



Commission Meeting

December 5, 2023

Reduction in scope of Augusta Mini Theatre SPLOST VI project

Department:	Administration / Finance
Presenter:	Takiyah A. Douse, Interim Administrator and Timothy E. Schroer, CPA Deputy Finance Director
Caption:	Motion to approve Augusta Mini Theatre request to reduce the seating of the proposed new theater from 250 seats to 100 seats, a 60% reduction in the scope of the project. (Approved by Finance Committee November 28, 2023)
Background:	<p>On February 19, 2009 the commission approved the project list for SPLOST phase VI, which included partial funding for a 250 seat theater for the Augusta Mini Theatre. The SPLOST phase VI referendum was approved by the voters on June 16, 2009.</p> <p>The Augusta Mini Theatre was allocated \$857,144 in funding to build a 250-seat theater if the terms of the challenge grant requirements were met (a 25% match with the project being completed no later than two years following the end of collection for SPLOST phase VI, which was March 31, 2018). In September 2018 the Augusta Mini Theatre requested and was granted an extension until May 2021 to complete the proposed 250 seat theater. The estimated cost for the theater in August 2018 was \$4 million.</p> <p>At the February 15, 2022 commission meeting the commission approved a 365-day extension for the Augusta Mini Theatre project. This action was later rescinded and replaced by commission action on June 21, 2022.</p> <p>On June 21, 2022 the Augusta Commission granted the Augusta Mini Theatre a second extension to complete a 250-seat theater and allocated an additional \$500,000 to the project. The contract specified that construction would be completed by October 31, 2025 and complete funding would be available by August 31, 2023.</p> <p>On August 24, 2023 Tyronne Butler, Executive Director of the Augusta Mini Theatre submitted a funding update for the project. An additional funding update was provided on October 17, 2023. See below:</p>

100 seat theater	
Proposed Project Budget	<u><u>\$1,910,420</u></u>
Funding	
Augusta Mini Theater	
- cash on hand	198,932
- Community Foundation funds	<u>304,819</u>
Total Augusta Mini Theatre Funding	503,751
Pledged funds - dependent up authorization of SPLOST Funds	49,525
Augusta SPLOST VI - Initial Funding	857,144
Augusta SPLOST VI - Supplemental Funding	<u>500,000</u>
Total Funding Available 10-17-2023	<u><u>1,910,420</u></u>

Analysis:

The request from the Augusta Mini Theatre will reduce the number of seats by 150 from 250 seats to 100 seats. This represents a 60% reduction in the scope of the project. The proposed project also does not include a dedicated stage sound system or stage lighting system. Details regarding operational costs and funding were not provided.

The reduction of the scope of the project changes the funding allocation percentages. See below:

Funding Allocation	Original Proposal		Revised Proposal	
Augusta Mini Theatre	\$ 3,142,856	78.6%	\$ 553,276	29.0%
Augusta - SPLOST	\$ 857,144	21.4%	\$1,357,144	71.0%
Total	<u><u>\$ 4,000,000</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,910,420</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

Financial Impact: Funding is available in SPLOST phase VI in the approved amount of \$857,144 and additional funding \$500,000 – Fund 328

Alternatives:

- ✚ Approve request to reduce the scope of the project
- ✚ Deny request – reallocate project funds per SPLOST regulations
- ✚ Extend deadline to allow Augusta Mini Theatre to raise funds for project as originally proposed.

Recommendation:

Funds are available 328-06-4310 / 5721110
in the following
accounts:

REVIEWED AND
APPROVED BY: