

May 23, 2011  
Statesboro, GA

### Special Called Meeting

The Bulloch County Board of Commissioners and the Governing Authorities of the City of Statesboro, City of Brooklet, Town of Portal, and the Town of Register met at 12:15 p.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex in order to discuss renewal of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for 2013. County Manager Thomas Couch welcomed guests and called the meeting to order.

Mr. Couch asked each Clerk to determine a quorum for each Governing Body. Ms. Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the Commissioners and Staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Vice Chairman Mosley, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Development Services Director Andy Welch, and Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that a quorum was present. Mrs. Lori Prosser, City Clerk of Brooklet, stated that a quorum was present. Mr. Mike Arrieta, Town Clerk of Portal, stated that a quorum was not present. Mrs. Doris Douzenis, Town Clerk of Register, stated that a quorum was present. Mrs. Sue Starling, City Clerk of Statesboro, stated that a quorum was not present.

After Roll Call, Mr. Couch called for a motion to authorize Chairman Nevil to preside over the meeting. Mayor Joe Brannen, City of Statesboro, offered a motion to authorize Chairman Nevil to preside over the meeting. Commissioner Anthony Simmons, Bulloch County, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Couch stated that the next item on the Agenda was the consideration to conduct business as the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Couch explained that a Committee of the Whole is a device in which a legislative body or other deliberative assembly is considered one large committee, and is usually done for the purposes of discussion and debate of the details of proposed actions and other main motions. Commissioner Walter Gibson, Bulloch County, offered a motion to conduct business as the Committee of the

Whole. Commissioner Carolyn Ethridge, Bulloch County, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Couch stated that the next item of business was the approval of the General Agenda. Mr. Couch asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. Hearing no amendments or modifications, Commissioner Anthony Simmons, Bulloch County, offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Council Member Russell Davis, City of Brooklet, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Couch called for a motion to appoint the Clerks as Recording Secretaries to take the official minutes on behalf of the jurisdictions with quorums. Council Member Rusty Smith, Town of Brooklet, offered a motion to appoint Mrs. Lori Prosser, City Clerk of Brooklet, Mrs. Doris Douzenis, Town Clerk of Register, and Ms. Maggie Fitzgerald, Bulloch County, as the Recording Secretaries. Council Member Randy Newman, City of Brooklet, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Couch gave the invocation and called for a twenty minute Recess for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened, and Mr. Couch began the Presentation with an explanation for the purposes of the SPLOST renewal. Mr. Couch stated that the renewal would be used for the development of the I-16/US 301 Interchange Project, secure Capital funding source through the end of the decade, and discussed the strategic considerations of the Regional T-SPLOST. Mr. Couch reviewed a working schedule for upcoming meetings, Resolution adoptions, and elections. Mr. Couch discussed election considerations, and stated that the holding of Municipal Elections may require voters to cast SPLOST ballots at separate locations. Next, Mr. Couch discussed the proposed allocation of the \$82 million dollars of SPLOST proceeds between the cities and the county. Mr. Couch stated that except for the upfront costs related to Solid Waste Disposal, the proceeds would be distributed by the population of each jurisdiction. In conclusion of the Presentation, Mr. Couch stated that the cities must have projects determined by early to mid-June in order to develop a six year intergovernmental agreement from December 2013 until November 2019, and that Resolution adoptions must be coordinated to meet the timeline for the call of elections.

Chairman Nevil called for a motion from the Committee of the Whole to open the floor for discussion regarding SPLOST issues, concerns, and questions. Commissioner

Ray Mosley, Bulloch County, offered a motion to open the floor for discussion. Commissioner Walter Gibson, Bulloch County, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. With the floor open for discussion, City Manager Frank Parker, City of Statesboro, asked what would happen if more than or less than \$82 million dollars was collected. Mr. Couch stated that the distribution percentages would stay the same, but the tier I and tier II amounts would change. Mr. Parker asked if Solid Waste Air Rights would be negotiated because new equipment would need to be purchased in the next few years. Mr. Couch answered that nine to ten million dollars could be allocated for Air Rights and equipment purchases.

Next, the Committee of the Whole discussed how the SPLOST distribution percentages would be based on the populations of each jurisdiction as established by the 2010 Census, and that all college students were counted as residents. Mr. Couch described how Tier 1 distributions and Tier II distributions would be calculated, and stated that Tier I represents funds that should be included in the budget, but that Tier II funds should be considered a bonus. After further discussion, Council Member Travis Chance, City of Statesboro, discussed how to educate the voters regarding the benefits of SPLOST. Mr. Couch advised the Committee of the Whole that governing bodies and elected officials are not allowed to advertise for SPLOST. Mr. Bryan Rountree, a citizen, stated that he would not vote in favor of SPLOST, because the funds should only be used to pay for necessary items and not future projects that will increase operating expenses. After further discussion, the Committee of the Whole agreed to meet again on Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

Hearing no further discussion, Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Anthony Simmons, Bulloch County, offered a motion to adjourn. Council Member Russell Davis, Brooklet, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

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Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board