

## MINUTES

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Courthouse Annex, Monday, June 19, 2017, beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Chairman Bart presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Donald F. Hawbaker were present. Also present for Spalding County were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley, and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.**

**Present for the City of Griffin were: Vice Chairperson, Cora Flowers, Commissioners Doug Hollberg, Dick Morrow, Ryan McLemore, David Brock and Cynthia Reid-Ward. Also present for the City of Griffin were City Manager, Kenny Smith, City Attorney, Jessica Whatley-O'Connor, and Teresa Watson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes. ‘**

**Present for the City of Orchard Hill were Mayor James Morgan and Robert Morgan.**

**Present for the City of Sunny Side was Mayor William “Bill” Slaughter.**

**A. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Chairman Bart Biller for Spalding County.

**OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Commissioner Dick Morrow for City of Griffin.

**OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Mayor James Morgan for City of Orchard Hill.

**OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Mayor William Slaughter of the City of Sunny Side.

**B. INVOCATION** led by Commissioner Don Hawbaker.

**C. PLEDGE TO FLAG** led by Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor.

**D. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discuss with the Cities of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunny Side, projects for inclusion on the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) referendum to be held November 7, 2017.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County has discussed holding a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for transportation and per OCGA 48-8-22(a) we are holding this meeting with the cities of Orchard Hill, Sunny Side and Griffin to discuss projects for inclusion in the referendum to consideration on November 7.

Mr. Wilson stated that approximately \$42 million for the TSPLOST which is a total of 1% which is the maximum that can be collected. The maximum time frame for a TSPLOST is 5 years or 60 months. This estimated total is based on collections of approximately \$700,000 per month. He added that we are currently collecting on the SPLOST an average of \$715,000 per month, so we feel comfortable with this projection. This is \$42 million is to be collected over a five year period. Bonding can be done to speed projects up; however most of the counties who have passed the TSPLOST or are thinking about doing a TSPLOST are planning to utilize a pay as you go disbursement for these funds.

Mr. Wilson then advised that should the TSPLOST pass in November, it would be April 1, 2018 when collections are implemented and the cities and counties would start received distributions in May. He stated that the County Commissioners have discussed projects that they would like to be included in the TSPLOST and we are here today to get input from the cities on projects that you would like to see included.

Mr. Wilson stated that some of the projects under consideration by Spalding County are paving of dirt roads, intersections improvements: of particular interest to Orchard Hill and is in the CTP, it one of the top three intersections that we are going to be looking at is the intersection of Old Macon, County Line Road, the railroad track and Johnson Road. He advised that the estimate for this intersection in the CTP is a little over \$2.5 million that the County is considering in the Orchard Hill area. He added that he and Mayor Slaughter had talked about the intersection of Teamon Road, Old Atlanta and School Road in Sunnyside, but there is a lot of acquisition at that location because of the realignment needed.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that Fulton County passed a  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent TSPLOST that passed 53-47% in November. The City of Atlanta passed a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent TSPLOST and MARTA passed  $\frac{4}{10}$ ths of a cent TSPLOST and those passed overwhelmingly by 70% each. Right now in the City of Atlanta sales tax are 8.9 cents and in Fulton County, outside of the City of Atlanta, the sales tax is 7.75 cent.

Mr. Wilson then asked the cities to present their projects:

Mayor Bill Slaughter stated that the intersection at Teamon Road, Old Atlanta and School Road would involve tearing down two houses. He added that the County owns the right of way to Teamon Road, Old Atlanta Road and School Road and asked if this would prevent Sunny Side from being a part of the TSPLOST since the roads are county right of ways.

Mr. Wilson stated that right now that is not one of the intersections the county is looking at for inclusion, he stated that he was not aware of any preliminary cost estimates that had been done on the intersection, but Sunny Side could ask for the intersection and we could look at that. Mr. Wilson stated that there would have to be an intergovernmental agreement that all entities would sign to add it as a project.

Commissioner Hawbaker then asked if there were any other projects in the City of Sunny Side that they would like to see done as it relates to transportation.

Mayor Slaughter advised that there are two roads in Sunny Side that are unpaved and they currently have the right of way deeds to both of the roads, one is about 600' long and the other is approximately 300'. We have adequate right of way on the shorter street, but we will have to acquire additional right of way on the longer street because currently we only have a 25' right of way of that street.

Mr. Wilson added that both of these roads are old subdivision streets that the right of way was accepted by the City of Sunny Side many years ago. Sockwell Drive and Ann Street are dead end roads and the only traffic on these roads is local.

Mayor James Morgan from Orchard Hill advised that the only place they are having a real problem is at the Johnson Road, Macon Road, County Line Road and railroad intersection that was discussed earlier by Mr. Wilson. He stated that there is an 80' foot right of way on Johnson and Macon Roads, but there is only a 60' right of way on County Line Road. Mayor Morgan added that approximately 3600 cars go through that intersection every day.

Mr. Wilson stated that he believes in the Spalding County CTP the estimate for design, engineering, right of way acquisition and everything for that intersection is over \$2 million.

Vice Chairman Cora Flowers for the City of Griffin advised that she would give bullet points of the projects and that a more detailed list would be pulled

together by the City Manager for submission on the ballot. She stated that the City of Griffin would like to include the milling and resurfacing of streets, sidewalks, both new and added connectivity, culvert replacement, drainage improvements, intersection improvements and street scape on Taylor from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Grand total for the projects \$14,000,070.

Commissioner Morrow asked if there was any consideration given to making the TSPLOST a .9 instead of a full one cent to make it more marketable. He feels that a percentage of a cent would be more marketable. He used the example of Atlanta, Fulton County and MARTA all asking for .75, .5 and .4 respectively and the initiatives passing. It would appear that a part of a penny is more acceptable than a full one cent.

Commissioner Hawbaker advised that Todd Long, Chief Operation Officer for Fulton County who advised that the only reason they did the .75 of a cent was because of MARTA. It seems that MARTA wanted a larger percentage than Fulton County was willing to provide. He further stated that he didn't feel a fraction of a cent would make a difference to the voters.

Mayor Morgan asked if the funds would be utilized for local projects or would any of the money being going toward transportation projects such has MARTA.

Mr. Wilson stated that in the CTP there is a local transit plan discussed but nothing outside of the County. He added that he had been discussing with Three Rivers Regional Commission the possibility of utilizing the 5307 program and the county currently has 5307 funds available for purchasing the equipment for a local bus service. The buses cost approximately \$50,000 each, the federal government would provide 80% of the cost with the county covering 20%. The estimated operational cost per bus per year is \$65,000. He added that he is almost sure that TSPLOST funding cannot be utilized for maintenance and operation costs. That is part of the CTP and we are looking at projects in the CTP. He stated that he is aware that a couple of the commissioners may be interested in county wide transit and it does qualify for TSPLOST money.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County Commissioners will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, to discuss projects. He stated that the county met in April and developed an initial list of projects and we will refine that list on Wednesday. The County is looking at dirt roads, intersection improvements, trails, transit, resurfacing and bridges.

Sunny Side Mayor Slaughter left the meeting.

Kenny Smith, City Manager, City of Griffin advised that they are working with students through the Archway Program to develop some pedestrian and bike trails that would utilize existing easements and right of ways, but that study will not be completed in time for consideration on the TSPLOST. He further stated that due to the utility work done in the city in recent years many of the roads have been cut up badly and are in need of repair and resurfacing.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County will be moving forward in establishing a list of projects to get final design and engineering on and he has included an attachment on Novus Agenda of the calendar of events for the referendum.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that he would propose that the Orchard Hill Intersection at Johnson Road, Macon Road, McDonough Road and Green Valley be designated as a County project to utilize TSPLOST funds and the paving of the two dirt roads, Sockwell Drive and Ann Street be included for the City of Sunny Side.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the funding for the Orchard Hill Intersection be funded out of Spalding County's portion of the TSPLOST funds and that the

paving of Sockwell Road and Ann Street up to a maximum of \$500,000 be funded out of the City of Griffin's portion of the TSPLOST funds.

Consensus of the City of Griffin Commission was to include funding for the paving of Sockwell Road and Ann Street up to a maximum of \$500,000 for the City of Sunny Side as part of their portion of the TSPLOST funds.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson move forward with a TSPLOST with an anticipated split of funds of 66.5% to Spalding County and 33.5% to the City of Griffin with Spalding County funding the intersection in Orchard Hill and the City of Griffin to fund up to \$500,000 for paving of the dirt road as presented in Sunny Side. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Morrow/Reid-Ward to move forward with a TSPLOST as presented in the motion made by Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Mr. Wilson stated that he would have the County Attorney draft an Intergovernmental Agreement reflecting the numbers as discussed and we will get it to the individual Boards for consideration at a future meeting.

**E. Adjournment**

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray adjourn at 4:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Morrow/Reid-Ward to adjourn for the City of Griffin. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Chairman Morgan adjourned for the City of Orchard Hill.***

***Chairman Slaughter left the meeting early.***

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Bart Miller, Chairman

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
William P. Wilson, Jr., Clerk