

CITY OF
DAWSONVILLE

Special Points
of Interest:

- City Council Meeting — Monday, August 6, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Downtown Development Authority— Monday, August 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Planning Commission Meeting—Monday, August 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- City Council Work Session, Thursday, August 23, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Elected Officials
Contact Information

Joe Lane Cox,
Mayor
Cell Ph: 706-344-2969
Mayor@dawsonville.com

Jonathan Cox,
Mayor Pro Tem
Cell Ph: 770-561-0353

Linda Grant,
Councilmember
Cell Ph: 770-596-8930

Mike Sosebee,
Councilmember
Cell Ph: 706-429-6210

Mike Wilson,
Councilmember
Cell Ph: 770-561-0719



Dawsonville Profile

City News for the Residents of Dawsonville.

Volume 1, Issue 7

July 2007

SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX—SPLOST V

Recently there has been a lot of negative press in the newspaper regarding SPLOST V negotiations between the city and the county.

SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax) is a wonderful way for both the county and the city to fund capital projects and equipment. The simplified definition of SPLOST is that it is a one cent sales tax levied against the sale of goods and services throughout our whole county, including the city. The positive thing about SPLOST is that it provides a funding source for the necessary capital projects without having to raise the citizens property taxes (ad valorem). It works very well in our area because approximately 80 percent of the revenues generated by this tax are from people who visit our county.

On March 4, 2004 the voters of the City and County passed the existing five-year or \$24,500,000 SPLOST (IV). At that time Georgia law provided that the county could collect the amount approved in the referendum, or collect until the full term of the SPLOST (five years) expired, whichever came first. Collections on SPLOST IV started in January 2005 and have greatly exceeded expectations. It is estimated that SPLOST IV will be fully funded by the end of 2008; thus the need to negotiate the terms of SPLOST V now.

In SPLOST IV the County allotted \$500,000 for the City—a little over 2% of the total collection. These funds have been spent on installing the new sidewalks around town. Current and past City Council's have worked on this improvement because they recognized that making our town pedestrian friendly was a very important and necessary improvement. The City is pleased with the progress that has finally been made on the sidewalks, and wishes to continue with this project as well as several other major projects.

The state legislature recognized the need for cities to have an equal opportunity to fund capital projects and equipment with SPLOST proceeds so in 2004 the SPLOST law was amended. Prior to this change there was no mechanism in place that required counties to negotiate with qualified municipalities regarding the use of these funds. This significant amendment now provides that cities be included in the use of SPLOST proceeds via negotiating an intergovernmental agreement with their respective counties. See O.C.G.A. §48-8-111(a).

To this date, subcommittees of the City Council and Board of Commissioners have not sat down to negotiate this agreement. On November 17, 2006 the City Council and Dawson

County Board of Commissioners met for a retreat and one of the many issues discussed was the need to start the negotiation process for SPLOST. Both boards agreed at the retreat to form committees to identify SPLOST projects and to meet in February to agree on which projects would be funded. Subsequently that would be followed by finalizing agreements between the county and city by the end of March.

No meeting took place in February as agreed to; in March the City was informed by the County Manager that the county was hiring two outside consultants to work on their SPLOST platform. The City was assured that a joint meeting would be forthcoming. There were no meetings of the City and County to discuss SPLOST V until the next retreat held June 4, 2007. Please note that the purpose of the retreat was to follow-up on all of the issues discussed at the November 17, 2006 retreat. It was never intended to be the alternative time to negotiate SPLOST.

The projected revenues expected to be generated by SPLOST V are \$88,500,000. The City has asked for a cumulative total of \$8,017,872 to fund the City's priority projects (approximately 9%). A table of projects is listed below. At the request of the Dawson

**CITY OF
DAWSONVILLE**

415 Hwy 53 East, Suite 100
P.O. Box 6
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Phone: 706-265-3256
Fax: 706-265-4214

www.dawsonville.com
E-mail: cityhall@dawsonville.com

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

**Notice of Mandatory
Water Restrictions
Effective May 7, 2007
For the City of Dawsonville**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has declared a level two drought response across the state and requires all Georgians to follow the following outdoor water use schedule.

* Odd numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays from 12 midnight to 10:00 a.m.

* Even numbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 12 midnight to 10:00 a.m.

* No watering on Fridays.

For any further information please call the City of Dawsonville at (706) 265-3256.

City Staff at Your Service

Gary Barr,
Water & Sewer Superintendent

Kim Cornelison,
City Administrator/Clerk

Steve Holder,
Planning & Zoning Director



SPLOST V Continued

SPLOST V Projects in Priority Order		
1	City Hall purchase	2,600,000.00
2	Allen Street Extension	781,832.00
3	Main Street Extension	986,040.00
4	Sidewalks	500,000.00
5	Skate Park	50,000.00
6	Water/Sewer Improvements	1,000,000.00
7	J.C. Burt/Perimeter Road Improvements	1,250,000.00
8	Fire Engine	850,000.00
	Total	\$8,017,872.00

County Board of Commissioners, the city provided the above list of prioritized projects. The City next expected to meet with the County Commission to negotiate on this list. Instead the County adopted a resolution calling for a referendum that provides approximately 1.1 million in revenues for the city. While the City appreciates the 1.1 million, the Council is intent on making many

more capital improvements and feels that the changes in SPLOST legislation has been circumvented by the County in an effort to keep the City from receiving an equitable portion of the proceeds.

As you have read in the local papers, the City has filed a suit against Dawson County regarding this issue. It was filed due to the lack of good faith negotiations on the county's part. The Council has no desire to pursue frivolous lawsuits, however \$88.5 million dollars is a very significant amount of money and city projects qualify for funding just as much as county projects do.

This issue has not been tested in a court of law. Soon both agencies will appear before the court and the court system will ultimately decide the fate of how to handle this complex problem.

Mayor's Message...

In the previous article you have seen a list of projects the City would like to fund with SPLOST V proceeds. These funds can also be used to purchase capital equipment.

An item of great importance to the City Council is a ladder truck capable of serving three-story buildings. There is a 1979 one hundred foot ladder truck on the Fire Department's Inventory.

By the time SPLOST V paid for the new ladder truck, it would be around the 2013-2015 timeframe. The older ladder truck will need to be retired.

The Council feels this equipment is necessary in the downtown area due to recent announcements that stores like Food Lion are coming and will be building in the Urban Redevelopment Plan District.

The URDP calls for things to be designed to look old-timey. With three story buildings lining the streets, wide sidewalks, curbside parking, and streetscapes. The area

is also designed to be pedestrian friendly. Commercial and retail will be on the main levels, with residential above in the second and third stories of these buildings.



To be prepared for this future growth, the City requested funding for the ladder truck on its SPLOST V list.

Some have asked why the City wishes to purchase equipment for a county department. The answer is simple. The city and county have in place a Service Delivery Strategy Agreement whereby the Fire and EMS Department are required to serve the city citizens.

It is not a new thing for the City to fund capital items for the Fire Department. In fact the land for Station One was purchased by the City, as well as another \$217,000 was given towards the construc-

Election Information

Pursuant to state law, O.C.G.A. §21-2-131(a)(1), the City of Dawsonville has set qualifying fees for the November 6, 2007 general election for the following offices due to expiration of the term of these offices:

Mayor: \$216.00
Councilmember: \$108.00
Councilmember: \$108.00

Qualifying will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., August 27 through August 31, 2007 in the office of the City Clerk at City Hall.

Anyone who plans to run for public office must file Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions BEFORE accepting such contributions. These forms are available at the City Clerks office.

October 8, 2007 is the last day to register to vote.

Election Day: November 6, 2007, 7:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

tion of that building. Historically there has been a very good working relationship between the City and Dawson County Fire and EMS.

The thought process behind the ladder truck is to be prepared for the future. The city would like to see this purchase become a reality.

While it would be housed at Station One, it would be an asset to be used anywhere in Dawson County that may need it.

Sincerely,

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

**For after hours
water or sewer
system
emergencies please call:**

**(706) 974-3197
or
(706) 429-6211**