

MINUTES
SPLOST 2016 CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
SIMULTANEOUS PUBLIC ACCESS PROVIDED STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB
ADDRESS:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/glynnboc/live>
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 AT 6 PM

Present: Philip Graitcer, Chairman
John Dow
Jane Fraser
William Kitts
Ron Maulden
Ronnie Perry

Absent: Lance Sabbe, Vice Chairman
Bob Franklin

Also Present: Dave Austin, Glynn County Public Works Director
Paul Andrews, Glynn County Engineer
Garrow Albertson, Brunswick Engineer and Public Works Director
Andrew Burroughs, Executive Director, Brunswick - Glynn County Joint
Water and Sewer Commission (JWSC)
Regina McDuffie, Brunswick City Manager

1. Discuss and approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020, meeting, subject to any necessary corrections

John Dow moved to approve the minutes. Ron Maulden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of Glynn County project updates [REPORT](#)

Glynn County Public Works Director, Dave Austin began the update on Glynn County projects with Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) 2020 road projects, stating that 8 of the 25 roads have been resurfaced and the contractor should be resurfacing Sea Palms neighborhood streets soon.

Glynn County Engineer, Paul Andrews, continued with an update with the plans for the Canal Road project being near completion and that offer letters for right of way acquisition for the section to be widened are due to go out at the first of September 2020. He stated that the roundabout is still receiving comments. Mr. Andrews spoke about a meeting with property owner Wagoneer on property which the Dungeness Drive Extension was originally slated to build on and the option presented by the company are

over budget. He believes that a new option is available which will improve the current road instead of extending it another way.

Mr. Austin continued with Pennick Road for which he expects permits to be issued at the end of the year and that Glynn County is working on procuring right of way. Jane Fraser asked how mitigation credits were calculated, what alternatives were considered, why the project costs \$2 million for paving, and what are the long term prospects for flooding in the area. Mr. Austin responded that the credits are based on a formula of the freshwater wetlands impacted by the design of the road and that the road is going to cost more than \$2 million, but that they will design the entire road and pave as much as possible with the money available. Ms. Fraser asked where the wetlands are and Mr. Austin replied that there are sections that go right through a wetland on either side of the road. Ms. Fraser asked if they were expanding into the wetlands and Mr. Austin replied that they were building the road higher and as a result the shoulders of the road will expand impacting 2.37 acres immediately next to the road on both sides. He stated that the road may still flood in the future, but additional cross drains are included so that the water can run freely under the road. Mr. Dow asked how much of the road will be paved with the remaining money and where the 4.68 mile total ends. Mr. Austin said that he could give a rough estimate, but it would be best to put it out for bid to see how much can be done and that 4.68 miles connects to Altamaha Park. Philip Graitcer asked what was the point of paving only part of the road. Mr. Austin replied that when the Altamaha River floods it can wash out the road and adding cross drains and raising the road will prevent future washouts.

Mr. Austin continued with a notice to proceed to the contractor for the Sea Island Road Ditch Piping Improvements on which construction should take about three weeks, the Sea Island Road and Demere Road intersection improvements which is awaiting comments from the Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Resources Division (DNR-CRD), the Kings Way and Frederica Road roundabout concept approval and the need to move forward with memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Sea Island. The design must be finished in order to know how much property that needs to be acquired. He stated that the goal is to get construction underway after the holidays. Mr. Dow asked if traffic will be able to move through the intersection during construction and how long construction would take. Mr. Austin responded that traffic needs to be open in both directions during construction and that the project doesn't require the amount of water, sewer, and drainage work of the Demere Road East Beach Causeway roundabout, so the project should take 3-5 months. Mr. Dow asked how long the bid process would be and who pays for the removal of two oak trees. Mr. Austin replied he would like the bid and MOU to happen at the same time and that the Sea Island Company is paying to transplant the trees.

Mr. Austin continued with the East Beach Causeway and Demere Road roundabout project that is projected to be completed in late September 2020 and that two weeks after labor day the intersection will be closed for construction. Dr. Graitcer asked that signage is available to alert people to the closure and about landscaping for the center of the roundabout. Mr. Austin replied that signage is in the contract with the contractor and that he is meeting with the Live Oak gardening club to give ideas to landscape the center,

which will only be grass as of completion of the construction. Mr. Austin continued with the Spur at Altama Connector project for which the contractor is working on 19 needed easements or right-of-way acquisitions that are funded by the general construction budget, the total of which is unknown until negotiations are made.

Mr. Andrews continued the update with the Harry Driggers Boulevard trail project that is partially funded by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) T-Grant funds for which the land has been acquired and will soon have a MOU approved by the Glynn County Board of Commissioners (BOC) to move forward with the project. He said that GDOT would allow bids to be released late in 2020. Another section from Needwood to Highway 17 could go to bid sooner than that. Dr. Graitcer asked what the total cost of the project is and how much was coming out of SPLOST 2016. Mr. Andrews replied the design cost of roughly \$200,000 came out of another project fund and that the T-Grant is \$400,000. The project recipients must follow and complete GDOT milestones before the next step can be taken and funds are released and due to these steps the oldest project is probably seven to eight years old.

Mr. Austin continued with the Frederica Road sidewalk which is designed and ready to go out to bid by labor day and Public Works is acquiring the right-of-way easements. Mr. Andrews covered the College Park Drainage project which is receiving comments from GDOT and review plans are due to be out soon for incorporation into final design, the Chapel Crossing Road drainage project that requires a MOU between the County and FLETC to move forward into design, the Somersby Point drainage project for which the property owners incorporated the improvements into their design for a new building, the Golden Isles Parkway Extension drainage improvement that will come before the BOC in September, and the Hornet Drive and South Palm drainage projects which are ready for permits and is awaiting title certifications due to be done in September. Ms. Fraser asked what the expenditures to date are for and Mr. Andrews replied that it is for design and acquisition of easements.

Mr. Austin concluded the County updated with the Animal Control facility stating that the contractor started on August 12, 2020 by roughing in building pads and submittals are being reviewed, but there might be challenges with materials arriving on time due to COVID-19.

At the end of the County report, Dr. Graitcer updated that the Jekyll Island Authority is due to pave their final phase of roads by December 2020 and will exhaust their SPLOST funds.

3. Discussion of City of Brunswick project updates [REPORT](#)

City of Brunswick Engineer and Public Works Director, Garrow Albertson began his update with the L street project that is due for completion in late October depending on weather, Magnolia Park roadway improvement due to begin in early October, the completion of trip hazard removal on sidewalks, storm drainage for L Street, Magnolia Park, and College Park, and the Mary Ross Park restroom building cost reductions by

value engineering to be constructed concurrently with the splash pad. He continued with the Highway 17 infrastructure project money that will supplement a grant received from GDOT to make landscape improvements at 4th Avenue and Highway 17 which is awaiting a permit to begin for the fall, wayfinding signage permitting from GDOT, the completion of the south segment of the MLK Trail between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue due in September with one section remaining to be completed by the end of 2020, and the continuing work on cemetery restoration at Oak Grove including some irrigation needs.

Mr. Alberson continued with the subscriber radio payments. Dr. Graitcer asked where the money would come from when SPLOST money runs out. Mr. Alberson said that he was not sure, but it's not a service that Brunswick would let lapse. He stated that the fire station #1 improvements were completed, that the Wright Square design is complete and Queens Square is the next square set for improvement, that small park rehabilitation plans are underway, that restroom utilities are being installed in Sidney Lanier Park in preparation for the restroom building, that the Overlook Park restroom building is in place with some sidewalks to be laid, and that money for Howard Coffin Park Improvements will supplement a DNR grant for a new playground facility.

4. Discussion of Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer project updates [REPORT](#)

Executive Director of the Brunswick - Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission (JWSC), Andrew Burroughs gave his update on the two projects including Pump Station 4003 that is under construction with a probable early Spring 2021 completion date and the North Mainland Rehab project is waiting on manhole rehabilitation and a bypass crew and bids for the remainder of the project should go out in October 2020. Dr. Graitcer asked if Glynn County's Harry Driggers Trail would interfere with the project and Mr. Burroughs replied that he didn't think so. John Dow asked about the correction of the odor at Demere Road and East Beach Causeway. Mr. Burroughs responded that a faulty vault was slowing water down too much and it should be much improved. Mr. Dow then asked about Frederica and Sea Island Road and Mr. Burroughs replied that soon manhole rings and covers would be replaced and once installed, the JWSC would be installing carbon cartridges to remove the odor. Dr. Graitcer asked if the King Way and Frederica intersection construction would require any water or sewer work and Mr. Burroughs replied that there is a pump station in the area and JWSC is waiting on final design to determine any work needed.

5. Discussion of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Collections

County Manager Alan Ours, stated that \$71,595,000 was collected in May or June of 2020 and at that time the County Attorney informed the state department of revenue and they replied that they could not stop the collections because there was not enough time to notify vendors and retailers, so the collection would continue through September 2020. Dr. Graitcer asked if the state only works on a quarterly basis. Mr. Ours responded that his understanding was that collections would stop at the end of a quarter when the amount was reached. Dr. Graitcer said that he calculated that an additional \$6 million

could be collected and Mr. Ours replied that \$6 million is a good estimate, but that the County won't know the exact amount until the end of October 2020. Dr. Graitcer asked what the plans for the money are. Mr. Ours replied that the funds can be used for projects on the SPLOST list with overruns and that 19.32% of the additional money would also continue to be distributed to the City of Brunswick, but that the Jekyll Island Authority and JWSC should have collected their maximum amounts. Dr. Graitcer asked if the additional funds will be used to instead of fund balance already used for projects like the Animal Shelter and Veteran's Park. Mr. Ours replied that it would be his recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, but the decision has not been made.

Ms. Fraser stated that the money should go into the general fund. Mr. Dow asked about the fiscal year of SPLOST 2016 funds and what decisions the Board of Commissioners would make on behalf of the additional funds. Mr. Ours replied that SPLOST funds are not operated on a fiscal year and that some projects will not go before the board until newly elected commissioners are in place, so the sitting board would make decisions. He continued that all SPLOST money would remain within the SPLOST account until the money is allocated and that if there are additional funds after all projects are complete that they would likely be used to repay any County debt.

Dr. Graitcer stated that he believed some money could be returned to the tax payers and that he was concerned about the lack of transparency about the additional collections. Ms. Fraser commented that the voters should have been told when they voted on this item. Mr. Ours responded that the County sent out public service announcements and that it was the County's intention to stop collections after the cap was reached and asked the State to stop to which the replied that cannot. He stated that the County was transparent during the ballot measure and when the additional money would be collected. Mr. Dow stated that this situation is probably not unique to Glynn County. Mr. Ours stated that in March 2020, the County projected the potential that collections wouldn't reach the full amount, but collections were much better than expected. Dr. Graitcer reiterated that he believes more effort should have been made to inform the public about the additional collections.

6. Discussion of Annual Report

Dr. Graitcer stated that he has only gotten comments from two other committee members for the annual report and that he needs more input to formulate recommendations on projects and how each entity has done with SPLOST 2016 overall. He believes that they should use the report to state their opinions and advise on SPLOST 2016 and future SPLOSTs to include oversight committees. He said that the committee has worked well in some ways, but he would like to see future oversight committees with teeth.

Mr. Dow suggested that the report be talked out in person rather than commented on via email. Dr. Graitcer stated that he provided a starting place with the current document, but has not received needed input to make it more substantial. Ms. Fraser stated that she thinks the document is a good start, that the oversight committee should be more autonomous, and, that without an oversight committee, projects could take ten years to

complete similar to SPLOST 4 and 5 projects. She then called for more input from the committee and offered to dictate comments for Mr. Dow to complete the report. Mr. Dow stated that the committee has resolved more in person than via email. Dr. Graitcer asked Mr. Dow for a list of recommendations to discuss at a future meeting. Mr. Maulden stated that SPLOST 2016 has been better publicized than any other SPLOST.

7. Discussion of Pennick Road Mitigation Credits

Discussed as a part of item #2.

8. Selection of dates for future meetings to be held every 60 days

Dr. Graitcer suggested that the next meeting date be after the November 2, 2020 election to influence the new commissioners coming into office.

Mr. Dow made a motion to hold the next meeting on November 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Fraser seconded the motion. The motion failed with a vote of 1-5 with John Dow voting in favor.

Ronnie Perry made a motion to hold the next meeting on November 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Fraser made a motion to hold the next meeting on October 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. the motion was seconded concurrently by Mr. Maulden and Mr. Perry. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Maulden made a motion to adjourn. William Kitts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.