

Joint City of Milledgeville Council and  
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners  
Called Service Delivery Strategy  
Mediation Meeting  
Central Georgia Technical College  
54 Highway 22 West  
November 20, 2018  
9:00 AM

The Milledgeville City Council and the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners met in a joint called meeting on November 20, 2018 at 9:00 AM in the Health Sciences Building of the Central Georgia Technical College located at 54 Highway 22 West. Elected officials present were Tommy French, Sammy Hall, Emily Davis, Henry Craig, Johnny Westmoreland, Mary Parham-Copelan, Collinda J. Lee, Jeannette Walden, Denese Shinholster, Walter Reynolds, Richard Mullins and Steve Chambers.

Others present were mediator Ted Meaker, David McRee, Andy Welch, Brandon Palmer, Cindy Cunningham, Dawn Hudson, Carlos Tobar, Barry Jarrett, Jimmy Jordan, Cedrick Davis, Wesley Orbitt, Raymond Dickie, Bo Danuser, Billy Hobbs, Erick Mock (Channel 24 news), Mary Purcell, Daniel McDonald (during opening remarks) and Chris McKearny (during opening remarks).

Baldwin County Commission Chairman Tommy French called the mediation meeting to order at 9:06 AM on behalf of Baldwin County Board of Commissioners. Chairman French called roll with Commissioners Tommy French, Sammy Hall, Emily Davis, Henry Craig, and Johnny Westmoreland present.

Mayor Parham-Copelan called the meeting to order on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Milledgeville at 9:06 AM. The Clerk called roll with Councilmembers Collinda Lee, Jeanette Walden, Denese Shinholster, Walter Reynolds, Richard Mullins and Steve Chambers present.

Andy Welch made opening remarks on behalf of the County Commissioners stating that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) was a critical issue coming before them. Mr. Welch stated that the City had requested an agreement for the renegotiating of the SPLOST (bond document) distribution; he in turn requested an opinion from bond council of the City's choosing that the bond document would be compliant with state laws. They did not receive that opinion, so they had nothing further to discuss nor did they think SPLOST had a place for discussion in Service Delivery Strategy. He further stated that as a matter of constitutional law, if they did not reach an agreement prior to the expiration of the contract on June 30<sup>th</sup> of next year, there were services the County could not provide in the City, those being animal control and the library and there were services the City could no longer provide outside of its boundaries in the unincorporated areas, such as water and sewerage. It was important for them to work together to reach an agreement, so the citizens can continue to receive services. If they were unable to reach an agreement, the County was in the budgetary posture to

go forward with providing the services it could provide in the incorporated areas and not provide services such as the library and animal control. They hoped to come to an agreement, so services could continue to be provided.

Mayor Parham-Copelan spoke on behalf of the City stating that they hoped they could come to some terms of agreement. City Attorney Jimmy Jordan stated that he would not debate the law today, there would be a forum to do that. He stated that they wanted to come to an agreement and they all needed to work toward what was best for this community. As far as the library services, the community had spoken loudly as to what that means to the quality of life in Milledgeville and Baldwin County. They looked forward to working with the County and hopefully reach a resolution that is best for all citizens.

On behalf of the County, Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Henry Craig to go into closed session to discuss pending or potential litigation. Chairman French called for a vote with all Commissioners signaling with an aye vote.

On behalf of the City of Milledgeville, Councilman Walter Reynolds made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Richard Mullins to go into closed session to discuss pending or potential litigation.

The Clerk called roll with Council members Lee, Walden, Shinholster, Reynolds and Mullins voting aye. (Mr. Chambers came into to meeting at 9:22 and was marked present)

The County Commission went into closed session in one room and the Mayor and Aldermen went into closed session in another room at 9:16 AM; both returned to open session at 5:26 PM.

Upon returning to open session, County Commission Chairman French called the County Commission meeting back to order and called roll with all commission members present. Mayor Parham-Copelan called the City Council meeting back to order, the Clerk called roll with council members Lee, Walden, Shinholster and Chambers present. Councilmembers Reynolds and Mullins had to leave the meeting during the closed session due to prior commitments and were absent at the time the meeting was reconvened in open session.

Commission Chairman French stated that they had good conversation and come together on some issues.

On behalf of the County, Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Emily Davis to keep the mediations open and reconvene at a later date. Chairman French called for a vote with all members of the County Commission signaling with an aye vote.

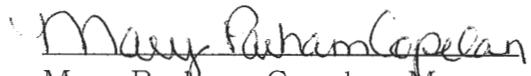
On behalf of the City, Councilwoman Shinholster made a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Walden to keep the mediation open and reconvene at a later date. The Clerk called roll with Council members Lee, Walden, Shinholster and Chambers voting aye.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion that was seconded by Johnny Westmoreland to adjourn. Chairman French called for a vote with all commissioners signaling with an aye vote. The County commission adjourned at 5:26 PM

Councilwoman Jeanette Walden made a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Dr. Collinda J. Lee to adjourn the Council meeting. The Clerk called roll with Councilmembers Lee, Walden, Shinholster and Chambers voting aye.

City Council meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Mary Parham-Copelan, Mayor

  
Bo Danuser, Clerk