

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eric Maxwell, Chairman
Randy Ognio, Vice Chairman
Steve Brown
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. White, County Clerk



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES SPECIAL CALLED Special Local Option Sales Tax Meeting

January 6, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Eric Maxwell called the Special Called 2017 Special Local Option Sales Tax meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the agenda as written. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 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 (SPLOST) REFERENDUM BEING CONSIDERED FOR MARCH 21, 2017.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Environmental Management Director Vanessa Birrell gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding proposed projects for unincorporated Fayette County. She stated that the Board received a disc that contained the comprehensive list of all the municipalities, towns and counties proposed SPLOST projects. She stated that comprehensively the largest projects are transportation projects which consist of \$60,000,000. She stated that the county's allocation of the SPLOST is \$64,646,530 and 37% of that amount is for stormwater projects. She stated that there are 238 projects identified that total \$23,741,641. She continued that the other projects are transportation and the public radio system for Fire and EMS which total 5% of the \$64 million and the final project is less than 1% for the Town of Woolsey. She continued that it would be staff's recommendation to end the stormwater utility fee if the citizens vote to pass the SPLOST. She thanked all the municipalities and towns for their help and coming together to make this a true comprehensive Fayette County SPLOST.

County Manager Steve Rapson thanked the Environmental Management staff and the City Managers for all their hard work.

Commissioner Oddo stated that the new protocols by Georgia and Georgia Department of Transportation are that the county must have funds to leverage in order to get funds from the state. He also thanked the staff and everyone for doing a fantastic job with presenting the information and making it available.

Commissioner Brown stated that if staff's recommendation is to eliminate the stormwater utility, then staff should state how the County would pay for stormwater projects in the future.

Mr. Rapson stated that the Board's direction was to eliminate the stormwater utility and to fund monies in the General Fund to further the stormwater. He stated that the purpose was to bring the stormwater projects where they need to be in terms of repairs and then subsequently fund in the General Fund some expenses to handle any reoccurring cost associated with maintaining the repairs.

Commissioner Brown stated that if the County plans to eliminate the stormwater utility fee then it should be stated in the information so that people understand that is the plan. Mr. Rapson agreed.

TOWN OF TYRONE

Town of Tyrone Mayor Eric Dial stated that on behalf of the Town of Tyrone Council they recommend that the County call for a referendum and let the voters decide if they would like to have a SPLOST. He introduced Town Manager Kyle Hood to discuss the town's proposed projects.

Mr. Hood stated that the Town would spend a little over a third of its \$9.1 million allocation on projects. He stated that the projects include a debt reduction for some roads that have already been paved, to buy additional sewer capacity and the third would be to use money from the SPLOST to leverage state transportation funding. He stated that the other two types of projects include construction concepts for road paving and stormwater related repairs, and for park and recreation improvements. He stated that the other project was for cart paths and sidewalk expansion. The final project included renovations to the Town of Tyrone's town hall and also the purchase of public safety equipment.

CITY OF PEACHTREE CITY

Peachtree City Mayor Vanessa Fleisch stated that on behalf of the Peachtree City Council, they are in support of the SPLOST referendum on March 21. She introduced City Manager John Rorie.

Mr. Rorie stated that he would like to stress that the purpose of the meeting was to bring all the municipalities and the county to have a ballot initiative to allow voters to vote on a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. He stated that this was a unified approach to create a special tax district for the entire county. He stated that the SPLOST would be roughly \$45 million to be allocated to Peachtree City projects and of that amount there was about 85% in the project list dedicated to infrastructure improvements and maintenance. He stated that 7% was dedicated to public safety including the radio system which connects to the County's improvements to the radio system. He stated that this was the part that made this a county wide initiative. He stated that Peachtree City was in support of the calling of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. He stated that of the 159 counties in Georgia, Fayette County was one of four that does not have a one cent SPLOST in place. He stated that other counties have determined that the SPLOST was an effective mechanism to generate revenue for county wide improvements and projects.

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE

City of Fayetteville Mayor Edward Johnson wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated Chairman Maxwell on his election as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. He also thanked the Board for their cooperative spirit that has been shown between the County and the Municipalities in moving Fayette County forward. He stated that as a first term mayor the SPLOST has opened his eyes to what can be achieved when working together. He stated that he was honored to have worked

with the fellow mayors and the city administrators to ensure that the comprehensive picture of what was needed in the SPLOST. He introduced City Manager Ray Gibson.

Mr. Gibson gave a brief PowerPoint presentation of proposed projects for the City of Fayetteville. He stated that the City created a Citizens Advisory Committee to create a project list that was presented to them by various departments at the city. He stated that the committee created a project list totaling \$25 million and that the allocation from the SPLOST for the City of Fayetteville would be \$21 million. He stated that the additional amount was added to cover any additional revenues that may come about as a result of the six year SPLOST. He stated that the City Council adopted the project list in June of 2016, however the performing arts center was removed from the list and replaced with projects for the parks and recreation. He stated that the project list focused on stormwater and wastewater project(s) for \$9.5 million, transportation project(s) for \$7 million, public safety project(s) for \$5.1 million and parks and recreation project(s) for \$3.4 million. He stated that of those projects the City is looking at resurfacing 21 miles of the 95.5 miles of roadway. He stated that currently the city only collects Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds for resurfacing which was \$130,000 a year. He stated that there was currently about \$8 million of maintenance and upgrades needed for the wastewater treatment plant and that the city would need additional funds on top of the SPLOST funds to complete the suggested changes to the wastewater treatment plant.

Chairman Maxwell asked Mayor Johnson if he was asking the County Commission to pass the SPLOST. Mayor Johnson stated that on behalf of all the municipalities he would definitely love to request that the Board would pass the SPLOST for the referendum in March.

TOWN OF WOOLSEY

Town of Woolsey Mayor Gary Laggis congratulated Chairman Maxwell for being elected Chairman to the Board and Commissioner Oddo for his spirit of cooperation while Chairman. He stated that it is important that the tax payers know that the project in Woolsey was not just the least expensive or "the cutest project" but its purpose is to be very meaningful to the community. He stated that the Town was looking to renovate the facility that was donated to the town. He stated that the facility would also be a community center for that part of the county. He stated that the Town was appreciative of the County including this project.

TOWN OF BROOKS

Town of Brooks Town Manager Ellen Walls stated that it has been a privilege to work with the County. She stated that the Town has monies dedicated to transportation. She stated that there are dirt roads in the Town of Brooks that need attention and that pavement would be the utmost improvement. She stated that the other project was to set up a water system in Brooks and to set aside funds for the water system. She continued that there are \$1.4 million in projects. She stated that the SPLOST funds would give the Town about half of that amount. She stated that the Town would continue to work with LMIG and other grants in addition to the SPLOST to fund the projects. She concluded that the Town of Brooks was in favor of the SPLOST.

Mr. Rapson stated that the thing that was special about the SPLOST is all the other people that shop here who would be paying for the SPLOST instead of just Fayette residents.

Chairman Maxwell asked the Board and the Mayors to review the draft of the proposed wording for the ballot for the SPLOST referendum and to let the County Attorney know if there are any questions or concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and written material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Maxwell adjourned the 2017 Special Called SPLOST meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 12th day of January 2017. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk