

## SPLOST Meeting Minutes 9/17/2019

Meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Attending Michelle Emanuel, Erika Dixon, Lemuel Hawkins, Kerry Williams, Plez Joyner, Dave Marcus, Shawn Jones & Suzanne Frick. Roll was called a quorum was present.

Introduction of the committee purpose and role was given by Dave Marcus, for the audience.

Public comments were opened. Marie Colson stated that she is a homeowner on Chupp Road. She would like the city to assist with sewer lines installation in order to foster economic development in that area.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Agenda was approved.

Plez Joyner reviewed the August financial statement for SPLOST & LMIG receipts and spending. Also covered were the projects completed and the estimated start dates for those approved by the City Council. (see attached).

Some highlights:

1. Blunt construction was able to come in under cost. Original plan was \$2.2 but bill was \$1.75 saving \$450,000 for other projects.
2. Estimate the total available will be \$44.4 million over the life of this 6 year SPLOST, started collecting in May of 2018. Because of the population of the city, Stonecrest collects 7.5% of the Dekalb county collections. This can change with the census, so please be sure to be counted.
3. It was noted by not going with Grice consulting for project management, but using a combination of CRI and Jacobs staff, the city saved about \$500,000.
4. September 3<sup>rd</sup> the Rockland Road project was completed. The Thompson Mill Road portion should be complete this week weather permitting.
5. The sidewalks being done on Salem Road are a GDOT & Dekalb county project that is meant to connect sidewalks in school areas.
6. The receipts for August have not yet been received from Dekalb.

The Panola Road changes continue to be of concern. There is to be a meeting between the staff, GDOT and Dekalb. \$2million for acquisition of right of way is needed. Unfortunately, Dekalb and Stonecrest do not agree which is responsible for the cost. Dekalb wants Stonecrest to pay the \$15 million for some of the construction. The city is discussing with GDOT including looking for available federal funds. If the city does not reduce its' financial obligation it may not be able to do the project. With no master plan it may not be the highest priority. If the city opts out and does not use the "matching" Federal funds it may be penalized in the future. Since the project was planned and committed to before there was a City of Stonecrest, all agreements were with Dekalb. But if Dekalb does not continue to fund, it would take a significant portion of Stonecrest's resources, eliminating other desired projects. GDOT did cancel its' September 26<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

The I285 & I20 interchange redo and the adding a lane from I285 east on I20 with some bridge changes (Miller Road, Panola Road, and Fairington Road) are both separate projects for the Panola Road turn lane addition and other improvements. When the bridges are redone the city has the opportunity to add city identifying graphics at the expense of the city. These ridge projects will be done from the GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) budget. The bridge improvements along I20 are going to be done by GDOT. The city identification on the bridges will be paid for by the city.

Request was made that the information from the Stantec analysis be made available. Mr. Joyner indicated ratings were not provided to the city by individual road, but by super sections of roads. Since paving projects are often more economically done by areas. Requested the super section ratings be made available to the committee. Also, the request has been made by the city staff for Stantec to provide individual roads.

Marcus Arnold from VHB company made remarks on the CTP (Comprehensive Transportation Plan). It is expected to be complete by late Spring 2020. It will include some meetings that will solicit public input. The plan will cover 20 years. Obviously, it will take into account many areas such as multimodal transportation, coordinating with MARTA plans, growth like the \$700 million AFI project by the mall, possible city expansion, pedestrian, trails, freight and transit.

Discussion ensued that the CTP would not be done in time for the planning, bidding and contracts for the 2020 projects. If approved, bid and contracted road construction can start as early as March. The CTP will not get into the level of detail to prioritize roads for maintenance. In order to get LMIG funds from the state the projects must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The best time to do sidewalks is when roads are being widened. It was suggested some sidewalk needs can be done before the CTP is complete, as they may not be the top priority, they certainly are among the top 5, such as connecting existing sidewalks on Fairington Road from the Walmart to the bridge over I20. Woodrow from Evans Mill to Klondike, Chupp Road, Turner Hill from the Bank of America to McDaniel Mill Road, Wesley Providence Apartments to the bus stop. Adding lighting can be done at any time. Solar and LED lighting should be considered.

Discussion on the extension of sewage lines to both residential areas and to business areas. Standard this cost is paid by the property owner. This is not a city, county or state government expense.

Lithonia Industrial Park may be changing its' name to Stonecrest Industrial Park. Concern that sewer may be too expensive and drainage an issue due to rock.

The intersections both north and south of I20 on Evans Mill need beautification and sidewalks. Consider for SPLOST funds. Possibly consider a Visitor Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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