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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 5, 2007

1 MR. BRANDON: I want to call the
2 meeting to order. Before we get started, like we
3 always do, I want to call on God to bless this event
4 and do the pledge of allegiance. I want to call on
5 Brother Robert Goff, if he would, to please come up
6 and do that.

7 (Thereupon, the invocation and
8 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

9 MR. BRANDON: This is the regularly
10 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission
11 which takes place at the same time on the first
12 Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this
13 meeting was given in the legal organ of Dade County
14 and has been posted in the hallway of the
15 Administration Building. I'll call the roll and
16 have it recorded by the clerk. Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Here.

18 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

19 MS. MOORE: Here.

20 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

21 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

22 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

23 MR. YOUNG: Here.

24 MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present.
25 We have a forum and, therefore, a legal meeting.

1 The reading of the minutes of the June
2 2007 regular meeting will not be required since all
3 commissioners have been furnished copies in advance.
4 The minutes are public record and available for
5 review in the county manager's office. The minutes
6 are included in the consent agenda. At this time,
7 I'll ask the clerk to read the other items that are
8 also included in the consent agenda.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Approval of previous
10 meeting minutes, approval of Dora Crisp for a
11 three-year term to the Board of Assessors. We have
12 the McDuff Associates proposal contract of \$6,569
13 for Phase II ESA, Sheriff Patrick Cannon's
14 recommendations the speed limit be changed on two
15 roads, Trinity Road reduced from 25 to 15 miles per
16 hour and County Road 6 dropped from 45 to 40 miles
17 an hour, amend resolution -- well, adopting an
18 ordinance with the first reading being the next
19 meeting for the Road Acceptance Standards including
20 minimum asphalt radius of 50 feet, changed from
21 60 feet currently established in Resolution 195,
22 Road Acceptance Standards and the right-of-way
23 radius cul-de-sac shall be 63 feet.

24 MR. BRANDON: Don, if I might correct
25 you, I think that would be considered the first

1 reading.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. This is the first
3 reading. All right. Thank you. And declare excess
4 recycling bins as surplus property and bid over 30
5 days seeking the highest bid, and resolution
6 limiting use of Transfer Station if payment is not
7 received within 30 days. Also, the finance
8 committee's recommendations.

9 MR. BRANDON: Do we have any discussion
10 of the consent agenda? Hearing none, do I have a
11 motion we pass the consent agenda?

12 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we pass
13 the consent agenda.

14 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
15 have a second?

16 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second that.

17 MR. BRANDON: The motion is seconded.
18 I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

19 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

20 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

21 MS. MOORE: Yes.

22 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

23 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

24 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

25 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

1 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.

2 Moving on into administrative with the
3 executive update. You just heard us discussing at
4 the end of the meeting, the work session, the issue
5 of the authority for the county executive. There
6 are still some significant differences of opinion,
7 validly held I'm sure. My fellow commissioners
8 think that the county executive position should not
9 have the authority to run the county day-to-day
10 without being a part of a committee. I disagree
11 with them. So they think that I shouldn't have the
12 authority and I think that they shouldn't have the
13 authority that they've given themselves and they're
14 strongly held beliefs and they're valid. I'm not
15 questioning anybody's motives on this.

16 But I had a lot of people contact me
17 that say that this is not what they voted for and I
18 think we can all agree that the legislation that set
19 up this office was just poorly -- probably poorly
20 thought out. I mean, because it didn't express what
21 the exact duties and responsibilities and authority
22 were of the county executive or the county
23 commission, chairman, whatever you want to call it.
24 So we're still at an impasse.

25 I have said for the last six months

1 that I'm not running for office again, so this
2 should not be about me. So if there's any decision
3 to be made about what the authority of this position
4 ought to be, you should put that part of it -- get
5 that part of it out of your thinking because, again,
6 I don't intend to run again. I'm interested in
7 this. I have other plans. So I'm not going to do
8 this, but this needs to be fixed because any system
9 that would allow -- have a county executive,
10 executive county commission, chairman or whatever
11 whose authority is not good except from one meeting
12 until the next and can be changed on a majority vote
13 of district commissioners is just not workable.
14 It's not valid.

15 You know, you heard people say at the
16 meeting that there were counties that operated
17 exactly the way we're operating and I'm sure that's
18 true, but if you ask the majority of the people out
19 there, I think that if you were to go out and do a
20 poll that no matter which side of this issue you're
21 on, if you were to ask them did you think we were
22 going to get what we have right now, people would
23 tell you no, they didn't think they were going to
24 get that. They would either be further to one end
25 or the other on this, but we didn't think we would

1 end up right back where we started where the county
2 is once again managed by committees, which in 2002
3 people rejected as a form of government, which we
4 have adopted again back in -- we adopted whole hog
5 again and that's what people in 2002, in my way of
6 thinking, said they didn't want.

7 Given that we're back at an impasse,
8 the county commissioners think that I don't need to
9 have the authority that I had the first two years to
10 run the county and I think that they don't -- and
11 they're not going to reinstate that, and I think
12 that they don't have the authority to do what
13 they're doing, what I'm doing at this time, and I
14 have consulted with the county attorney on this, I
15 am revoking the committees that we set up in
16 January. There are no more committees as of this
17 moment. No more committees.

18 MR. LOWERY: You had that power all
19 along.

20 MR. BRANDON: What does that mean?
21 That means that there aren't any more committees, so
22 we're back at an impasse and the chair doesn't
23 recognize Commissioner Lowery. I'll recognize you
24 in a minute. But we are back at an impasse where
25 there aren't any more committees. What does that

1 mean? That means that no committee -- there aren't
2 any committees, so no two commissioners can decide
3 what's going to happen.

4 Now, I've sat by and watched over the
5 last few months as committees would have a meeting.
6 They would decide what they were going to, go ahead
7 and do it and then we would vote on it at the next
8 meeting to approve what they already did, which is
9 wrong because two commissioners can't do anything,
10 but they did.

11 So to get around this, we won't have
12 any committees any more. There will be only one
13 committee and it will be called the Dade County
14 Commission. We will have a meeting every day, if we
15 need to, or as a situation warrants and we'll do it
16 at a time that's convenient for the people to attend
17 if they choose to and at a time that's convenient
18 for the county employees who are affected by this to
19 participate should they need to. So there are no
20 more committees.

21 Now, we will just plot along going
22 forward from here and we'll see how it works. But
23 again, I submit to you that this is not what people
24 thought they were going to get when they voted for
25 this, to have this form of government. It needs to

1 be fixed. There have been a lot of ideas floating
2 around about having committees or boards formed to
3 change this. David mentioned one of them down at
4 the work session and it's clear that at least three
5 of my fellow commissioners are just happy exactly
6 the way it is right now. So even if you were to
7 appoint a committee that came back and made a
8 recommendation on how this ought to be, they're not
9 going to recommend to Senator Mullis that the
10 legislation be changed.

11 So this is the quandary we find
12 ourselves in, so we're trapped in a Catch 22 here
13 that you're never going to get five people, even
14 with a recommendation by a committee of prominent
15 citizens to agree to change the legislation, so we
16 are trapped in this.

17 Murray County had a five-man commission
18 for probably about ten years. They -- after a while
19 of going through the same things we're going through
20 right now, they decided it wasn't worth it and they
21 went back to a sole commission and I can understand
22 that now. Three years ago I would have told you
23 that was a bad idea. Right now I'm thinking that's
24 not such a bad idea, but again, we're trapped
25 because Senator Mullis says that he won't do any

1 legislation without a unanimous vote of the
2 commission and you're not going to get that. So I
3 don't know what to do.

4 I have, you know, tried to keep this as
5 low key as I can here. I'm acknowledging that
6 people have differences of opinion, but this needs
7 to be fixed. It needs to be fixed. And, again,
8 it's not going to affect me because January 1st,
9 2009, I'm going to be doing something else. But the
10 next person that takes this office needs to know
11 what they're running for before they pay their
12 filing fee in the spring of next year and we need to
13 fix this before then and get it in the legislation
14 if it's going to be changed and the only way to do
15 that is to get five people up here to agree,
16 whatever it is. If we appointed a committee and
17 they came back and said, nope, y'all are doing fine,
18 it ought to be just like it is now, that's fine with
19 me because it's not going to affect me except as a
20 citizen of Dade County. As it is right now, if the
21 county executive is no more than just a glorified
22 district commissioner, it really doesn't matter what
23 your qualifications are to run for this office next
24 year. You might as well pick a name out of the
25 phone book and say would you like to be the county

1 executive for four years, it pays pretty well,
2 because your qualifications don't mean anything if
3 you're not allowed to use them to do anything.

4 So again, that's the extent of the
5 executive update. I will now recognize any
6 commissioner who wants to make a comment to do so.
7 Again, I'm not taking shots at anybody. I recognize
8 you have legitimate concerns with this issue and
9 that your positions are as valid as mine are, so
10 Lamar?

11 MR. LOWERY: Our state and federal
12 government is set up exactly like this county
13 commission is set up. You have checks and balances.
14 We could give certain powers to Ben and we can take
15 certain powers away, certain powers or privileges
16 and that's what we did. We lowered back some of his
17 spending limits. He still has -- he showed you
18 right here tonight, he killed the committees
19 tonight. He asked for volunteers for those
20 committees and we were stupid enough to volunteer so
21 just he could use it for a propaganda. We've worked
22 our butt off on these committees. I don't know if
23 you seen how much stuff got done tonight. This has
24 been us out here doing it. Ben Brandon has been
25 nowhere. He's been begged to be a part of these

1 committees. We asked him again tonight, please be a
2 part of them, but he can't do it. He couldn't. I
3 told him right there at the work session tonight he
4 could have been one of the best county executives
5 we've ever had, but instead he lacks one trait, one
6 good trait, he just cannot work with other people.
7 It's your way or no way.

8 MR. BRANDON: Anybody else? I'm sorry.

9 MR. LOWERY: There's a lot of stuff
10 that we have disagreed about and I've hated it, but
11 I regret having to be -- have the disagreements that
12 we've had, but there's a common denominator here,
13 folks. There's a common denominator and he's
14 sitting right here in the middle of this crowd.
15 He's Ben Brandon.

16 Me and Sarah and David, Scottie have
17 had bitter disagreements. We've voted our opinions.
18 We got up and walked out of here and we were
19 friends. That will not happen with Mr. Brandon.
20 You vote against him, you're his enemy. Now, he's
21 right. Senator Jeff Mullis sent us all a letter.
22 It's right here if anybody wants to read it after
23 it's over with. I've talked to Senator Mullis
24 personally. He mirrored this government just so
25 what happened could be -- have checks and balances.

1 We were left out in the cold.

2 Just like I told you about the dam
3 situation a while ago. We went -- that rocked on
4 for a year and none of us were aware of any of it.
5 Finally, a citizen that lives in Sarah's district
6 came to a meeting and that's when we found out from
7 the State that we were going to be fined \$7,000
8 because the landowner and Mr. Brandon had agreed
9 with the State's conditions to fix this dam and then
10 they did nothing. So, therefore, we took on a
11 \$7,000 fine, plus interest; is that correct, a
12 little over \$7,000. The landowner had to pay half.
13 We had to pay half.

14 We've had engineer after engineer in
15 here now telling us that he feels like it could cost
16 \$750,000 to a million dollars to fix that dam. Why
17 are we fixing a private dam, because we've got a
18 road across it. That makes us half owners of it.
19 The road was built before I was born. It don't make
20 a difference to the State. Stuff like that, I think
21 I need to know about. If he's going to sign an
22 appeal or if he's going to sign an agreement with
23 the State that says, yes, this is what we're going
24 to do, don't even follow through with that, yes, we
25 should know about that.

1 I'm tired of this mess, too. I'm not
2 going to take it sitting down no more. I'm going to
3 answer back. I've been trying to be a lot better at
4 not writing these letters in the paper and quit
5 being as negative. Mr. Slack will get one back next
6 week and I'm going to be tickled to death to write
7 it. I hate to, but I'm not going to let somebody
8 lie like that to me in the paper. I will do that.

9 MR. PITTMAN: My turn?

10 MR. BRANDON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. PITTMAN: I've got a question for
12 Robin. Ben's -- Ben's got the authority to remove
13 the committees, right?

14 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, he does. The
15 legislation says that the chairperson has the
16 authority to appoint members of the Board of the
17 Commission, and as a general rule of law, that if
18 you're not appointed for a specific term or with
19 specific conditions for your service or any other
20 procedures for removing you, then the person who
21 appoints you also has the authority to remove you.

22 MR. PITTMAN: Is there any -- have we
23 got any alternatives to go against that, any kind of
24 rebuttal or do the district commissioners just say,
25 okay, we aren't on committees?

1 MR. ROGERS: Well, are you asking me --
2 I'm not sure what you're asking me. Are you asking
3 me if legally if there is a way to challenge that?

4 MR. PITTMAN: Correct.

5 MR. ROGERS: That is part of the
6 enabling legislation, so you would not be able to.

7 MR. PITTMAN: So this could have
8 happened in January? He could have made this in
9 January?

10 MR. ROGERS: Yeah.

11 MR. LOWERY: Let me -- can I interrupt
12 you one more time, Scottie? If we so decide -- this
13 is a legal question for you. If we so decide, can
14 we say that -- make a financial policy that says
15 there will be -- there will be a Public Works
16 Committee, there will be a Finance Committee and it
17 will consist of at least three members of this Board
18 of Commissioners and it will meet at least once a
19 month? Can we do that? He'll have to appoint all
20 of them. Can we not do that? Do you want to study?

21 MR. ROGERS: I'll take a look at that
22 one.

23 MR. PITTMAN: I don't have anything --
24 if he wants to abolish the committees --

25 MR. LOWERY: We're the ones that's been

1 doing all the work though. Now who's going to do
2 it? Remember Tom Sawyer.

3 MR. BRANDON: Anybody else? David?

4 MR. YOUNG: No.

5 MS. MOORE: I have nothing further to
6 say other than what I said in the work session.

7 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Again, we have --
8 as a wrap up, we have some strongly held opinions on
9 the way things ought to work, but the bottom line is
10 we need to fix this because it's not working in the
11 best interests of the county to have committees
12 where you have to wait sometimes two or three weeks
13 to make a decision on something or risk, you know,
14 making a decision without the full committee's
15 approval. I mean, we've done this in the past where
16 we have a committee that would meet and decide to
17 spend money, which two commissioners do not have the
18 authority to do, go ahead and do it and then vote on
19 it at the next meeting to do it, what they've
20 already done. So committees do not work for
21 government like this. I mean, you've got to have
22 somebody that's in charge day-to-day.

23 So anyway -- and last but not least,
24 when we get to citizen participation, I've talked to
25 some of the other commissioners about this. We've

1 been through a very tumultuous time and I think I
2 have everybody's agreement that if your only reason
3 to come up and do citizen participation is to jump
4 on a commissioner or to grind your personal axe,
5 please just save your time and write a letter to the
6 editor or buy an ad in the paper or something. If
7 you have something that's a legitimate interest and
8 would benefit the county, then come on up. But if
9 your only reason for coming up is to rehash, you
10 know, old issues or to jump on a commissioner, then
11 just keep your seat, please. I think I have the
12 support on all the other four commissioners up here
13 as well on that. This has gotten completely out of
14 hand. The personal animosity and just the
15 hatefulness of the meetings is way out of hand.

16 Moving on into appearances, we have
17 Mayor Anthony Emanuel of the City of Trenton.

18 MR. EMANUEL: Good evening. On behalf
19 of my city commissioners, it gives me a great deal
20 of pleasure to bring you the state of the union of
21 the City of Trenton through the end of June of this
22 year. Financially, we've had revenue of a
23 \$1,129,000 against expenses of \$1,022,000, which
24 yields a net income of \$107,000 black.

25 In areas of quality of life, which is

1 the focus of the present sitting city commissioners,
2 the Promotion Committee, which is chaired by Rex
3 Harrison, has been very active in the area
4 Chickamauga Campaign Heritage Trail. A sign has
5 been erected along U.S. 11 at the Shaw Industries
6 driveway going into their receiving area. That sign
7 details the Macon Iron Works, which were an active
8 iron works before and during the Civil War.

9 The O'Neal house sign is available, but
10 negotiations are going on with the property owner as
11 to where it can be placed and how it will be placed,
12 but he's amiable to the idea and, in fact, there
13 will be an upcoming tour that we'll be conducting so
14 that citizens can tour the O'Neal house.

15 A summer concert is also planned for
16 Jenkins Park and then in the fall of this year,
17 there will be another concert which will be a joint
18 effort between the Downtown Development Authority
19 and the Dade County Chamber of Commerce.

20 The Design Committee of the DDA is
21 chaired by Bob Dobrolski and streetscape has had a
22 plethora or that's just a fancy way of saying a lot
23 of activity underway, the most significant of which
24 is the design works, preliminary design work by
25 Arcadis. The next step is to review that design

1 work with the Georgia Department of Transportation
2 and all of this, of course, is a part of the city's
3 streetscape master plan.

4 The facade grant program is quite
5 active. The building right across from here is the
6 Cindy Shaw Building. The completion of its facade I
7 think you can appreciate when you go back and look
8 at it. It's much improved in appearance. We also
9 have facade design work that's being pursued on two
10 other downtown buildings and, of course, I would
11 remind you that the other building downtown that
12 benefitted from this program is Case Hardware or the
13 Ace Hardware Store.

14 Trenton Arts Council, they've been very
15 active in Creek Walk, particularly that section
16 within Jenkins Park. If you've not had a chance to
17 go there, go there and look at it and experience and
18 I think enjoy it, please do so. We are pursuing
19 designing and purchasing entranceway signs for the
20 city so that -- we all know when we're going into
21 the city, but those outside the county will know
22 that they're going into the city.

23 On the Economic Restructuring Committee
24 which is chaired by Alan Ward, the Better Hometown
25 manager is working with a local business owner on a

1 possible low interest loan for expansion downtown.
2 The messages, if you are a business person within
3 the City of Trenton, you may want to get to know the
4 Better Hometown manager. He seems to know where the
5 money is.

6 The Organization Committee which is
7 chaired by Janet York has two openings for city
8 residents. So if you're a Trentonian and want to
9 serve on the Downtown Development Authority, this is
10 your opportunity.

11 As always, it's a pleasure to present
12 the City of Trenton to my fellow Dade Countians.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mayor. Next
15 up, we have Ms. Debbie Tinker from the Dade County
16 Chamber of Commerce.

17 MS. TINKER: The Chamber has been very
18 active this last quarter. The Chamber was the
19 official Tour de Georgia sponsor in Dade County
20 during April. Dade County received national media
21 coverage. Visitors from 17 states and England
22 signed the registers at the Chamber booths during
23 the event. Questionnaires are being sent to local
24 restaurants, accommodations, tourism sites to better
25 help us track tourism, especially during special

1 events held in the county. The Chamber met with
2 representatives of Georgia Department of Community
3 Affairs and Georgia Department of Economic
4 Development at the Chamber to discuss how they can
5 help the Chamber better promote businesses and
6 tourism in our county. The Chamber will be heading
7 up the newly formed committee to get Dade County
8 listed as an entrepreneur friendly designated
9 community.

10 Ms. Dawn Townsend with Georgia
11 Department of Community Affairs will speak at the
12 Chamber meeting July 20th to explain the steps of
13 the program to local interested businesses. This is
14 an ongoing one-year program. Jerry Sims, UGA Small
15 Business Development Center's area director business
16 coordinator spoke at the Chamber meeting on
17 resources for starting a new business. The Chamber
18 now has listings of free services offered by the
19 SBDC.

20 The Chamber is participating in the
21 Georgia May Georgia Grow driving and business
22 brochure and web site project to promote Dade,
23 Walker and Chattooga Counties' local businesses.
24 Promoting Dade County at a booth at Georgia on My
25 Mind Day at the Georgia Visitors Center in Ringgold.

1 Brochures promoting tourism and Dade County as a
2 place to visit to live were handed out to 3,000 plus
3 visitors. The Chamber awarded a \$500 scholarship to
4 graduating senior Courtney Wallin for her
5 participation in the Keep Dade Beautiful program.

6 April was Keep America Beautiful's
7 designated Great American Cleanup month. Clean-ups
8 and adopt-a-miles were held by organizations,
9 businesses and locals. The Chamber reported 4,020
10 pounds of trash picked up during the 11 clean-up
11 events held in Dade County. The Chamber promoted,
12 attended and helped work six local events with local
13 organizations.

14 Eight new members have joined the
15 Chamber during this quarter. The Chamber worked to
16 promote Antique Alley through web site promotion and
17 mail outs. Members of the board helped at the
18 American Legion and the Chamber helped with the
19 promotion of vendor space. Highlights of different
20 meetings have been attended and activities that are
21 going on. The Chamber's Keep Dade Beautiful program
22 made plans to host with the Trenton Art Council this
23 year's annual Dade County photography contest. The
24 theme for this year's photographs will be
25 personalities of Dade County and we have quite a few

1 of those, I believe.

2 A concert will be held this fall at the
3 reception for announcing the winners at Jenkins
4 Park. We will be coordinating a clean-up of local
5 organizations for the Rivers of Life State clean-up
6 to be along Lookout Creek this fall. Tri-state
7 Council of Chambers meeting was held in conjunction
8 with the 150th Civil War planning meeting.

9 Discussion was held by promotions during the 150th
10 anniversary of the Civil War through web site
11 marking and interstate signage on I-24 and I-75 in a
12 tag line to get people to support local businesses.

13 Lookout Mountain Parkway Association
14 meeting, I will be on the committee to update a new
15 map to promote the parkway. Bill Marshall is right
16 now acting president. Clean-ups will be held along
17 the parkway before the World's Largest Yard Sale and
18 signage will be furnished for all new and present
19 members to promote the parkway.

20 Junior Chamber of Commerce were
21 recognized for their work in the community and
22 leadership. Two Junior Chamber members received the
23 Kim Polari Scholarship for 160-plus hours of
24 combined work. The Chamber gave a donation to the
25 Junior Chamber member to participate in that

1 national competition at National FCCLA and then
2 y'all have the rest of my report and I appreciate
3 y'all for letting me speak.

4 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Thank you.

5 Moving on to fiscal matters, I will
6 turn it over to the county clerk and ask him to read
7 the financial report, please.

8 MR. TOWNSEND: Drug education fund has
9 a balance of \$95,337; federal asset fund, \$10,371;
10 special sheriff's fund, \$64,695; jail fund, \$9,398;
11 juvenile services fund, \$10,074; victim assistance
12 fund, \$3,807; payroll account, \$15,153; the general
13 fund, \$457,720. S.P.L.O.S.T funds, we have
14 principal and interest checking account has
15 \$744,353; principal and interest CDs, \$700,000 and
16 the principal and interest debt services account is
17 \$21,086. Total principal and interest fund balance
18 is \$1,465,439. Capital bond fund is \$17,082 and
19 capital bond CDs stand at \$901,079. That's
20 \$901,079. Total capital bond fund balance is
21 \$918,160.

22 Behind that you have a list of the CDs
23 and behind the other pages, you have a department
24 level general fund revenue and also a balance sheet
25 showing the departments with their expenses and

1 behind that you have a project variance report for
2 your information.

3 MR. BRANDON: Overall by department,
4 are we -- the county as a whole, where do we stand
5 on revenue and expenses year-to-date in June?

6 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Year-to-date we
7 have \$4,156,624.

8 MR. BRANDON: I mean, percentage wise.
9 Percent of payment through June we should be at
10 50 percent if we're on track.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: Right. Let's see,
12 currently, revenue stands currently at
13 59.12 percent, which is a little over and the
14 expenses are at 48.69 percent, which is a little
15 under.

16 MR. BRANDON: That's a good place to
17 be. Thank you very much.

18 Moving on to legal matters, I will ask
19 the county attorney if we have any legal matters
20 that we need to discuss tonight.

21 MR. ROGERS: No.

22 MR. BRANDON: I see him shake his head.
23 Under unfinished business, there's none that I know
24 of.

25 Under new business, we've already taken

1 care of most of that in the work session, which
2 brings us to citizen participation.

3 MR. LOWERY: I just want to make a
4 point, things I want to report on right quick and
5 then I'll be glad to shut up and let the citizens
6 have it.

7 What I want to report on is the
8 Transfer Station and let you know the good news
9 about the Transfer Station. It was a combined
10 effort of the employees and everybody, but around
11 March BFI came in here and they told us that our
12 contract run out June 1st. They were going to go
13 to \$29 a ton from what was about 21.50 a ton. The
14 minimum increase a year, minimum would have been
15 \$50,000 more dollars a year just to be able to dump
16 our trash in their dump and we haul it down there
17 and I want to -- we looked at closing the Transfer
18 Station for a day trying to find -- trying to figure
19 out some way of cutting these expenses so we
20 wouldn't have to raise taxes. That went over like a
21 lead balloon.

22 We listened. We had a public hearing
23 and I would like to personally thank our county
24 attorney on this one. He spoke with Walker County's
25 attorney and told him the dilemma that we were in

1 and he suggested that we all go over to the Walker
2 County landfill, which Robin, myself and Billy
3 Massengale did. David, I think, was out of town
4 that day, but he would have went. We toured their
5 operation and we learned of this company that was
6 hauling their trash off for them and dumping it for
7 \$25, 25.20 a ton. That's less than we could take it
8 down to the landfill in Alabama and pay to dump it,
9 so that really worked out good.

10 We've been under it for one month now.
11 You may have read it in the paper, but we've been
12 under this new company for one month. We saved
13 \$1,805 in fuel over a six-month average. We average
14 six months, which some months are heavy, some months
15 are thin, but we saved \$1,805 in just fuel cost, not
16 counting we were getting tickets every time we
17 turned around. Every time the State Trooper seen
18 that Dade County tag, we got pulled over and checked
19 and we got many overweight tickets. If a chewing
20 gum wrapper flew out of the truck, we got littering
21 tickets. That transfer truck, I think has, what,
22 450,000 miles on it. We were going to have to
23 eventually replace our road truck which would be a
24 huge expense. We're still probably going to have to
25 get a roll-off, but we also -- when those trucks

1 back up to that dump, Billy said it's not uncommon
2 to lose one or two tires a month from the debris
3 that's in the dump. Those tires are \$300 apiece.
4 So I'm really tickled. I'd like to thank our county
5 attorney and Billy Massengale for all they've done
6 to help us because it's turned into a good savings
7 for the county. That's one of the good tales that's
8 come up with it.

9 Another issue I would like to tell
10 everybody about that you may not be aware. It
11 hasn't been as well advertised as some things like
12 the Transfer Station, but here back in January or
13 February, I believe, we had a meeting with some
14 members of our community representing Lookout
15 Mountain Community Services. They were wanting to
16 apply for a grant to build a home for mentally and
17 physically challenged children and adults both. A
18 lot of them that were living with their mothers and
19 dad, they were concerned if something happened to
20 them, where would they go. They were wanting to
21 apply for a grant to be able to do that. They had
22 to get three acres of land for them to use. We
23 donated that land to them. It's straight across
24 from the Head Start Building right up from the
25 Senior's Building. We did donate three acres to

1 them. I got word -- got word back today that they
2 did receive their grant through Volunteers of
3 America. Something positive that we're going to
4 help out.

5 Of course, the last thing I think is
6 the animal shelter. We have -- animal shelters are
7 like -- there's a wide range of opinions, about like
8 this Commission. Some people will do without food
9 and medicine to feed their animals. Some people
10 will dump their animals. There's a wide range
11 there, but I've kept my word, what I said I would do
12 with that animal shelter. Before the election was
13 ever held, there was a question asked in both papers
14 how do you feel about an animal shelter. I don't
15 remember the exact wording, but I know I said I
16 would support an animal shelter and I've done that.
17 I've not told any lies.

18 Is Ann Brown here today? Would you
19 come up here just a minute? Ann Brown is the
20 chairman of our animal board.

21 MS. BROWN: I want the mayor to come
22 with me because I want everybody to know that
23 without the mayor, four of these commissioners
24 sitting here and the four city commissioners, we
25 wouldn't be this far along.

1 MR. LOWERY: Here is a plat of the land
2 that's been donated to the animal shelter. There's
3 five acres there and there's the keys to the gate.
4 It's got a lock on it.

5 MS. BROWN: I know we're not supposed
6 to say much, but I just want to say a couple of
7 quick things. One thing is I never agree with Ben
8 Brandon on anything, but I'll agree with him on
9 this, this county needs to heal. We've made -- some
10 mistakes have been made. Personal attacks have been
11 made. I had a letter wrote to me that compared me
12 with Hitler and everything else and that's the most
13 ridiculous thing that I've ever heard in my life. I
14 mean, because I killed some ticks at the City
15 Shelter, which the mayor here supported me 100
16 percent in killing the ticks. If any of you have a
17 problem with me killing ticks, if you'll meet me out
18 front, I'll set up so you can go pick the ticks off
19 the dogs.

20 The next thing I'd like to say is like
21 Lamar said, this county is divided on this. Some
22 people think dumping your little dog is fine. Some
23 people don't. Some people like myself, I believe in
24 taking care of those. God created them. I think we
25 should take care of them. Like Lamar also said,

1 I've been nice. When people has said to me I'll get
2 a gun, shoot the little dog, that's fine. If that's
3 what you want to do, that's fine. I've grinned and
4 beared it and I've said, okay, if that's how you
5 feel about it, I'm not going to grin and bear it
6 anymore. This shelter is going to be built in this
7 county. If you don't like it, learn to live with
8 it. I didn't like the soccer field being built down
9 there. My grandson plays on it. I've learned to
10 live with it. So the shelter will be built and all
11 of you people who don't like it, learn to live with
12 it.

13 Oh, yeah, and I would like to say one
14 more thing about Lamar Lowery. I think someone,
15 Bill Slack, you said that he told us animal people
16 that he was going to give us S.P.L.O.S.T money and
17 that's why we got out and supported him, that's a
18 lie.

19 MR. BRANDON: Let's not get into
20 personal attacks.

21 MS. BROWN: Well, that's not true.

22 MR. BRANDON: Let's not get into
23 personal attacks.

24 MR. SLACK: Thanks for the honorable
25 mention.

1 MS. BROWN: And Senator Mullis has
2 promised us \$10,000 that we could apply for after
3 July 1st and I think Lamar is going to work on that
4 with me and we'll get that applied for.

5 MR. LOWERY: I've got one last thing
6 and then I'll be quiet. One more person I want to
7 brag on here is our county clerk. As many of you
8 remember, we had money in the bank, millions of
9 dollars in the bank for years. It was put in there
10 at a half a percent interest. Nobody ever went down
11 there and renewed those CDs. They laid there for
12 years at a half percent interest. Our county clerk
13 over here when he came in, first thing he did, he
14 reinvested these CDs and they're in the back of our
15 finance page here. We're getting anywhere from four
16 and a half, four and a quarter to 5.5 percent, money
17 that we could have had. What a big deal is that?
18 Six months this year, six months right here in this
19 book, just from interest by somebody paying
20 attention and going down and investing our CDs, we
21 have made \$21,086 in interest. That's all I have to
22 say about that.

23 MR. BRANDON: Okay. That gets us up to
24 citizen participation. If anyone would like to --
25 yes, sir. Recognize Mr. Tony Moreland.

1 MR. MORELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I wasn't even going to come to the meeting tonight.
3 I actually went to eat with my family. While I was
4 sitting there, I decided I would come over and come
5 to the meeting and I wanted to say a couple of
6 things. One, when I was looking around the room, we
7 just had the 4th of July and there's a lot of people
8 on both sides of these issues. I know one of the
9 people that's intimately involved in this walks with
10 a limp because he had his legs shot out from under
11 him in Vietnam. There's some people on both sides
12 of the issue. There's people in here who served
13 their country and people who got hurt all so we
14 could do this. You know, what a wonderful place.
15 In other places, they pull car bombs up outside the
16 door and blow everybody up in this building if they
17 disagree with them. Thank God we live in a place
18 where we can come and talk and hash things out.

19 Politics is ugly in Dade County. I'm
20 telling you it's ugly. We can all get wound up in
21 it to the point that it just gets insane. I mean,
22 we get crazy with it. We've seen it for years.

23 I've lived here -- I'm 47 years old and
24 I've lived here my whole live. My mother and
25 daddy -- the house I was raised in Lamar's daddy

1 built, four-room house my mother and daddy bought.
2 Lamar Lowery is a good man. He really is. His
3 daddy is a good man. I like them. I know a lot of
4 people don't believe that, but he is. A lot of
5 y'all may be shocked, but Ben Brandon goes to Bible
6 study with me every week. I've seen Ben Brandon
7 pray about things that you'd probably be shocked
8 about.

9 Sarah Moore, I worked very closely with
10 her when she was the clerk of court. She did an
11 outstanding job. Never one time did I ever have any
12 disagreement with her either professional nor
13 personal. She did a good job. I don't know
14 Mr. Young very well, but he's my commissioner. I
15 don't know Mr. Pittman very well, but they seem like
16 good people.

17 But everybody has differences of
18 opinion about things. This dog shelter is a prime
19 example. That's what politics is for. You're
20 supposed to hash those things out. You know, people
21 are going to get on one side and people are going to
22 get on another. But I wanted to come up here, two
23 things to say that. The other one was that I hope
24 that somehow we can fix this. I was one of those
25 people who was wrong. I went around and tried my

1 best to get people to vote for this form of
2 government.

3 When I was a young person and raised
4 here, we had a sole commissioner. My daddy was an
5 adamant supporter of one of the two and everybody
6 knows who I'm talking about. My father-in-law was
7 an adamant supporter of the other one, so we
8 couldn't even talk at the supper table sometimes.
9 Everybody would get on one side and people on the
10 other. Politics has been that way forever. I think
11 a sole commissioner is too much power in one man's
12 hands. It's just too much for one person to have.
13 I believe that with all my heart. But by the same
14 token, I didn't like an appointed person running the
15 county because the county commission would hire him
16 and then two years later, they despised him. It was
17 obvious that that form of government was not
18 functioning.

19 I mean, all you've got to do is go back
20 and look at the history when we had a hired county
21 manager. It didn't work. That's why the people in
22 the county overwhelmingly voted to change to this
23 form of government and I was one of those. I was
24 ignorant. I voted for it. I went out and got
25 people to vote for it and talked it up because I

1 thought it was a great form of government. I
2 thought it would work. I had no idea that this
3 would happen. I was wrong. I mean, I didn't see
4 this coming.

5 I thought a county executive was a
6 county executive and I thought that everybody
7 thought what I thought and that's obviously not
8 true. That was a mistake I made.

9 Lamar made the point, good point that
10 we have checks and balances. That's why this form
11 of government is such a good form of government. We
12 need checks and balances. There's no doubt. One
13 person doesn't need to have that much power. I
14 agree with that. But the difference is at the
15 federal level and the state level, you have a
16 constitution and it says these are the powers of the
17 president and these are the powers of the congress
18 and these are the powers of the courts and one side
19 can't go over and get in the business of the other
20 side. You can't do that.

21 The war in Iraq is a prime example.
22 Y'all know how that's tearing this country apart.
23 The vast majority of congress is opposed to the war
24 in Iraq. But guess what, the president is commander
25 in chief. There ain't nothing they can do about it.

1 He's commander in chief, except cut his money off.
2 That's the ultimate power that congress has over the
3 president.

4 For us, we don't have a constitution,
5 but what we do have is that enabling legislation and
6 we have got to spell out -- in my opinion, we have
7 got to spell out the duties of the county executive
8 or we're going to do this again. I don't care who
9 it is. If I go out and pick four people and they
10 make me the county executive, in about six months,
11 we're going to be fighting. That's the beauty of
12 checks and balances. That's the beauty of our
13 founding fathers. They understood you can't give
14 anybody too much power because they'll abuse it. I
15 believe any of us given the right circumstances
16 probably would if our history is any indication of
17 what we would do.

18 But I wish that we could divide this
19 into two issues. It is obvious that Ben is not
20 going to agree with the other four commissioners and
21 it's obvious those four commissioners aren't going
22 to agree with him. That's one fight and they need
23 to hash this out week in and week out and all of us
24 need to show up and be for the dog pen or against
25 the dog pen or for this expenditure or that

1 expenditure or whatever it is and everybody come in
2 here and fight and hash it out. But the next issue
3 is -- we need to divide it into two issues. The
4 next issue is what are we going to do next. All of
5 y'all ain't going to be here. Some of you may not
6 run again. Some of you may get beat. Some of you
7 may choose to not do this anymore. Somebody may
8 die. We don't know what God's got in store.

9 But what's going to happen for the next
10 guy when he comes in office? I went around and
11 talked to every one of the commissioners. I've
12 talked to people in the media. I've talked to a lot
13 of people and this is an idea that I have and I wish
14 that the county commission would adopt it. We ought
15 to take every person who's ever held office in the
16 county, in any county office if you want to or just
17 in the county commission, but take those people,
18 form a committee, have them go into a room and come
19 up with what they think the executive's powers ought
20 to be and bring those recommendations to the county
21 commission, get them to vote on them and then get
22 them before the legislation and make it effective
23 January 1st, 2009, the day after Ben Brandon leaves
24 office so it ain't got nothing to do with him.
25 We've got to fix this. If not, I believe today if

1 you had a vote, that the county would vote
2 overwhelmingly to go back to a sole commission. I
3 think it would be huge and I think that's a mistake.

4 I would like to see this fixed. But
5 anyway, I just wanted to say that. I wish all of
6 you would reconsider -- those three that are
7 opposed, just reconsider coming up with some kind of
8 committee to look at this. If they come back and
9 you don't like it, you can vote no. But at least
10 let somebody look at some ideas about how we're
11 going to move forward.

12 MS. MOORE: Tony, I wanted to add some
13 information on this. I've been here in the county
14 government since 1979, so I've known all of these
15 county managers. And the first county manager we
16 had was Ed Wilkey and Ed Wilkey came in just as an
17 interim and did an outstanding job with the first
18 one. Okay. So he wasn't fired. I just want to
19 clarify all this. The next one that came in was
20 J.D. Kirby. He was a former military personnel. He
21 did an outstanding job, but he went on the pro golf
22 tour. He went on working with professional golf.
23 He was not fired. Okay. So that's two. The next
24 one was Paul Page and I think there might have been
25 some problems with only one of them. Then you had

1 J.D. Bird. J.D. Bird had to leave because the form
2 of government was changing to an elected.

3 MR. LOWERY: J.D. Bird resigned and
4 went to --

5 MS. MOORE: Well, I mean, because he
6 knew this was coming up, this form of government and
7 he would have to run for that position, so only --

8 MR. MORELAND: One of those county
9 commissioners was also involved in a fist fight in a
10 commission meeting. Remember that? You can't -- I
11 mean, to me that's just the kind of chaos --

12 MS. MOORE: Well, I don't know who it
13 was, but I wanted to tell you that Ed Wilkey, J.D.
14 Kirby and J.D. Bird all left on good terms and for
15 the right reasons.

16 MR. MORELAND: Right. But obviously
17 the people didn't like that form of government.

18 MS. MOORE: But it wasn't because that
19 you had conflict there. I just wanted to clarify
20 that. There was only one with conflict.

21 MR. LOWERY: I just want to say I
22 appreciate the nice things you said and you talked
23 about the Independence Day. Have you read about
24 what it took to get independence passed to the 13
25 colonies? There was some pretty stout remarks made

1 between each other.

2 MR. MORELAND: Politics is ugly.

3 MR. LOWERY: But they went behind
4 closed doors and made a decision and they voted
5 unanimously, all 13, to declare their independence.
6 Same thing happened with our constitution. It was
7 heated discussion.

8 MR. MORELAND: And there should be.

9 MR. LOWERY: But they went behind
10 doors. They made a decision and they lived with it.

11 MR. MORELAND: I know. I understand
12 that. That's why I'm saying move it outside this
13 body because we're at an impasse.

14 MR. LOWERY: Well, the same people that
15 you're wanting to put in there is what's led us to
16 where we are today, so why would you want them?

17 MR. MORELAND: Well, you've got people
18 who know what that county executive ought to do, I
19 would think if they've served in that position. If
20 you don't think that those people can do it, spread
21 it outside that. Take everybody who's ever had a
22 county office. We've got a former sheriff in here.
23 As I look around the room, we've got all kind of
24 officials, people who can serve in those positions.
25 Take all the other county -- I mean, any committee.

1 I'm not opposing. You get such a wide variety of
2 political views, if you get a committee that large,
3 you're going to get every view that could possibly
4 be entered into, but I think to do nothing is to
5 just abandon all of us no matter what side we're on.
6 You're just abandoning us and we're going to sit
7 here until this is over and then we'll do it again.

8 MS. MOORE: First of all, Tony, we're
9 glad you're here tonight because everybody should be
10 at these commission meetings. We have asked for
11 people to be here. We've asked for Ben to be on the
12 committees with us, to do the work, be here to do
13 the day-to-day operations.

14 MR. LOWERY: And these committees
15 didn't have to be created. You heard him kill them
16 tonight. They didn't have to be created.

17 MS. MOORE: So just be here at the
18 meetings.

19 MR. LOWERY: You asked me what's going
20 to be happening with the next guy and all I can tell
21 you -- you must not have been at the work session,
22 but I'll be glad to tell you exactly what I said and
23 I can only speak for myself. I can't speak for
24 these other guys. Me and Scottie will be here. If
25 we don't die, we will be here. When the new guy

1 gets here, he will go back to those strong executive
2 powers and he will have his chance to see if he does
3 what's right and I believe -- I believe we'll get
4 that person. I don't believe anybody could be as
5 hard to work with as Ben.

6 MR. MORELAND: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Tony. Anyone
8 else? Yes, sir. The chair recognizes Mr. Lee
9 Riddle.

10 MR. RIDDLE: My name is Lee Riddle and
11 I live up here north of Trenton in the county and I
12 appreciate what the man just said. That would be --
13 what he just recommended could be a working form of
14 government and in my opinion and I was one of the
15 three people that got the petition together to
16 change this form of government and I made a mistake
17 and I'll admit that. Jeff Mullis, Senator Mullis
18 wrote the legislation with the help of Bill Adams
19 supposedly. They made a mistake. There's no doubt
20 about that.

21 Jeff Mullis, the senator, has sat in
22 front of me and admitted he made a mistake and
23 Mr. Lowery says he has a letter, said the senator
24 stated in the letter -- and I have no doubt he has
25 the letter. Okay. You don't have to show it to me.

1 I have no doubt of that, that there would not be a
2 change in government. Well, let me tell you what
3 Senator Mullis told me personally. If he hears an
4 outcry of citizens from Dade County, he will change
5 this government. He does not have to have a vote of
6 these people to do it. He can do it without them.
7 That is a fact.

8 So if you want a government changed,
9 the people needs to stand up and let Senator Mullis
10 and our Representative Martin Scott know this
11 without these people being involved at all and
12 should be done, so thank you.

13 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. The chair
14 recognizes Commissioner Young's wife, Angela.

15 MRS. YOUNG: Thank you. I'm going to
16 change the subject. I'm just up here to tell
17 everyone not only am I David's wife. A lot of times
18 I don't say anything even though I'm very
19 opinionated, but I'm here today as president of the
20 South Dade Community Center. Over a year ago,
21 Senator Jeff Mullis had granted us a \$15,000 grant
22 and he had pictures taken, him and Martin Scott and
23 the wording got messed up down in Atlanta and it's
24 taken almost over a year to finally get the funds.

25 I just want to say that our

1 commissioner of South Dade, David Young, and our
2 county clerk repeatedly called Senator Mullis'
3 office, talked to Martin Scott, called Senator
4 Mullis and finally we were awarded one check and
5 I've been told that as soon as y'all sign the other
6 check, we can start our improvements of the
7 community center and we just want to thank everyone
8 involved that was a squeaky wheel in Atlanta to get
9 those funds disbursed to us. We're going to start
10 remodeling our bathrooms and upgrading the ball
11 fields and so there are good things in Dade County.
12 People just need to ignore the negative and look for
13 some of the positive aspects of this county and our
14 community centers are one of the best things we have
15 going and that's all I have to say.

16 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. The chair
17 recognizes Mr. Black.

18 MR. BLACK: Mr. Chairman and members of
19 the commission here, I saw a lot of grandstanding
20 tonight. I believe our good fellow over there done
21 a lot of it. Little did he know, behind the scenes
22 that I've been working to help with the dog pound
23 and I even had the ability to get some drawings. We
24 could have got the labor free. They would have used
25 convict labor and they would have come and they

1 would have been quartered over here in Rome. We
2 wouldn't even had to pay them. But you chose to
3 give the five-and-a-half acres down here, which it
4 shouldn't have been, but of course that's your idea
5 about how things work.

6 So I'd just like to say to you guys, if
7 you four guys or five of you cannot run this county,
8 I would recommend that you just resign. That would
9 be the thing to do. But I know that's not going to
10 happen either. So I just want you to know how I
11 feel. Now, I want you to know another thing. I've
12 been in touch with the office of Jeff Mullis and I'm
13 just waiting for a reply from him. So I want to see
14 your letter over there before I leave.

15 MR. LOWERY: Would you like for me to
16 read it?

17 MR. BRANDON: No, it's not necessary.

18 MR. BLACK: I don't think you need to
19 read it. You've done enough reading tonight. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. LOWERY: I'd just like to say one
22 thing before you sit down.

23 MR. BRANDON: Anyone else? Seeing
24 no --

25 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, I would like

1 to respond to one of his comments.

2 MR. BRANDON: This is citizen
3 participation. The chair recognizes Mr. Slack.

4 MR. SLACK: My name is Bill Slack.
5 Most of you know me. I'm real proud of my
6 son-in-law. He and I have fussed about a lot of
7 things, disagreed about a lot of things and agreed
8 on a lot of things, but we're both brothers in
9 Christ, so we try to operate on that level and I
10 might disappoint him about what I'm going to say,
11 but we'll discuss that, he and I. We won't bring it
12 before the commission.

13 I'm kind of appalled at Mr. Lowery up
14 here for using the terms he used at the start of
15 this thing, which is trash language to me to
16 describe his body part on how hard he worked to get
17 the job done. Well, as I look around, I believe he
18 lied to us. If he didn't -- I mean, if he didn't,
19 David Young is the only one that's been working to
20 me. That's the only one I can see any evidence of.

21 MR. BRANDON: Bill, be nice. Thank
22 you. Any other -- yes, sir. We'll make this the
23 last one because we have an executive session to
24 move into.

25 MR. STEVENS: My name is Steve Stevens.

1 I've lived here in Dade County all my life, 42
2 years. I've been involved in politics since I was
3 about 14 years old. My dad, he was a road boss for
4 Doug Miller, Dan Hall and Larry Moore. My mom, she
5 worked as a dispatcher at the Sheriff's Office for
6 Cubie Steel. So I've seen the good times and the
7 bad times in Dade County. I was the second one that
8 actually signed Ben's petition behind Eddie Pittman
9 and talked to Ben afterwards and the meetings that I
10 have been allowed to go to, it's been political.
11 But Ben told me personally that he was wanting to
12 take politics out of it, but that's mostly what it's
13 been about and, Ben, honestly, you've been one of
14 the ones that's brought it up a lot.

15 MR. BRANDON: Steve, if you're up here
16 just to --

17 MR. STEVENS: No. I'm not bad mouthing
18 nobody or I'm not going to criticize.

19 MR. BRANDON: Well, it sounds like it
20 to me.

21 MR. STEVENS: Well, listen. Sorry.
22 Y'all have constantly mentioned the past. We've
23 done this in the past. We've done that in the past.
24 A lot of the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown
25 Development Authority, let's look to the future of

1 Dade County, not what we've done wrong in the past.

2 God forgets our past when we get saved,
3 correct? Let's forget our past. Let's work to the
4 future of Dade County. Let's work on lowering
5 taxes, better improvements on our roads. You know,
6 I've been down to -- several times -- I'm personal
7 friends with Billy Massengale. I consider every one
8 of y'all my friends. Ben, you've never done nothing
9 personally to me. You know, this is the first time
10 I've ever had the encourage to get up and say
11 something, but I'm just tired of all the bickering
12 and arguing. You know, y'all are not hurting
13 yourselves personally. Y'all are hurting us, the
14 taxpayers.

15 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Steve. Okay.
16 At this time we will be -- we need to take a vote to
17 go into executive session to discuss a personnel
18 session. Do I have a motion to go into executive
19 session?

20 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion.

21 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
22 have a second?

23 MR. YOUNG: Second.

24 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
25 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

1 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

2 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

3 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

5 MS. MOORE: Yes.

6 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

7 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

8 MR. BRANDON: We stand adjourned for
9 hopefully not very long.

10 (Thereupon, the Commission went
11 into Executive Session.)

12 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I'll call the
13 meeting back to order. We need a motion to return
14 back from executive session.

15 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we return
16 from executive session.

17 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
18 have a second?

19 MS. MOORE: I'll second.

20 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
21 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

22 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

23 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

24 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

25 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

1 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

2 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

3 MS. MOORE: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: We stand reconvened. We
5 need to take a vote to hire an employee to work the
6 scale who has already been conditionally approved.
7 We're going to hire Ms. Ashton Vaughn at the rate of
8 \$10.05 an hour at the suggestion of the Personnel
9 Committee and Public Works Director. Do I have a
10 motion that we hire Ms. Vaughn at 10.05 an hour?

11 MS. MOORE: I make a motion that we
12 hire her.

13 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
14 have a second?

15 MR. YOUNG: Second.

16 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
17 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

18 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

19 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

21 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

22 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

23 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

24 MS. MOORE: Yes.

25 MR. BRANDON: The motion passes.

1 Having no further business before the Dade County
2 Commission, we stand adjourned until the August
3 meeting.

4 END OF MEETING
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF TENNESSEE)
)
 3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

4
 5 I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
 6 Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
 7 State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
 8 I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
 9 in the above-styled cause on the 5th day of
 10 July, 2007;

11 That the said proceedings were
 12 reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
 13 and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
 14 proceedings.

15 This the 31st day of July, 2007.

16
 17
 18
 19
 20 Erin M. Flatt
 Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public
 21 in and for the State of Tennessee
 Tennessee at Large.
 22 My commission expires
 23 November 7, 2010.



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