

Baldwin County Commissioners
Work Session
July 7, 2015
5:15 p.m.

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 5:15 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
Johnny Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m.

Transportation Funding Act of 2015

County Manager Ralph McMullen presented an update on the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 which modified and expanded the sales tax for the purpose of funding transportation projects. This Act allows two ways for funding transportation improvements: a regional sales tax and a county sales tax.

Mr. McMullen explained that after July 1, 2015, regions can go through a process for voters to consider a Regional Transportation Sales Tax. If a majority (six of eleven) of the counties in the Middle Georgia region pass a resolution to initiate the process, then the entire region will go through the process as outlined in the law. This process follows the same as the Transportation Investment Act Regional Sales Tax 2010 process. If the region initiates the process, a decision to call for the election will be made by the Regional Roundtable. Sales tax of up to 1%, in .05% increments, may be levied with 75% of the tax will go to investment list projects with a minimum of 30% to State Transportation Investment Projects (STIP) and 25% to local governments for transportation projects. This would be a 10 year tax. Voters in each county would have to approve the referendum.

County Manager McMullen discussed a County Transportation Sales Tax. He stated that after July 1, 2017, the County can go through the process for voters to consider a County Transportation Sales Tax. The County begins the process by notifying the City of intent to levy and consult with the City on projects and the development of an intergovernmental agreement outlining rate, projects and distribution of funds. Tax of up to 1% can be levied if there is an intergovernmental agreement with a minimum of 30% to STIP projects. If no intergovernmental agreement, tax of .75% can be levied with no requirement for STIP. Counties can not have both a regional and county transportation sales tax at any time under the current law. If, after July 1, 2017, any one county successfully implements a county tax then the regional transportation sales can not be implemented until the county tax ends. If the regional transportation sales tax has been implemented, no counties can implement a county transportation sales tax until the regional tax ends.

Mr. McMullen stated that if the Baldwin County Commissioners wish to initiate the regional transportation sales tax, a resolution would need to be passed and distributed as outlined.

Chair Hall opened the floor for discussion. Commissioners concurred that the County should begin the initiation of the transportation sales tax by the passage of a resolution.

Chair Hall stated this matter is on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

SPLOST Projects for Recreation

Recreation Director Bill McNair reported the SPLOST project list for recreation was discussed at a recent Recreation Committee meeting. He stated that out of a list of all projects recommended for Recreation SPLOST funds the Board had previously prioritized projects to be completed as funds become available. Mr. McNair presented an update of various projects to include batting cages, backstops, score booths, bleachers, netting, fencing, parking lots, picnic tables at Coopers, fencing and parking lot at Harrisburg. He reported the new gym doors will be installed around the beginning of August.

Mr. McNair stated one of the projects included on the overall SPLOST project list is to put basketball courts at the Harrisburg Park. During the Recreation Committee meeting, discussion was held requesting that this project be moved up on the priority list.

Commissioner Tommy French, who serves on the Recreation Committee, stated he felt it was very important to put basketball courts at the Harrisburg Park in order to give children in the area something constructive to do in order to keep them out of trouble.

Committee Member Henry Craig stated other projects on the priority list have not been completed including the gym floor and the irrigation pond. He stated he felt these projects that were initially put on the priority list should be completed before others are added to the list to be done.

Chair Hall commented that even if basketball courts are added to the priority list, the sales tax money would have to be collected before the project would be done.

Commissioner John Westmoreland asked Mr. McNair to discuss the projects on the priority list that have not been completed but should remain on the priority list. Mr. McNair stated he feels the gym floor should definitely remain a top priority.

Chair Hall stated Recreation SPLOST projects will be discussed further at the Regular Meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:55 p.m. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

