

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, on Monday, June 30, 2008 beginning at 4:00 o'clock p.m. with Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presiding and Commissioners Eddie Freeman, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Johnie McDaniel and David Phillips present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr., County Attorney James R. Fortune, Jr., Allison Steuber from King and Spalding, bond counsel, and Executive Secretary Teresa Watson.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Consider Resolution calling for a September 16, 2008 SPLOST referendum and authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for the division of SPLOST proceeds.

Chairman Goss advised that Mr. Wilson has received an email from City Manager Kenny Smith stating the City of Griffin has signed a final intergovernmental agreement and delivered

it today to County Attorney Jim Fortune's office. This fully executed final agreement should supersede the need for a formal rejection of any prior proposals.

Commissioner McDaniel felt this most recent division of SPLOST proceeds was the best option to serve both entities while ensuring it still remained within the law.

Commissioner Phillips felt the SPLOST, as structured, would not pass a referendum. He was concerned that other accommodations be considered in order to assist the Development Authority with getting this land for the new industrial property, and he concluded he could not support this proposal for division of SPLOST proceeds.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor was not happy with the final division proposed by the City of Griffin, but she was happy to see the City agreed that the proposed Development Authority industrial park was a hugely important project. She disagreed with two elements of the final agreement: 1) The terms of the agreement that dictate the surplus or exceed proceeds shall be split 50/50 with the County, and 2) The Development Authority will probably go with sewer from the City, so she felt the \$2.5 million allotted to them for private package sewer should be placed back into the funding stream for water, sewer and infrastructure expansion for the County. These two things would have to happen before she could support the agreement.

Commissioner Freeman felt this was the closest all parties could come to a fair arrangement. However much he would have liked to see this SPLOST referendum on the ballot with the general election, he felt the negotiations to date have resulted in what he considers a fair agreement for City and County. At this juncture, he would not like to see the referendum on the general election after this much effort has been directed toward clearing all the hurdles.

Chairman Goss agreed with Commissioner Phillips that all the bickering between City and County has left most Commissioners cold. Mr. Luckie confirmed to Chairman Goss that that the contract with the property owners stipulates notification to the Crouch family must be made by July 17 as to whether or not the project will be on the September SPLOST.

Commissioner Phillips stated City Attorney Andrew Whalen advised today that the issue would most likely be on the general election referendum in November and not September. Commissioner Phillips also spoke with Steve Crouch this weekend, and he seemed to share that opinion. Commissioner Phillips felt the SPLOST as structured would not pass anyway.

Mr. Fortune said the Crouches must be notified of our intent by July 17, and by July 28 there must be completion of phase II examination and our intent to proceed, based on what the study reveals. He disagreed with the statement that parties were anticipating a November referendum, noting that everyone had proceeded according to plan for a September 16 SPLOST referendum. Mr. Fortune and Mr. Luckie advised if this Board did not approval the Resolution to call for a SPLOST, the property would be considered off the market.

Chairman Goss stated that while everyone wanted to see the Development Authority get their property and industrial park, he was very unhappy with the process that was intentionally drawn out by the City of Griffin in their greed. The County has spent hours upon hours trying to develop a workable agreement, but the City wanted more and more and played hardball to obtain their desires. They delayed by playing games with the annexation component until that was deemed an untenable position.

Mr. Wilson advised a six-year SPLOST requires a negotiated intergovernmental agreement, and a five-year SPLOST would not generate enough in funding. The City had agreed to treat the Development Authority and Griffin Tech items as countywide projects. They are not Level I projects and are not technically Level II projects but are being treated as such. Alternative #8 is the option that was developed after the last Special Called Meeting on June 26, 2008 where all other options were declined. Much discussion followed.

Motion to approve Alternate #8, noting it was without the annexation component and agreed to a 50/50 distribution of excess proceeds with the County, was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion failed by a vote of 2-3 with Commissioners Flowers-Taylor, Phillips and Chairman Goss opposing.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 4:20 pm by Commissioners Freeman/ Phillips carried 5-0.

Chairman

County Clerk

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