

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
PINE MOUNTAIN CITY COUNCIL, HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL,
WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL, WAVERLY HALL CITY COUNCIL,
AND SHILOH CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Harris County Library Meeting Room
7511 GA Highway 116, Hamilton
June 14, 2022
5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Andrew Zuerner, Chairman (Harris County); Rob Grant, Vice-Chairman (Harris County); Becky Langston, Commissioner (Harris County); Randy Dowling, County Manager (Harris County); Russell Britt, County Attorney (Harris County); Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk (Harris County); Betsy Sivell, Town Clerk (Pine Mountain); Julie Holloway, Clerk (Shiloh); Michael Harris, Mayor (Waverly Hall); Alvin Howard (Hamilton); Ed Moon, City Manager (West Point); Keith Pendergrass, Mayor (Pine Mountain); Ransom Farley, Mayor Pro Tem (Hamilton); Buddy Walker, Assistant to Mayor (Hamilton).

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Zuerner called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

RE-NEGOTIATIONS OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (LOST). Randy Dowling, County Manager (Harris County) provided an overview of the requirements of counties and their cities to re-negotiate their local option sales tax (LOST) certificate of distribution after every decennial. He stated that the county is required to initiate the negotiations by July 1st and complete the negotiations within 60 days or submit to non-binding arbitration. If an agreement isn't made, the LOST will lapse on December 31, 2022 and then entities would have to go to a referendum with voters to institute the sales tax. He advised that the entities were all provided with a copy of the Agreement that is currently in place, a chart containing a population breakdown with percentage comparisons of population vs. current LOST, and a copy of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Renegotiation Guidebook from ACCG. Mr. Dowling stated that there was no right or wrong formula and that the Guidebook provided information related to the eight (8) criteria to consider along with population while negotiating the distribution percentages.

Buddy Walker, Assistant to Mayor (Hamilton), inquired as to whether there was a proposal from the County and that he was speaking for Hamilton, Pine Mountain, and Shiloh. He stated that he believes that the municipalities should share 40% and that he was not prepared to discuss the research tonight.

Discussion was held among the participants that included concerns about there not being any increase for many years; that all municipalities have their own problems; that from a service delivery standpoint that it affects all citizens; that the LOST can assist with property tax roll backs; that the County has overlap with municipalities; that percentages are based on population and other factors; that entities should consider coming back with governing body support so that time isn't wasted; that how we decide to divide is important as we are servicing the same citizens; and that proposals and data be provided prior to next meeting.

Discussion was held related to the date and time of the next meeting. There was a consensus that the next meeting be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.