

**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**JOINT MEETING**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**January 30, 2010**

**Hills & Dales Estate Visitors Center**

Troup County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wolfe called the joint meeting of the Troup County Board of Commissioners, Troup County Board of Education, and City Councils of LaGrange, West Point and Hogansville to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Richard Wolfe, Chairman  
Ken Smith, Vice-Chairman  
Morris Jones, Commissioner  
Buck Davis, Commissioner  
Richard English, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

Joel Martin, LaGrange Daily News  
Judy Murphy, Troup County News  
Matthew Strother, Valley News

**Staff Present:**

Mike Dobbs, County Manager  
Tod Tentler, Assistant County Manager / Parks & Recreation Director  
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk  
Scott Turk, Zoning Administrator  
Kay Durand, Center for Strategic Planning  
Valerie West, Executive Assistant

**Others Present:**

Jeff Lukken, City of LaGrange Mayor  
Tom Hall, City of LaGrange Manager  
Meg Kelsey, City of LaGrange Assistant Manager  
Nick Woodson, City of LaGrange Councilman  
Bobby Traylor, City of LaGrange Councilman  
Jim Thornton, City of LaGrange Councilman  
LeGree McCamey, City of LaGrange Councilman  
Jeff Todd, City of LaGrange / City of Hogansville Attorney  
Drew Ferguson, City of West Point Mayor  
Ed Moon, City of West Point Manager  
Darren Kelly, City of West Point Councilman  
Anne Wallace, City of West Point Councilwoman  
Jack Liedner, City of Hogansville Mayor Pro Tempore  
Bill Stankiewicz, City of Hogansville Manager  
Bobby Frazier, City of Hogansville Councilman  
Jean Crocker, City of Hogansville Councilwoman  
Ed Smith, School Superintendent  
John Darden, Board of Education Member  
Dave Nichols, Board of Education Member  
Debbie Burdette, Board of Education Member  
John Taylor, Board of Education Attorney

Page Estes, LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce  
Laura Jennings, LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce  
Diehart Lindner, LaGrange Development Authority  
Josh McKoon, Concerned Citizen  
Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens  
Tommy Callaway, Concerned Citizen  
Perrin Alford, West Georgia Tech  
Dorothy Reeves, Concerned Citizen

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**Invocation - Debbie Burdette - Troup County Board of Education:**

Ms. Debbie Burdette of Troup County Board of Education was recognized by Chairman Wolfe and asked to pronounce the invocation.

**AGENDA:**

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**Consideration of Tax Allocation District (TAD) Advantages for Troup County:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe discussed the Tax Allocation District (TAD) concept and summarized recent TAD developments within the State of Georgia. TAD's provide local governments with a tool for redevelopment of "blighted or distressed areas"; deteriorating areas"; and "areas with inadequate infrastructure". He then solicited discussion and comments from attendees. City of West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson discussed TAD redevelopments efforts currently underway in his city; efforts created by KIA locating in West Point. Commissioner English commented that the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Troup County would be promoted by Troup County exercising its powers under the Redevelopment Powers Law. Therefore, he moved the Board of Commissioners request a local delegation member of the General Assembly introduce legislation calling for a referendum to authorize Troup County to exercise all redevelopment and other powers under the Georgia Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous. City of LaGrange Mayor Jeff Lukken called a meeting of the LaGrange City Council to order for the purpose of taking action on TAD's. Councilman McCamey made a motion similar to that made by Troup County. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Following that action, Mayor Lukken turned the proceedings back over to Chairman Wolfe. Chairman Wolfe then recognized City of Hogansville Mayor Pro Tempore Jack Leidner who called a meeting of the City of Hogansville Council to order. Councilwoman Jean Crocker made the motion similar to Troup County and City of LaGrange for TAD's in City of Hogansville. Councilman Frazier seconded. Unanimous. Following that action, Mayor Pro Tempore Leidner turned the proceedings back over to Chairman Wolfe.

**Discussion of Joint Planning Commission:**

Chairman Wolfe discussed a proposed resolution for a Joint Planning Commission to address anticipated future growth in the county. He indicated that all local government in Troup County needed to come together as a group to address these growth issues in a holistic manner. He indicated the Joint Planning Commission would be the proper forum for public discussions and it would be the next logical step to the Georgia Tech strategic planning initiative the cities and county have been involved in. The proposed resolution calls for a membership composed of representatives appointed by the cities, county and board of education. The commission's funding mechanism would be appropriations from the cities and county. He urged each local government to take this proposed resolution, discuss it, and take action to make the Joint Planning Commission a reality.

**GIS Update & Benefits Discussion:**

Chairman Wolfe introduced Mr. Scott Turk, Special Projects Coordinator for Troup County Board of Commissioners, who discussed recent developments in implementing GIS mapping technology in Troup County for multiple uses including the property appraisal process and E-911 dispatch/address maintenance purposes.

**Consideration of Increasing the Hotel/ Motel Tax to 8% to Better Support Local Tourism:**

City of LaGrange City Manager Tom Hall and LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce Director Page Estes discussed the benefits of

increasing the hotel/motel tax in Troup County to 8%--a 3% increase from the current 5% rate. The rate increase would raise additional revenues (by an incremental amount of \$75K/year in the unincorporated area) to enhance support of local tourism. Councilman Traylor made a motion to request a member of the local delegation in the General Assembly to introduce legislation authorizing a 3% increase in the hotel/motel taxes within City of LaGrange. Councilman Woodson seconded. Unanimous. The county and other cities opted to study the matter further before taking action.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Wolfe adjourned the meeting and invited all of those in attendance to stay for lunch catered by the county.

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Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stewart P. Mills, Clerk