there still has to be constant pressure and concern.

Commissioner Postell asked if an adult male impregnating an underage teenager falls under child molestation. Mayor Adams discussed consent as it pertains to the definition of statutory rape. He stated that at one time he worked in Flint, Michigan and they have a statutory rape law, which prosecutes these type acts. He mentioned delivering the children of three 12-year old girls here in Albany and to his knowledge no one was ever prosecuted for those crimes. He stated that the law is made not only to imprison, but also to protect the fathers of daughters in these situations.

Dr. Cooper stated that these issues are very important in preventing teen pregnancy. If a father/male figure is absent and the family is headed by a single female, the poverty rate would drop. She mentioned that the UGA study referenced several preceding studies indicating race as a cause of poverty. Overwhelming, but not exclusively, census data indicates that most persons living in poverty in Albany are African-American. She mentioned information from the census data indicating the lack of affordable housing and health care. Locally, identified issues in the community are child care and transportation. Referring to the study, she explained that the babies on the cover photo represents the group most at risk and if something is not done in their lives now, they will be the future homeless person, ex-offender, teenage mother/father, along with all the other indicators of being an adult person living in poverty. Mentioning ex-offenders, she stated that this group experiences the biggest service gap of all the groups affected by poverty. She mentioned Albany's reputation of having the most non-profits per capita in the nation. For her study, she advised that she zeroed in on those primarily for poverty, which she did through a review of local coalitions. In her research, she said she discovered Darton College's Human Services program as a resource, which covers part of the region in this area. She briefly discussed the Thrive2Strive program, faith-based programs and needed funding.

Mayor Adams stated that the next item on the agenda (Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance) will be considered on a future agenda. He commended Dr. Cooper for her presentation and information. He said that medical office used to be located by the Salvation Army and it was educational for him to learn that people in transition have a list of churches/people/organizations providing support, which is why some of the same entities get called on all of the time. He mentioned all the organizations within the city, stating there is a need for one central office/area to determine funding amounts/destinations. He said he receives requests weekly from people who want to do the same thing that other organizations are doing and again suggested a centralized office.

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Commissioner Howard thanked Dr. Cooper for the information presented today. He commented that the lack of education and resources are primary factors, along with high birth rates that include teenage pregnancies and asked how to correct this problem. Dr. Cooper stated that this is a sensitive issue and discussed a 1960's report conducted by Daniel Monahan, and, present-day scholars deem that the report needs to be revisited. She advised that the teen pregnancy rate of unmarried African-Americans has tripled since the report. Commissioner Howard commented on the projection of 2020-2025 and asked if it is possible to see significant reduction of this problem. Dr. Cooper clarified that the City has to take on this; it has to decide where it wants to be when the next census comes out. Mr. Lott said it is a possible, but to get a handle on the teen pregnancy, organizations need to be targeted and parents have to be educated and get jobs. Commissioner Howard suggested that the government shares some of the blame for poverty by using the welfare system to court votes. People have to become self-reliant and less government assisted.

Commissioner Hubbard agreed with Dr. Cooper regarding the success rates and non-profits doing the same thing and getting the same results, adding, that there is a need to look at what they are doing and how they are doing it in order to affect change on the dynamics. She asked if there will be an increase of the 27% based on the census. Ms. Cooper stated that there was a slight decrease to 27% as opposed to the last census of 27.1%, however due to job losses (the closing of Cooper, etc.) it most likely went back up. Commissioner Hubbard asked the amount of participation by those who have lived in poverty and how has she dealt with the mindset of those brought up in poverty. She said she grew up in a poor neighborhood and that they did not realize they were poor. Dr. Cooper replied that the populations she identified included a mix of those in various programs/housing complexes. Mr. Lott asked the number of sessions. Dr. Cooper said four with two being with the community. She added that they had a total of seven, including the meeting with the Lily Pad. She stated that they spoke with multiple communities and heard many stories. She suggested that barriers for those trying to break out of poverty must be addressed. Mr. Lott asked each Commissioner to read the report that was distributed.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike thanked Dr. Cooper for her information adding that he grew up in poverty himself. He asked how to bring people together to establish a plan. Dr. Cooper stated that there are things already in place. She mentioned Altogether Albany and the need to work within its plan as it will enhance economic growth and bring jobs. She mentioned Strive2Thrive and the need to work together with all agencies. Reiterating Mayor Adams on the need to have a centralized agency, she stated that the United Way is an umbrella organization, adding there is not enough money or time to continue duplicating services. Furthermore, it continues to make the public more reliant on the help of someone else.

Commissioner Marietta asked if an agenda item can be provided to notify the APD if there is a suspicion on child molestation/statutory rape. Mayor Adams stated that this is reported to the health department. He suggested that the DA or his staff give an overview of what can be done.

Agreeing with Commissioner Hubbard, Mayor Adams stated that he did not realize he was poor when he was growing up until he left his neighborhood. He stressed that the one common denominator is education which is the secret. He suggested that the Commission has an obligation to make education a priority and available. Referring to teenage pregnancy, he suggested that rewarding bad behavior should be stopped.

Dr. Cooper asked the Commissioners to review the black binder that was distributed and to address questions to Ms. Cutts. She added that if the white binder was reviewed and any comments were written in it, if the Commission will put their name on them and return them to her, she will incorporate them into the master copy. She thanked the Commission for their time and attention.

JUNE 8, 2010

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA

Hearing no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK