



Baker County Board of Commissioners



Called Meeting
July 7th, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Connie C. Hobbs – Chairperson
Matt Bryan – Commissioner

Vann Irvin – Vice Chairman
Chris Moore – Commissioner

Tommy Rentz, Commissioner

Minutes

The Baker County Board of Commissioners and the City Council of Newton held a Called Meeting on the above date to begin discussion on the renewal of SPLOST. Chair Connie Hobbs, Vice-Chair Vann Irvin, Board members Tommy Rentz, Matt Bryan, and Chris Moore, and County Manager Marie Howard were present representing the Board of Commissioners. Mayor Gary Coker, Mayor Pro-Tem Denise Robinson, and Councilmen Damon Deese and Bret Snow were present representing the City of Newton.

Chair Hobbs called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Moore delivered the invocation.

Chair Hobbs presented the agenda for review. Commissioner Tommy Rentz made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Vann Irvin. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs all voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Hobbs reported the current SPLOST is scheduled to expire December 31, 2026. The reimposition of the SPLOST effective January 1, 2027 did not appear on the May, 2026 ballot but would appear on the November 3rd, 2026 ballot. Due to the timeframes established in O.C.G.A. § 48-8-112 the County requested a waiver of the 80-day waiting period after the November 3rd, 2026 election to avoid any interruption in the collection of revenues. Dr. Tyler Reinagel, Director of Local Government Services of the Georgia Department of Revenue provided written confirmation the waiver request was granted pending approval by the voters. (See copy of letter attached.)

Chair Hobbs stated the purpose of the meeting was to identify proposed projects for the City and County, discuss a distribution formula, and determine an anticipated revenue to be generated by the new SPLOST.

Total revenues collected for the past 66 months were \$1,800,732.24 with years 2021 and 2022 being somewhat higher than revenues collected in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. The average monthly revenues generated in 2023 to-date = \$23,474.69. This monthly average should generate \$169,177.68 for the upcoming 72 months. After discussion between the City and the County it was agreed the total amount of projected revenues for the upcoming SPLOST should be \$1,625,000.00.



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Discussion began regarding the pro-rata distribution of generated revenues. Based on the current 2020 Census the total County population was 2,876 and the City of Newton was 602. The City of Newton representatives met privately and returned to propose a pro-rata revenue split of 80% to the County and 20% to the City. County representatives were in agreement with their proposed split.

The City of Newton will identify their list of projects to be included in the Inter-governmental agreement. A Called Meeting was set for Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 P.M. at the Baker County Commission Office, 439 NW Highway 91, Newton to review the IGA.

Being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Rentz made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs all voted in favor of the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Attest Marie Howard Clerk

Connie C. Hobbs Chairman

Chris Moore

Tommy Rentz

Vann Irvin