



**OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE
THE CITIZENS OF CHATHAM COUNTY AND
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
AS THE NEXT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE
CHATHAM COUNTY/SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING
COMMISSION**



The Chatham County and City of Savannah Region

Chatham County and the City of Savannah, Georgia are located along the southeast coast of Georgia. America's first planned city and founding site of the state of Georgia, Savannah, along with Chatham County, has developed a cosmopolitan mixture of the old world and the new--a mix that has captured the hearts of the 145,674 City residents, 278,434 residents Countywide, and millions of visitors.

Recognized nationally for its historic preservation efforts, the community boasts of its lush parks and squares, stately homes, cultural offerings and true southern hospitality. Annual festivals and celebrations have become commonplace in this beautiful setting.

The City of Savannah and Chatham County are committed to helping further the community's world-wide reputation, maintain its natural beauty, protect its citizens, and provide many other services to residents and visitors alike.

A Few Highlights, Opportunities and Challenges

- ◆ Savannah and Chatham County is a complex area as it relates to planning. The County con-

sists of at least six independent municipalities other than Savannah: Pooler, Bloomingdale, Thunderbolt, Tybee, Garden City, Port Wentworth and Vernonburg. At present, there appears to be infrequent planning coordination between these bodies and the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

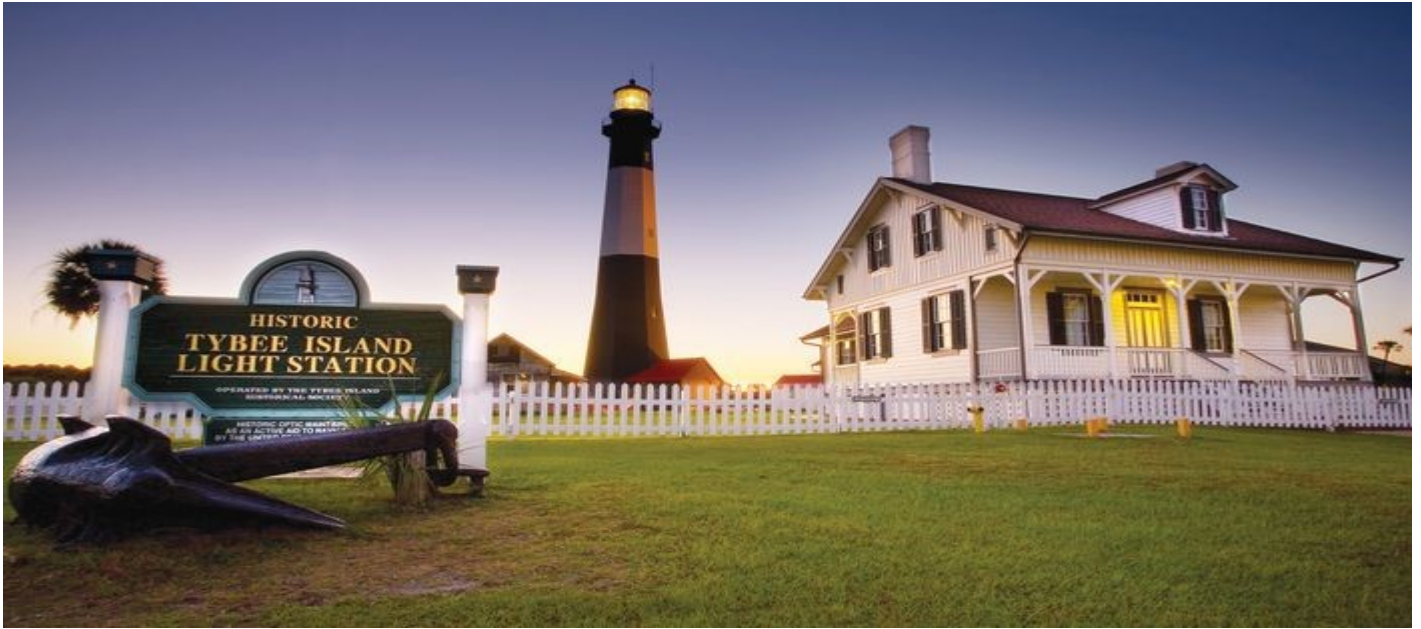
- ◆ A great deal is happening in the greater Savannah area. The City has a bustling downtown shopping corridor, known as Broughton Street. This newly redeveloped commercial strip is replete with fine stores, restaurants and other commercial outlets.
- ◆ Savannah is a strong destination location for tourists. It is purported to have received more than 10 million visitors for each of the past two years.
- ◆ Transportation and traffic issues are of major concern for many citizens. Numerous transportation routes are congested at rush hours.
- ◆ The western part of the County has continues to witness phenomenal growth. Much of this growth is in the Pooler, Port Wentworth and Garden City sections of the County.
- ◆ Georgia Ports Authority is a major contributor to the economic and employment base of the greater Savannah, Georgia community. The Savannah port is number 4 nationally and "...trails only New York as an East Coast container port. " Activities at the port are expected to increase significantly as a result of a channel deepening project.



The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)

The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) began in 1955 as the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission. Two years later, Chatham County was added when the State General Assembly enacted legislation permitting joint city-county planning commissions. The City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County charged the Planning Commission with the development of a comprehensive plan for the entire metropolitan area, advance and short range planning for individual political subdivisions, and the development and administration of subdivision and zoning planning tools.

Now, MPC is also responsible for land use, transportation, environmental and growth management planning as well as the Savannah Area Geographic Information System (SAGIS). MPC is funded mainly by the City and County governments. The agency is governed by a Board of Commissioners whose members are appointed by the elected officials of two governmental entities, the City of Savannah and Chatham County. The Board membership includes the chief executives of both governments. The remainder of the Board consists of a diverse group of appointed citizens representing various walks of life in Savannah and Chatham County. Planners from the Metropolitan Planning Commission



provide staff to the City of Savannah and Chatham County Boards of Appeal, the Savannah Historic District Board of Review, and the Historic Sites and Monuments Commission.

MPC serves as the operational umbrella for the Coastal Region (CORE) Metropolitan Planning Organization. At present, the executive director of the MPC is also the executive for the CORE MPO. The CORE MPO has its own governing board comprised of elected officials, agency heads and others.

MPC's offices are located in the heart of Savannah's historic district near beaches and numerous other attractions.

To learn more about the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission visit them at www.thempc.org.

The Position of Executive Director

MPC's Executive Director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board. This is a highly responsible management position charged with planning and coordinating the activities of a planning staff. This staff is comprised of approximately 30 highly qualified professionals who work in numerous capacities in support of the agency's mission and the policies of the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

As previously stated, currently, the executive director also serves as the executive for the CORE MPO.

Requirements Include:

Minimum requirements include the equivalent of a Master's Degree combined with five years of progressively responsible experience in management of a governmental organization. Must have the demonstrated ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, representatives of business, civic and community stakeholders, and media organizations plus the demonstrated ability to supervise and manage employees, make presentations to diverse groups and prepare strategic plans.

In addition to the minimum requirements below are some characteristics identified by stakeholders that the next Executive Director is expected to bring to the position: (note: the order of listing is not in order of priority).



◆ ***Fund Raising Acumen***

The executive director should demonstrate skills in identifying sources of funding for an agency that is highly dependent on local funding entities. While the funds from these sources are not currently threatened, it is generally felt that the degree of dependency is not necessary in the best interest of the agency.

◆ ***Relationship Builder***

Relationship building is a continuous role of the executive. In such, the executive is expected to lead an effort that maintains and enhances working relationships with the local funding parties, state agencies and federal departments. There is a feeling by some that this area needs attention.

◆ ***Broad Planning Experience***

The person should be somewhat of a planning “generalist”, one who is not wedded to any single phase of planning. He or she should be quite versatile and able to offer leadership and guidance in all facets of the planning mission. This would include transportation, economic and community development, growth management, zoning and historic preservation. In addition, one should have an understanding of urban, suburban and regional planning.

◆ ***Strong Leader***

An executive who is able to lead a strong and qualified staff is very much desired. One who is capable of creating and maintaining employee diversity. One who gives solid direction without micromanaging the process.

A leader who is flexible and knows how to compromise when such is in the best interest of the agency and its mission.

◆ ***Diplomat***

The new executive will have as his or her charge the task of working with numerous independent municipalities in an attempt to bring them into a metropolitan/regional planning effort. This necessitates communicative as well as good “sales” techniques.

◆ ***Willingness to Listen and Learn***

Those with whom we spoke strongly feel the key to the success in this community is willingness and a desire to learn the culture and environment of the community. Most feel that this community is “different” and a new executive has to be able to navigate the environment in order to be successful. They readily point to other executives who have moved to the community and attempted to function without getting this basic knowledge of “who we are”.

Savannah is a community with a lot of history, pride and strong leadership. The area has witnessed significant growth in the recent past and is poised to continue such growth.

◆ ***Strategic Thinker and Leader***

The new executive has to be one who establishes, with board approval and buy-in, a strategic direction for the agency and the staff. This requires a person who is able to maintain focus on the agency’s current mission while at the same time offering guidance for any change that will enhance the longevity of MPC and the services it offers.

◆ ***Knowledge of Governmental Operations***

Knowledge of governmental operations is essential in functioning as an executive of this agency. One has to understand government financing and budgeting on the local, state and federal levels. The executive is expected

to function in an environment where the major funding entities are on different budget cycles.

Understanding the various local, state and federal laws/regulations that influence the operations of the agency is of extreme importance.

♦ **Organizational Skills**

Ability to effectively and efficiently manage, plan and direct the work of others is desirable.

Knowledge of strategic planning and business management that focuses on the viability and longevity of the agency is important.

The executive will need to work and lead a complex organization that has numerous boards in addition to the parent organizational board referred to as the Board of Commissioners. The MPC is responsible for staffing many of these boards under an agreement with the City and/or the County. These boards include, but not necessary limited to:

- *City of Savannah Board of Appeals*

- *Chatham County Board of Appeals*
- *SAGIS*
- *Historic Review Board*
- *Resource Protection Commission*
- *Historic Site and Monument Commission*

Other General Characteristics

- Human resource skills
- Communicative skills
- Grasp of current trends and best practices in municipal planning
- Understanding Zoning Ordinances
- Ethical and principled
- Visionary
- Mission oriented
- Commitment

Compensation and Benefits

The beginning salary for the new Executive Director will be competitive and negotiable doq's. A generous benefits package is provided to all regular MPC employees which includes: 12 paid vacation days each year; 10 paid holidays each year; medical insurance along with excellent rates for dependent medical coverage; basic life insurance plus employee paid supplemental life insurance; a flexible benefits plan; a pension plan; deferred compensation plan; a wide variety of employee training and wellness programs; an employee assistance program; a dental plan and long term disability insurance.

Apply via email with detailed resume, cover letter and current salary by May 1, 2017 to:

Robert Slavin, President

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