

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, July 21, 2008 beginning at 4:30 o'clock p.m. with Commission 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., Assistant to the County Manager Paul Van Haute, and Executive Secretary Teresa Watson.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Discuss, with the Cities of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunny Side, projects for inclusion on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum to be held November 4, 2008.

Jerry Miller, City Council member, detailed the request of Sunny Side which has not changed since the last meeting. Projects included rubberizing the existing walking track, installation of park benches and water fountains, and office improvements totaling \$100,000.

Robert Morgan, Mayor of Orchard Hill, said their request was also the same as before, and he detailed the \$220,605 for park and walking trail improvements, \$120,000 for the front and back parking lots in the city park/city hall area, and \$135,000 in city hall improvements for a total request amount of \$475,605.

City Manager Kenny Smith presented a similar proposal to the previous one for the City, and he detailed the priorities listed. The first priority was a matching amount of \$4,583,470 for traffic signals/intersection improvements/6th Street bridge/Airport Road. Priority number two was for Meriwether Street bridge repairs and West Poplar Street bridge repairs in the amount of \$550,000. The third priority is for resurfacing for a total of \$1,800,000, and the fourth priority requested \$3,000,000 for transportation projects within the North Hill Street Master Plan. Priorities number 5 and 6 are for right-of-way improvements along a fourteen-block area and to complete 30.5 miles of sidewalks for interconnectivity. The City's total request is for \$12,183,470. Mr. Smith said there was a variety of project availability dates with a majority of funds committed for TIP projects. The City will be putting in masts and arms for the signals in mid-2009. Sewer expansion is not addressed in the transportation request. Some discussion followed regarding sewer,

TADs, and sales tax collections ongoing that are received from other counties which will serve to drive economic engines of this area.

Chuck Copeland spoke on behalf of the Development Authority and relayed that their request was the same at \$25,000,000. The only variation was in regard to the time constraint modification to accommodate a November SPLOST referendum.

Griffin Technical College advised, according to Mr. Wilson, their request was the same for the previously stated project: \$8.5 million.

These projects combine for \$46,275,000 and many aspects have to be considered for a November SPLOST referendum. If an intergovernmental agreement for a six-year SPLOST is desired, the drop dead date to execute is July 28, 2008. The County still anticipates \$54,000,000 with a zero percent growth factor. The City of Griffin agrees the Development Authority is a countywide project, as well as Griffin Technical College. The City of Griffin also supports the requests of Sunny Side and Orchard Hill as they have stated previously but not as Level II, countywide projects. Extensive discussion followed.

County Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if the Board of Commissioners could amend tonight's Extraordinary Session agenda to request a vote on the intergovernmental agreement which the City could ratify tomorrow. Then a Called Meeting could be scheduled prior to the Zoning Public Hearing on Thursday if necessary in order to accommodate changes, etc. Mr. Wilson said bond counsel and investment bankers suggested they also ask for a waiver so the current collections could carry over to provide for a seamless transition.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Chairman

County Clerk

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