



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File #: 2018-1538
File Status: Preliminary Item

1/23/2018

Substitute

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 6

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

Resolution to Create a Citizen Oversight Committee for SPLOST Revenues and Expenditures

Information Contact: Commissioner Gannon

Phone Number: 404 371 6353

PURPOSE:

To create a citizens oversight committee to monitor and review the use of SPLOST revenues.

NEED/IMPACT:

The citizens of DeKalb have imposed upon themselves a special sales tax with the promise that funds will be spent as promised in the November 2017 referendum. This oversight committee will provide accountability and transparency to all DeKalb citizens. It will build public trust in DeKalb County which will be essential if future SPLOST referendums must be approved by voters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.....

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO CREATE A SPLOST CITIZENS OVERSIGHT GROUP TO TRACK THE PROGRESS OF SPLOST PROJECTS AND REPORT THAT PROGRESS TO THE PUBLIC, THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY AND OTHERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Citizens of DeKalb County voted to impose a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to be spent on capital improvements in DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority has considered the capital improvement needs of unincorporated DeKalb County and have created categories of spending based upon the parameters of the SPLOST law for DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority believes that the spending of SPLOST funds should be in accordance with those categories as established in the Resolution of September 26, 2017 authorizing the SPLOST Referendum;

WHEREAS, the Citizens of DeKalb County have been informed of the spending categories and expect SPLOST funds to be allocated as previously approved by the Governing Authority in the Resolution of September 26, 2017 authorizing the SPLOST Referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of DeKalb County are entitled to transparency and accountability concerning the use of SPLOST funds and all taxes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Authority of DeKalb County does hereby create a 2018 SPLOST Citizens Oversight Group as outlined herein:

SPLOST Citizen Oversight Group

1. The Governing Authority affirms that the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is DeKalb County's opportunity to affect substantive, county-wide improvements that connect our citizens and starts to transform our County into one defined by the collective pursuit of a high quality of life for all residents. To further help accomplish this vision, the Governing Authority hereby creates the SPLOST Citizens Oversight Group (SPLOST Citizens Group).
2. The mission of the SPLOST Citizens Group shall be to provide transparency and accountability to the Citizens of DeKalb County regarding the expenditures from the 2018 SPLOST. The purpose of the SPLOST Citizens Group shall be to ensure (1) that revenue collected under the SPLOST is spent in accordance with DeKalb SPLOST law; (2) that funds from the SPLOST are well managed and used efficiently; and (3) that projects funded by the unincorporated DeKalb portion of the SPLOST are equitable, appropriately prioritized, and well distributed throughout the unincorporated area of the County.

3. In addition, the Governing Authority creates the SPLOST Citizens Group to provide as necessary and appropriate advice, reviews, reports and recommendations to the public, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Board of Commissioners (BOC), the Independent Internal Auditor and the Legislative Delegation on SPLOST spending, budgets, projects and legislation. The scope and schedule of these reports shall be determined by the SPLOST Citizens Group, but at a minimum an annual report shall be completed each year beginning on January 31, 2019 and a final report shall be completed at or near the conclusion of the 2018-2024 SPLOST. The Annual and Final reports shall include the findings, evaluations and recommendations of SPLOST Citizens Group. At a minimum they shall be distributed to the CEO, the BOC and shall be published on the County website.
4. The SPLOST Citizens Group shall be comprised of 9 members who are residents of unincorporated DeKalb County and are of voting age. No member shall hold elective office and upon qualifying to run for elective office a member automatically resigns from the SPLOST Citizens Group. Each County Commissioner shall appoint one member and the CEO shall appoint two members. Each member's term will coincide with the terms of the elected official appointing them. Vacancies will be filled in the same manner as appointments are made. A member may be removed from the SPLOST Citizens Group in writing by the elected official who made the appointment, with a copy of the removal letter sent to the Clerk to the CEO and BOC (Clerk). Appointments shall be recorded by the Clerk.
5. The SPLOST Citizens Group shall be constituted and hold its first organizational meeting by April 1, 2018. All meetings by the SPLOST Citizens Group shall be open to the public and notice of such meetings shall be posted on the County website at least one week in advance of the meeting. All members shall receive notice of all meetings of the SPLOST Citizens Group or subsets of the Group at least one week in advance of the meeting by email, phone call, or in-person at a prior meeting. At each meeting, the public shall be granted time for public comment. Rules of procedure shall be based upon the latest edition of Roberts Rules. The SPLOST Citizens Group shall elect a chairperson or two co-chairpersons at the first meeting of each year. A quorum will consist of 5 members. The SPLOST Citizens Group shall set its own meeting schedule and establish the meeting agendas. The CEO or his designee may propose the initial agenda for the organizational meeting.
6. The CEO or his designee shall arrange for meeting space as necessary for the SPLOST Citizens Group to perform its responsibilities. The CEO or his designee shall attend each meeting of the SPLOST Citizens Group and shall make available all information, input and assistance that is reasonable and necessary for the SPLOST Citizens Group to perform its duties. Specifically the CEO or his designee shall cause to be created regular reports for the SPLOST Citizens Group and the public that quantify the progress and implementation of the SPLOST program. The CEO or his designee shall assist the SPLOST Citizens Group to effectively communicate with the public, the BOC, County Departments, the Independent Internal Auditor and the

Legislative Delegation. The CEO or his designee shall develop and maintain a webpage on the County's website that shows timely and relevant information that track the revenues, expenditures, budgets, projects and progress of the SPLOST program. The content of this webpage shall be reviewed by the SPLOST Citizens Group.

7. The 2018-2024 SPLOST Citizens Group shall cease to exist after June 30, 2024.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this 23 day of January, 2018.



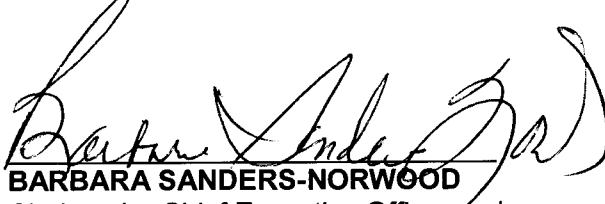
JEFF RADER
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this 23 day of January, 2018.



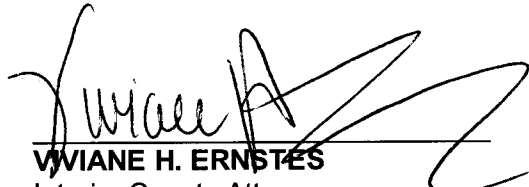
MICHAEL THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:



BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD
Clerk to the Chief Executive Officer and
Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



VIVIANE H. ERNESTES
Interim County Attorney