

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M. AT EDWARDS PARK, 115 EDWARDS PARK, DALTON, GA 30720

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

R. Lynette Laughter, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
County Attorney, Robert Smalley
City Council Members
Varnell City Mayor
Dalton City Mayor
Tunnel Hill City Mayor
Town of Cohutta Mayor
Department Heads
Press

AGENDA:

- Meeting Between Whitfield County Board of Commissioners and Mayors of Whitfield County Municipalities Regarding the continuation of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST):** Chairman Laughter reminded attendees that the purpose of the meeting is to get the Cities input on the possible continuation of the current SPLOST, if it would do them any good, if they have any needs, and what they would like to include on the SPLOST list. Chairman Laughter asked County Attorney Robert Smalley to explain the timeline for the proposed SPLOST referendum to make sure everyone is on the same page, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-8-111(a) notice of the meeting was given to the Mayors at least 10 days prior to discuss possible projects for inclusion in the proposed SPLOST referendum that Whitfield County has expressed its intent to call, the County can't take any action to call for a referendum on a SPLOST until thirty days after today's meeting, the referendum will then be placed on the Board of Commissioners agenda for November 12th, if the timeline holds it will be anticipated that the Special Election will be held on March 19, 2019, County Attorney Robert Smalley also noted that this is the only required meeting with the Mayors to be held, but other sub sequential meetings could be held. Chairman Laughter presented a power point of the County's proposed projects for inclusion in the SPLOST, the County is proposing to extend the SPLOST for a six-year term that would bring in around one hundred million dollars. Chairman Laughter then opened the meeting for discussion from the elected officials. Tunnel Hill Mayor Kenny Gowin is in support of the SPLOST, and would use the funds for sewer expansion. Varnell Council Mayor Tom Dickson is in support of the SPLOST and noted they would use the funds for recreational facilities. Cohutta Mayor Ron Shinnick is in support of the SPLOST. Shinnick noted that the current SPLOST helped fund historical projects in Cohutta. City of Dalton Mayor Dennis Mock is in support of the SPLOST and noted their list has been drafted but has not been finalized. Mock further noted that their list includes downtown revitalization, replacing the recreation center on Civic Drive, connect Haig Mill Park to downtown through a trail system, and build more airport hangers at the municipal airport. The meeting lasted around an hour and no decisions were made.

ADJOURN: Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /