

Capital Project Sales Tax Commission Minutes – February 9, 2016

General Attendance: County Councilman William L. McBride; Joe Croley, Lowcountry InsideTrack, Ltd; Stephen Fasteneau, Beaufort Gazette; Lynn McGee, USCB; Joe McDermant; Yvette Williams; Mary Briggs, President and CEO, Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra; Paul Gibson; Danilo Castro; Gregg Russell; Lee J. Wilwerding, President, World Affairs Council of Hilton Head; Scott Marshall, Town of Bluffton; Chuck Hunter, Daufuskie Island Council; Tom Klein, Port Royal Town Council

Staff Attendance: Gary Kubic, County Administrator; Josh Gruber, Deputy County Administrator, Colin Kinton, Director, Transportation Engineering Director

Commission Attendance: Mike Tripka, Andrea Siebold, Mike Sutton, Dean Moss, Joseph Kline, Linda Maietta (Absent: Carolyn Smith)

Call to Order:

Chairman Mike Sutton called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening remarks were given by County Administrator, Mr. Gary Kubic. He thanked the Commission, on behalf of County Council and himself, for being here and the efforts the Commission is going to do with picking and choosing the projects deemed appropriate for the Sales Tax referendum that will be presented to County Council. Mr. Kubic spoke about the vetting process. Mr. Josh Gruber made the presentation for the County projects at the Public Facilities meeting a few weeks ago. All entities have gone through a formal process and each Council has endorsed those projects submitted. A Public Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2016, and the County is going to entertain three additional presentations at that meeting. The Technical College of the Lowcountry and the Daufuskie Island Council have requested the opportunity to be presenters, and the third, is a presentation for the Sheriff's office that deals with the replacement of all of our communications equipment. On February 16, we, as a County, will have no other projects to come to the Commission. Council's approach to USCB and TCL is to abide by the dictates of the Commission to vet the projects. However, in deference to USCB and TCL, they have independently created their capital improvement master list so Council is listening, receiving and accepting, and by that action, rolls it forward to the Commission, independently of County Council. Daufuskie Island and the Sheriff's Office are functions of the County.

Mr. Tripka noted that the proposals that are coming in now are all post deadline of February 1, 2016. If the Commission allows these projects to come in, does the Commission open it up to receive additional projects from other entities as well. This is something the Commission will need to take into consideration.

Question was raised regarding the school tax proposal. Mr. Kubic stated this does not relate to the Commission mission. However, two sales tax requests competing on referendums, makes one passage more difficult. Mr. Kubic went on to say that our mission is County driven – our mission is as one community governmental unit – with core community interest. The school district has a separate mission. If the community at large is properly educated as to need then they will properly make the correct decision.

Meeting minutes were reviewed from the November 10, 2015, meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Mike Tripka to approve as written, seconded by Mr. Dean Moss. Motion was passed; Mr. Joseph Kline abstained.

Discussion held on extension to deadline date of February 1, 2016. Motion made by Mr. Dean Moss to extend the deadline for project submission to the Commission to February 16, 2016; motion was seconded by Ms. Andrea Siebold. Motion was passed unanimously. Municipalities will be notified of extension, via email, by Ms. Linda Maietta.

Mr. Moss brought up the fact that there may be duplication in projects submitted (by municipality and County). Is the Commission required to make the technical decision on which alternative is better? Mr. Gruber stepped up and explained that the County will be able to provide information to help reconcile the differences. To the extent that there are the same or similar projects, County staff is reaching out to Hilton Head Island staff to reconcile that. This work will be done prior to the formal presentation to the Commission; it is up to the Commission to make a choice from there.

Chairman Sutton suggested that prior to the February 23 meeting, the members review the project submissions and get as much information as you can. Have questions ready for presenters. Presentations will give us the full story.

The Commission then proceeded to discuss future meetings. Ms. Maietta had tentatively made some room reservations as follows:

February 23, 2016, Executive Conference Room, 3:00 to 5:00 pm (County presentation)
Commission requested this meeting start earlier. Room is available so meeting can start at 2:00 pm

March 8, 2016, Hilton Head Island Council Chambers, morning
Commission requested two meetings – one with Hilton Head Island and one with Bluffton

March 22, 2016, Executive Conference Room, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Commission requested that the City of Beaufort, Town of Port Royal, USCB and if needed, TCL

March 28, 2016, Executive Conference Room, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Commission requested this date be cancelled

March 29, 2016, Bluffton Library Large Meeting Room , 1:30 to 5:00 pm
Commission requested this date be held to use as a working meeting and/or time for additional presentations, if needed

April 5 and April 19 should be scheduled as working meetings. Time should remain at 300 to 500 pm, location remaining in the Executive Conference Room

Ms. Maietta will make arrangements as noted. (See attached meeting schedule.)

Commission adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

By:
Linda Maietta
Capital Project Sales Tax Commission Staff Liaison

APPROVED 2/23/2016

