



Spalding County online

Board of Commissioners

JOINT SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Spalding County, Georgia, The Board of Commissioners of the City of Griffin, The Council of Orchard Hill and the Council of Sunny Side held a Special Called Joint Meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2002 beginning at 5:00 o'clock p.m. in the Courthouse Annex in the City of Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia.

Those present from the County were Chairman Johnie McDaniel, Vice Chairman Dick Morrow, Commissioners Merrill Massengale, Martha McDaniel and Michael Kendall. Also present were County Manager William Wilson, Assistant County Manager Michael Sabine, Finance Director Jinna Garrison, County Attorney Jim Fortune and County Clerk Phyllis Doane.

Those present from the City were Mayor Joanne Todd, Mayor Pro Tem Dick Slade, Commissioners Bill Landrum, Walker Cook, Cynthia Ward, Rodney McCord and Anthony Dickson. Also present were City Manager Ron Rabun and City Attorney Drew Whalen.

Those present from the City of Sunny Side were Mayor Larry Gossett and Billy Slaughter.

Those present from the City of Orchard were Julian Jones and Robert Morgan.

Chairman McDaniel called the Special Joint Meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss projects to be included on a March 18, 2003 bond referendum for SPLOST; however, Chairman McDaniel stated that the County had published an amended agenda to include consider proposed solution to Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) negotiations. He said that the City Commission needs to vote to amend this agenda in order for us to consider any discussion on the Local Option Sales Tax distribution tonight.

After some discussion regarding the agenda being amended to bring up this LOST topic, City Commissioner Cynthia Ward made a motion to amend the agenda to vote as to whether or not to amend the agenda. Commissioner Dick Slade seconded the motion and motion was passed by a vote of 6-1 with Commission Landrum voting against the motion stating his objection was the negativity by the County during mediation on Monday. He said that he feels the City Commissioners need to get together before they vote on the distribution issue tonight.

City Commissioner Ward stated that the County has negotiated fairly with the LOST tax with what they have to work with and she made a motion that the LOST tax be split County 62%/City 38% for the first year and County 60%/City 40% for Years 2004-2012. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion and motion passed by a vote of 4-3 with Commissioners Ward, Cook, Slade and McCord voting for and Commissioners Dickson, Todd and Landrum voting against the motion.

County Commissioner Martha McDaniel made a motion to accept the same proposal with the first year 62%/38% and for Years 2004-2012 60%/40%. Commissioner Kendall seconded the motion and motion passed by a vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Johnie McDaniel, Martha McDaniel and Kendall voting for the motion and Commissioners Massengale and Morrow voting against the motion.

Chairman McDaniel asked that representatives from City of Orchard Hill and City of Sunny Side join the City and County Commissioners at the table to discuss projects for the proposed SPLOST.

David Luckie, Executive Director and Daa'ood Amin, Chairman of the Board of the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority came forward to present an industrial SPLOST project totaling \$30.777 Million. This presentation was divided into three items:

Mr. Luckie presented the following projects for consideration:

Tract A: Land and Development I-75 Area consisting of 189.656 acres – The land would be developed in two stages, first purchase the entire tract of land and then sell half of the property and develop it and put the land sale back in to finish developing the rest of the property. Mr. Luckie said that were some infrastructure problems to be worked out with water and sewer.

Tract B: Land and Development Big Shanty Area consisting of 652.08 acres – This property is contiguous to the present Green Valley Industrial Park. This tract would be developed in four stages. The entire tract would be purchased and then sell as developed and put back into the development of Phase II and so on.

3. University Technology Center located at the corner of Ellis Road and Old Atlanta Road, which would be a Multi-Tenant Facility and Operations for developing new food products. This would be a 16,000 SF building to built on the campus of the University of Georgia here in Griffin. There would be four modules that they would rent to incubator companies in the food technology business. They would be allowed to stay in this facility for approximately three years and then graduate out into a manufacturing facility somewhere in our area. The land this building is built on would be a perpetual land lease from the University of Georgia system.

Mr. Luckie stated in the Year 2001 Green Valley has returned to the taxpayers 12%, which is \$800,000 in property taxes. NACOM paid \$4.6 Million last year in property taxes. He said there is a way for our community to get back their investment in spending the one penny SPLOST.

Dr. Gerald Arkin, Assistant Dean of University of Georgia Agricultural and Environmental Science, spoke on behalf of the University. He said that they were real excited about this project and the Food Science Department on the campus has already started exploring prospects in the metro area and surrounding regional areas should this facility be developed. There is an interest in partnership arrangements.

Chairman McDaniel thanked Mr. Luckie and Mr. Amin for their coming and giving their presentation for an industrial SPLOST.

Chairman McDaniel stated we would now recognize requests by the City of Griffin. Mayor Todd stated that they have no request as they fully support an industrial SPLOST.

Chairman McDaniel recognized Councilman Julian Jones for requests by the City of Orchard Hill. He said their needs were the same as before which was (1) To build a new City Hall and Spalding County Fire Department building as one combined unit; (2) To build just a new city hall building; (3) To pave both front and rear parking lots of our Phase I park; (4) To install utilities-water, sewer and electricity in our Phase II park so that we may provide restrooms and better serve those who use these facilities and (5) to install a rubberized pad on our Phase I walking trail. These projects total \$1Million. He said if projects have to be cut they would still like the combination City Hall and Fire Station, which would benefit everyone in Spalding County.

Chairman McDaniel recognized Mayor Larry Gossett for requests by the City of Sunny Side. Mayor Gossett stated their requests as follows: (1) Sidewalk on School Road, from Old Atlanta Road to Post Office (cost \$50,000); (2) Purchasing property for City Park, including grading, landscaping and fencing for a baseball practice field and a walking track (cost \$240,000); (3) Paving Sockwell Drive from Teamon Road to City limit (cost \$35,000) and (4) Paving City Hall walking track with the rubberized finish (cost \$75,000). The priority of projects is items no. one and two. Total cost of projects to be \$400,000.

Mayor Todd stated that perhaps the City of Griffin would like to put in a few requests. Some of the previous requests totaling \$31.6 Million had been included in the reservoir project. This \$31 Million was an alternative for the City of Griffin if the industrial SPLOST did not materialize. City Manager Rabun asked for time to allow his Board to meet and discuss some projects for input to the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Martha McDaniel spoke on behalf of the senior citizens of Spalding County and asked that consideration be given to an expansion of the Senior Center as they have run out of room in the present facility. The expansion would cost in the range of \$250,000.

Upon motion by Commissioner Martha McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Kendall the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

County Clerk

Chairman

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