

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request 8

Date of Meeting: 7/25/00

Date Submitted: 7/20/00

TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

FROM: Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Vincent Long, Assistant to the County Administrator

SUBJECT: Ratification of Actions Taken at July 10, 2000 Joint City/County Workshop on the Sales Tax Extension

Statement of Issue

This agenda item is seeking Board ratification of actions taken at the July 10, 2000 joint City/County workshop on the sales tax extension.

Background

At the joint meeting of the City and County Commissions on February 7, 2000, staff was requested to address a number of issues related to the proposed extension of the sales tax and to bring these issues back to each respective commission for discussion at a later date, prior to reconvening the joint commissions. In late April and early May both the City and County Commissions conducted workshops on project priorities recommended by staff for sales tax funding and related issues, including consideration of the proposed split of sales tax funds and length of the sales tax extension. Subsequent to these meetings, City and County staff and Economic and Environmental Consensus Committee (EECC) representatives met to develop a joint list of sales tax projects (City, County, and Blueprint 2000 projects) for recommendation to the joint commissions for adoption, to discuss project management options, and to address any outstanding issues.

A joint City/County Sales Tax Extension Workshop was scheduled for June 19, 2000. The joint workshop was canceled by the City due to a lack of a quorum on the part of the City Commission and was subsequently rescheduled and conducted on July 10, 2000.

Analysis

The workshop materials provided a guide for the joint commissions discussions on outstanding sales tax extension issues. A memorandum was also distributed identifying areas of concern expressed by the EECC. Staff was directed to draft an interlocal agreement based on the commissions= actions to be brought back for approval of the respective commissions. After discussion, Commissioners acted on the following as indicated below:

November 2000 Referendum, Sales Tax Projects, and Gaines Street Funding:

City Commissioner Lightsey moved options 1, 2, and 3 in the workshop item, which reads as follows: (1) Direct staff to pursue the sales tax extension for November 2000 General Election; (2) Ratify Blueprint 2000, City, and County Projects to be funded through the sales tax extension; (3) Resolve funding issues related to the Gaines Street Reconstruction Project and direct staff to pursue other funding opportunities, including legislative appropriations. The joint commission further discussed the funding split on Gaines Street to be \$17 million from the City=s share of the sales tax proceeds, \$17 million from the share of the sales tax proceeds dedicated to Blueprint 2000 projects, and \$10.7 million from the County=s share of the sales tax proceeds. The motion was properly seconded and carried 11-1 with County Commissioner Proctor opposed.

Joint Project Management

After discussion, City Commissioner Lightsey moved to Aconceptually approve the creation of a separate joint management structure for the project planning and construction of the Blueprint 2000 projects to be brought back to the commissions for approval within the next 12 months.@ Commissioners further discussed the importance of not separating land use and transportation planning in facilitating this joint project management structure. In addition, the Mayor emphasized his desire to see the governing body of this structure be smaller than that of the MPO structure. Also, Commissioner Lightsey expressed a desire that staff bring back several joint management structure options. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

Ballot Language

After discussion, Commissioners moved the conceptual approval of the proposed ballot language as indicated below:

ATo improve local and state roads, reduce traffic congestion, protect lakes and drinking water quality, reduce stormwater problems and flooding, protect and expand natural areas, parks and recreational facilities, and possibly receive matching funds from state and federal programs for these purposes, shall the existing one cent sales tax within Leon County be extended for a period of 15 years, with all project spending subject to ~~review by a citizen advisory committee~~ and an annual independent audit@

Citizen Advisory Committee

Kathy Archibald, representing the EECC, was recognized to present the EECC=s recommendation on the composition of the Citizen Advisory Committee. The committee composition proposed by the EECC is a seven-member committee consisting of four members chosen by the Commissions from a list of names provided by the EECC. These people would represent the following disciplines: 1-EECC member, 1-financial expert with bonding experience, 1- natural scientist/biologist and 1- planner. The other three members of this seven member committee would be chosen by government. However, the EECC

recommendation is that the other three members also reflect specific disciplines or community organizations such as the Tallahassee-Leon County Chamber of Commerce, CONA, and persons with engineering expertise. The joint commission unanimously approved the committee composition recommended by the EECC.

Options

1. Ratify actions taken at the joint City/County Commission workshop of July 10, 2000.
2. Do not ratify actions taken at the joint City/County Commission workshop of July 10, 2000.
3. Provide staff other direction.

Recommendations

Option 1