

**After
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
October 7, 2019
6:00 PM
119 E. Solomon St., Meeting Room 108**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, October 7, 2019, beginning at 6:03 p.m. with Chairperson Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, James Dutton and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Commissioner Donald Hawbaker was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, James Fortune and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson who recorded the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) by Chairperson Rita Johnson.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Pastor Tim E. Cornort of Union Baptist Church delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner James Dutton, District #2 led the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Consider approval of a Joint Proclamation with the City of Griffin recognizing October 21-25, 2019 as National Medical Assistants Week and October 23, 2019 as Medical Assisting Day at Southern Crescent Technical College.

County Manager, William Wilson, stated that there was no-one here to receive the proclamation; however, the City of Griffin will be approving the Proclamation later this week, so if the Board wants to approve the Proclamation, we can do it without reading it.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve a Joint Proclamation with the City of Griffin recognizing October 21-25, 2019 as National Medical Assistants Week and October 23, 2019 as Medical Assisting Day at Southern Crescent Technical College. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. The Spalding County Fire Department and the Spalding County Sheriff's Office would like to recognize Spalding County Employees who have gone above and beyond in performing their duties and saving lives.

Deputy Chief Jamie Clark with the Spalding County Fire Department stated that they would like to recognize some of the Spalding County Employees who have really gone above and beyond during a time of need. If not for these employees, these lives would have been lost,

Sheriff Darrell Dix advised that on June 12, 2019 the Spalding County Sheriff's Office received a call that one of their Detention Officers, Deputy Amanda Moore had been shot in a domestic situation. Living next door to Deputy Moore and her husband was Spalding County Firefighter Eric Huggins and his wife Robin Huggins who is a nurse. One of Deputy Moore's children ran next door and notified Firefighter Huggins and his wife of what had happened. Without hesitation, both of these individuals went next door to find Deputy Moore suffering from a gunshot wound to the back of her head. They began rendering aid and got emergency units on the way. Deputy Moore is alive, she is out of the hospital and taking physical therapy and it is the belief of both the Spalding County Sheriff's Office and the Spalding County Fire Department if not for the actions of these two individuals we would have lost Deputy Moore. They thanked Eric and Robin Huggins for their saving Deputy Moore's life that day and presented them with a plaque recognizing their heroism and compassion.

Deputy Chief Jamie Clark stated that the next call was on July 1st, 2019 at approximately 1:00 a.m. the Fire Department received a report of a house fire. Engine 2 arrived on scene with three personnel, they noted the house was heavily involved. Two firefighters immediately started to pull hoses to start fighting the fire and the third firefighter noted the homeowner laying in the front yard. As Firefighter Jaden Brown approached the homeowner, he found the homeowner in cardiac arrest. Firefighter Brown then reached out to Deputy David Porter and asked for assistance in performing CPR. They started 2-man CPR immediately and shortly after commencing CPR they got a pulse back, followed by a good heart beat and he was transported to WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital and he has recovered 100%. They then recognized Firefighter Gage Long, Lt. Kevin Hollums, Firefighter Jaden Brown and Deputy David Porter. Sheriff Dix then showed a compilation of two sets of body camera footage from the July 1st house fire, so everyone can view the actions taken by these individuals that evening.

Deputy Chief Clark then stated that the next call was on May 20, 2019. Units out of Station 4, Woodroof Fire Station, responded to a house fire inside Sun City Peachtree. Firefighter David Pelchat and Lt. Jarrison McBrayer were first on the scene with a heavily involved structure. They could not find the homeowner, so they made entry into the house to fight the fire and search for the homeowner. They did find the homeowner inside the house and pulled her to safety. The homeowner suffered 3rd Degree Burns and smoke inhalation. She spent some time in the Burn Unit at Grady Hospital, but she is here with us today due to actions that these two individuals. They did not hesitate, they rushed into the house to get her to safety. Lt. McBrayer is on vacation with his family so Battalion Chief Henderson is here to receive the plaque for him and Firefighter Pelchat is here to receive their recognition.

Deputy Chief Clark stated the next incident was on April 11, crews out of Station 3, Cabin Fire Station responded to a medical emergency. Firefighter Ketisha Rouseau and Firefighter Henry Sims arrived on the scene, they quickly determined the patient was in respiratory failure and had accidentally overdosed on Fentanyl at which time it was determined that they needed to administer two doses of Narcan, once they administered the two doses, the individual woke up and asked why they were there. If it had not been for their quick analysis of what was happening, recognizing the signs and symptoms, the gentleman wouldn't be with us today. Firefighter Ketisha Rouseau and Firefighter Henry Sims were presented plaques for their actions on April 11, 2019.

Deputy Chief Clark then advised that on April 19, Spalding County experienced heavy flooding. On Moon Road, a young girl was swept away while trying to rescue her dog. Once the deputies arrived on scene, they could see the young girl holding on to a small tree branch out in the water. There was no way to reach the girl because the water was running so swift. Once Engine 5 arrived on scene with Firefighters Brian Klaassen and Larry Arnold, they quickly went to the truck and retrieved the

throw ring that we keep on all of the trucks. They threw out the throw ring and the little girl was able to get into the ring, then with the help of Deputy Bryan Head they were able to pull her to safety and she is with us today. Firefighters Brian Klaassen, Larry Arnold and Deputy Bryan Head were presented plaques for their coordinated actions on April 19th.

Chairperson Rita Johnson then thanked everyone for the work that they do for Spalding County. She stated that we really appreciate these employees and this presentation this evening just brings to light the bravery and what you do for this community in putting your lives on the line.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Chairperson Johnson the advised at this time, I will read the following statement regarding the protocol to be followed during both the Citizen Comment and the Public Hearing portion of the Agenda.

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct your remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairman has the right to limit your comments in the interest of disposing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF ARTSPACE:

Patricia Horn, 238 High Court Way, Griffin, GA
TammyJo Prato, 1916 Lifesey Springs, Molena, GA
Margaret Ann Lambert, 842 Crescent Lane, Griffin, GA

JoAnn Phinazee, 859 Park Point Drive, Griffin stated that when the SPLOST began in 2016 we were all happy and excited; however, as the years have gone by we have received excuse after excuse and it is past time for us to hear the beginning construction date on the Rosenwald/Old Fairmont School renovaton. You simply have to start it, then come back and ask for more money until it is completed. This is the way you do business. Since it is a bonded project that has not been started for 3 years, the time is now. Had the project been started on time, it would be finished, the area would be looking better and businesses would be showing interest. There is no reason or excuse not to set a start date tonight.

VII. MINUTES -

Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing and Extraordinary Session on September 16, 2019, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing and Special Called Meeting on September 20, 2019 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on September 26, 2019.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing and Extraordinary Session on September 16, 2019, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing and Special Called Meeting on September 20, 2019 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on September 26, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all. Commissioner Miller stated that he was not at the Zoning Public Hearing, but he agrees with the minutes of the meeting.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA –

1. Consider on second reading an amendment to the current False Alarm Ordinance to increase the cost of false alarms to assist the County in recouping some of the costs for resources that are expended on false alarms.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked that the County Manager review this ordinance for the Board.

Mr. Wilson stated that after two false alarms under this ordinance per month, on the third occurrence and thereafter, there will be a \$100 cost per alarm. The reason this is being proposed is the Sheriff advised that his department receives an extreme number of false alarms and the Fire Department also requested the change. When there is a Fire Alarm, there is no choice but to respond as if it were an active fire in progress. There are no calls to the homeowner or from an alarm company to “check to see if it is a false alarm” every fire alarm has to be addressed as if it is an active fire.

The alarm companies can call the business or home owner on motion detector or other alarms and those type of calls can be cancelled. In the last six months we have had a tremendous increase in Fire Alarm calls, as well as the burglar alarm and other calls received by the Sheriff’s Office that were discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated it is any false alarm that occurs more than twice a month at the same location there will be a \$100 charge per incident.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve on second reading an amendment to the current False Alarm Ordinance to increase the cost of false alarms to assist the County in recouping some of the costs for resources that are expended on false alarms. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. County Attorney to update Commissioners on Opioid Litigation recommendation to continue participation in class action litigation.

James Fortune, County Attorney, stated that the information had been forwarded to the Board for review when it was received by his office. Spalding County is part of a huge class of Counties and Cities involved in the opioid litigation and as of right now, there are approximately 3,000 counties and 30,000 cities involved in the potential class.

With the possible exception of the tobacco litigation many years ago, this is the biggest class action that this country has ever seen. All of these cases are consolidated into the eastern district of Ohio Federal Court and they have come up with a unique procedure to try and resolve many of these cases. It is called a

“Motion for Certification” and it is an optional negotiation class. This is a negotiation class, it is not a litigation class.

What they will attempt to do is settle with as many of the defendants as they can. There are 13 major defendants from manufacturers and distributors of these drugs, but there are also some individuals named in the litigation as well.

What we are being asked to do at this time is to either stay in the class, which they strongly suggest and he agrees, or we do have the option to “opt out” which means we tell the federal court that we do not want to stay in this class. He then advised that he feels the “opt out” would be a terrible mistake and the attorneys representing Spalding County think so as well.

The purpose of this discussion is to find out if the Board wishes to stay in the litigation class or do you want to “opt out” and basically be on your own to go after the pharmaceutical companies and distributors which would be extraordinarily expensive. Mr. Fortune stated that the Board needs to make a decision to either stay in the class or go forward independently.

Consensus of the Board is to remain in the litigation class of the opioid law suit.

X. PUBLIC HEARING –

Chairperson Johnson then reminded everyone that the protocol stated for the Citizens Comments remain in effect for the Public Hearing. There are three items to be heard under Public Hearing this evening, each item will be read and comments for that item will be taken prior to proceeding to the next item. I will now entertain a motion to enter into a public hearing.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to enter into a Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.

1. Conduct Conduct Public Hearing on the 2019 Tax Levy.

Mr. Wilson advised that no one had signed up to speak on this topic. This hearing is a requirement of the State due to the fact that we did not have 5 days between our second and third Public Hearings. We received comments during those Public Hearings and that is probably why no one has signed up this evening.

2. Conduct public hearing to consider the establishment of street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Pod 16.

Mr. Wilson advised that no one had signed up to speak on this topic.

3. Conduct public hearing to consider the establishment of street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Del Webb Boulevard Extension (adjacent to Pod 16).

Mr. Wilson advised that no one had signed up to speak on this topic.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of the 2019 Tax Levy.

Mr. Wilson stated that this again was the tax levy that was approved earlier, it remains at 16.53 mils, there is no change from the levy that was adopted by the Board at a previous meeting.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the 2019 Tax Levy. Motion carried 3-1 (Miller).

2. Consider request for amplification permit from Union Baptist Church, 1405 North McDonough Road for their annual Community Fall Festival to be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson advised that all of the departments have reviewed this request and recommend approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve an amplification permit from Union Baptist Church, 1405 North McDonough Road for their annual Community Fall Festival to be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Pod 16.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the street light district for Sun City Peachtree – Pod 16. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Del Webb Boulevard Extension (adjacent to Pod 16).

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the street light district for Sun City Peachtree – Del Webb Boulevard Extension) adjacent to Pod 16. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider the approval of the following 2020 Alcohol License Renewals for the Retail Sale of Beer and/or Wine:

Mr. Wilson stated that all of the applicants have met the requirements and we would like for them to be approved as a group.

Mr. Fortune then advised that if anyone would like to have one of the applications pulled out for discussion, let us know; otherwise, we will handle the approve like we would a consent motion.

- 362 Enterprises, Inc. dba 362 Express located at 1600 Williamson Rd., Griffin, GA 30223- Akber Jiwani. Beer and Wine
- Good Luck Ventures, Inc. dba Aman Food Mart located at 3970 N. Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223-Shehnaz Motani. Beer and Wine.
- High Value Business Ventures, Inc. dba Chevron Food Mart located at 3200 High Falls Rd., Griffin, GA 30223.-Aziz Ali. Beer and Wine.
- Circle K Stores, Inc. dba Circle K #2723331 located at 3420 Jackson Rd. Griffin, GA 30223-Robert Barber. Beer and Wine.

- Royal Store, LLC dba Exxon Food Mart located at 2295 N. Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223- Tushar Patel. Beer and Wine.
- Aizah-V, Inc. dba Food Station located at 1779 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224-Yasmin Jiwani. Beer and Wine.
- Huckaby's located at 7652 Hwy 16 West, Brooks, GA 30205-Richard B. Corbin. Beer and Wine
- Ingles Markets, Inc. dba Ingles Markets, Inc. #457 located at 1735 Zebulon Rd. Griffin, GA 30224-Phil Beckler. Beer and Wine.
- Yasmin J. Enterprises, Inc. dba JV's Corner located at 1700 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224- Yasmin Jiwani. Beer and Wine.
- Monoprix Food Mart located at 390 Airport Rd., Griffin, GA 30224-Patrick Yakam. Beer and Wine.
- Petro Griffin, LLC located at 1693 N. Hill St., Griffin, GA 30223-Suryakant Patel. Beer and Wine.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the 2020 Alcohol License Renewals for the Retail Sale of Beer and/or Wine as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider approval of the 2020 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sale of Beer Only:
 - High Falls Country Store, located at 2662 High Falls Rd., Griffin, GA 30223-
 - Zubeida R. Zaki BMJA dba Copeland Grocery, located at 1578 High Falls Rd., Griffin, GA 30223-Jemini Amin.

Mr. Wilson stated that all departments have reviewed the applications and recommend approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the 2020 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sale of Beer Only as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval of resolution authorizing adoption of the 2019 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and Community Work Program (CWP) and incorporation of these changes into the Spalding County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the final step in the process, we have to approve a resolution on this. As you may recall it went to Three Rivers and it came back to us that it was okay to submit to the Department of Community Affairs, it was submitted to DCA and they advised that it is okay to adopt a formal Resolution and make it part of the Plan. This is Step 3 of the process.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve a resolution authorizing adoption of the 2019 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and Community Work Program (CWP) and incorporation of these changes into the Spalding County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she hopes when we do this next year it has the changes that she has requested.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider request from the Griffin-Spalding School System to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Spalding County Board of Elections to conduct School Board Elections and special school elections.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is for the ESPLOST Election in November. The County Attorney has reviewed, the School Board has approved, the Board of Elections has approved, and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Griffin-Spalding County School System for the Spalding County Board of Elections to conduct School Board Elections and special school elections. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider approval of agency contract with the City of Orchard Hill for Fire Protection Services for the period October 1, 2019 to noon on October 1, 2020.

Mr. Wilson stated this is annual contract for Fire Protection Services with the City of Orchard Hill, it is approximately \$37,500 that Orchard Hill pays us annually for Fire Protection Services within the City. It is based on their tax digest and the millage rate for the Fire District.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the agency contract with the City of Orchard Hill for Fire Protection Services for the period October 1, 2019 to noon on October 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider approval of agency contract with the City of Sunny Side for Fire Protection Services for the period October 1, 2019 to noon on October 1, 2020.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the annual contract for Fire Protection Services for the City of Sunny Side, it is approximately \$21,700 per year for their fire protection.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to approve the agency contract with the City of Sunny Side for Fire Protection Services for the period October 1, 2019 to noon on October 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider approval of the 2019 Spalding County Hospital Authority grant allocations.

Mr. Wilson advised that every year the Hospital Authority makes grant allocations and those that are made to public entities must be approved by both the City and the County. This year the Hospital Authority approved Board of Health Flu Shots in the amount of \$25,000 and the Spalding County Senior Nutrition Program for \$55,500. The City Commission will vote on this tomorrow night.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the 2019 Spalding County Hospital Authority grant allocations. Motion carried unanimously by all.

12. Consider requesting funding for Artspace Phase 2 project from the City of Griffin, Griffin-Spalding Board of Education and the Griffin Housing Authority.

Mr. Wilson advised that Phase 1 of this initiative was funded by the Land Bank Authority. ArtSpace came down and really loved the idea and the project at Rosenwald/Heritage Park. Newton Galloway and Mr. Wilson visited ArtSpace

Headquarters in Minnesota. Again, they expressed their interest in wanting to move forward with Phase 2. Attached to the Agenda Item are the Phases and the cost for each phase. This was discussed at the 3G+ meeting which is the City of Griffin and Spalding County managers along with the chairpersons of each group and the Griffin-Spalding School System Superintendent and Board Chairman. Since that time, he has sent a request to the Housing Authority, but he has not heard anything back from them.

Mr. Wilson then stated that the cost for Phase 2 is approximately \$30,000 should we be able to divide that 4 ways it would be \$7,500 each. Should the School Board not participate, it would be \$10,000 each. We have advised each of the entities that it would be on this agenda because the City and the School Board wanted a formal request from this Board for that funding.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she attended the meeting and she likes the concept of ArtSpace, but she feels that all of the potential partners have not been asked to the table. She is concerned that we have not talked with the Development Authority about this, it is an economic stimulus item as well and she feels that if you go into the partnership with us at this point there is the expectation that you will remain part of the partnership for the entire time. The economic development part would be we are providing work and living spaces for artists to move to this area or to come to this area. She would ask that we consider asking the Development Authority to come to the table. She feels that this needs to be a true collaboration of the groups who have a vested interest: City of Griffin, Spalding County, the Housing Authority and Economic Development (the Development Authority).

Commissioner Dutton stated that he had actually spoken to the Development Authority about this project and stated that this is not the stage they would get involved in. They are more for the actual construction or assisting in getting the low cost loan or a bond issue to build something or work on a way to abate taxes.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if there is a list of other locations where they have completed these projects. If there a list of any groups who may have paid the \$30,000 or the \$100,000 and it didn't work out? That is his only concern. He feels it is a great idea. He feels we should do it. He wants this to happen.

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor then advised there are 10-12 ventures on their website where they have gone in and renovated old warehouses or whatever. They are legit. They are looking for communities to start these projects in and we were one of the communities they chose to visit. Although they originally came down to look at the old Haisten Building, they weren't interested in that building, but they were interested in the Heritage Park Project and that is probably because there is so much land associated with the project. Because we are so close to Atlanta, and because she does believe that an artist community would thrive if they had a place.

It is a great idea; however, her history in this community is that you get more support when you collaborate on things that is going to affect the community. She then stated that we need to go ahead with the Heritage Project so if they come back and say this is a go, planning needs to have take place on the front end. This project is definitely nothing that the County or the City can accomplish by ourselves.

Chairman Johnson then asked Virginia Church of the Land Bank Authority to come to the podium and answer questions regarding ArtSpace.

Ms. Church stated that the people from ArtSpace stated they had never gone into any community that had conducted pre-meetings before they arrived and the Land Bank orchestrated meetings with the bankers, with government entities, with artist communities before ArtSpace even came to Griffin. Typically, communities invite ArtSpace, they do not go out looking for locations. The Land Bank held pre-planning meetings to get the support and get things going and ArtSpace was very impressed

by the work that had been done prior to their visit.

Ultimately, the community gets to choose which building or which property they go forward with, so it's not they are studying just this cite. The next thing will to look and make sure there are enough artists who will be willing and interested to move to Griffin as part of this project.

Ms. Church stated that she loved the idea of the Heritage Park area for this project as it will pull downtown further north and will incorporate both sides of the tracts, which is something that we have needed to do for a long time. She advised that one of the meetings for ArtSpace was held at the Development Authority office so they are well aware of this project. She also asked that a seat be reserved for the Land Bank as well, even though this isn't one of their properties, the Land Bank is about affordable housing and good use of land.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to table this item to the next meeting and give staff the opportunity to contact the Development Authority.

Mr. Wilson asked the Board for direction, the purpose of this agenda item this evening was to request from the different entities for this project, not to approve funding. So, we can we send a formal request to the different entities and get a formal response back before the next meeting and vote whether or not to move forward on the 21st? All the School Board and the City of Griffin wanted was a formal request from this Board.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked to amended her motion to give permission to the County Manager to send communications requesting partnership and financial commitment for the next phase of the ArtSpace project from the Development Authority, School Board, City of Griffin and the Housing Authority.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to allow the amendment to the original motion to allow the County Manager to send a letter to the Development Authority, the School Board, the City of Griffin and the Housing Authority requesting a partnership and financial commitment for the ArtSpace Project. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the amended motion. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- 2016 SPLOST collections for September were \$847,224.25 that brings our average up to \$753,331.98.
- Spalding County is currently in a Drought Response Level I which means that we have to notify everybody, through public notice, that drought conditions and advise ways to save water. There are no mandatory watering bans at this time and we hope that we get rain soon.
- Advised that he would like permission from the Board of Commissioners to cancel the contract with McCall Architects. Mr. McCall is the architect that we hired for the Animal Shelter, he is based out of Valdosta and he sent us an email and stated that

they had designed what they felt was needed. They were not aware there were any budget limitations, so he believes we should part ways with this firm.

Brent Foster and Michelle Irizarry have looked at shelters in this area. POND designed the Clayton County Shelter which is the size that we need for the budget that we have and he would like to see about getting a price from them that is equal to or less than what was committed to Mr. McCall.

Mr. McCall did advise that he would be willing to part ways because we cannot see eye to eye on how to move forward. At this time, we have made no payments to Mr. McCall and it would cost us not one penny.

Consensus of the Board is to cancel the contract with McCall and move forward with POND.

- Stated that he had furnished the Board with some information regarding railroad crossings. These are in Orchard Hill the Johnston Road and Swint Road crossings. GDOT has let a project to the railroad for \$623,000 to replace the railroad crossing guards, lights, etc. at no cost to the County and no cost to the City of Orchard Hill. They will be doing this sometime within the next 3 months..
- The POD Flu Shot exercise resulted in 1,028 vaccines were given.
- Both City and County staff are working on SDS, we have had two meetings to date. The first meeting went great, we got through the "C's" which is about 5 services; however, the second meeting didn't go so well as Mr. Smith and he disagreed on items from Animal Control, to Emergency Communications to 800 Mhz. We moved on to other item on which we could agree and we will meet again at the end of this month. We had told you that we hoped to have something to meet with both Boards in October, it doesn't look like that will happen, but we are making great progress. We are trying to address everything we can agree on first and then come back to the items on which we do not agree.
- New home permits for the month of September was 18. Total new home permits for 2019 is 200. The average square footage for all homes being permitted is 2,913.
- Mr. Wilson will be leaving on vacation this week and returning on October 21st. Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry will be in-charge during his absence.

XIII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- Our Code Enforcement Officer began training with the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement, it was conference held in Athens. They have a number of modules through the Carl Vinson Institute to train Code Enforcement personnel. It is also a networking event where other code enforcement officers throughout the State of Georgia attend and discuss some of the problems they are experiencing in Code Enforcement.
- Stated that she attended session 3 of 4 of the Georgia Academy of Economic Development last Tuesday.
- On October 16th she will be attending the Georgia Recreational Park Association Banquet with members of the Spalding County Parks and Rec. in Heard County.
- Both she and Commissioner Dutton attended the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference in Athens, Wednesday through Friday of last week and advised they had something they would like to present

Commissioner Dutton then presented Commissioner Flowers-Taylor with plaque for continuing education credits. She has become certified in two of the specialty tracts of the Lifelong Learning Academy: Quality of Life Social Issues and Public Works.

Mr. Wilson then advised that they old Dundee Mill on High Falls Road is in the process of finally being cleaned up.

XIV. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – Stated that the railroad had fixed one side of Carver Road, but the other side has not been fixed. They put some type of rubber instead of cross ties in the hole and it is still very rough. Carver Road is still a drop off, it is terrible.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor – She is wanting to know when we are going to have our workshop on trash. She is over it, she is going to start carrying a trash bag with her when she walks her dogs. She is only going two to three houses out from her house, but somehow it is our responsibility to help people to see it is not okay to walk out of the store and throw whatever is in your hand on the ground. The amount of garbage that we have on the side of the road and on our streets and sidewalks is simply ridiculous and we don't do a very good job in terms of government by educating people about littering and we don't make receptacles available if you wanted to put trash in a trash can. There is not a single trash can from the center of town to East Griffin Grocery Store which is 8/10ths of a mile, we just need to do better. Our community looks like garbage.

She then asked when we retired our debt with proceeds from the SPLOST, how much debt was retired? She is asking because we are really in a very hard place. We absolutely have to finish the project at Fairmont, it is not acceptable that we planned poorly. There are so many things that could happen in this community, but I don't want us to roll back into that place where there was so much distrust in government. This isn't mismanagement, but more poor management. When we had the meeting for the Airport we jumped right and borrowed the money and now we are repaying it, so that is why she is asking about the debt. If we paid the debt off, we retired the debt that we had, we don't have any debt. Why can't we go into debt to do these projects that we promised the voters that we were going to do and do them in a timely manner.

There are a number of commissioners on the Board who are anti-tax increase and anti anything that has to do with money, but she feels a personal responsibility to the residents of this County who overwhelmingly voted in a SPLOST for those projects to be completed. They are very much aware that the cost of living goes up every day and she also knows that they are aware that it costs more for us to operate the County, just like they are aware that three years ago the cost to build an aquatic center was a lot different from what it is today. That's not they're fault. We asked them to vote, we told them the projects and now that it is time to do it, we say that we don't have the money. It doesn't work for her.

Mr. Wilson stated that \$3.35 million in debt was paid off by the SPLOST.

She stated that is her point, we retired our debt, the question is, "is it worth it to the community for us to go back into debt to do the projects that we promised this community would be done?" It's not just bad for us as a County government, it is bad for the school system because when somebody looks at the ESPLOST they don't know the difference between the ESPLOST and the TSPLOST and the SPLOST. It's a

SPLOST, they didn't give us the stuff we voted for. So, she asked that we be very careful about what is the right thing to do.

She doesn't want to go out into the community and shy away from people because we did not do what we said we were going to do and take responsibility for the poor planning and poor execution in the fact that we did have a project that was a bonded project and we did a bunch of projects before completing that project. All of that is on us. She asks that the Board be thoughtful and figure out how we can make these things happen and how we can move on to the next phase.

She then stated that she had attended a conference to renew her Nursing License and at the conference the Georgia Trauma Commission was there talking about mass casualty incidents and shootings in our schools. The individual presenting stated that she goes around the State teaching 8-10 year old boy scouts how to "Stop the Bleeding" how to apply a tourniquet because at Sandy Hook and at Parkland if the classmates had known how to apply a tourniquet, there may be some children still alive. She then stated that if an 8 year old can apply a tourniquet, we all need to know how to do that, because no one is exempt from terror happening to them. She hopes that if there is funding available through the Georgia Trauma Commission, that is something we need to look at and collaborate on with the school system.

James Dutton – Stated he agrees with Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, he went through as much as he could with the CERT, that is great and it is a free program that the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department offers. It is a 6-week course and he highly recommends the course. He agrees that the training should reach more people.

Regarding the Heritage Park Project, he has done everything he can to reach out to get funding at the State level, funding at the Federal level, he has had multiple meetings with the Senator and local representatives, but most of his time has been prayer asking that we can get this done. He really feels that ArtSpace is the answer to that prayer. He would like to have a Plan "B" in case this doesn't work and he will continue to put all the pressure he can on other avenues at every level.

He asked for a consensus from the Board on a project. Just like we ran into a problem with Heritage Park because of poor initial planning. If you want to do a project right you need to start 10 years in front of it. Looking into it, getting all the stakeholders involved and finding out what the actual costs are going to be when you break ground. To that end, our State Court Judge, Josh Thacker has asked about the possibility in the future, because our Courthouse is rapidly filling up and our jail is in as good a condition as Sheriff Dix can put it in, but the jail is aging and it was designed by people who had never designed a jail before. So, just like many of our surrounding communities have started looking into or have already built and completed.

Judge Thacker is asking for permission to pull together a committee to look into what the future of a Judicial Complex would mean for Spalding County. The potential costs, the needs of the Sheriff, the needs of the jail, the needs of the DA's office, etc. We are not funding him to do anything, we simply need to give him a "green light" to begin forming this committee to look into it. When this comes around for SPLOST consideration, we want to make sure the groundwork has been laid to insure that we don't repeat the mistakes that have been made in past SPLOSTs.

We are wanting to prepare for 10-15 years down the road. How many judges are we going to have, how many courtrooms are we going to need and if we start doing that planning now we will be ahead of the planning instead of behind it like we are with the Heritage Park Project. We have a judge willing to take point on it and he is asking for consensus from the Board for him to do that.

Consensus of the Board is to let Judge Thacker go forward with his committee to research the needs for a Judicial Complex and make a recommendation at some future date regarding a possible SPLOST project.

Mr. Wilson asked that someone from County Administration be on the committee.

Donald Hawbaker – Not present.

Chairperson Johnson – Stated she wanted to thank the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department for the recognition given to the Deputies and Firefighters this evening.

She is looking forward to hear what Board of Education has to say about the possible location for the Aquatic Center. She is hoping we can get that evaluation done and we can choose a location by the end of the year.

Mr. Wilson stated that he sent out an email earlier requesting permission to ask Paragon to prepare a Task Order Form for the Board to consider at the next meeting of what it will cost for them to take a look at the Cowan Road property, in conjunction with the School Board, to (a) see if it would fit on the proposed lot, (b) check the ingress and egress and (c) any other conditions the School Board might put on it. No commitment right now for money, just approval for him to prepare a work order to say he will do a site plan and this is how much it will cost for the Board to consider on the 21st.

Consensus is to authorize Paragon to do a Task Order Form for the Cowan Road proposed location.

Chairperson Johnson stated that the Heritage Park project is going to have to become Priority 1. We have been talking about ArtSpace and she believes it is going to work, if it does not we need to make this come to fruition. People voted for this project and it needs to be our focus.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.