

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, 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:

1. **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 the purpose of the meeting is to get the Cities input on the recent recommendations provided by the 2020 SPLOST committee. Laughter noted this meeting is to discuss if the City of Dalton would like to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the County regarding the SPLOST. Laughter noted the 2020 SPLOST Committee met during the months of August – November and heard from several County and City departments. 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 January 13th, 2020, if the timeline holds it will be anticipated that the general primary election will be held on May 19, 2020. County Attorney Robert Smalley also noted that this is the only required meeting with the Mayors to be held, but other subsequent meetings could be held. The County is proposing a four-year SPLOST that would bring in around \$66M. Chairman Laughter then opened the meeting for discussion from the elected officials. Tunnel Hill Mayor Kenny Gowin noted he is in support of the SPLOST committee's recommendations, and would use the funds for sewer expansion, capital renovations to the Depot and police vehicles. Varnell Council Mayor Tom Dickson is in support of the SPLOST committee's recommendations and noted they would use the funds for recreational facilities, sanitation equipment, public safety improvements and paving sidewalks. Cohutta Mayor Ron Shinnick is in favor of the SPLOST committee recommendations, and would use the funds for public safety and security equipment, capital renovations to city hall, building and grounds equipment purchase and park improvements. City of Dalton Mayor Dennis Mock noted he was also favorable to the recommendations of the SPLOST committee. County Attorney Robert Smalley will begin to draft an intergovernmental agreement between the County and the Cities for possible approval at the upcoming January meeting. The meeting lasted around an hour and no decisions were made.

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ADJOURN: Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /