

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
December 13, 2016
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a special called session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 13, 2016 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Robinson and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Centerville Mayor John Harley, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, Walton and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, and James Erdmanczyk.

County Attorney Tam Hall led the audience in the Invocation.

Director of Administration Barry Holland led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a resolution that authorizes him to execute a SPLOST intergovernmental agreement on behalf of the County with the cities of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins. The County would take all necessary action to call an election to be held on March 21, 2017 for the purpose of whether or not a one percent SPLOST shall be imposed on all sales and uses within Houston County for a period of six years, beginning on October 1, 2018 to raise an estimated \$145,000,000 to be used for funding County-wide, Unincorporated and Municipal projects as specified in the Exhibit A.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker, Mr. Thomson, and Ms. Robinson in unison to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a resolution that would authorize him to sign an intergovernmental agreement with Cities of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins concerning the use and disbursement of 2018 SPLOST proceeds as outlined in the "Exhibit A" of the agreement.

Mr. Walker commented that a lot of hard work had gone into this process and he thanked the Chairman for his leadership and staff for their efforts. He also recognized and thanked Mayor Harley for the cooperation and graciousness that the City of Centerville has always afforded him and the County.

Mr. McMichael remarked that the level of cooperation between Houston County and all three cities was remarkable when compared to other counties throughout the state who often times exhibit a true lack of cooperation with their municipalities and even their own elected officials and constitutional officers.

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Chairman Stalnaker then presented a resolution calling for an election to impose a one percent (1%) SPLOST on all sales and uses in the County.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson, Mr. Walker, and Mr. McMichael in unison to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a resolution calling for a referendum on March 21, 2017 to continue a one percent (1%) County sales and use tax (SPLOST) for a period of time not to exceed six years to raise an estimated \$145,000,000. If approved by the voters, the proceeds of such tax will be used to fund capital outlay projects in transportation, public safety, recreation, general capital obligation, public buildings, water and sewer system improvements, economic development and debt service as outlined in the ballot language. The Elections Superintendent is requested to call for the election of the voters of Houston County, publish a notice of the election as required by law and to certify its result to the Secretary of State and to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked the Commissioners, all three Mayors, Council members for each city, staff members and especially the citizens who took the time and made the effort to offer their thoughts and input during the SPLOST process.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments.

James Erdmanczyk, 123 S. Third Street, Apartment 9, Warner Robins asked the Chairman whether input from the community was solicited and received during the SPLOST process.

County Attorney Tom Hall confirmed that input was solicited and received from the citizenry through a series of public hearings.

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen in reference to the spirit of cooperation between the County and all three municipalities shared a story told by former Senator Hugh Ragan of Smyrna of three brothers in conflict over an inheritance resulting from their father's death. The moral of the story is that the solution to a conflict is usually anchored in finding common ground among each party.

There being no further public comments, the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting to Commissioners Comments.

Mr. McMichael was delighted that the process has gone so smoothly and hoped that the voters would find the SPLOST plan favorable and allow the County to continue its progress.

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Mr. Thomson thanked the Chairman for his leadership as well as Director of Administration Barry Holland and all other staff members for their efforts.

Ms. Robinson felt that the SPLOST would allow the County to continue to move forward and be progressive.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone who had a hand in the SPLOST planning and thanked both Jimmy Autry and Danny Carpenter for their involvement.

Chairman Stalnaker also thanked Mr. Autry and all others involved with the SPLOST support effort for stepping up and working so hard. He reminded everyone that next Tuesday, December 20th would be the last Board meeting of the calendar year and that the County's financial audit is being finalized and should be available for distribution sometime next week. He also reminded everyone of the County observed holidays on Friday, December 23rd; Monday, December 26th; Friday, December 30th; and Monday, January 2nd. He also had one final reminder that the January 2017 Board meetings were now scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner