Minutes SPLOST V Committee

Thursday, November 15, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.
City of McDonough, City Hall, 136 Keys Ferry Street, McDonough, Georgia

The Henry Herald was notified of the meeting via email.

Meeting Agenda (See Attached Agenda)

I.   **Call to Order**

Mr. Clayton Carte, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II.   **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Carte.

III.   **Acceptance of Agenda**

See attached agenda
Mr. Carte called for a motion for acceptance of the agenda for November 15, 2018, and asked committee members if there were any revisions. Motion was made by Mr. Tom Israel (District I Representative) and seconded by Mr. Claud Spinks (County Manager Representative). The motion passed unanimously.

IV.   **Opening – Clayton Carte**

Mr. Carte opened with a general overview regarding the SPLOST program and its impact in Henry County. SPLOST stands for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. It is a program that the Georgia General Assembly created in the 1980s allowing Georgia counties to call for local sales tax for the purpose of funding capital projects. Within Henry County, SPLOST was first passed in 1996. Since then, three subsequent programs have passed. We are currently in our fourth SPLOST program, which was passed by the voters in 2013. Within Henry County, SPLOST funds have been utilized toward transportation improvements, parks and recreation, county facilities, and public safety. SPLOST funds can be applied toward anything that is a capital need. There is a separate SPLOST, the E-SPLOST or Education SPLOST, governed by the Henry County Board of Education and it is operated separately from the Henry County Board of Commissioners General SPLOST.

The SPLOST V Committee has been formed by the Henry County Board of Commissioners to look at a proposed extension of the SPLOST program. SPLOST IV, our current program, is set to expire in March 2020. This committee will be spending the next year looking at potential projects, developing a project list, analyzing cost estimates, and getting public feedback on possible projects before recommending a project list to the Henry County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners may then modify the list, as need be, before calling for a voter referendum to approve the extension of SPLOST in November of 2019. If the referendum is passed, SPLOST V collections will begin in April of 2020.

The SPLOST V Committee is made up of 7 appointees, an appointee from each of the Commissioners and an appointee from the County Manager's office. The committee is meeting bi-weekly throughout Henry County, holding 17 meetings in total. Meetings began in July 2018, with the first round of meetings being held in each commission district. The committee is currently in its second round of meetings, meeting with each of the 4 cities located in Henry County. Beginning in 2019, the committee will once again meet in each commission district to decide district specific projects. SPLOST V will be comprised of both county-wide projects and district specific projects.

V. **Introduction of County Commissioners**

- Gary Barham, District III Commissioner

VI. **Introduction of Committee Members and City Representatives**

- Clayton Carte, Committee Chair (County Chair Representative)
- Claud Spinks (County Manager Representative)
- Tom Israel (District 1 Representative)
- Arnold Cole (District 2 Representative)
- Mike Elrod (District 3 Representative)
- Harold Jenkins (District 4 Representative)
- Billy Copeland, Mayor, City of McDonough
- Benjamin Pruett, McDonough City Councilmember
- Roger Pruitt, McDonough City Councilmember
- Craig Elrod, McDonough City Councilmember
- Rufus Stewart, McDonough City Councilmember
- Keith Dickerson, City Administrator, City of McDonough

Not in attendance: Carlotta Harrell (District 5 Representative)

VII.   Introduction of Staff/Technical Committee

- Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager
- Brad Johnson, Deputy County Manager
- Ron Burckhalter, Public Works Director
- Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Director
- Melissa Robinson, Public Information Director
- David Smith, Financial Services Director
- Chae Yi, SPLOST
- Dana Holder, SPLOST
- Lynn Planchon, SPLOST/Airport

VIII.   Proposed Projects – City of McDonough

Mr. Keith Dickerson, City Administrator, started his presentation by explaining the 4 categories in which the City of McDonough uses its SPLOST funds for:

1. Street Improvements
2. Public Safety
3. Cultural, Recreational, & Historical Facilities
4. Park Improvements

Beginning with street improvements, $3.5 million dollars in SPLOST funds have been spent on paving roads within the City of McDonough in the last 4 years. 41 roads have been improved with the use of SPLOST dollars with one of the largest projects being Phillips Drive. Phillips Drive was a full depth reclamation (FDR) paving project consisting of a concrete base topped with asphalt, this method was used since Phillips Drive is such a heavily traveled road. Mr. Dickerson stated that with FDR paving it is expected that Phillips Drive will not need to be re-paved for the next 20-25 years. Sidewalks and storm drains were included in the improvements to Phillips Drive as well, and these too were paid with SPLOST dollars. In 2015, the city improved 1.8 miles of road; in 2016, 2 miles of road; in 2017, 3 miles of road; and it is projected that they will improve 3.8 miles of road in 2018. Mr. Dickerson stated that without SPLOST funds the city would only be able to improve 0.75-1 mile of road per year. The city has utilized SPLOST funds for sidewalk improvements and have obtained a Sidewalk Connectivity study. SPLOST funds has been used to purchase new fire trucks and police cars. The renovation of the C.O. Polk building to become the Polk Building Interactive Museum was funded by SPLOST dollars and is projected to open in the next 4-5 months. The parking expansion project at Avalon Park is currently under construction. A splash pad, playground equipment, and a pavilion for concerts and festivals will also be new additions to Avalon Park paid for by SPLOST funds.

Proposed City of McDonough, SPLOST V, projects include:

- Racetrack Road @ Iris Lake Road – Intersection Improvement (this will be a joint county/city project)
- McGarity Road & Lawrenceville Street @ SR 20 – Intersection Improvement (this will be a joint city/GDOT project)
- McDonough Parkway @ Bridges Road – Intersection Improvement (this will be a joint county/city project)
- Right-of-Way Improvements (landscaping & beautification) to areas such as the median in front of the former Snapper building located where Macon Street & Griffin Street split. This will also include art walk areas & conversation circles that will be conveniently placed throughout the city.
- Sidewalks to be constructed on SR 20, SR 42, and Industrial Parkway to name a few.
- Fire Station – this will be the city's third fire station, the last fire station was built in 2010.
- New playground equipment similar to what is out at the new Hope Park along with the 6"-8" rubberized safety ground surfacing.

Mr. Carte, Committee Chair, recommended that Bridges Road & Simpson Street @ SR 20 be looked at as a possible intersection improvement as well. Ms. V. Renae Crutches, a citizen of District III, wanted to reiterate and make sure that resurfacing of subdivision streets and subdivision entrances would also be included on the proposed SPLOST V, District III, list. Mr. Carte commended the City of McDonough for both their resurfacing and sidewalk projects.

IX. **Review Potential Projects within District III**

Mr. Mike Elrod, District III Representative, provided the following as possible projects for the SPLOST V program:

- McDonough Parkway – complete from Henry Parkway to SR 20/81, and from SR 42 to SR 155
- Resurfacing of Turner Church Road
- Probate Court – proposed, future parking plan
- Old Jackson Road – extend across SR 81 to connect with Airline Road
- East Lake Road – widen from East Lake schools to Elliott Road
- East Lake Road @ Elliott Road – Intersection Improvement
- East Lake Road to Rowan Drive – road improvements with an intersection improvement at East Lake Road & Rowan Drive

- Airline Road @ McGarity Road – Intersection Improvement (possible round-a-bout)
- Additional funds to be added toward SR 81 widening improvements; to include widening from the city limits to Bethany Road, and from Bethany Road to Keys Ferry Road
- Racetrack Road Improvements with intersection improvements at Iris Lake Road & Travis Road
- Travis Road Improvements – widening & sidewalks
- Bridges Road @ Willow Lane – Intersection Improvement
- Snapping Shoals Road Improvements – widening & resurfacing
- North Ola Road – sidewalks connecting the schools & North Ola Park
- South Ola Road @ SR 81 – realign South Ola Road to the signal with North Ola Road
- North Ola Park – Capital Improvements to extend and enlarge the park
- McDonough Senior Center – add health/exercise center similar to the one at Bear Creek in Hampton
- East Lake Road @ Airline Road – Intersection Improvement
- Southern Crescent Technical College – multi-use trail to Academy (Henry County High School), staff to check regarding legalities of SPLOST vs. E-SPLOST

Keith Dickerson, City Administrator, asked if it would be possible to add a second entrance/exit to the McDonough Senior Center. The current entrance/exit off of SR 81 is extremely busy and at times can be very dangerous if you are making a left-hand turn. Mr. Carte asked that the re-opening of Bridges Road thru to Mt. Carmel Road be kept open as a possibility. Mr. Elrod stated that a possibility would be extending Bridges Road to Sterling Place and improve the intersection at Sterling Place & Mt. Carmel Road.

Mr. Carte stated, as a general caution, that once county staff provides cost estimates for these projects, at least half of the projects will be removed from the list, this is due to lack of funds. In SPLOST IV, each Commission District was allotted approximately $20 million. In SPLOST V, this number is projected to be slightly higher due to growth and economy. Until the cost estimates are submitted, every project mentioned is tentative. He stated that this is why it is important to hear from the citizens of Henry County. The committee wants to hear from the citizens regarding which of the projects are of the highest priority.

X. **Discussion – Request for projects to be considered under Countywide**

Mr. Carte mentioned that SPLOST IV, Countywide, projects included:

- Animal Control & Probate Court – renovations

- 3 new Fire Stations – Stations 14, 15, & 16, along with 3 new ambulances and 3 new fire engines
- Public Safety – 911 radio updates
- Southern Crescent Technical College, Building B
- $5.5 million toward Interchange/Exit on Bethlehem Road

Proposed County wide projects for SPLOST V:

- Convention Center
- Fire Station/Police Precinct, District I (Mt. Bethel @ SR 81 area)
- County Park in the Heron Bay area
- Fleet Replacement Program previously recommended by Deputy County Manager, Brad Johnson
- Fire Station – Jodeco Road @ Campground Road area
- McDonough Parkway Extension projects (both phases)
- Probate Court parking expansion
- Southern Crescent Technical College – set aside funding for future development
- Greenway Trails & Multi-Use paths – Master Plan
- Public Safety – Smart Traffic Signals for use by first responders

Mr. Carte also mentioned capital improvements to the Elections Building, jail pods, Fire Station #6, & the Fairview Police Precinct.

Brad Johnson, Deputy County Manager, mentioned that there are some needs within the Jail and Police Department that he will be introducing in the near future.

XI.   Public Comments

Mr. Carte asked if anyone had signed up for public comments.

Ms. V. Renae Crutches stated that the constituents in District III need to be heard, and asked that the county representatives make them feel heard and their concerns addressed.

Ms. Deb Watkins spoke regarding the one-way pairs in the City of McDonough and asked about the completion date for that project. She commended the committee, city, and county representatives in working together to accomplish their respective & joint projects. Ms. Watkins also expressed concern with the entrance/exit off of SR 81 to the McDonough Senior Center, she stated that she, too, would like to see a second driveway added.

XII. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Carte made a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 1, 2018, SPLOST V Committee Meeting. Mr. Spinks made the motion, Mr. Jenkins seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

XIII. **Future Meetings**

Mr. Carte made the announcement that the next two meetings of the SPLOST V Committee will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Stockbridge at the Merle Manders Conference Center; and on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Henry County Administration Building, Conference Room B.

XIV. **Committee Comments**

Mr. Elrod asked if Mr. Romero could give an update regarding current SPLOST projects. Mr. Romero gave updates on the following projects in District III:
- Heritage Park & North Ola Park – Park Improvements
- McDonough Parkway – removal of garbage through the old landfill
- SR 81 widening (Lemon Street to Bethany Road) - $1.2 million received from Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for design & $6 million received from ARC for Right-of-Way acquisition
- Bethany Road @ SR 81 – SPLOST IV Intersection Improvement; completed
- Dailey Mill Road @ Jodeco Road – SPLOST IV Intersection Improvement; completed
- Oak Grove Road @ Jodeco Road – SPLOST IV Intersection Improvement; completed
- Campground Road Extension project – construction is 85% complete, bridge is complete, estimated opening is Spring 2019
- Numerous resurfacing (high volume traffic) & surface treatment (low volume traffic) projects
- Turner Church Road (end of pavement to SR 155) – SPLOST IV widening & paving project; completed
- Elliott Road Bridge @ Walnut Creek – SPLOST IV Bridge Improvement; joint county/GDOT project
- Lake Dow @ Rodgers Road & Rosser Road – SPLOST IV Intersection Improvement; completed

- East Lake Road @ State Route 20 – SPLOST IV Intersection Improvement; completed

XV.   Adjournment

Mr. Carte made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Elrod and seconded by Mr. Israel. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Dana Holder, Henry County SPLOST staff.

SPLOST V Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM
McDonough - Mayor Billy Copeland
McDonough City Hall

Agenda

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II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Acceptance of Agenda

IV. Opening - Clayton Carte

V. Introduction of Henry County Commissioners

VI. Introduction of Committee Members and City Representatives

VII. Introduction of Staff / Technical Committee

VIII. Proposed City Projects

IX. Review potential projects within District III

X. Discussion - Request for projects to be considered under countywide

XI. Public Comments

XII. Approval of Minutes
   a. November 1, 2015

XIII. Future Meetings
   a. November 29, 2018 at 6:30 PM

      Stockbridge - Merle Manders Conference Center
   b. December 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM

      Countywide - Henry County Administration Building

XIV. Committee Comments

XV. Adjournment

SPLOST V COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING #8
CITY OF McDONOUGH – CITY HALL
Thursday, November 15, 2018 @ 6:30pm

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
Melissa Robinson	Yellow Pine Dr. McDonough		
V. Renae Charles			
Lynn Plunkton	SPLOST		
Laura Elrod			

SPLOST V
COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT
SIGN-IN
5 MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018 @ 6:30 PM
CITY OF MCDONOUGH – CITY HALL

NAME:	ADDRESS:	PHONE:
Deb Watkins	643 N. Bethany Rd. McD	(4)863-9568
V. Renae Critches	258 Fannin Ln McD	(4)834-2035