



Spalding County online

Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

A Special Called Meeting was held by the Spalding County Board of Commissioners in their office in the Courthouse Annex, Thursday, April 29, 2004 beginning at 6:00 o'clock p.m. with Commissioners Michael Kendall, Eddie Goss, Johnie McDaniel and Dick Morrow present. Commissioner Cecil Davis was absent. Also present were County Manager William Wilson, County Attorney Jim Fortune, Administrative Services Director Jinna Garrison and County Clerk Phyllis Doane.

AGENDA

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) – Chairman Kendall

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Finalize projects to be included in a November 2, 2004 SPLOST referendum.

Chairman Kendall stated that this meeting was previously scheduled to try to bring some closure to the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that has been on the table for some time. A new development has come up that we need to discuss, which is the new sales tax law that the legislature has passed this year in how the SPLOST proceeds will be distributed after this new law comes into effect on July 1, 2004. This law came from the resolution of the ACCG and GMA regarding the SPLOST. He said that we have this recommended list of proposed items and the new law that goes into effect July 1st. He asked Board members how they wished to proceed.

Commissioner Morrow commented that he was ready to discuss the projects to be included in the 2004 SPLOST referendum.

Commissioner Goss commented in regards to the new legislature, it would be in the best interest of everyone to get some input from the City as what they would like to see on the SPLOST because this is all taxpayers' money.

Commissioner Kendall asked the Board if they felt we should have another meeting with the City to discuss the list of projects. Commissioner Morrow stated that he felt like the City had expressed support for the economic project and the 800 MHz project at their joint meeting held earlier and they need money for road infrastructure just like the County.

Commissioner McDaniel commented that he did not mind having a discussion on this tonight but the new law puts a different light on the SPLOST. He said if we go with the six year program there would be additional money to think about and he really hadn't given it any thought. He felt that maybe we should have some more discussion with the City before we decide what direction to go and also the additional money collected the sixth year has to be designated.

Chairman Kendall explained to the audience the details of the law Governor Perdue signed into effect this week adopted by the legislature. The ACCG and the GMA have been having this on-going dispute for the last few years as to how the sales tax proceeds should be distributed in these Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax initiatives and the cities wanted to be able to call their own sales tax initiatives. The ACCG was very much against that proposition because they felt like it would create problems with the county governments trying to have Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax so in the spirit of democracy they resolved the issue with this new law, which basically says you have two choices in these matters. The cities and counties can either get together and come to some agreement on which projects need to be funded and how the money is going to be split or if you can't come to an agreement and the county goes ahead and calls the sales tax vote, then the County is required to give the City with at least 50% of the municipality population, which is in this case, the City of Griffin, a certain amount of money to do what they choose to do with it and this amount is based on population. Based on population, that would be 60% County and 40% City. The question is does this law apply to this particular sales tax initiative being it doesn't take effect until July 1, 2004. The County's intention was to call for the election before July 1st. The copy of the law that was provided to us doesn't seem to be clear regarding this question and both the City of Griffin and County have their interpretation of the law, which finds us in a dilemma.

Commissioner McDaniel asked County Manager Wilson what were the time frames for a November election. The original time frame the County set up was a May 3rd call for the election; however, the latest is July and August. The time frame set up was to be able to have a long time period of time to educate the people and promote the SPLOST.

The majority of the Board felt that with this new law and the ramifications it brings to the table, that there should be a meeting scheduled between the City and County to discuss and coordinate the list of projects based on a five or six year program for the 2004 SPLOST. The Board felt that the meeting should be held within the next few weeks to prosecute this rapidly.

Motion made by Commissioner Kendall to call a meeting with the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. and directed Mr. Wilson to formally give this in writing to Mr. Kenny Smith, City Manager for him to invite his Board members to discuss this newly enacted sales tax law and the projects on this proposed sales tax. Commissioner Goss seconded the motion.

There was a question asked if City of Orchard Hill and Sunny Side and Parks and Recreation representatives were going to be invited to this meeting. Chairman Kendall stated the way he reads the law is that only the municipality comprising of at least 50% of the municipal population in the County is the entity that there has to be an agreement with or we have to comply, assuming the law takes affect on this particular proposal, and give the City a portion of the money based on population. He said that Sunny Side and Orchard Hill are welcome to come; however, we have their proposal and it is already on the table as well as Parks and Recreation's proposal. He said that everybody is welcome to come but this needs to be a meeting between the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Kendall stated with a motion and a second, he would call the question. The motion to meet with the City of Griffin, May 6, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Morrow, seconded by Commissioner Kendall the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

County Clerk

Chairman

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