

MINUTES OF
City of Griffin Board of Commissioners
Spalding County Board of Commissioners
City of Sunnyside, City of Orchard Hill
Thursday, June 26, 2014
Spalding County Annex
119 E. Solomon Street, Room 108
7:00 P.M.

Those present: Chairperson Ryan McLemore, Commissioners Cynthia Reid Ward, Doug Hollberg, Joanne Todd, Director of Administrative Services Markus Schwab and City Manager Kenny Smith.

Spalding County: Chairman Samuel Gardner, Commissioners Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Bart Miller, County Attorney Jim Fortune, Executive Secretary Kathy Gibson and County Manager William Wilson.

Sunnyside: Mayor Jerry Miller, Larry Gossett and Billy Slaughter

Orchard Hill: James Morgan

Invocation was led by Chairman Samuel Gardner.

Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Rita Johnson.

Chairman Samuel Gardner called to order the County Commissioners. Chairperson McLemore called to order the City Commission.

Agenda Item: The Cities of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunnyside will discuss the projects for inclusion on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum on November 4, 2014.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised this is the required meeting that allows for cities to meet with Spalding County and present projects they would like to see on a future SPLOST. There is an estimate of anticipated revenues included in the agenda packet provided.

The 2008 SPLOST has generated a total of \$44,210,341.11 in the 64 months of collection so far. We anticipated in 2008 that we would collect \$750,000.00 per month. However, we are averaging \$690,786.00 per month.

Everyone here has indicated they would be interested in a 72 month SPLOST, which is a six-year SPLOST. A six-year SPLOST requires an intergovernmental agreement. We are estimating a zero percent growth based on \$700,000.00 per month or \$50,400,000.00 in total funds available.

There are two ways to pay for projects. Bonds can be issued and the SPLOST proceeds pay for the debt service on those bonds, or, you can pay as you go. Historically, we have issued bonds for the larger projects, such as the industrial park, and used pay as you go for items like transportation projects.

We will hear from the cities present regarding their requests for the 2014 SPLOST. We will then go back and work out an intergovernmental agreement that must be completed by the end of July.

James Morgan, Orchard Hill – The requests for the City of Orchard Hill total \$500,000.00:

- Sirens for an early warning storm system
- Replacement of a water drainage pipe under Johnson Road with a larger drainage pipe. The existing pipe is partially stopped up and the dirt from underneath the pipe is eroded. When it rains the water can get up to 4” deep on the road.
- Refurbish the elevated water tank. The current owner of the property that houses the water tank stated that he would sell the city the water tank for \$1.00 if we could refurbish it.
- Remove trees that have become a hazard to residents and thru traffic on Johnston Road and John Jones Road (would improve drainage on city park area).
- Move utility poles at the intersection of Macon Road and County Line Road. The poles are too close to the intersection and prevent clear line of site for people turning off Macon Road onto County Line Road. The poles can be moved back 5 feet from its existing position making it easier to see oncoming traffic at that intersection.
- Replacement of drain pipe that goes down the center of Camp Road that is stopped up and large amounts of rain in a short period of time that Macon Road becomes flooded. At times the water may be 12” deep. Open ditch on the east side of Macon Road and the Norfolk Southern tracks and open drainage ditch on Swint Road between South McDonough Road and the railroad crossing.
- Three new pavilions in the park (1 small and 2 medium) with additional parking spaces on the back pavilion and two new restroom facilities
- New utility building for storage for tractor and equipment
- Inter-city road improvement and equipment

Jerry Miller – Sunnyside - The initial requests for the City of Sunnyside total \$81,130.00:

- Solar powered speed limit signs with a digital readout
- Tornado Warning Sirens
- 3-way LED Caution Light head, mounting hardware and flasher cabinet for the intersection of Teamon Road and Old Atlanta Road
- Playground unit with concrete base, rubber protection mats, 4 swing units and overhead covers

Additionally, Mr. Miller stated the City of Sunnyside would like:

- Sunnyside would like to have a sewerage study. He has an estimate of \$15,000.00. Mr. Miller feels that sewerage might encourage development in his area.
- They would like to have funding for sidewalks in the City of Sunnyside. He has received an estimate of \$250,000.00 for sidewalks and drainage.

Ryan McLemore – City of Griffin - The requests for the City of Griffin total \$22,344,000.00:

- General Fund Debt Service to pay off the City Hall and Fire Suppression Equipment at \$3,544,000.00
- Replace Fire Headquarters originally built in the 1950’s; Relocation, site acquisition and construction \$3,750,000.00
- Remodel and re-purpose the Historic City Hall \$4,000,000.00
- Substandard abatement – Substandard structure and blight abatement \$3,000,000.00

- Transportation - \$8,050,000.00; to mill and resurface streets – 30 miles @\$165,000/mi; new sidewalk construction – 5 miles @ \$120,000/mi; Intersection improvement for Solomon/Searcy/High Falls

The City of Griffin will have further discussion on how to prioritize these requests. They are hoping to receive \$11,294,000.00 through bonds and \$11,050,000.00 on the pay as you go. Allocation of funds will be the major consideration when prioritizing these requests. At this point, it is important to figure out which projects will be considered countywide and what the allocations will be.

Mr. Wilson advised the county has not finalized or discussed projects other than a SPLOST subcommittee that met last year. When they met, the following priorities were determined:

- Debt Service – The County owes on Oxford Square where the Senior Citizen Center is located, the Correctional Institution and the L.B. Norton Fire Station.
- A new CAD System and telephone system for 911 - \$1,000,000
- Transportation – This is a big concern in unincorporated Spalding County - \$20,250,000.00
 - o Recommended 10 miles per year totaling 60 miles to be resurfaced @\$100,000 per mile
 - o Paving dirt roads. \$1.5 million to pave a dirt road without a bridge or culvert. Recommending 5 miles
 - o Bridges – many bridges need work, estimating \$3 million
- Soccer lights \$400,000.00
- IT/ Interconnectivity Upgrade \$1,200,000.00

The County Commissioners have not met and made any decisions. Mr. Wilson said he reviewed the last intergovernmental agreement where we estimated \$54,000,000 to be collected over 6 years. In that agreement, Sunnyside received \$100,000.00, Orchard Hill received \$475,000.00 and the City of Griffin and Spalding County each received \$10,924,000.00. There were also county wide projects that were agreed upon: The Lakes at Green Valley, the acquisition, construction or improvements for additions to Griffin Technical College, acquisition of a bus for the Senior Center, and water & sewer improvements. We estimated approximately \$54,000,000.00 and we are coming in at approximately 92% of the estimated revenues.

Mr. Wilson reiterated we have to decide which projects will be county wide and which projects are going to be bonded. In order to have the maximum effect on the general fund budget for both the city and county, the debt service really needs to be bonded and paid up front. That way, the citizens could see some immediate tax relief. He recommended the debt service reductions be bonded. The City of Griffin asked that the Historic City Hall and the Fire Department be bonded.

Mr. Wilson recommended the entities here tonight go back and meet with staff to come up with recommendations for the next meeting. The meeting needs to be set before the end of July so that we can adopt the resolution calling for the election and get the ballot information completed. That should go to the Board of Elections for the ballot in November.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern over issuing bonds for debt service due to the fact that in past years the cost of issuing bonds has been in the millions of dollars. She felt that as many projects as possible should be in the pay as you go category. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor

stated that the money paid out on the bond issue could be utilized for some of the other projects on the list.

Chairperson McLemore stated that this conversation could be leaning more toward the county wide projects.

Commissioner Morrow said the City has a consensus on their projects.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed concerns regarding the Animal Shelter, stating she would like to see funding for either a new shelter or an alternate location. Commissioner Hollberg said that type of project would fall under a Level 2 project.

Commissioner Gardner said he could only speak as to what the subcommittee had worked on and that county wide or level 2 projects would be the CAD and Phone System for 911, and the soccer lights would come before an Animal Shelter.

Chairperson McLemore asked for a time frame from the county.

Mr. Wilson advised we have a drop dead date of August 4th that we have to have the Resolution ready. We will also have an intergovernmental agreement before that time in order to adopt a Resolution.

Commissioner Hollberg suggested that if the County needs \$3 million for the airport, maybe that should be considered as a county wide project instead of the County trying to get a General Obligation Bond passed on the same referendum as we are trying to get the SPLOST passed.

On motion by Spalding County Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Flowers Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenny Smith, Secretary

Accepted:

Ryan McLemore, Chairman