

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Dunagan, Hamrick, Figueras, Wangemann, Couvillon  
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Bruner  
STAFF PRESENT: Padgett, Sheppard, Jordan

Representatives from the Hall County Board of Commissioners were in attendance along with representatives from the municipalities of Buford, Flowery Branch, Gillsville, Lula and Oakwood.

Jock Connell opened the meeting indicating some may have already seen part of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) presentation during previous meetings. He called attention to the fact that the meeting would be broadcast via TV18 then presented information related to the following topics:

- What is a SPLOST?
- What can SPLOST funds be used for?
- The benefits of SPLOST
- Hall County SPLOST history
- Potential SPLOST categories
- The public input process
- The SPLOST VII oversight process
- The SPLOST VII timeline/actions

Hall County Administrator Randy Knighton reviewed the county projects for SPLOST VI. Gainesville City Manager Kip Padgett reviewed the municipal projects for SPLOST VI.

The early estimate of SPLOST VII revenues indicate approximately \$130 million will be collected. There will be three public input meetings which were scheduled for June 10 in South Hall, June 17 in North Hall and June 19 in Gainesville.

The oversight committee will have representatives from the county and the municipalities. The number of appointees is unknown at this time.

Mr. Connell stressed the importance of transparency through the process.

Several comments were received from the floor.

Upon inquiry from Mayor Dunagan, Mr. Connell explained the difference between Level 1 and Level 2 projects. He indicated there were no proposed Level 1 projects. There had been some discussion about potential Level 2 projects which were public safety related.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, Mr. Connell was uncertain how the T-SPLOST would compare to SPLOST VII.

Lula City Manager Dennis Bergin felt the success from past SPLOST efforts will determine whether future SPLOST will be supported. The key was to be clear and concise.

Mr. Knighton commented on efforts to obtain information about 911 upgrades and apparatus. Cost estimates would be compiled for distribution to the municipalities for review/evaluation.

Oakwood City Manager Stan Brown expressed a desire to see how the projects are currently funded and any shortfall that may exist.

Oakwood Mayor Lamar Scroggs commented on the public's view of SPLOST.

Hall County Commission Chairman Mecum expressed the importance of staying focused indicating the County and its municipalities will experience rapid growth in the upcoming years. How elected officials plan for and handle growth is crucial. The biggest concern was financing. SPLOST is one choice. Another choice is borrowing. The last choice is do nothing which was not a viable option.

It was noted that there is a lot to do before the first public meeting. Municipalities need to know how much money would be available to them. Gillsville Mayor Larry Poole asked that the anticipated funding for each entity be provided with the cost estimates.

Council Member Wangemann felt the key was allowing the public to help identify the projects.

Mr. Connell commented on advertisements for future meetings noting the presentations will be shorter to allow more time for public input.

**ADJOURNMENT: 5:05 PM**

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C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

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Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk