

MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Thursday, October 24, 2013, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Chairman Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr., Attorney Jim Fortune, Community Development Director Chad Jacobs, Building Official Steve Mallard, Acting Public Works Director Tim Crane, Urban Transportation Planner Anthony Dukes, Sheriff Wendell Beam, Falcon Design representatives Shawn Hayes & John Palmer, City Manager Kenny Smith, NAACP President Jewel Walker-Harps and County Clerk, Ex-Officio Ricky L. Clark Jr. to record the minutes.

A. Call to Order

Invocation – led by Commissioner Raymond Ray

Pledge to the Flag – led by Commissioner Rita Johnson

B. Agenda Items

1. Presentation of design concepts and cost estimates for the North Hill Street/Northside Drive Intersection Improvement Project and the North Hill Street/East McIntosh Road Intersection Improvement Project by Falcon Design Consultants, LLC.

Anthony Dukes, Urban Transportation Planner stated that he is the project manager for the intersection projects: North Hill Street/East McIntosh Road, North Hill Street/Northside Drive. At this point he introduced both Shawn Hayes & John Palmer of Falcon Design.

Mr. Hayes presented two separate plans for the North Hill Street/Northside Drive & Tuskegee Intersection. Option 1 included a horizontal realignment of Tuskegee Avenue into Northside Drive at North Hill Street. This would create a four way signalized intersection. This option has the least amount of required right of way acquisition. There would be only one house that would have to be acquired by the City, noted Mr. Hayes. The total cost of this option is estimated at \$967,643.25.

For option 2, Mr. Hayes noted that a roundabout would be designed. The biggest challenge of this option is due to the profile and grade of the road. Design manuals states that you only want to design roundabouts with a 4% slope, 6% max. This option would also require the acquisition of right of way on three corners of the intersection. The total cost of this option is estimated at \$1,429,362.88.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that she doesn't recall a lot of eighteen wheeler trucks that utilize this area after being informed that the roundabout would be designed to accommodate tractor trailers. Mr. Hayes advised that a traffic study has been conducted and less than 8% of the traffic in that intersection is trucks; however, roundabouts are designed for the largest possible vehicle.

After questioning from Commissioner Miller in reference to the length of time the road would have to be closed, Mr. Hayes stated that the road would not be closed. The contractor would have a detour plan or a staging plan during construction. But if the bridge replacement is added to the project, the roadway would have to be closed completely for a minimum of nine to twelve weeks to complete the construction of an arched (bottomless) culvert according to Charles Penny of Paragon Consulting. Mr. Hayes noted that the one problem with this intersection is that right now there are paved access areas that run right up into the road. With this plan, customers will not be able to egress and ingress freely

onto the roadway. Both plans also include curbed areas to limit those entrances to help manage traffic controls, noted Mr. Hayes.

Commissioner Miller also questioned the high cost of surveying and engineering. Mr. Palmer stated that this cost includes everything that goes on with construction and property acquisition.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor questioned the purpose of the County doing anything at this intersection. She stated that aligning the intersection would be great and important if Tuskegee actually went somewhere. The biggest issue she has with the area is excessive speeding. Mr. Palmer stated that the speed limit in a roundabout is usually 15 mph or less. Signage would be posted far away to alert drivers of the approaching roundabout.

Commissioner Johnson questioned how conservative was Falcon when they prepared the numbers. Mr. Hayes stated that the only number that is really uncertain of is the acquisition of property. Construction costs are very conservative and also a contingency has been calculated between 10-14%.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor questioned if the City had discussed improvements to the intersection since the funding would be split 50/50. City Manager Kenny Smith stated that the City has discussed this particular intersection and have unofficially selected the roundabout option. The City feels it would be more attractive and conducive to traffic flow issues and also a great improvement to the area. Chairman Flowers-Taylor also questioned bike trails and sidewalks. Mr. Dukes stated that there would be 5 foot sidewalks on each side.

Furthermore, Chairman Flowers-Taylor questioned if it was the intent of the City Commission to continue sidewalks all the way up Hill Street. Mr. Smith stated that at this time he does not know if there are plans to take the sidewalks all the way up Hill Street.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would recommend that while the Board is considering the intersection projects that they also address the bridge on North Hill Street. Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that she doesn't feel we need to entertain the bridge as school buses haven't been able to get across it for the past eight (8) years. Furthermore, Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that if there is an issue with a school bus route the school system should also be interested in funding it. Mr. Wilson stated that if we do not make any improvements to the bridge the state will eventually advise that it must be replaced because it will fail to the point that no cars will be able to cross it either.

Mr. Wilson stated that it only behooves us to fix the bridge and Paragon has begun working on some estimates. Charles Penny, Paragon Consulting Group stated that estimated cost to replace the North Hill Street Bridge is \$913,246.84. Mr. Penny noted that Paragon has just completed a similar project on Maple Drive. Furthermore, Mr. Penny stated that there are AT&T conduits that are active with copper and fiber so the costs are not exact as it could cost over \$100,000 to relocate them.

Commissioner Ray stated that the School System cannot spend money on road repairs and cannot improve public roads. Commissioner Ray also questioned the availability of funds in SPLOST. Mr. Wilson stated over \$2.3 million has been committed for LARP, over \$900,000 has been committed for replacement of the West McIntosh Road Bridge, funding for design and engineering of Pine View Road and also approaches on Smoak Road. Mr. Wilson ask Ms. Garrison to prepare a detailed accounting of available SPLOST funds.

At this point, Falcon Design presented design concepts for intersection improvements at East McIntosh and Hill Street. Mr. Hayes stated that the options

are to realign North Hill Street to the east or west and add signaling or to put a roundabout at this intersection. The consensus of the Board was to present the west alignment and roundabout options to the public prior to selecting a preferred option. The west alignment would have an impact on potential property owned by Hammond Services. While the east alignment would have an impact on right of way several commercial and residential properties.

After lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Board was to proceed forward and present plans of both projects to the public for comment.

C. Adjournment

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Motion carried by all.

/s/ _____
Chairman

/s/ _____
County Clerk

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