

**MINUTES OF  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, July 8, 2014  
W. Elmer George Municipal Hall  
100 South Hill Street  
9:15 A.M.

Those present: Chairperson Ryan McLemore, Commissioners Joanne Todd, Cora Flowers, Cynthia Reid Ward, Doug Hollberg, Dick Morrow, City Attorney Drew Whalen, and City Manager Kenny Smith.

Those absent: Commissioner Rodney McCord.

Chairman Ryan McLemore called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Discuss and consider Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum scheduled for November 4, 2014.

City Manager Kenny Smith said there was a combined meeting of the City Commissioners, Spalding County Commissioners, City of Orchard Hill, and City of Sunnyside on Thursday, June 26, 2014 regarding the distribution of projected \$50,400,000 SPLOST funds. At that meeting, the City of Orchard Hill requested \$500,000.00, the City of Sunnyside requested \$346,430.00, the City of Griffin requested \$22,344,000.00; leaving the remaining balance of \$27,209,570.00 for Spalding County projects.

The County had a separate meeting afterwards and suggested some level 2 projects, which included upgrades to their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System (\$1 million), soccer field lighting at Wyomia Tyus Park (\$400,000.00), Animal Shelter funds (\$1 million), and an Aquatic Center (\$2 million), totaling \$4,400,000. Chairman McLemore sent a request to County Manager William Wilson, suggesting that the County just keep the remaining funds to serve the county residents and just call these projects “county projects” rather than “county wide” projects. This is to eliminate any confusion in the future, as to whether or not there will be an expectation of the City to cover operating costs. The county’s proposed \$4.4 million in countywide projects will instead be included as county projects, paid for from the county’s \$27 million share of the projected \$50,400,000 SPLOST.

The City Commissioners would like to bond some of the proposed SPLOST projects in order to get them underway, and will be asking for approval of an amount not to exceed \$12,500,000 in general obligation bonds. The proposed bonded projects are \$3.5 million Debt Service pay-off for One Griffin Center and Fire Suppression; \$3.7 million to replace Fire Station 2 (fire headquarters) and site acquisition; \$4 million to remodel and repurpose the historic City Hall (new roof, lead base, and asbestos abatement). The remaining City projects will be “pay as you go”. Substandard abatement, with a liberal allowance of \$500,000.00 per year, will keep staff very busy. In addition, there are Transportation projects totaling \$8,050,000.

We expect SPLOST to be effective March 1, 2015 and possibly April 1, 2015 before we see any collections. City Attorney Drew Whalen stated the City would have to have a separate vote among its Electorate for approval to issue general obligation bonds.

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners decided not to bond any of their projects; opting to “pay as you go”.

The City Commission agreed to amend tonight’s agenda to include approval of the list of projects. City Attorney Drew Whalen suggested bringing the Intergovernmental Agreement on July 22, 2014. County Manager William Wilson suggested having their Commissioners vote on the Intergovernmental Agreement at the next scheduled meeting on July 21, 2014.

Commissioner Cynthia Ward asked if there were a guarantee the County would use the proposed funds on the projects presented in today’s Workshop. City Manager Kenny Smith said the County has the option to change their projects at any time between now and July 21, 2014. Commissioner Dick Morrow stated we just have to take them at their word.

County Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor spoke to the City Commissioners, questioning why the City did not go along with the level two countywide projects. She pointed out possible changes in the county numbers, stating the numbers that have come out are not the engineered numbers, referring to the county-approved costs for the pool. Chairman Ryan McLemore said that by his calculations, this proposed split would leave the county with \$27 million. County Manager William Wilson agreed, saying that if their board decides to change the projects, the money would come from the county’s share of \$27 million, and the split to which he referred to as “the McLemore plan”. Approval by all four boards, as well as the Board of Elections must take place by August 1, 2014 in order to be included on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

The City Commissioners agreed on the proposed projects and will submit an intergovernmental agreement between the County and Cities governing the collection, distribution, and use of the SPLOST funds, if approved by the voters.

There being no further business, the regular morning workshop adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenny Smith, Secretary

Accepted:

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Ryan McLemore, Chairman