



Spalding County
online

Board of Commissioners

SPLOST PUBLIC HEARING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a SPLOST Public Hearing on Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall of Sunny Side located at 4924 Old Atlanta Road, Sunny Side, Georgia. Those present were Commissioners Merrill Massengale and Johnnie McDaniel, County Manager William Wilson and County Clerk Phyllis Doane.

Chairman Massengale called the Special Public Hearing to order.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive citizen comment on proposed projects for the extension of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

Chairman Massengale thanked the citizens for coming out this evening and thanked the City of Sunny Side for letting the County use their facility to hold this public hearing. He stated that each citizen wishing to speak would be allowed five (5) minutes. He stated that Spalding County has two (2) sales taxes at present, the LOST and the SPLOST, which brings the sales tax to 7% for Spalding County citizens. He said that Spalding County is unique in that it borders eight (8) other counties, Lamar, Pike, Butts, Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Coweta and Henry Counties.

County Manager Wilson stated that the extension of the sales tax is projected from \$43 Million to \$45 Million. The total amount of projects to be considered total \$111 Million.

Chairman Massengale commented that the three (3) priorities seem to be roads, industrial park and recreation.

He opened the floor for citizen comments.

Ms. Dana Hortman gave her address as 114 Runaway Lane and stated she is President of the Griffin Gator Swim & Dive Team. She said the number one priority for them was recreation, the Aquatic Center. She said that they would be having 900 children for a swim meet in July and have no place to put them. She said the children have to go to other places to swim. She said with this Center they would be able to host State and District meets and would be able to provide year-round swimming. She asked that the Board finish what they started and the team members would be in support of the sales tax if the Center were constructed. She went on to say that children are a resource.

Mr. Mike Michel gave his address as 115 Dobbins Circle and stated he is President of the Youth Baseball Association. He said that he would like to see the sales tax money used on parks. He wanted to know if the second gym at City Park was going to take Beck

Field as that is where the thirteen and fourteen year olds practice and they could not lose it. He said they wanted to keep what they have got. He said they were in favor of the sales tax and also wants to see the Swim & Dive Center completed. He commended the Parks and Recreation Department for the fine job they have done in maintaining all the parks in the County.

Mr. James Kay gave his address as 116 Kay Road and commented that the average wage of an individual in Spalding County is \$13,000. He said that he wants responsible jobs and jobs that pay money. He commented about the school board's budget and taxes.

Mr. Brian Gunter gave his address as 850 Bailey Jester Road and stated he was a new resident to Spalding County. He said that he owns 37 acres and moved away from Atlanta; however, it seems that Spalding County is trying to be a smaller Atlanta. He said additional growth brings extra traffic. He said that he was not for industrial type growth and questioned how water was going to be provided for a new industrial park when there was already a shortage on water.

Mr. Bobby Puerifoy gave his address as 917 South McDonough Road and had read that a new industrial park and treatment plant would cost approximately \$61.1 Million and wanted to know how you could complete this with only \$43 to \$45 Million. Mr. Puerifoy was told that the Sewer Task Force had asked engineers to scale back the plant and move closer to the industrial park and make it a land application plant. He said that his main concern was relief of the property taxes. He wanted to know why the SPLOST could not be used to roll back property taxes. He was told that the LOST could and was; however, you could not use SPLOST for property tax relief. He was also told the millage rate at present is 9.70 and without the LOST it would be 13 mills. He said that people get tired of paying taxes.

Ms. Stacey Buchanan gave her address as 635 Wani Road and stated concerns regarding the new construction of the sewer treatment plant in her area of the county.

Mr. James Brooks gave his address as 148 Tomochichi Road and addressed concerns of the new industrial park and the wastewater treatment plant. He said that spending \$45 Million should go towards the pool, roads, etc and the county should drop the industrial park. He said the County was trying to do too much.

Mr. Robert Simmons gave his address as 144 Davison Circle and stated he had concerns about the water shortage. He said that the resources were not being made available with the expansion of building in Spalding County. He said that providing adequate water for the citizens of Spalding County should be the number one priority. Mr. Simmons was told that the City of Griffin had ownership of the water.

Mr. Lynn Shockley gave his address as 124 Maddoxwood Drive and stated he was pro recreation especially baseball. He said that we had built the second high school and the baseball program was advancing; however, don't leave the kids out. He said that

Spalding County has great recreational facilities. He discussed the collection of the present SPLOST.

Mr. Bill Landrum gave his address as 366 East College Street and addressed the operational cost of the new pool and if this was going to be additional costs and where was the money coming from to provide this maintenance.

Mr. Robert McIntyre answered questions about the new reservoir that the City of Griffin is trying to get a permit for. He said that the City was a regional water supplier and they were trying to build a new reservoir on the Flint River that would provide 36 million gallons of water per day.

Ms. Pat Grant gave her address as P. O. Box 136, Sunny Side and stated her concerns regarding the water shortage. She asked if the citizens could go to the City meetings about the water situation. She was told they could go to any meeting and encouraged them to go.

Ms. Nancy Morris gave her address as 52 New Salem Road and addressed her concerns about the water problems in the county. She asked how could you build the Aquatic Center and fill it up when there is already a ban on water in Spalding County. She also addressed the fire protection in her area which is the proposed L. B. Norton Fire Station and wanted to know when it was going to be constructed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

County Clerk

Chairman

Please send comments to webmaster@spaldingcounty.com
Copyright © 2000 Spalding County all rights reserved