



MURRAY COUNTY CALLED PUBLIC MEETING

P.O Box 1129/121 N. 4th Ave.
Chatsworth, Georgia 30705
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Minutes LOST Renegotiations June 7, 2022

Commissioner Hogan called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Commissioner Hogan asked if anyone has any requests to be added to the agenda today. No additions were requested, and today's agenda was approved.

Under new business, the following items were addressed:

- A. **L.O.S.T. (Local Option Sales Tax)** negotiations: Periodic review and negotiation of the distribution of revenues received from the local option sales tax.

Commissioner Hogan opened the floor for negotiations to begin. Billy Cantrell, Mayor of the City of Eton, was the first to address the Commissioner. Mayor Cantrell began by requesting an increase from 2.3% to 3%. Mayor Cantrell stated the reason for the request for an increase was two new developments coming on. 1 for sure development, and the other, he believes, the offer has been accepted on the property to make a 200+ home subdivision in the next 3 to 4 years. Mayor Cantrell also included that the City of Eton's population has increased from 911 to 1188. Mayor Cantrell closed his request/proposal by stating the increase, if approved, would be used for trash and things like that.

Next to address the Commissioner with their request/proposal was Fred Welch, City of Chatsworth Councilman. Mr. Welch began by requesting an increase from the current 13.6% to 14%. Mr. Welch states the reason for the increase request is the city of Chatsworth generates the majority of the sales tax. Mr. Welch referenced several businesses within the city limits (Ford, Tractor Supply, ACE Hardware, and R&R Tractor) to support his claim. He also states that the City of Chatsworth needs the increase to recruit police officers and quality employees.

Terry Crump, City of Chatsworth Councilman, addressed the Commissioner. Mr. Crump stated that Chatsworth is growing. The city has a big development in Clear Creek soon to be completed, more development behind the Dollar store to be done, and Maddox Farms going in. Mr. Crump included that with the growth, more police & fire protection is needed. Mr. Crump added with the growth there will be more garbage for the city. Terry Crump also mentioned prices going up across the board, and inflation on fuel prices.

K.W. Gong, Mayor of Chatsworth, was the next to address the Commissioner. K.W. brought up that the City of Chatsworth gets 10.5% of SPLOST and 8% from TSPLOST and the city feels that is not a fair amount. He states the city needs the increased LOST amount to cover.

Commissioner Hogan spoke up to make sure it is understood that the SPLOST & TSPLOST are based on the miles of roads.

Fred Welch stated understanding of the miles but feels like previous Mayor of Chatsworth, Tyson Haynes, cut the city short, and the city is affected because of it.

Tommy Parker, County Manager/Chief Financial Officer, addressed those in attendance. Mr. Parker stated our goal is to provide equitable return for all sales taxpayers. Whether they live within the city or unincorporated areas, or whether they own land or not, they all pay sales tax, and we must achieve equity for everybody. Mr. Parker further made the point by saying if we think we deserve more, then that means we are saying someone else deserves less & we must demonstrate why. If they have less, then they have to cut services or raise property taxes. Tommy addressed the Point-of-Sale issue and states it does not come in to play while negotiating LOST.



A few of the reasons Mr. Parker gave for this is the county has several dollar stores. You do not pay sales tax on automobiles-you pay title ad valorem, and the county has Oglethorpe Power. County residents make up 85% of the total population and pay a proportionate share of the sales tax.

To close the meeting, Tommy Parker, stated the County proposes that the LOST distribution stay the same (City of Eton receiving 2.3%, the City of Chatsworth receiving 13.6%, and the County receiving 84.1%) because the county is required by law to roll back property taxes on the county's share of the LOST. The cities within the county do not have to. If the cities opt to roll back their taxes, then the citizens get the roll back on the county and city tax bill. If the cities choose not to roll back the tax bills, then the city residents get the roll back of the county property taxes, and the portion of the LOST distribution funds that go into the city's revenue budget to provide city services. Tommy Parker added, to date, the City of Chatsworth City receives 13.6% in LOST funds which is over one percent more than the 12.19% that city residents make up of Murray County's total Population. The City of Eton receives 2.3% in LOST funds, which is at the amount of their total population, and Murray County residents receive 84.10% in LOST funds which is over one percent under the total population of 85.75%.

Commissioner Hogan asked if anyone in attendance had any further questions. No one had anything further. A second meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022 at 10:00A.M. in the Annex Hearing Courtroom.

Commissioner Hogan adjourned the meeting.

In attendance: Greg Hogan, Tommy Parker, Tina Choate, Billy Cantrell (Eton Mayor), K.W. Gong (Chatsworth Mayor), Jeff Cloer (Chatsworth Councilman), Rhett Griffin (Chatsworth Councilman), Fred Welch (Chatsworth Councilman), Terry Crump (Chatsworth Councilman)

Documents are in Minutes Book #11.

ADJOURN

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Hogan", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Hogan, Sole Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tommy Parker", written over a horizontal line.

Tommy Parker, County Manager/Financial Officer