

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee
Thursday, March 16, 2023

Members Present/Virtual:

Jacquelyn Bettadapur
Steve Byrne
Jay Cunningham
Lindsay Edwards
Marline Elkins
Wilmark Harris
Essence Johnson
Gene Lewis
Felicia McDade
Michael McNeely
Tania Robinson
William de St. Aubin
Alice Summerour
Frank Wiginton
Matthew Yarbrough

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:

Jimmy Gisi, Deputy County Manager
Drew Raessler, Director, DOT
William Rowling, County Attorney
April Jones, DOT Admin
Travis Stalcup, Deputy Director, Property Mgt
Adam Storey, Captain, Public Safety
Kimberly Lemley, CIO
Bill Volckmann, Director, Finance
Jenny Xu, SPLOST Accountant, Finance

City of Kennesaw:

Marty Hughes, Assistant City Manager

City of Powder Springs:

Pam Conner, City Manager
Chad Kastner, Program Manager

Chairperson Felicia McDade called the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 PM on March 16, 2023.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting. A motion was made and seconded; minutes were approved unanimously.

William Rowling, County Attorney, brief the committee on the Cobb County policy on ethics, open records requests, and open meetings to include provisions on virtual attendance and virtual voting per the state law. Mr. Rowling provided clarification that required all meetings to be conducted in person and not in a virtual setting unless virtual attendance was due to health issues or being out of the jurisdiction twice each calendar year. Mr. Rowling restated committee members can only attend virtually twice a calendar year.

Committee member Jay Cunningham asked for clarification that members can vote twice a year with Mr. Rowling responding yes. Jay asked if virtual voting needed to be included in the committee by-laws.

The next order of business was the Election of Officers for 2023. Jay Cunningham nominated Alice Summerour for Chair. Jacquelyn Bettadapur nominated Michael McNeely for Chair. Michael McNeely was approved as the new Chair in a vote of 9-6.

Tania Robinson nominated Felicia McDade for Vice Chair; motion was seconded and Felicia McDade was elected Vice Chair with 13 votes.

Michael McNeely nominated Jacquelyn Bettadapur as Secretary. Jacquelyn Bettadapur was elected Secretary with 13 votes.

Jenny Xu, Accountant, Finance Department, briefed the committee on the 2022 SPLOST Revenue Summary to include 2005, 2011, 2016, and 2022 SPLOST programs.

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Committee member Matthew Yarborough asked if it was normal practice that some departments spend their SPLOST allowance at a faster rate than other departments. Drew Raessler, Director, DOT answered the rate of expenditures was based on the amount of resurfacing projects DOT currently has open.

Bill Volckmann, Director, Finance, briefed the committee on how SPLOST funds are protected from future bank failures. A discussion about interest collections, project timelines, and payouts followed.

Marty Hughes, Assistant City Manager, City of Kennesaw, gave an update on the City's 2011, 2016, and 2022 SPLOST programs. The following projects were highlighted, Cherokee Street Road Improvements, Ben King Road Improvements, Sardis Street Extension and Overpass, and various resurfacing and sidewalk improvements.

Questions/Answers for City of Kennesaw:

Q. Parking at Depot Park: Will the additions of the new parking lots be sufficient parking?

A. The new lots will allow for more parking spaces, but walking, ride-sharing and other transportation methods will still be required.

Chad Kastner, Program Manager, City of Powder Springs gave an update on the City's 2016 and 2022 SPLOST programs. Several projects were highlighted including Intersection Improvements to include Hopkins Road and Lancer Drive Parks, Flint Hill Road Signalization, Sailors Parkway at CH James Parkway, various facility updates, general streets improvements, and other various project updates.

Questions/Answers for City of Powder Springs:

Q. Linear Park: What is the end goal of expansion?

A. We are currently in the process of identifying additional parking given the landscape difficulties we've encountered.

Andrew Yakimovich, Deputy Director, Property Management, provided an update on the 2016 and 2022 SPLOST programs which included Precinct 6, Fire Station 29, Gritters Library, Cabinet Shop, Firing Range, Fire Station 12, and various Library Renovations.

Questions/Answers for Facilities:

Q. Firing Range: Why is there a need for 440 parking spaces for a firing range?

A. The parking spaces are for the firing range, employee parking, public parking, recruit parking, the training facility, and various public safety departments that also use the mentioned facilities.

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Q. Fire Station #29: Can you provide an update on what you mean by the land contract is still under negotiations?

A. We are negotiating maintenance fees and hope to close in May on the property.

Adam Storey, Captain, Public Safety, provided an update on the 2016 and 2022 SPLOST programs and briefed completed projects to include new fire stations, precinct renovations, fire training centers, and various facility improvements.

Q. Precinct Renovations: What updates are included in this?

A. We are updated multiple items, but most recently we are updating bathrooms.

Q. Fire Station #7: This project is listed as underfunded. Can you explain how the project was completed?

A. We moved funds from the Fire Fund and then asked the Board to reimburse with any RAP.

Q. How are funds spent when old fire stations are sold?

A. The monies are sent back to SPLOST and then reimbursed to the Fire Fund.

Kimberly Lemley, CIO, provided an update on the 2016 and 2022 SPLOST programs. Completed projects include Medical Examiner Case Management, and Salesforce 311. In-progress projects included Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Employee Performance Management System, IBM Power 9 System, and AchieveIt Plan Management System.

Other Business:

Committee member Steve Byrne suggested the committee ratify any/all votes conducted incorrectly at the next meeting.

Committee member Jay Cunningham led a discussion about streamlining requests for information from county employees through committee leadership. Bill St. de Aubin requested there be an official ending time for committee meetings.

Deputy County Manager, Jimmy Gisi, informed the committee that the Department Manager retreat will take place during the next scheduled meeting and asked the committee if they wanted to move or keep the meeting. The committee agreed to keep the meeting at the previously scheduled time.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.