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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2007

1 MR. BRANDON: I'll call the meeting to
2 order. I will call on Brother John Smith from Piney
3 Grove Baptist Church to lead us in the invocation
4 and Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (Thereupon, the invocation and
6 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

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

14 MR. LOWERY: Here.

15 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

16 MS. MOORE: Here.

17 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

18 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

19 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

20 MR. YOUNG: Here.

21 MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present.
22 We have a forum and therefore a legal meeting.

23 The reading of the minutes of the
24 September 2007 regular meeting will not be required
25 since all commissioners have been furnished copies

1 in advance. The minutes are public record and
2 available for review in the county manager's office.
3 The minutes are included in the consent agenda. At
4 this time, I will ask the clerk to read the items
5 that were agreed to on the consent agenda before the
6 work session.

7 MR. TOWNSEND: We have approval of
8 appointments to the tax assessor's office and those
9 are Carrie Lawman, Dusty Rumley, Cynthia Cross,
10 hiring of Mary Pierce and Lori Morgan, PSIC grant
11 for E-911, a letter of commitment and/or memorandum
12 of understanding from the Commission to this board
13 or this group, invoices to be approved. Do we need
14 to review those?

15 MR. BRANDON: Yes, please.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: We have the fourth
17 quarter 2005 payroll tax. We have the Dade County
18 payrolls, the City of Trenton and 1,118, which is
19 our workers' compensation and \$110,287 for the
20 renewal of our liability policy for the county. The
21 2008 LARP list as amended. That amendment is to
22 correct the mileage on Sarah Chapel. It's Creek
23 Road not Pope Creek Road and to add Saddle Club
24 Road.

25 Local update of census addresses. It's

1 a memorandum of understanding with the City of
2 Trenton, adoption to solid waste management draft
3 plan or management plan for the draft update and by
4 resolution of adoption for the alcoholic beverage
5 board to review license for Dade County and also on
6 the recommendation of the county attorney, to
7 increase the application fee to \$310.

8 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Don. To
9 approve the consent agenda, I'll need a motion and a
10 second. Do I have a motion that we approve the
11 consent agenda?

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

14 MR. BRANDON: Do I have a second?

15 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second.

16 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman seconds.
17 Beat you by a hair. I'll call the roll.
18 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: Motion passes.

2 Next up we'll go to the appearances.

3 We'll have the appearance of Mayor Anthony Emanuel.

4 I know he's here. I saw him a while ago. I'll ask
5 him to come up.

6 MR. EMANUEL: Y'all are expecting
7 something tragic. You got real quiet. We are
8 pleased to present the following information
9 regarding the City of Trenton's 2007 calendar
10 year-to-date performance indicators through the
11 month of September.

12 Financially, we've had total revenue of
13 \$2,013,000. Against that revenue, we've had total
14 expenses of \$1,905,000, which yields a net income of
15 \$108,000. As a side note, we also have through
16 September \$133,000 set aside in a contingency fund.

17 Every time I come up here and every
18 time you drive through the City of Trenton, if
19 you're looking at signs, you have to be aware that
20 we're promoting quality of life within the City of
21 Trenton. Even though we say that, what we're really
22 doing is promoting quality of life within Dade
23 County recognizing first that every Trentonian is
24 also a Dade Countian and secondly recognizing that
25 the City of Trenton is also the face of Dade County.

1 The Promotion Committee, which is
2 chaired by Rex Harrison, had a very productive
3 month. A second summer concert was held
4 September 22nd in Jenkins Park. It included the
5 Dade County Chamber of Commerce's personalities of
6 Dade County, which we have a few. And then the
7 Southeast Christian Coalition held a youth festival
8 concert in Jenkins Park on September 29th. We're
9 very happy to see that the park is used for these
10 kind of events.

11 The DDA or the Downtown Development
12 Authority will also be supporting the American
13 Legion and its Veteran's Day parade and bike show
14 come December 10th. The Chickamauga Campaign
15 Heritage Trail, the two signs within the City have
16 been mounted, located and are in position. The DDA
17 is also pleased to support the Dade County Sheriff's
18 Department pumpkin patch and will be holding the
19 second annual scarecrow contest October 25th.

20 MR. CERVELLI: 27th.

21 MR. EMANUEL: If you say so. You
22 should know. 27th. I stand corrected.

23 And the Design Committee, which is
24 chaired by Bob Dombrowski, special thanks to Senator
25 Jeff Mullis for his support in the City having

1 received a \$22,500 state grant to support the
2 streetscape planning efforts.

3 We've also filed a transfer enhancement
4 or a TE grant application to the Georgia Department
5 of Transportation. Our grant seeks \$1,250,000 from
6 GDOT to renovate US Highway 11, which is basically
7 south from the courthouse. GDOT will announce the
8 approval grants this month. So remember us in your
9 prayers.

10 The DDA congratulates the Lineman's
11 College for their major rehabilitation of the El
12 Rancho Motel. Did you ever think it could look that
13 good? And we also congratulate Monda Wooten and her
14 husband for their renovation of the old Kyzer
15 Automotive Building. Both projects are making a
16 major statement about a new look for Trenton.

17 We also congratulate the Trenton Arts
18 Council, Tree City USA and Keep Dade Beautiful for
19 their support which resulted in the dedication of
20 the Totemic Raven sculpture work at Jenkins Park.
21 If you haven't had a chance to go down and look at
22 it, you need to. It is located at the trail head of
23 the Town Creek Walk.

24 Individually, we need to recognize Mary
25 Petruska, Frank Wallen and Preston Daniels within

1 the City. They all went above and beyond in
2 expending their time, energy and resources in
3 helping to make the Totemic Raven part of the
4 Trenton Town Creek Walk successful.

5 The Economic Restructuring Committee,
6 which is chaired by Allen Ward, is actively pursuing
7 new businesses for downtown Trenton. And the
8 Organization Committee, which is chaired by Janet
9 York, has no updated information.

10 Kudos to all of the DDA chairs and
11 their committee members and to Mr. Peter Cervelli,
12 the City's better hometown manager, for their
13 persistence and attention to detail in seeking to
14 improve the quality of life for all Trentonians and
15 Dade Countians. Thank you.

16 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mayor.

17 Next up under appearances, we have
18 Debbie Tinker with the Chamber of Commerce.

19 MS. TINKER: I want to thank y'all for
20 letting me speak tonight. I'm going to try not to
21 take too much of y'all's time tonight. We are
22 making a presence in the area, in the region and
23 also the state. I have made everyone here a copy of
24 this. If you would like one, it's on the back table
25 here. This tells you what the Chamber has done this

1 past quarter and because it's a little lengthy, we
2 did it this way.

3 One of the events I did want to talk
4 about though, that we did this quarter, was the
5 photography contest. We had 150 entries in the
6 Personalities of Dade calendar and photo contest.
7 Professional photographers selected the winners.
8 Hopefully, the calendars will be out by mid
9 November, but we held our exhibit in Jenkins Park
10 this year and also did a concert in conjunction with
11 this.

12 At this time, the Chamber would like to
13 say that we appreciate the joint efforts of these
14 organizations for helping make this possible, Keep
15 Dade Beautiful Program, Trenton Art Council, Kiwanis
16 Club, Masons, Dade Animal Board and the Trenton DDA
17 and it just was a really nice evening there.

18 I'm going to skip on back to upcoming
19 events. Next week the Chamber is sponsoring the
20 Hillbilly Wood Stick Dukes of Hazards Cruise to be
21 in Trenton at Jenkins Park. One of our own home
22 boys, Wayne Wooten, has been organizing this cruise
23 up in North Carolina. This is a 450-mile car cruise
24 that will go from North Carolina to Covington,
25 Georgia. They will bring people that were in the TV

1 series of the Dukes of Hazard, also some of them
2 that worked on the set. They hope to have 40-plus
3 cars here. There will be a simulator car if you'd
4 like to get in that. But we would like everyone to
5 come out and join us that day. It is free of
6 charge.

7 Also, on October 22nd there will be a
8 Rivers of Life cleanup at Jenkins Park on Town
9 Creek -- that's a hard one for me, Town Creek Walk
10 Trail. Those participating in that will be the Dade
11 Chamber, DDA, Keep Dade Beautiful, Dade County Girl
12 and Boy Scouts, Hangglider Pilots, Trenton Art
13 Council. The Dade County 4H Group will be
14 organizing their annual cleanup at that same time
15 and will do it in conjunction with us.

16 So any of y'all that would like to come
17 out, help clean up Dade County, that is on
18 October 22nd. And then the Chamber will be
19 participating in the Sheriff's Office's pumpkin
20 patch parade along with the DDA, the library and I
21 think the Animal Board is participating. The
22 Chamber will have baked goods and we will also be
23 handing out candy to the children and encouraging
24 businesses on the square and in the surrounding area
25 to come out and give the candy to the kids to keep

1 them off the streets.

2 And most important tonight, I would
3 like to introduce you to a bunch of youth in our
4 community. I am not biased, but after they stand
5 up, you will see our next business world is going to
6 be made up of women. Would our Junior Chamber
7 please stand up? Thank y'all. We do have 17
8 members this year and of those 17, we do have one
9 male student. A lot of them did have to work
10 tonight and other things, but you will be seeing
11 their faces at many civic meetings, community
12 projects in the area. That is one of the things
13 they learn this year is to be a big part of our
14 community. Thank you very much.

15 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Debbie.

16 Moving on to item number four on the
17 agenda, fiscal matters. I will ask the county clerk
18 to give the financial report, please.

19 MR. TOWNSEND: Through October 1st,
20 2007, the drug education fund was \$92,347; federal
21 asset fund, \$10,857; special sheriff's fund, 28,983;
22 jail fund, 11,829; juvenile service fund, \$11,027.
23 Victim assistance fund, \$4,168; payroll accounts is
24 \$64,193. General fund, \$30,840; principal and
25 interest account, \$1,418,090. Principal and

1 interest CDs, \$550,000; P&I debt service account,
2 27,983. Capital bond fund account, \$70,941; capital
3 bond CDs, 450,432.

4 If you'll flip over on page two, you'll
5 see the commissioners there the list of CDs and then
6 the third page is the redeemed or renewed CDs.
7 Beginning on page four, this is the departmental
8 level budget and you'll see at the bottom with 75
9 percent of the year obtained. As of
10 September 30th, we had revenues obtainment of
11 77.86 percent, expense obtained at 72.83, so
12 revenues are still up a little bit, expenses are
13 still down a little bit.

14 There is a highlighted line there that
15 says insurance premium paid to BlueCross BlueShield
16 of Georgia. That is our new insurance. We didn't
17 have a breakdown for that, so we've had to actually
18 list that outside the departments, but once we get
19 that breakdown, we will apply that to the different
20 departments. So --

21 MR. BRANDON: That money is budgeted
22 though?

23 MR. TOWNSEND: Oh, it's budgeted. It's
24 just we didn't have a breakdown to put it inside
25 their departments, but on page five, I made -- did a

1 best guess at it based on their current employees,
2 if they had family or individual coverages, so I did
3 go ahead and apply that, but that's unofficial.
4 That's a best guess.

5 So, but anyway, the numbers are still
6 the same. 72.83 percent under expenses obtained.
7 And the following pages is the summary of the
8 project variance report, which lists each individual
9 item there for you to review. That concludes the
10 report.

11 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Don.

12 Moving on to legal matters. I will ask
13 the county attorney if we have any legal matters
14 that we can talk about? Do we have an update on the
15 lawsuit against the County by Mr. Blevins?

16 MR. ROGERS: No. There's nothing that
17 has happened with that. It's still pending with the
18 judge.

19 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Nothing else?

20 MR. ROGERS: No.

21 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Moving on into
22 unfinished business, there is none that I know of.
23 Moving from there to new business, we only have one
24 item of new business on the agenda. Discussion
25 was -- we had discussion in the work session about

1 the timing of a S.P.L.O.S.T referendum to renew --
2 whether or not to renew the S.P.L.O.S.T for -- to
3 continue after the current one expires and the
4 recommendation was made to have that referendum in
5 February 2008 because if you -- and the reason given
6 was that if you have the referendum, S.P.L.O.S.T
7 referendum and it fails, you can't have another one
8 for at least a year. And I understand the
9 rationale. So now the question before the
10 Commission is to -- whether or not to schedule the
11 S.P.L.O.S.T referendum for, I think, it's
12 February 8th, is it Don?

13 MS. MOORE: 5th.

14 MR. BRANDON: February 5th.

15 MR. TOWNSEND: February 5th.

16 MR. BRANDON: February 5th to have a
17 referendum on renewing the S.P.L.O.S.T to continue
18 after the current one exists. Do we have a motion
19 to do that?

20 MR. LOWERY: I make that motion.

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

23 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second that.

24 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
25 second. We'll open the floor for discussion now.

1 The reason this wasn't on the consent agenda was
2 because I had said that I couldn't support doing the
3 renewal that soon and the reason is because when
4 you're talking about something as important as a
5 S.P.L.O.S.T, I'm all for letting people decide how
6 much and whether they want to tax themselves, but I
7 think this is premature.

8 We have not completed a couple of the
9 major projects under the current S.P.L.O.S.T. We
10 haven't used the money that we borrowed under the
11 current S.P.L.O.S.T yet and we're going to be short
12 probably on this -- on the court building. But I
13 think we've not made a good effort toward completing
14 these things and I think we should wait until
15 November of 2008 when we know that there will be a
16 better turnout for the general election rather than
17 doing it in probably the least attended election
18 that we have which is the presidential preference
19 primary. The only elections, I think, we have that
20 have a lower turnout is maybe the -- maybe some
21 special election that we would have in the county.
22 But I think if you're going to ask people to turn
23 out to decide on a S.P.L.O.S.T matter, it would be
24 better to do it when you know most of the people are
25 going to be there. That's my rationale for doing

1 it. And I know we're worried that the S.P.L.O.S.T
2 is not going to be continued, but that makes it
3 incumbent upon us to make sure that the projects on
4 there are going to be deemed worthy by the people
5 voting on it. And so I would not be able to vote to
6 have the referendum in February, but I'll open it up
7 and let others give their comments on that.

8 MR. LOWERY: You've pretty well covered
9 it, I think. We're concerned that it will run out
10 and you're concerned about the projects.

11 MR. BRANDON: Well, I'm concerned about
12 the projects because, for instance, we know we're
13 going to be short on the courts building, but we
14 haven't done anything to take the one step that we
15 could take to get more money to complete that, which
16 is to sell that property behind the ball fields down
17 there because we ran the sewer up to the top of the
18 field to enable us to do that and we haven't made
19 any effort to sell that.

20 We contacted some auction companies
21 last year, but we never took a vote to go forward
22 with the sale. I think until we ask people to vote
23 themselves a renewal of this tax, that we ought to
24 make a good effort to collect whatever money we can
25 from whatever resources we have available including

1 possibly selling the property that we own over in
2 Back Valley as well. But any other comments or
3 alternative views, now would be the time to voice
4 it.

5 MR. LOWERY: How many acres is in Back
6 Valley?

7 MR. BRANDON: Pardon?

8 MR. LOWERY: How many acres are in Back
9 Valley? I think it was 19.

10 MR. BRANDON: I believe it was 24 acres
11 adjacent to the old landfill. You can't do anything
12 with the landfill, but just south of the old
13 landfill, I believe there's 24 acres over there that
14 could be sold. But I think we need to make a good
15 effort to get whatever money we can from our
16 existing resources before we start asking for a
17 renewal of the S.P.L.O.S.T.

18 MS. MOORE: I think that's going to
19 come up on October 30th when we'll be talking
20 about that on that special meeting. We'll be
21 talking about that courts building and we had bonded
22 \$2 million and it's right now, what, Don, about a
23 million and a quarter?

24 MR. BRANDON: We bonded 5 million.

25 MS. MOORE: We bonded 2 million on the

1 courthouse.

2 MR. LOWERY: Just for the justice
3 building.

4 MS. MOORE: The justice building
5 expansion.

6 MR. BRANDON: We borrowed a total of
7 five though.

8 MS. MOORE: That still wasn't enough
9 money to do, you know, what we needed to do with it,
10 but we can discuss that on October 30th, what we
11 plan to do to proceed with that courts building.

12 MR. BRANDON: Any other discussion from
13 the Commissioners about this issue about the timing
14 of the S.P.L.O.S.T referendum? Hearing none, we'll
15 take a vote. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

16 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

17 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

18 MS. MOORE: Yes.

19 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

21 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

22 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

23 MR. BRANDON: The chair votes no. The
24 motion passes. We will have a S.P.L.O.S.T vote on
25 February 5th.

1 Moving on to -- that being all the new
2 business, that will move us to citizen
3 participation. I would ask you to once again be
4 civil, be polite. Please no personal attacks on any
5 of the Commissioners and I would ask if anyone
6 wishes to address your fellow citizens, please raise
7 your hand and come up and do that now. Yes, sir,
8 Mr. Avery.

9 MR. AVERY: I'm proud the Junior
10 Chamber is here tonight. I was stammering. I'm
11 sorry. But anyway, could I please have a show of
12 hands if anybody supports me?

13 MS. MOORE: Tell them what, Mr. Avery.

14 MR. AVERY: Pardon?

15 MS. MOORE: Tell them on what, support
16 you on what. Some of them weren't here.

17 MR. AVERY: Oh, I was talking about the
18 red star, which is a communist symbol and so some of
19 you may not have heard me.

20 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: Tell them where
21 it is and everything.

22 MR. AVERY: Oh, it's right here in the
23 parking lot, one of them is. It's all over the
24 county, several places. There's one right out here
25 in the memorial, you know. I mean, the Veterans

1 Memorial Park, the very entrance to the Veterans
2 Memorial is a communist symbol and I don't know what
3 to say really. I'm ashamed. I'm disgusted and I
4 will continue to fight this situation. Thank you.

5 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. Anyone else?
6 Mr. Goff.

7 MR. GOFF: My name is Robert Goff. I
8 am a lifelong citizen of Dade County. I come
9 tonight. If I get -- if it's considered out of
10 order and attacked, I want to know that. By now a
11 lot of the people in this room and all the
12 Commissioners sitting know that there are two
13 petitions that are being circulated in the county.
14 Regardless of what you've heard or what you choose
15 to believe, we are not working toward sole
16 commission. We're simply trying to make sure that
17 the office of the county executive has a defined job
18 description for whoever the next executive may be.

19 We're also trying to give the people,
20 the voters, the citizens a chance to elect at large
21 all county district commissioners regardless of what
22 district the voter lives in, not the commissioner.
23 They would still have to live in their district.
24 We've been advised by both Senator Mullis and Martin
25 Scott that if we've got ten percent of the

1 registered voters on a petition, that they would
2 help to make sure, work together to make sure that
3 this was on the November 2008 ballot.

4 I only have a question for this
5 Commission. I won't call names, but on August 2nd,
6 I stood here and talked about this issue and just
7 before I talked about this issue, one commissioner
8 stated then that he thought we should look at
9 electing commissioners at large. A commissioner did
10 that.

11 I jokingly here said, thank you for
12 stealing my thunder, and that commissioner jokingly
13 said to me after the meeting, I'm sorry I stole your
14 thunder. But I've heard no more discussion on that.
15 I think there was a rescinding in the paper the
16 following week of that idea. Although, I think,
17 obviously, it was a great idea.

18 That same night on, I think, August
19 2nd, another commissioner said, I think we need to
20 talk about a workable solution. Now, this is on the
21 record. I may not be quoting it verbatim, but that
22 we should work toward a solution for the job
23 description of the county executive. The executive
24 at that time said we needed more community input,
25 there needed to be public meetings. I have two

1 questions tonight. Are you still saying that there
2 should be commissioners elected at large and should
3 we still have this Commission to work toward finding
4 a solution to the problem for our upcoming election
5 of our next county executive? Because we're going
6 through this process.

7 Our senator and our representative have
8 both told us it obviously is not going to work here,
9 but it could work here. You could do what we're
10 trying to do without putting it on the ballot or you
11 could put it on the ballot. So it's the shame of
12 our county that both of our representatives don't
13 want to get involved, but they are going to be
14 involved and told us they will be involved with
15 these issues.

16 So I am simply asking if you will
17 answer these. I'll sit down and allow you to
18 answer, if you feel like you can, why no more
19 discussion, no public meetings have been held on
20 those two issues that were brought up in a
21 commission meeting by commissioners on August 2nd.
22 And if anyone would like, we are circulating
23 petitions and they will be -- you will be able to
24 sign them if you want to when this meeting is over.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Robert.

2 MR. LOWERY: Have you decided if we're
3 going to be able respond or not going to? Last week
4 you stopped --

5 MR. BRANDON: No, no. I'm not going to
6 respond. I didn't want to speak for you.

7 I see Mr. Black.

8 MR. BLACK: Good evening, Commission.
9 For those of you who don't know me, I am Tom Black.
10 And for those of you who don't know, I sit on the
11 Coosa Valley Soil Water Conservation District and
12 the 19th of this month, the State conservationist
13 will be here to look at some projects that are
14 underway and are going to be put underway, looking
15 at some water issue problems, quality of water
16 problems and if any of you have any input that you
17 would like me to bring to his attention, he's going
18 to spend the whole day here in the county and we're
19 going to several areas. I've had some things
20 pointed out to me in the last few days that I was
21 unaware of that we're going to look at also. So if
22 anybody has anything they would like to take up with
23 him or whatever, if you'll get with me, I will be
24 glad to give you an audience with him. Thank you
25 very much.

1 MR. BRANDON: Is the man we met on the
2 way out of that meeting down there?

3 MR. BLACK: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: He's the State of Georgia
5 conservationist. This would be a very good time to
6 get in front of him with any issues. Any other?
7 Yes, sir. Mr. Riddle?

8 MR. RIDDLE: My name is Lee Riddle,
9 Dade County. I've got one question. You just voted
10 to hold a S.P.L.O.S.T on February 5th. Will the
11 things that that S.P.L.O.S.T is going to be used for
12 made public way prior to that?

13 MR. BRANDON: It will have to be.

14 MR. RIDDLE: Because I think there's
15 some things on there that have not only this
16 S.P.L.O.S.T, but the last two or three, not used
17 them as they should have, in my opinion, and it is
18 my opinion and I will go against this one with
19 everything I've got in the county that it not pass
20 because of the way they have been used in the past.
21 That's all I have to say about it.

22 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mr. Riddle.
23 Yes, ma'am?

24 MS. WOOTEN: I haven't been here in a
25 while. I've been real busy, but I just wanted you

1 to know that I appreciate casting that vote for the
2 S.P.L.O.S.T and I would just on behalf of the Animal
3 Board, I would like to ask you to please remember
4 us. This would be the best way that we could build
5 an animal shelter that we so need and I just want
6 you to please, please think about that and I can
7 assure you that, you know, the S.P.L.O.S.T would
8 carry -- I mean, the Animal Board would carry a lot
9 of support for that because most people in this
10 county know how terrible the problem is. In spite
11 of the few that write the crazy letters in the
12 paper, most know. Most know.

13 So I just want to ask you and encourage
14 you to please keep that in your thoughts. That
15 would be the best way to build it.

16 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mrs. Wooten.
17 Anyone else?

18 MS. BROWN: My name is Ann Brown. I'm
19 sure everyone here knows me. I can't let Monda
20 outdo, so I had to get up here right behind her. I
21 agree with Monda. I thank you all for passing the
22 S.P.L.O.S.T in February and my thing is what
23 difference does it make? If people is going to come
24 out and vote, they're going to come out and vote
25 whether it be February or November. It's your

1 obligation and your duty to come vote.

2 I want to invite everybody over to
3 Jenkins Park on Saturday October 13th. The Animal
4 Board is going to be doing hot dogs. These are free
5 hot dogs, no charge and we would like for you to
6 come talk to us about what we would like to see
7 happen with this animal facility. As I've said in
8 every article I've wrote, every person I've talked
9 to, we have no control over what will be done.
10 These four commissioners sitting up here will have
11 the control over the animal facility that's built in
12 this county. We'll volunteer.

13 I recently applied for a 501(c)(3) and
14 received it from the federal government, which if
15 anyone has applied for that, you know that's not
16 easy to do. Thanks very much to Peter Cervelli for
17 helping me get that. So with that, we can apply for
18 grants. We can apply for money to help adopt
19 animals and I know a lot of people in here are
20 saying, oh, they're just going to have a doggy
21 daycare. I think the latest number now is up to a
22 million dollars that it's going to cost to build the
23 building, but I can assure you and the mayor is
24 playing with the figures right now. I can promise
25 you it's not going to be a million dollars.

1 I made the mistake of showing someone
2 the plan that an architect drew up and instead of
3 saying what I said about the plan was that the plan
4 was going to be -- a portion of that building was
5 going to be built, not the whole plan. That's the
6 way things get started. I regret the interview I
7 gave very much. I wish I hadn't of done it. I
8 appreciate Don Pittman for all he done for me with
9 that interview. It wasn't to Don I gave the
10 interview, but I do appreciate what Don did to help
11 me out with that and I won't be speaking to any more
12 of the Watch Commissioner or whatever they're called
13 group.

14 I thank all of y'all that support us
15 and I hope you will continue to support us and, like
16 I said, y'all come over to the park on
17 October 13th between 12:00 and 3:00 eat a free hot
18 dog, ask us some questions. Let us answer the
19 questions because I don't think anyone on the Animal
20 Board will answer anybody else's questions and I
21 appreciate these four commissioners sitting up here
22 because without them, we wouldn't be anywhere.

23 And you may think we don't have an
24 animal problem. Before I could get here today, I
25 got three phone calls. So for all of you out there

1 who thinks we don't have a problem, you need to
2 think again. Monda Wooten got five. 911 called her
3 three times before she could leave home. Cheryl
4 Dalfic got five calls before she could get here. So
5 you may not have an animal problem on your street.
6 Ms. Smalley, you may not have any in your
7 neighborhood, but let me assure you, this county has
8 a problem. Thank you.

9 MR. BRANDON: Any others? Seeing none,
10 there will be no further -- yes.

11 MR. SLACK: I would like to thank Rex
12 for getting their attention up here.

13 I'd just like to say that I've sat here
14 and observed the Commission tonight going on about
15 the need for moneys here, the need for moneys there
16 and the S.P.L.O.S.T that haven't been completed, the
17 thing they want to go toward new S.P.L.O.S.Ts. It
18 seems to me we're going to be in S.P.L.O.S.T splash
19 S.P.L.O.S.T all over with projects scattered out and
20 none of them completed. We have 100 acres over here
21 across the creek that's a mud hole that you can't
22 build on without investing millions of dollars in
23 it. We have property down here that's laying idle
24 off the tax records that could well furnish the
25 money that they're wanting to put on S.P.L.O.S.T to

1 build these buildings. We've got money, land in
2 Back Valley. All this property is not making Dade
3 County any money sitting there. It's not on the tax
4 roll. Why don't we get these Commissioners to put
5 that stuff up for auction and Dade County get out of
6 the real estate business and get in the people
7 business and lowering our taxes with the money they
8 get from that.

9 Things like all these dog pounds,
10 they're going to whitewash you with these numbers.
11 Anything I get up here and say, I'm not going to
12 have to come up and apologize for telling somebody
13 something and then get up here and say I'm not doing
14 it again or I don't believe that now. I believe
15 what I say.

16 This dog project down here, the
17 investigation I've done is it's going to cost about
18 \$600,000 to build that building. It will cost
19 \$200,000 a year to maintain it. Where are they
20 going to get \$200,000 to put in a budget they can't
21 even cover the necessities they've got in this
22 year's budget without borrowing money. Is that fair
23 to the citizens? No, it's not fair to us citizens.
24 We're the ones that's paying the bills. They're the
25 ones that's spending the money. Get on their hind

1 end, make them step up to the plate and be
2 responsible to us. That's the way I see it.

3 We've got land to sell. Let's get out
4 of the business of being in the real estate
5 business. The liability of things around here, the
6 insurance, what's it going to cost? What's it going
7 to go up if we get somebody bit with a dog out here?
8 We may not even be able to get insurance.

9 All of this volunteer bit, selling dog
10 tags. Whoever heard of licensing people's dogs and
11 making them pay for tags and collecting a million
12 dollars to run this thing. It's -- I've got a
13 couple of simple solutions to a lot of things. One
14 of them is -- one of them is -- I done forget my
15 train of thought here.

16 Take and subcontract this animal thing
17 out. Go over here to Walker County that's got a big
18 thing that they can't support, give them \$100 a day,
19 make a contract with them to come get Dade County
20 dogs. Some days they may not even have a dog and
21 not have to come over here. One day they may have
22 five dogs. Who knows. But make a contract with
23 them. That's \$36,500 a year. Whether they've got
24 any dogs or not, give them \$36,500 a year. You're
25 looking at there saying, you're crazy to throw that

1 kind of money away. No, we're crazy to let them
2 throw a million dollars away. That's how crazy we
3 are.

4 But that would be a good deal. It
5 would take 20 years at \$36,500 a year to pay for
6 that building down there and what it's going to take
7 to operate it. So subcontract it out. Let somebody
8 else do the dog work.

9 That's just like the illegal aliens.
10 If they would take and build a wall from Arkansas to
11 California and make it wide enough to drive a car
12 across the top of it, hire nothing but Mexicans to
13 build it, make them build it from the Mexican side,
14 they'll all be in Mexico when it's over and they
15 can't get back, so that will solve the problem with
16 the ACLU. Thank you.

17 MR. FOWLER: Excuse me. A hundred
18 dollars a day times 360 days is not --

19 MR. BRANDON: Excuse me. Order.

20 MS. PARRISH: My name is Melonie
21 Parrish and I don't usually speak out at the
22 meetings, but quite frankly, the gentleman that just
23 spoke, I would hesitate to say that I think he's
24 slightly mentally challenged.

25 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Parrish.

1 MS. PARRISH: I apologize. But I do
2 not belong to the Animal Board. I am not on the
3 rescue team. I do have animals. Two of them are
4 strays. One of the strays I just paid \$258 for
5 surgery on her ear. I take care of my animals. I
6 take care of other people's animals when they're
7 dropped off.

8 I have had many, many kittens dropped
9 at my house and I found homes for them. I feel that
10 we have a responsibility to all the animals in this
11 county, whether they belong to you or they belong to
12 your neighbor. If it's hungry, you feed it. If
13 it's homeless, you find it a home.

14 I don't want to pay taxes any more than
15 anyone else does and I loved it when I became a
16 senior and my taxes dropped, but I am certainly
17 willing to pay more taxes, especially the
18 S.P.L.O.S.T, when these other people are paying them
19 also that are passing through in order to fund an
20 animal shelter. We're long past having one in this
21 county.

22 I moved here 30 years ago. I've had
23 dogs most of my life and I've always bought tags for
24 my dogs. When I moved to Trenton, I bought a dog
25 tag for my dog every year for eight years until I

1 realized no one else was buying one and I stopped
2 and I haven't bought one since. I have a dog. I'll
3 buy one. But I think we all need to support the
4 animal shelter and the Animal Board. Thank you and
5 I do apologize to the gentleman.

6 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. There being
7 no further business before the Dade County
8 Commission, we stand adjourned.

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10 END OF PROCEEDING
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