



## **CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

### **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – MINUTES**

**1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030**

**Friday, August 18, 2023 at 9:30 AM**

*Mayor Jazzmin Cobble*

*Council Member Tara Graves - District 1      Council Member Rob Turner - District 2*

*Council Member Alecia Washington - District 3      Mayor Pro Tem George Turner - District 4*

*Council Member Tammy Grimes - District 5*

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The SPLOST II County-City meeting was called to order by Michael Thurmond, DeKalb CEO.

#### **II. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **A. For Discussion - SPLOST Meeting**

- The meeting began with a welcome by DeKalb CEO, Michael Thurmond and an introduction of attendees. Greetings by Robert Patrick, Presiding Officer of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, and Lynn Deutsch, Mayor of Dunwoody and Chair of DeKalb Municipal Association Policy Committee. CEO Thurmond acknowledged State House and Senate delegations for their efforts. Representative Karla Drenner, Georgia House of Representatives, 85<sup>th</sup> District, gave remarks.
- There was an introduction of the DeKalb Board of Commissioners, by Presiding Officer Patrick, including himself as Commissioner of District 1, Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, District 2, Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, District 4, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5, Commissioner Ted Terry, District 6 and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, District 7. There were also greetings given by each Commissioner, as well as each Mayor that was present.
- Chief Operating Officer Zachary Williams introduced a presentation addressing the EHOST side of the SPLOST referendum. Budget Director T.J. Sigler spoke of EHOST, stating it is the second part of the referendum question. EHOST stands for Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax and is a one cent sales tax that provides property tax relief to qualified homeowners in DeKalb County. All properties in DeKalb with an approved homestead exemption qualify for EHOST and will receive a credit on their annual property tax bill. From 2018 to 2022, EHOST saved DeKalb homeowners over \$591 million dollars in property taxes and will be over \$700 million dollars this year. SPLOST II, HB 431 did not impact the EHOST law.

- Viviane Ernstes, County Attorney, gave a presentation with background and context on the draft ballot and six-year IGA. There was a review and discussion of the draft ballot that the county is considering as well as a discussion of the 2017 DeKalb HOST, which was prior to EHOST and SPLOST. It was stated if the EHOST and SPLOST II ballot question does not pass, we go back to HOST, which did not provide the amount of capital the cities or county needed and did not provide the property tax relief that SPLOST II and EHOST provides. It was noted that cities get their own funds to spend on a broad set of categories. The ballot question is written into the state's statute. It was also stated that the SPLOST II tax is not in addition to the SPLOST I tax. The SPLOST I tax will expire, and the SPLOST II tax will replace it.
- DeKalb County CEO Michal Thurman spoke on legacy and the impact of SPLOST on the county. He stated SPLOST II institutionalizes the potential for progress in DeKalb County, all cities, and unincorporated areas. CEO Thurman stated we must think beyond our districts, corporate limits, and recognize we are all connected. The spirit of SPLOST is a common vision, common purpose and common opportunities. Mr. Thurman shared and reflected on a photo that was taken at the groundbreaking ceremony for SPLOST I in 2017, which he stated changed the history of DeKalb County. The photo showed Mayors and Commissioners standing together. Those in attendance at this meeting will come together and take a SPLOST II photo for future generations that will be there for SPLOST III.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurman.

#### Americans with Disabilities Act

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*If you need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (such as a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device or print material in digital format) or reasonable modification to programs, services or activities contact the ADA Coordinator, Sonya Isom, as soon as possible, preferably 2 days before the activity or event.*