Minutes

Special Local Option Sales Tax Meeting
July 13, 2009
Public Meeting Room
Fayette County Administrative Complex
140 Stonewall Avenue
Fayetteville, Georgia
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present:	Jack Smith, Chairman Herb Frady, Vice Chairman Lee Hearn Robert Horgan Eric Maxwell
Staff Present:	Jack Krakeel, County Administrator Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk
Peachtree City Officials:	Harold Logsdon, Mayor Bernie McMullen, City Manager Cyndi Plunkett, Council Member
Fayetteville Officials:	Ken Steele, Mayor Joe Morton, City Manager Paul C. Oddo, Jr., Council Member Larry Dell, Council Member Walt White, Council Member
Tyrone Officials:	Don Rehwaldt, Mayor Christine Venice, Town Manager Grace Caldwell, Council Member Gloria Furr, Council Member
Brooks Officials:	Robert Butler, Mayor
Woolsey Officials:	None Present

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.C.G.A. 48-8-111(A), THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOR INCLUSION IN A SPECIAL LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX REFERENDUM BEING CONSIDERED FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2009. THIS MEETING MAY ALSO BE USED TO DISCUSS THE APPORTIONMENT OF SALES TAX PROCEEDS:

Chairman Smith remarked that the current S.P.L.O.S.T was due to expire on March 31, 2010. He said this was one of the required meetings in the process of placing this item on the ballot for the citizens to decide in November. He asked the representatives of the municipalities for their input.

Tyrone Mayor Don Rehwaldt said he felt the S.P.L.O.S.T. was probably required but felt the chances of the citizens voting in favor of this in the current environment were slim. He said he would be in favor of putting this issue on the ballot and letting the citizens decide.

Fayetteville Mayor Ken Steele remarked that there were many transportation projects currently going on and many others that were needed in Fayette County. He felt with the loss of funds from the Federal and State level these funds could not be raised without having the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said he had no problem whatsoever with this proposal going forward and put on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Peachtree City Mayor Harold Logsdon remarked that the Peachtree City Council was united and would like the S.P.L.O.S.T. to be placed on the ballot for a vote by the citizens in November. He said the Council was willing to accept whatever the voters decide on this but there had to be funds in place to continue forward with the transportation projects that were needed in Fayette County. He felt getting a State-wide transportation plan or even a regional transportation plan would be an uphill battle and Fayette County needed to take care of itself. He said it was hoped that the citizens would support the S.P.L.O.S.T. because the value was significant.

Chairman Smith said the Board of Commissioners had felt the same way as Mayor Rehwaldt regarding the state of the economy. He said approximately two years ago the Board had started looking at what the cost of delaying the project versus the cost of construction would be compared to the actual matching funds that would be received factoring in the effect on the community of increased traffic. He said it was decided then that enough money could be saved by speeding up the projects. He remarked that the lack of available matching funds made it such that in order to try and attack some of the traffic problems, it was necessary to take the lead and actually use funds to accomplish what needed to be done and reduce construction cost. He felt there was a consensus of opinion tonight to allow the voters to decide whether or not the merits of the S.P.L.O.S.T. were such that they would vote for renewing or extending it. He felt there was a consensus that a S.P.L.O.S.T. referendum would be placed on the November 3, 2009 ballot for a vote by the citizens of Fayette County.

Brooks Mayor Bobby Butler said he did not feel there would be any problem with the Brooks Council being in favor of the S.P.L.O.S.T. being placed on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Chairman Smith noted for the record that the representatives from the Town of Woolsey were unable to attend tonight's meeting because tonight was the Town's regularly scheduled meeting.

Chairman Smith presented a proposed list of projects from the County at-large standpoint. A copy of the list, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. He said the following four projects were the best for the voters' dollars: (1) Debt on the Justice Center; (2) Emergency Operations Center; (3) University Campus; and (4) Transportation Projects. He asked representatives of the cities to address the projects that they envision the S.P.L.O.S.T. to cover.

Peachtree City Mayor Logsdon remarked that the City was looking at retirement of general obligation of $5.4 million, street resurfacing in the amount of $6 million, multi-use path resurfacing in the amount of $2.4 million, improvements at the Crosstown at Peachtree Parkway intersection in the amount of $650,000, S.R. 74 South path extension in the amount of $500,000, multi-use path connection on S.R. 74 in the amount of $1,015,000, Rockaway Road multi-use tunnel and path connection $1,140,000, S.R. 74 North multi-use bridge and path connection $1.9 million, S.R. 54 East multi-use bridge and path connection in the amount of $1.9 million, corrugated metal tunnel replacements $500,000, North Peachtree Parkway shoulder erosion in the amount of $70,000 and miscellaneous path extensions of $500,000 for a total of approximately $22 million.

Fayetteville Mayor Ken Steele said the City was not prepared to name specific projects tonight.

Tyrone Mayor Don Rehwaldt said the Town had a couple of projects including the Tyrone/Palmetto Road project as well as some infrastructure problems. He said the Town had no debt at this point, therefore all of the funds would go toward transportation.

Brooks Mayor Bobby Butler remarked that the Town of Brooks did not have any projects at this time but the Council would be meeting on Monday evening and this would be discussed.

Chairman Smith discussed the methods under the S.P.L.O.S.T. legislation . He said one was the statutory method and the second method was by agreement by the cities and the county that would have the affect of extending the S.P.L.O.S.T. from five to six years. He asked if there was a consensus that the County and the municipalities could arrive at an intergovernmental agreement for allocation of these funds based loosely on the discussion tonight.

There was consensus between the officials of the county and the mayors that entering into an intergovernmental agreement, which would allow S.P.L.O.S.T. proceeds to be collected for six years, would be the most beneficial method for the allocation of the funds.

Chairman Smith remarked on the justice center acquisition and the purchase of the lease. He said this would be a debt reduction and would save Fayette County taxpayers approximately $31 million in interest cost over the life of the lease. He also pointed out that the Commission had discussed, as a part of the retirement of that debt, proposing the doubling of the Homestead Exemption for property owners. He said this would be a tremendous benefit to all of the Fayette County taxpayers. He said there would now have to be work done on the actual project list and from that list there would be an intergovernmental agreement, and from that a vote on the County Commission level to call for renewal of the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said the County Commission did not have a desire to dictate what the cities do with their S.P.L.O.S.T. money with one exception and that exception was that the County would like to voice an objection if a city was to propose a project that the Commission as a group thought would be detrimental to the passage of the S.P.L.O.S.T. as a whole.

Chairman Smith stated that the Board of Commissioners would need to adopt a Resolution at its August 13th meeting calling for the referendum.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk Chairman Jack R. Smith

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia held on the 23rd day of July, 2009.

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Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk