

**ATTENDEES:**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick, Figueras, Bruner  
STAFF PRESENT: Padgett, Sheppard, Marlowe, Jordan  
OTHERS PRESENT: Governmental representatives from Braselton, Buford, Clermont,  
Flowery Branch, Gillsville, Hall County, Lula and Oakwood

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order.

**PRESENTATION:**

Hall County Administrator Randy Knighton used a PowerPoint presentation to share information regarding House Bill 386 which will phase out local sales tax over a four year period on energy used in manufacturing. The legislation allows local governments to recover lost revenue by levying an Energy Excise Tax. It was unknown as to how much revenue will be lost. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether the tax should be levied in Hall County. Staff would follow the process outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-13-113 and 115(c) to implement the tax if authorized to proceed.

Mr. Knighton stated HB386 authorized but does not require this tax to be levied. It is considered to be a County tax. If cities decide to participate, they will receive a share of the proceeds. An ordinance must be enacted by the end of the year to proceed at the earliest possible date.

Hall County Attorney Bill Blalock stated the question at hand was do we want to levy the tax and, if yes, when do we implement it. Other communities proceeding with the tax are pursuing a January 1, 2013 implementation date. Unfortunately, there is no information regarding the implications of this tax.

**DISCUSSION:**

There was a question about future deadlines should local governments decide to implement this tax at a later date. It was noted that everyone will lose revenue. The question was how much would be lost. It was noted that Gainesville's staff estimated a loss of revenue totaling \$400,000.

There was a comment about the way the legislators decided on this bill implying there was no basis for the decision which should prompt everyone to be concerned. This prompted a question as to whether there would be discussion with the legislators asking to rescind this bill.

There was also discussion expressing the importance of being in a position to move quickly after which all municipalities agreed to participate in an Intergovernmental Agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:58 AM**

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C. Danny Dunagan, Mayor

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Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk