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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2007

1 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I want to call the
2 meeting to order. I apologize for being late. We
3 ran over in the work session pretty significantly
4 and I apologize for that. We're going to try to do
5 better next time or we'll start earlier.

6 Before we start, as we always do, we
7 want to have an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
8 and I'd like to call on Former Commissioner John
9 Deffenbaugh to do that for us, please.

10 (Thereupon, the invocation and
11 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

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

20 MR. LOWERY: Here.

21 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

22 MS. MOORE: Here.

23 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

24 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

25 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

1 MR. YOUNG: Here.

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

4 The reading of the minutes of the
5 November 2007 regular meeting will not be required
6 since all commissioners have been furnished copies
7 in advance. The minutes are public record and
8 available for review in the county manager's office.
9 The minutes are included in the consent agenda.

10 At this time, I'll ask the county clerk
11 to read what in addition to the minutes are included
12 in the consent agenda, which we'll vote on.

13 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. There were
14 several invoices to be approved, the fiscal year
15 2009 Section 5311 grant application for the Georgia
16 Department of Transportation, fiscal year 2008
17 indigent defense agreement, becoming a local issuing
18 authority, employee deferral compensation AKA
19 Christmas bonus, Doris Polari recommendation from
20 Keep Dade Beautiful of the Adopt-A-Road Program at
21 \$8 per sign and to pay the 911 board \$50 per meeting
22 and they are to have scheduled quarterly meetings,
23 but sometimes have special meetings. That's all I
24 have.

25 MR. BRANDON: All right. Thank you.

1 The consent agenda has to be approved. So do I have
2 a motion we approve the consent agenda?

3 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we approve
4 the consent agenda.

5 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
6 have a second?

7 MR. PITTMAN: I second.

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

10 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

11 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

12 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

13 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

14 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

15 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

16 MS. MOORE: Yes.

17 MR. BRANDON: Moving into the regular
18 agenda, we'll go straight to appearances. I was
19 asked a few weeks ago to add Mrs. Wooten to the
20 agenda to present the business plan for the animal
21 shelter. Is she here? Mayor, do you know anything
22 about that, the business plan? Has that been
23 submitted to you for approval?

24 MR. EMANUEL: Yes, for review, but not
25 for approval.

1 MR. BRANDON: Okay. All right. She is
2 not present, so we'll go right directly to the mayor
3 then for the City of Trenton update.

4 MR. EMANUEL: Good evening. Everybody
5 must be Christmas shopping or something. We are
6 pleased to present the following information
7 regarding the City of Trenton's 2007 calendar
8 year-to-date performance indicators at the Dade
9 County Commissioner's monthly meeting. Financially,
10 total revenue for the City is \$2,905,000. Total
11 expenses are \$2,450,000. Yielding a net income of
12 \$454,000. The contingency fund stands at \$231,000.

13 In the quality of life, the Downtown
14 Development Authority, we have four committees, as
15 you've heard me mention before. The first is the
16 Promotion Committee, which is chaired by Rex
17 Harrison. During the month of November, the
18 Christmas in the Park celebration took place. It
19 was actually the first day of December in Jenkins
20 Park after the Dade County Chamber of Commerce
21 Christmas parade. Both events, the Christmas in the
22 Park and the Christmas parade were the largest that
23 they've ever been and, in my opinion, the best that
24 they've ever been.

25 The 4H Club float won the Downtown

1 Development Authority best float award and for that,
2 received a check for \$100. The Southeastern
3 Christian Coalition served free chili for attendees
4 to the Christmas in the Park as well. The Christmas
5 in the Park lighting at Jenkins Park will remain up
6 through the new year. How many of you have been
7 through Jenkins Park and seen the Christmas
8 lighting? It's worth the trip.

9 The DDA supported the American Legion
10 in its Veteran Day parade and bike show on
11 November 10th, 2007. The second committee that
12 bears mentioning is the Design Committee which is
13 chaired by Bob Dobrolski. Thanks to Senator Mullis,
14 the City has received a \$22,500 grant from the State
15 to support the streetscape planning efforts and we
16 are awaiting word on a grant that we submitted for
17 \$1.25 million for streetscape. The Georgia
18 Department of Transportation was to announce the
19 approved grants last month, but as of yet, has not
20 done so. However, we have received an inside vote
21 of confidence that the City will be receiving money.
22 The question is how much.

23 On the Town Creek Trail, the Town Creek
24 Trail, in case some of you may not be familiar, is
25 the Town Creek just south of here. The City is

1 building in phases a multi-use trail that will
2 parallel that creek all the way from literally
3 Lookout Creek to the foot of Sand Mountain. It's a
4 collaborative project between the Downtown
5 Development Authority and the Trenton Art Council.
6 Phase one of the trail is well underway at Jenkins
7 Park. If you have an opportunity, that too is worth
8 visiting.

9 A meeting was held this past Tuesday
10 evening by the DDA and the Dade County Historical
11 Society. The meeting was to discuss and plan for
12 historical preservation within the city.

13 The third committee is Economic
14 Restructuring and it's chaired by Alan Ward. I can
15 tell you that the committee is actively engaged in
16 courting a new business that would bring 15
17 high-paying new jobs to the city and the county.

18 The Organization Committee, which is
19 chaired by Janet York, submitted Ken Earwood of
20 Ken's on Main Street to be a member of its board of
21 directors and Mr. Earwood was approved by the City
22 Commissioners Monday night in their regular
23 scheduled meeting.

24 I would like to take a point of
25 privilege here at the risk of being fussed at and

1 embarrassing my bride. The Georgia Hospital
2 Association each year selects ten healthcare workers
3 throughout the state and designates them as heroes
4 in healthcare within the State of Georgia. Patty
5 Nethery, who is my bride, was selected as one of
6 those ten heroes. So I'm very proud of that fact.
7 I'm also very proud that she's my wife. Thank you.

8 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mayor. Patty
9 has always been one of our heroes for our family as
10 well since she assisted when my father died in 1992.
11 She's -- of course, I've known her for a very long
12 time, but she's been one of our heroes for her
13 assistance that she gave our family at that time as
14 well, so we do applaud you for that award.

15 Moving forward into fiscal matters,
16 I'll ask the county clerk to give us a rundown on
17 the fiscal report for the County, please.

18 MR. TOWNSEND: All right. The drug
19 education fund balance is \$92,334; federal asset
20 fund, \$10,861; special sheriff's fund, \$30,669; jail
21 fund, \$10,113; juvenile services fund, \$11,515;
22 victim assistance fund, \$4,482; payroll account,
23 \$127,012; general fund, \$447,236. S.P.L.O.S.T
24 funds, as we heard earlier, we have principal and
25 interest account of 220,836 along with CDs totaling

1 550,000 and a P&I debt services account of 6,469 for
2 a total P&I funds of \$777,305. The capital bond
3 fund account, \$76,665; capital bond CDs, 850,432 for
4 a total capital bond fund balance of \$927,096.

5 Skipping page two, if you'll look under
6 tab number one, you'll see page four there. The
7 top, it's the revenues for the County and currently
8 we have collected 95.10 percent in revenues. On the
9 bottom you see expenses, 86.26. At this point, we
10 should have attained a budget of about 91 percent,
11 91.67 percent, so we're actually ahead on revenues
12 again for the year-to-date as well as under on
13 expenses at 86.26.

14 One thing I need some direction on is
15 we have five or six CDs here maturing on
16 December 15th and they are for capital bonds and I
17 will need to know if y'all want to renew those or if
18 the money is going to be spent fairly quickly, then
19 we'll need access to that money and we'll just
20 deposit it into the checking account and forego the
21 additional interest.

22 MR. BRANDON: Most of the money that we
23 have in the bond accounts is for construction of the
24 Courts Building and since we are not going to start
25 within the next 90 days, I would think at a minimum,

1 we could renew the CDs for at least 90 days, if not
2 maybe a little longer. Does anyone have any
3 feedback on that?

4 MR. TOWNSEND: We do have some
5 maturing. We have, let's see -- well, 100,000
6 maturing in March and then we have 100,000 maturing
7 in June. We have \$50,000 maturing in February and
8 then another 100,000 maturing next September. So I
9 didn't want to tie it up if you -- it depends on how
10 fast we're going to move on this court facility.

11 MR. BRANDON: I would think we might as
12 well go ahead and renew the ones for this month for
13 at least another 90 days because we're not going to
14 need that money before then. It might as well be
15 gaining some interest. However, this does bump into
16 the issue that we discussed earlier about the new
17 Courts Building. We discussed in the work session,
18 if you weren't here, we need to go ahead and begin
19 doing something on this Courts Building since we're
20 behind schedule on it and have been for a while and
21 we're going to have a -- we're going to announce a
22 public hearing date at the next meeting to get input
23 from the community on how we need to proceed on
24 this. So we'll announce the date on that at the
25 next meeting.

1 It would be my recommendation we go
2 ahead and renew those. If anyone has any feedback
3 on the length of time to renew them for. Don,
4 you're the banker in the group. How long a period
5 would you renew these?

6 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, a 90-day is just
7 about a half a point, if that, above a regular
8 savings account. So, you know, it's not a whole
9 lot. It might be worth it. Twelve month is your
10 best CD rate. The only thing I'm wondering about is
11 there's an arbitrage situation and we may not need
12 to invest it in CDs. I'm not sure.

13 MR. BRANDON: Why don't we let Robin
14 research that for us and let us know. What he's
15 referring to here, since he brought it up, I'll do
16 the best I can to explain what arbitrage is and why
17 we can't -- we can't do that. When you borrow money
18 for S.P.L.O.S.T, you have a specific time that you
19 have to spend that money because you're not
20 permitted to take that money and borrow -- take
21 bonded money and make profit on it or make interest
22 on it past the term that you had -- that you were
23 allowed to have to spend the money. Is that a
24 simplified way of saying that? And since we're
25 nearing the end of the time that we were supposed to

1 have spent that bonded money, we face the prospect
2 of being accused of engaging in arbitrage, which is
3 borrowing money at one rate, investing it and making
4 a higher rate of return on it, which they do not
5 allow you to do in S.P.L.O.S.T.

6 Now, the school system has done that,
7 but they weren't prohibited from doing it because --
8 come to think of it, I don't know why they weren't
9 prohibited from doing that this last time when they
10 borrowed money and invested it and took the -- but
11 anyway, needless to say, we can't do that because
12 we're nearing the end of the time when the bond is
13 supposed to be paid back. So we have to look at
14 that. If you'll check that out and get back with us
15 on that, I would appreciate it.

16 What did we decide, did anybody have
17 any problem with renewing these for at least 90 if
18 we don't bump into an arbitrage problem? Having
19 said that, we'll -- I don't know if we need to vote
20 on that since we roll these things over
21 automatically.

22 Moving on to legal matters, I'll ask
23 the county attorney if we have any legal matters
24 that we know of.

25 MR. ROGERS: There are no new matters.

1 MR. BRANDON: What about the status of
2 our lawsuit with the County?

3 MR. ROGERS: It's still pending with
4 the judge. He's not ruled on it, so it's been there
5 for a couple of months now.

6 MR. BRANDON: When do we expect that
7 that will come back?

8 MR. ROGERS: Anytime.

9 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Moving on, there
10 is no unfinished business. There is no new business
11 that I know of, which brings us to citizen
12 participation. Seeing no hands and there being no
13 further business before the Dade County Commission,
14 we stand adjourned.

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16 END OF PROCEEDING
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