



ITEM NO. (ID # 3794)

DATE: 09/20/2016

AGENDA REQUEST

*REGULAR
AGENDA\ADMINISTRATION

TO: Board of County Commissioners

PRESENTED BY: Howard Tipton, County Administrator

SUBMITTED BY: Administration

SUBJECT: Citizen Oversight Committee

BACKGROUND:

On November 8th, our citizens will be asked to vote on whether or not they approve of a half cent increase to the sales tax to support roads, water quality, sidewalks, and public safety. As part of the ballot language, there is a provision for the establishment of a citizen oversight committee and it is envisioned that each of the participating local governments would create their own advisory committee with the charge to: recommend projects to the elected bodies with staff input, monitor the projects for schedule and budget, and report at least annually to the public as to the progress that is being made. Additionally, at least with the County, this oversight committee will coordinate with the Citizen Budget Committee to ensure that these new revenues are in addition to existing capital revenues and not supplanting existing capital revenues.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

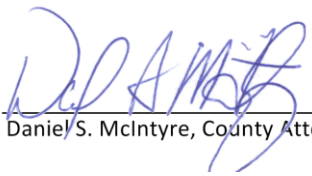
N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff would appreciate a discussion with the Board to confirm the committee's initial charter and determine at least conceptually how the Board would like to see the Citizens Oversight Committee developed. You will find attached to this agenda item several examples from other Florida counties for your information, however, there are no limitations or requirements on how this may be structured.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Coordination/Signatures



Daniel S. McIntyre, County Attorney

9/16/2016



Howard Tipton, County Administrator

9/19/2016

Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committees

Leon County

On September 13, 2011, the Board adopted the enacting resolution to establish the Leon County Sales Tax Committee (Committee), representing a broad cross section of the community. The enacting resolution states that the Committee “shall make final recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and the City Commission in the form of a written report, workshop, or other means that shall include: (1) recommendations as to the timing of the infrastructure sales tax referendum, if any; and (2) a review that contains advisory feedback on the projects considered by the committee.”

The Committee was appointed by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and City of Tallahassee Commissioners representing a broad cross section of our community and includes representatives from the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Capital City Chamber of Commerce, Blueprint Citizen Advisory Committee, and the Economic and Environmental Consensus Committee. The Committee held its first meeting in January 2012 and spent its first year gathering information and receiving public input. Throughout this process, the Committee was committed to engaging the public and reserved the first portion of each meeting to allow the community time to voice their comments, recommendations, or preferred projects for consideration. During the second year, the Committee engaged in a thorough evaluation process of all the projects brought forth for its consideration. The Committee' completed its charge on January 30, 2014.

The Committee embraced the concept of continuing the Blueprint philosophy and identified a series of themes to ensure the holistic approach would be embodied in the projects. As reflected in the Committee’s final report, the projects recommended include many of the County and City projects; projects as presented by the community; and projects recommended by the Committee itself. The Committee considered infrastructure projects, which far exceeded the available funding, as well as Imagine Tallahassee’s recommendations for the economic development component of the sales tax. The Committee ultimately recommended a 20 year continuation of the sales tax to include the existing 80/10/10 funding split (80% Blueprint, 10% County, 10% City) with 12% dedicated to economic development and for the referendum to be placed on the November 2014 General Election ballot.

Frequently Asked Questions: [CLICK HERE](#)

Palm Beach County

SECTION 7. CITIZEN OVERSIGHT.

(a) The County, the Municipalities, and the School Board shall each separately provide for the creation of citizen oversight committees ("Committee" or collectively "Committees") to provide for citizen review of their respective expenditure of Surtax Proceeds, as soon as possible after the Surtax becomes effective, but not later than the date on which Surtax funds are first expended. A Municipality may either participate in an oversight committee created by the Palm Beach League of Cities or create its own committee.

- (b) The Committees shall serve as advisory and reporting bodies to the creating entities. Each creating entity shall establish specific duties and membership requirements governing Committee operations and participation.
- (c) Each Committee shall have the responsibility to review the expenditure of Surtax proceeds by the entity which created it.
- (d) The Committees shall meet monthly, or as otherwise needed to fulfill their duties and responsibilities. Each Committee shall provide an annual report to the governing board of the entity which created it.
- (e) Committee members shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties.
- (f) The Committees, their members, and all their proceedings shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of the Florida Sunshine Law, Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, the Florida Public Records Law, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and the Florida Ethics Code, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable local or state statutes, ordinances, or rules.

Sarasota County

SECTION 6. CITIZEN TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES.

A. Formation and Purpose. Within ninety {90} days of approval of the Sales Tax referendum, each Local Governing Body shall establish a Citizen Tax Oversight Committee {the "Committee"}. Each Committee shall:

1. Conduct an annual review of the expenditures made by its Local Governing Body from the Sales Tax proceeds to ensure that expenditures have been made in accordance with infrastructure project lists and any changes thereto; and
2. Review any changes made by its Local Governing Body to the infrastructure projects or to the allocation of Sales Tax proceeds for the sole purpose of ensuring that all procedural requirements have been followed.

B. Term.

1. Sarasota County

a. The Board shall appoint nine {9} individuals residing in unincorporated Sarasota County to the Sarasota County Committee for staggered terms, commencing September 1, 1999. One (1) Committee member shall be appointed from each district by the Commissioner representing that district. Four (4) at-large Committee members shall be appointed by majority vote of the Board. The initial term for the four {4} at-large members shall be for a period of two {2} years. The initial term for the remaining five {5} members shall be for a period of four (4) years. Thereafter, appointments shall be made for a term of four (4) years in the same manner as first appointed, or until expiration of the Sales Tax and any continuances thereto, whichever shall first occur. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as the vacating member was appointed.

b. Committee organization and procedures shall be established by

1. Board resolution.
2. Municipalities and School Board.

The composition of each Committee, terms of the Committee members, and Committee organization and procedures shall be established by resolution of the respective Local Governing Body.

C. Committee Assistance. Elected officials and staff of each Local Governing Body shall cooperate with its respective Committee to accomplish the objectives and purposes set forth in this Ordinance. Each Local Governing Body shall designate staff to provide administrative assistance to its Committee. Copies of reports and records relating to expenditures of the Sales Tax proceeds shall be made available to each Committee upon request.