

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lee Hearn, Chairman  
Edward Gibbons, Vice Chairman  
Eric K. Maxwell  
Charles W. Oddo  
Charles D. Rousseau



## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney  
Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk  
Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West  
Public Meeting Room  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

# MINUTES SPECIAL CALLED Special Local Option Sales Tax Meeting October 27, 2022 4:00 p.m.

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

### Call to Order

Chairman Lee Hearn called the October 27, 2022 Special Local Option Sales Tax Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Rousseau were absent.

### Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Edward Gibbons

Vice Chairman Edward Gibbons offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Charles Oddo moved to accept the agenda as written. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Rousseau were absent.

### 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 REFERENDUM BEING CONSIDERED FOR MARCH 21, 2023.**

Fayette County Environmental Director Bryan Keller led the discussion regarding possible projects for inclusion in a Special Local Option Sales Tax Referendum being considered for March 21, 2023. Mr. Keller began by thanking everyone involved in preparing this project. He stated that as outlined by the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) law, the County must call a mayors' meeting. A letter advising the mayors of the called meeting was sent out according to the requirement of ten days prior. The purpose of the mayor's meeting was to discuss the SPLOST projects. No vote would be taken. He stated that after this meeting there was a 30-day wait period, then a resolution to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners and sent to the Board of Elections for consideration of a SPLOST elections in March 2023. Mr. Keller added that during this same time, an intergovernmental agreement drafted by the County Attorney would be sent out to the municipalities to be signed and would include their SPLOST projects list. Mr. Keller noted that the target date for the special election was March 21, 2023. Mr. Keller presented a brief overview of the 2023 SPLOST list. His presentation outlined what a Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) was, as well as outlined the SPLOST distribution amounts for the municipalities and what type of projects Fayette County was proposing. He outlined the proposed distribution amounts, stating that Fayette County would receive approximately \$94M, Peachtree City; \$67M, Town of Tyrone; \$13M, Fayetteville; \$33M, and Town of Brooks; \$1M. He noted that the distribution amounts were based on percentage of population. Mr. Keller stated that the list of Fayette County projects had been vetted by

County staff who provided the estimates and quotes included in the 2023 SPLOST manual. He stated that the SPLOST manual had been posted on the County's website since the annual retreat in May. Mr. Keller broke down the 2023 SPLOST project distribution by project type stating that 28% were transportation improvements, 23% were stormwater improvements, 18% toward parks and recreation and human services, 16% going to public safety, and 15% toward the Justice Center Renovations-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Buildout. Mr. Keller stated that if approved, and adopted by the Board, there would be a public education and outreach campaign beginning mid-November. He stated that the SPLOST education campaign would include events and meetings with the Chamber of Commerce, Homeowner Associations, rotary clubs, bus trips, and school events. Mr. Keller stated that information would also be disseminated via email and on the County's website. He encouraged everyone to visit the 2023 SPLOST website, where the project manual was available for review.

### **Town of Brooks**

Town of Brooks Mayor Daniel Langford stated that the Town's proposed SPLOST list totaled \$1,650,000. Mayor Langford noted that this was obviously, considerably more than what would be distributed to the town via the SPLOST, however this list would provide them with wiggle room to decide which project could be completed. He stated that the two most substantial and important projects were the Woods Road culvert and the Brooks Road and Highway 85 Connection intersection improvement. Mayor Langford stated that other desired projects included on the list were cemetery expansion, sidewalk and stormwater infrastructure, library upgrades, Market Hall renovation, and road resurfacing. Mayor Langford stated, as a point of clarification, that the Market Hall Renovations total was \$110K and that was included in the grand total of \$1,650,000.

### **City of Fayetteville**

Fayetteville City Manager Ray Gibson relayed Mayor Edward Johnson's regrets for his absence. Mr. Gibson stated that he wanted to provide some history on how the City of Fayetteville comprised their 2023 SPLOST list. He stated that the city had a Citizen Budget Committee, which helped with the budget process. He stated that this committee also helped with the SPLOST project list selection. Mr. Gibson stated that City staff comprised about \$29M worth of projects. The list was then sent to the Citizen Budget Committee and upon review and analysis, the final list ended up with a total of \$33M in projects. He added that after considering how good the collections were from the most recent SPLOST, the decision was made to add additional funding for a total of \$40.28M in projects. Mr. Gibson stated that these projects were divided into five categories, which included general government, public safety, transportation/public services, parks and recreation, and stormwater. He noted that the City and Fayette County had a shared project, which was the First Manassas Road extension. This project would require \$1.5M from both the City and Fayette County. Mr. Gibson stated that he was aware of the discussion being had regarding this project and hoped that the City and County could work together to make this project work. He stated that another big project was the renovation of the public safety court facility on Jimmie Mayfield Road. Mr. Gibson concluded that the total cost of these projects was not included. Funding could be used for these projects and other funding mechanisms were available for these projects as well.

### **City of Peachtree City**

Peachtree City Mayor Kim Learnard stated that Peachtree City's largest allocation of \$32,650,600 which was 49%, would be for roads; primarily street resurfacing.

Commissioner Rousseau arrived at the Board meeting.

Mayor Learnard stated that they had one intersection improvement at the corner of Peachtree Parkway and Robinson Road. She continued that the second largest allocation was cart paths, at 19%. She stated that they anticipated being able to complete about three miles of path construction each year for the next six-years. The third allocation was public safety, at 17%, at about \$11M. She stated that \$10M would be for fire vehicles and \$1M for police. Mayor Learnard stated that parks and recreation had an allocation of about \$3.4M, which was about 5%. She stated that she was proud to say that they would be including an allocation of \$770K for a 12-court pickleball facility, complete with lights. She noted that a SPLOST committee had been convened and conducted extensive research. She believed this project list was a true reflect of what the City of Peachtree City citizens wanted to see. Mayor Learnard stated that the entire project list was posted on the city's website for review.

**Town of Tyrone**

Town of Tyrone Mayor Eric Dial highlighted the Sandy Creek /Flat Rock cluster multi-use path project. He noted that this was an intergovernmental project that would be very useful and needed for residents in the area.

Town of Tyrone Planner Phillip Trocquet stated that their project list was comprised with the assistance of a SPLOST advisory committee and included citizen input. He stated that the project distribution included five main categories: transportation, stormwater & sewer improvements, downtown improvements, leisure services, public safety/ administration & equipment. Mr. Trocquet stated that based on percentages, public safety was allocated about 4%, transportation was 34%, stormwater & sewer improvements were about 26%, downtown improvement was 20% and leisure services was allocated at 15%. He concluded that the SPLOST advisory committee helped curate a project list that was an essence of what citizens in Tyrone were looking for. He stated that the project list included a variety of multi-use path connections and downtown improvements. The Town recently completed a livable centers initiative, a Downtown Master Plan, as well as a Comprehensive Plan, with a focus on economic revitalization. Mr. Trocquet state that leisure services would include park improvements, specifically, to Shamrock Park which was the town's flagship park. He stated that the town recently expanded the sewer downtown and a lot of sewer and stormwater infrastructure was in need of upgrades. The project list also included public safety and equipment for public works.

Chairman Hearn stated that he liked the connection being made from the existing path systems to the schools. He stated that the people who will be impacted and enjoy those paths will be interested in the SPLOST.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that each municipality would have the full detailed project list and manuals for each jurisdiction. For those who are interested in looking over any project, regardless of where you live, they would be able to do so online.

Vice Chairman Gibbons asked what was the anticipated revenue, countywide, that would be allocated to the cities? Mr. Rapson stated \$210M. Vice Chairman Gibbons stated that the projects would have to be funded through property taxes, or not at all, if the SPLOST was not adopted. Mr. Rapson stated that was correct.

Chairman Hearn asked for public comment.

Chairman Hearn expressed his appreciation to staff for their hard work and to the municipalities for their continued partnership.

No vote was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Oddo moved to adjourn the October 27, 2022 Special Local Option Sales Tax Meeting. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

The October 27, 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

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Lee Hearn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

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Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk