



Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL CALLED JOINT MEETING

There was a Special Joint Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board of City Commissioners, the City of Orchard and the City of Sunnyside held at the office of the County Commissioners in the Courthouse Annex in the City of Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia Thursday, November 30, 2000 at 5:00 o'clock p.m.

Those present from the County were Commissioners Michael Kendall, Earle Childres, Martha McDaniel, Johnie McDaniel, Merrill Massengale, County Manager William Wilson, County Attorney Jim Fortune, County Clerk Phyllis Doane and Commissioner Elect Dick Morrow. Also present were David Jackson, Consultant with Smart Streets, Brian Upson, Integrated Science and Engineering and Todd Barnes, Financial Advisor, A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

Those present from the City were Commissioners Carlton Imes, Rodney McCord, Geraldine Jackson, Joanne Todd, Tom Perdue, Dick Slade, Anthony Dickson, Interim City Manager Lisa Hutcheson, City Attorney Drew Whalen and Executive Secretary Arlette Smith. Also present from the City were Water and Wastewater Director William White, Public Works Director Brandt Keller and Ron Harris, City Engineer.

Present from the City of Orchard Hill was Mayor Robert Morgan.

Those present from the City of SunnySide were William "Bill" Slaughter and Larry Gossett, Councilmen.

Chairman Kendall and Mayor Imes called the meeting to order, respectively.

Chairman Kendall stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss possible projects for the 2002 SPLOST.

Chairman Kendall opened the floor to the City of Griffin, City of Orchard Hill and Sunny Side as to any desires they have in terms what you would like to see as a proposed project on the new sales tax and then discuss the projects that we have recommended.

Mayor Imes recommended the following projects: (1) Street resurfacing- \$2 million; (2) Drainage improvements - \$5 million; (3) Right of way improvements - \$2 million; (4) Sidewalk improvements - \$.5 million; (5) Intersection repairs - \$1 million; (6) Communication equipment – \$9 million; (7) Funds to renovate Police Department - \$4 million. These projects total \$15 million and stated the highest priority was the renovation of Old City Hall (Police Department). Mayor Imes stated that these projects had been discussed by the City but not voted on. Commissioner Perdue commented he would also like to add \$75,000 for the renovation of the pool at City Park. Commissioner McCord commented that he would also like to see substandard housing added to this in the amount of \$500,000.

Mayor Robert Morgan recommended the following projects for the City of Orchard Hill: (1) Construction of new City Hall with the extension of fire station; (2) Finish the improvements to their park area; (3) road improvements for a total of \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Councilman Bill Slaughter recommended the following projects for the City of Sunny Side: (1) Purchase of property for a baseball field; (2) Road paving and (3) Sidewalks on School Road for a total of \$250,000.

Chairman Kendall recommended that Brian Upson, Integrated Science & Engineering, representing the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority come up and address the Board at this time as the Development Authority has asked for a new Industrial Park, which will cost approximately \$40 million. The site of this new park will be adjacent to the existing Industrial Park consisting of 900+ acres. Mr. Upson came forward and made a brief presentation to the Board. He said this property borders Rehoboth Road and goes to the Arthur K Bolton Parkway and goes beyond South McDonough Road and abuts a residential development on Walkers Mill Road. This tract has approximately fourteen to fifteen parcels to meet the needs of the industries coming in. This proposal also includes sewer improvements to the Potato Creek

Plant in the amount of \$2.3 million which was not figured in the \$31 million total for the project; therefore adjustments will have to be made to stay within the \$31 million budget.

Mr. Ron Harris was present and addressed the Boards on the Potato Creek Sewer Treatment Plant. He advised the Boards that there is a problem with the capacity at this plant. He said that the cause has not been identified as of yet but they had been notified by EPA that there was a toxicity problem and that they were not in compliance. He said that toxicity can be caused by very low concentration of industrial wastewater but the big problem is that during drought conditions 92% of the flow into Potato Creek is wastewater. He said in his opinion even with improvements that the Potato Creek Plant cannot sufficiently handle the new proposed industrial park. No one from the County was aware of the toxicity problem.

Mr. Harris suggested that maybe part of the 900 acres could be dedicated for land application facility. He said that it would take 300 acres of the land at a cost of \$3 to 5 million and be able to treat one million gallons of wastewater per day. He said a land application can be temporary and when not needed can be turned back into developed land. He said that the Master Plan calls for the construction of Buck Creek Plant at a cost \$11.3 million but does not include the pipe lines at a cost of \$3.5 million. Mr. Upson commented that you could buy more property for a permanent land application.

Mayor Imes suggested that since there was a problem with the Potato Creek Plant that the \$2.3 million be used to build the Buck Creek Sewer Plant, which has been estimated to cost \$11.3 million. Commissioner Perdue also suggested that we not upgrade the Potato Creek Plant but build the Buck Creek Plant because of the toxicity level in the water.

Chairman Kendall commented that with everything brought to light tonight, he feels that the vote the Board was trying to get in March be delayed. He said that it was not necessary that it be done in March, as there was no mad rush to get it on the ballot. He said that for it to be on the March ballot the Commissioners would have to make a final decision in January as it has to be sent to the Justice Department sixty days in advance of the call. He said that just this one project, the Development Authority will take up almost the \$45 million projected for the new sales tax and we are going to have to take this slow and sit down and discuss this and explore all the details. He said if we as elected officials could officially explain to the citizens of Spalding County how this will benefit them that a majority of the people will vote for this as if this industrial park is built and occupied, everybody's property taxes will be stabilized.

There was a discussion about using user fees, revenue bonds, and SPLOST money to fund the development of the Buck Creek Sewer Treatment Plant.

Chairman Kendall spoke for the other members of the Board of Commissioners stating that of all the projects recommended that their first priority is the new industrial park project and this is what the community needs the most. He said that after everything was worked out, that this could be placed on the June 2001 ballot for a vote. Commissioner Perdue agreed with Mr. Kendall and said that the whole \$45 million should be used for the industrial park and the sewer treatment plant.

Chairman Kendall called the County Commission meeting adjourned.

Upon motion by Commissioner McCord, seconded by Commissioner Jackson the City Commission meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

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