

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Sam Couvillon, Barbara Brooks, Juli Hayes (teleconference), Abigail Guzman, Danny Dunagan

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Zack Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Jeremy Perry, Denise Jordan, Alisa Grayson

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:**

To discuss the 2025 Hall County Special Purpose Local Option Sales and Use Tax (SPLOST) Referendum

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Hall County Administrator Zach Propes called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and thanked everyone for attending.

Director of Financial Services Taylor Samples conducted the roll call confirming attendance from the following agencies: Hall County Board of Commissioners, City of Gainesville, Flowery Branch, Oakwood, Braselton, Clermont, Lula, Gillsville, Buford and Rest Haven.

### **SPLOST IX HIGHLIGHTS**

Hall County Director of Financial Services Taylor Samples stated the SPLOST IX Program totals \$440,000,000. A referendum question will be presented to voters in November 2025 for a six year program.

### **SPLOST IX TIMELINE**

Hall County Director of Financial Services Taylor Samples summarized the timeline as follows:

- July 1, 2025: Last day for cities to adopt the intergovernmental agreement
- July 10, 2025: Call for referendum
- November 4, 2025: Referendum question on the ballot
- July 1, 2026: Effective date

### **SPLOST IX INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT UPDATE**

Hall County Director of Financial Services Taylor Samples stated the first draft of intergovernmental agreement would be released tomorrow.

### **SPLOST IX COUNTY PROJECT DISCUSSION**

Hall County Director of Financial Services Taylor Samples presented the county projects. The proposed Tier I Project was the Courthouse Campus Expansion and Renovation Project totaling \$125 million with potential debt service. The proposed Tier II Projects were identified as follows:

- Ambulance Replacement totaling \$6 million
- 911 Upgrades totaling \$3 million
- Highlands to Islands Trail Expansion totaling \$9 million
- Judicial Complex Parking Deck totaling \$25 million

The proposed Hall County Project Category Summary was displayed as follows:

Category	Cost	% Total
Road Improvements	\$103,428,489	58.408%
Parks and Leisure	\$43,000,000	24.283%
Public Safety	\$21,650,000	12.226%
Fire Services	\$5,000,000	2.824%
Building Improvements	\$4,000,000	2.259%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$177,078,489</b>	<b>100.000%</b>

The County Highlights for SPLOST IX were displayed and discussed as follows:

- Road resurfacing totaling \$55.4 million
- Spout Springs Road Phase II totaling \$25 million
- Intersection Improvements totaling \$20 million
- South Hall Park totaling \$25 million
- Sheriff's Training Facility totaling \$13.7 million
- New or Relocated Fire Station totaling \$5 million
- Other Park Improvements totaling \$18 million

**SPLOST IX PROPOSED MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION**

Director of Financial Services Taylor Samples displayed the proposed municipal allocation as follows:

Jurisdiction	Population	% SPLOST	% Municipal	Amount
Braselton	3,631	1.671%	4.789%	4,545,706
Buford	2,891	1.331%	3.813%	3,619,289
Clermont	1,126	0.518%	1.485%	1,409,657
Flowery Branch	11,607	5.342%	15.308%	14,530,987
Gainesville	47,265	21.754%	62.338%	59,171,802
Gillsville	216	0.099%	0.285%	270,414
Lula	2,650	1.220%	3.495%	3,317,577
Oakwood	6,412	2.951%	8.457%	8,027,284
Rest Haven	23	0.011%	0.030%	28,794
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75,821</b>	<b>34.898%</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>94,921,511</b>

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Gillsville is underestimated in the decision-making process and this plan doesn't appeal to Gillsville constituents. Voters need to see money coming into Gillsville.

There was discussion about park projects with a specific request to identify the parks included in this SPLOST program. The county expressed a willingness to try to itemize the parks.

There was confirmation that Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce will market this SPLOST. Later in the discussion, it was stated everyone should market this tax noting it is important because property taxes will increase without it.

Rest Haven offered to enter into an intergovernmental agreement that forfeited their SPLOST allocation in exchange for paving a street.

Rest Haven expressed concern about cutting the budget for the ambulance replacement project. After a brief discussion it appeared there was a misunderstanding regarding this project.

Upon completing discussion, it was determined by roll call that all agencies were in agreement to move forward.

**ADJOURN 2:05 PM**

/dj/ag

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W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

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Alisa Grayson, City Clerk