

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee
Thursday, July 20, 2023

Members Present:

Jacquelyn Bettadapur
Lindsay Edwards
Marline Elkins
Wilmark Harris
Essence Johnson
Gene Lewis
Felicia McDade
Michael McNeely
Alice Summerour
Matthew Yarbrough

Members Absent

Steve Byrne
Jay Cunningham
William de St. Aubin
Frank Wigington

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:

Jimmy Gisi, Deputy County Manager
Kimberly Lemley, CIO
Yolanda Rucker, IS Tech Services Manager
Andrew Yakimovich, Deputy Director Facilities
Captain Ryan McKay, Public Safety – Fire Dept.
April Jones, Admin, DOT
Anne Miller, Admin, DOT
Jenny Chu, Finance

City of Austell:

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief
Bo Garrison, Public Works Director

City of Marietta:

Mark Rice, Director of Public Works

Chairperson Michael McNeely called the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:02 PM on July 20, 2023. As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting. A motion was made and seconded; minutes were approved unanimously.

Jenny Chu, Accountant, Finance Department briefed the committee on the 2022 SPLOST Revenue Summary and included financial updates on the 2005, 2011, 2016 and 2022 SPLOST programs. 2022 SPLOST revenues collected as of July 20, 2023 are \$294,341,508 and are \$118 million over budget projections. The 2022 SPLOST budget is \$750,000,000.

New Business

Posting of SPLOST reports/presentations to county website. Financial reports are posted to the county website but neither the county department or municipal presentations made to the SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee are posted. It was proposed that this be done.

Marline Elkins pointed out that a county project status report is posted monthly under Monthly Reports on the county website. Municipal projects are not included in that status report.

Lindsey Edwards enquired about the traffic on the county SPLOST webpage. County staff did not have that information on-hand.

Jimmy Gisi suggested that an agenda packet with supporting materials (department and municipal presentations, minutes to be approved, etc) be posted before each SPLOST COC meeting.

Frequency of County Department Presentations. County departments make three reports per calendar year to the SPLOST COC. Municipalities make two reports per calendar year. It was proposed that county departments make only two reports per calendar year, considering long timelines for project completion. Concerns were expressed that with a large volume of SPLOST projects, it would be difficult to adequately cover progress in just two reports. Others pointed out that there has been some repetition (e.g. Fire Station 29) in reporting without significant progress between reports. There was general agreement that this agenda item be pushed to later in the

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meeting, after the municipal and county department reports, to reassess any potential changes in future agendas.

City of Austell Report

Presenting: Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

SPLOST Financial Status (as of 6/30/2023) for City of Austell:

2005 SPLOST – Receipts \$2,679,453; Expended & Encumbered \$2,626,172

2011 SPLOST – Receipts \$5,322,718; Expended & Encumbered \$5,269,762

2016 SPLOST – Receipts \$8,597,142; Expended & Encumbered \$7,877,621

2022 SPLOST – Receipts \$2,528,911; Expended & Encumbered \$1,864,820

The SPLOST projects highlighted included: road resurfacing projects (2005 SPLOST), purchase of a ladder track for fire department (2011 SPLOST), Threadmill Complex Roof Replacement (2016 SPLOST), purchase of a semi-truck trailer for the Public Works department (2022 SPLOST) and water improvement projects preconstruction phase engineering (2022 SPLOST).

SPLOST Financial Status (as of 6/30/2023) for City of Austell:

City of Marietta

Presenting: Mark Rice, Director of Public Works

2011 SPLOST

Receipts \$49,503,399; Expended & Encumbered \$48,384,779

Projects highlighted:

Rottenwood Creek Trail Phase 1 Design

Roswell Street 4 Lane Gap (Lakewood to Olive)

South Marietta Parkway and Atlanta Street

Fairground Street Landscape

Powder Springs Streetscape

Sawyer Road Fire Station (completed)

Traffic Control Center Replacement (completed)

2016 SPLOST

Receipts \$69,395,674; Expended & Encumbered \$64,597,607

Projects highlighted:

Burnt Hickory Trail

New Hope Road & Wylie Road Intersection Improvement

Allgood & Merritt Intersection Improvement

Allgood & Scufflegrit Intersection Improvement

Church Street Streetscape

Powder Springs Street @ Waverly Way Streetscape

Polk & Mountain View Intersection Improvement

White Avenue Sidewalk

South Marietta Parkway & Cobb Parkway Gateway

Fire Dept – ALS Heart Monitors

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Fire Dept – Vehicle Purchase
Police Dept – Vehicle Purchase
Police and Fire Radio Communications
Police and Fire Building Equipment Replacement and Renovation
Public Works Building Renovation Phase 1 (completed)
Public Works Building Renovation Phase 2 (completed)
Public Safety Training & Facility (completed)

2022 SPLOST

Receipts \$20,149,937; Expended & Encumbered \$8,629,263
Various transportation projects in design phase
Fire engines ordered, expected delivery 2 years

Facilities

Presenting: Andrew Yakimovich, Deputy Director of Property Management

2016 SPLOST

Projects highlighted:
Public Safety Agency: Precinct 6, Fire Station 29
Sheriff's Office: Marietta Square Sheriff Office HQ
Public Services Agency: Gritters Library
Judicial: Magistrate/Probate Public Restrooms
Support Services Agency: Cabinet Shop

2022 SPLOST

Projects Highlighted:
Firing range (2016/2022)
E-911 Call Center
Fire Station 12, Brackett Rd.
Library Renovations (various)

Department of Public Safety

Presenting: Captain Ryan McKay, Executive Officer Dept of Public Safety

2016 SPLOST

Projects highlighted:
Fire Station 29
Fire Training Facilities, Phase 1 Administrative Building Remodel

2022 SPLOST

Projects highlighted:
Animal Services Facility
800 Mhz Radio Towers (Fire)
Radio Replacement (Fire)
Call Center (Fire)
Fire training Facility, Phase 2 (ground breaking August 2023)

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Fire station 12 (early 2024)
Police Training Center Shooting Range (2016/2022)
Police vehicles (67% complete)

Technology Improvements

Presenting: Kimberly Lemley, CIO; Yolanda Rucker, IS Technology Services Manager; George Sparrow, AchieveIt (contractor)

Cobb has contracted with AchieveIt to provide a new SPLOST reporting platform. The current system is Excel based and had to be manually synced between department reports and financial reports, a cumbersome process. George Sparrow from AchieveIt presented the new reporting format to the SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee and asked for the committee's input on reporting formats, data presentation, etc.

Other Business

The frequency of county department reporting to the committee was revisited. Matthew Yarbrough made the motion to remove Facilities, Public Safety and Technology from the Nov. 16 SPLOST COC agenda. Essence Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was amended to add back in Technology for a final update on the AchieveIt SPLOST reporting project. Some committee members were concerned about not receiving timely updates, particularly with respect to Public Safety and Transportation. It was pointed out that the Board of Commissioners receives monthly updates on SPLOST. Those updates are posted on the county webpage and can be used to supplement information between county department presentations to the SPLOST COC. The amended motion was approved by the committee.

Chairman Michael McNeely informed the committee that Tania Robinson had resigned from the SPLOST COC. Ms. Robinson was a District 4 Commissioner appointee.

The next SPLOST COC meeting will be on September 21 at the PARKS facility, 1792 County Services Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30008.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.