

THE CITY OF DALTON
SPECIAL CALLED JOINT MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2023

The Mayor and Council held a Special Called Joint meeting this evening at 12:00 p.m. at 201 South Hamilton St. 5th floor. Present were Mayor David Pennington, Council members Dennis Mock, Steve Farrow, City Administrator Andrew Parker and City Attorney Terry Miller, various City Department Heads. Council member Tyree Goodlett was absent. Whitfield County Commissioners Jevin Jensen, Barry Robbins, Robby Staten, John Thomas, Greg Jones, County Attorney Robert Smalley. City of Varnell Mayor, City of Tunnel Hill Mayor, and Town of Cohutta Mayor.

CALL TO ORDER

Whitfield County Chairman Jevin Jensen called the meeting to order.

MEETING BETWEEN WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MAYORS OF WHITFIELD COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (SPLOST).

Whitfield County Chairman Jensen reminded attendees the purpose of the meeting is to get the Cities input on the recent recommendations provided by the 2024 SPLOST committee. Jensen noted this meeting is to discuss if the City of Dalton would like to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the County regarding the SPLOST. Jensen noted the 2024 SPLOST Committee met during the months of October and November and heard from several County and City departments.

Chairman Jensen asked County Attorney Robert Smalley to explain the timeline for the proposed SPLOST referendum to make sure everyone is on the same page. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-8-111 (a) notice of the meeting was given to the Mayors at least 10 days prior to discuss possible projects for inclusion in the proposed SPLOST referendum that Whitfield County has expressed its intent to call, the County can't take any action to call for a referendum on a SPLOST until thirty days after today's meeting, the referendum will then be placed on the Board of Commissioners agenda for January 8th, 2024, if the timeline holds it will be anticipated that the general primary election will be held on May 21, 2024. County Attorney Robert Smalley also noted that this is the only required meeting with the Mayors to be held, but other subsequent meetings could be held. The County is proposing a four-year SPLOST that would bring in around \$80M.

Chairman Jensen then opened the meeting for discussion from the elected officials. The Mayors of Cohutta, Dalton, Tunnel Hill and Varnell were all in support of the SPLOST committee's recommendations, County Attorney Robert Smalley will begin to draft an intergovernmental agreement between the County and the Cities for possible approval at the upcoming January meeting. No decisions were made during this meeting.

Special Called Meeting Minutes

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk

David Pennington, Mayor

Recorded

Approved: _____

Post: _____