

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Monday, March 22, 2021**  
**4:30 P.M.**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eason called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilmember John Walden, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Stephen Tolson, City Attorney Kevin Tallant, City Manager Bob Bolz, City Clerk Beverly Banister and Finance Administrator Robin Gazaway. Councilmember French was not in attendance.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and Pledge were led by Councilmember Phillips.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Eason announced this meeting is for the purpose of an executive session and there may be a vote when the regular meeting resumes.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by J. Walden; second by S. Tolson. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (3-0)
6. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**BUSINESS**

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:32 p.m. a motion to close regular session and go into executive session for pending and/or potential litigation was made by C. Phillips; second by S. Tolson. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (3-0)

At 4:59 p.m. a motion to close executive session and resume regular session was made by S. Tolson; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (3-0)

Attorney Tallant provided a summary regarding the SPLOST resolution Dawson County approved after the City provided the County with a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to attempt to reach an agreement on the SPLOST proceeds which the County did not accept or counteroffer. Based on the County's resolution, there is concern of the legality of the tax. For example, a City project listed in the County's resolution for a dog park was not on the City's project list, and the City already has a dog park, therefore double taxing the residents for a project they already have. Additionally, the County's project list for the City will limit the City's ability to do some of their projects by listing Academy Avenue as the only area for downtown parking improvements. Some projects the City did request were not included in the County's SPLOST resolution. Also, the SPLOST has been called for a period of six years which conflicts with the Georgia Code; both the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) agree the tax can only be collected for five years in this situation. Hence, quite a few things are problematic with this SPLOST and although it is a good thing for the community, consideration needs to be made if the tax is being levied illegally and improperly. The County's legal representation was made aware of the concerns surrounding this SPLOST prior to passing their resolution. He further believes the City and the County can still resolve this matter through an IGA by working together and if it is determined that is the appropriate thing to do.

Motion made to move forward to file an action to set aside the SPLOST made by C. Phillips; second by J. Walden. Mayor Eason stated the purpose will be to correct the SPLOST, so it is not done illegally. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (3-0)

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ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:07 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Tolson; second by J. Walden. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

*Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.*

By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE

  
Mike Eason, Mayor

  
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1

  
Stephen Tolson, Councilmember Post 2

  
John Walden, Councilmember Post 3

**OPPOSED**  
Mark French, Councilmember Post 4

Attested:



Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk



STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DAWSON

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Michael Eason, Councilmember John Walden, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Stephen Tolson, ~~and Councilmember Mark French~~, being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1. The City of Dawsonville Council met in a duly advertised meeting on March 22, 2021.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 4<sup>32</sup> p.m.
4. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law: (check all that apply)

Consultation with the City Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the City or any officer or employee or in which the City or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);


Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and \_\_\_\_\_;

Discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1);

Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a City officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);

Other \_\_\_\_\_ as provided in: \_\_\_\_\_.

This 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2021; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Eason, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Tolson, Councilmember Post #2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Walden, Councilmember Post #3

absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
22 day of March, 20 21.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 20 24

