



**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
December 16, 2019
6:00 PM
119 E. Solomon St., Meeting Room 108**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, December 16, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Donald Hawbaker, James Dutton, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William Wilson, Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, James Fortune, County Zoning Attorney, Newton Galloway, Community Development Director, Chad Jacobs and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson who recorded the minutes.

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

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION led by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker, District #5.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Sheriff Dix to introduce Brian Hutcheson of Verra Mobility to make a presentation on School Zone Speed Cameras, Automated License Plate Readers and Stop Arm Cameras.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that Mr. Hutcheson would make the presentation to the Board.

Mr. Hutcheson then gave a brief overview of his meetings with the Sheriff's Office regarding HB78 which is the use of automated enforcement, specifically within school zones. The idea behind the project is to protect students and increase safety around the school zones by changing driver behavior. Mr. Hutcheson then advised that the use of the cameras in these zones will be limited to one hour before and one hour after the bell schedule. This is when the most student traffic is in these zones. All of the programs are violator funded, so there is no cost to the Sheriff's Office, to Spalding County or to any of the school districts that participate.

Mr. Hutcheson then advised that the programs must be submitted through GDOT and every location has to have a speed study along with permit requests from each individual school. The plan is to submit the speed studies and the permits for all of the schools within Spalding County. They will leave it up to GDOT to determine which schools qualify and have enough volume to justify the use of the automated enforcement cameras within those zones.

The penalty for violation is a civil penalty, there is no points that will go against the license as it is not a criminal offense. There is a monetary fine for speeding in the

school zone of \$75.00 for the first offense and \$125 for the second offense. Mr. Hutcheson then advised that this concludes the high-level overview. His company has submitted request for the speed studies and those results have been provided for your review.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she feels that the fines are not severe enough to curtail the behavior. If the goal of the program is to change driver behavior, her experience on this Board is if you fine someone \$75.00, that is not a lot of money to pay. If this issue is serious enough to get the equipment, it should be serious enough to warrant a higher fine, just like the super speeder law. It is no less important than that.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how the program would be funded?

Mr. Hutcheson advised that for every fine that is levied, Verra Mobility would take a set out per levy and the remainder of the money would go out to the County.

Commissioner Dutton then questioned the \$25.00 electronic processing fee.

Mr. Hutcheson stated that the \$25.00 is what the Courts are allowed to charge for the administration.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if someone wanted to challenge this in Court, who would take the stand to testify?

Mr. Hutcheson advised that someone from the Sheriff's Office would take the stand. Law Enforcement has to review the incident criteria before a citation is issued. His company would provide an evidence package to Law Enforcement which consists of a series of multiple still shots along with a video of the event. It has the GPS coordinates, the time, the date and all the information needed for a prosecutable violation.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if the relationship would be between Verra Mobility and the School System? Between Verra Mobility and the Sheriff's Office? Or, Verra Mobility and the Board of Commissioners?

Mr. Hutcheson stated that it would be between Verra Mobility, the Sheriff's Office and the School System.

Sheriff Dix advised that since he went into office, he has brought matters like this to the attention of the Board to make sure that the Board is abreast of what is going on.

Mr. Wilson then stated that this is to let the Board know, so when you get any calls you will be aware of the program and how it works.

Mr. Hutcheson then reviewed the results of the speed study that was conducted during the test period. The legislation dictates that the systems have to be set a 11 mph over the posted speed.

2. Paragon Consulting to present draft #2 for Heritage Park Project.

Todd Albritton, Architect at Paragon Consulting reviewed the revised Master Plan for Heritage Park. Jeremy Buffington reviewed the revised landscaping and

parking areas and Brian Upson reviewed the cost of construction for the revised Master Plan.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the five months ended November 30, 2019.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, was present to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the financial statements.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Hawbaker to approve the financial statements for the five months ended November 30, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Chairperson Johnson then read the following statement regarding the protocol to be followed during both the Citizen Comment and Public Hearing portions 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.

Carol Jones, 1611 Pinebrook Drive, spoke regarding the new Animal Shelter. Presented a list of questions for Mr. Wilson to answer after the meeting.

James Brooks, 1218 Rehoboth Road, expressed his concern regarding the proposed up-coming changes at the Collection Centers.

Robert Lattimore, 2847 Teamon Road, expressed his concerns regarding the proposed up-coming changes at the Collection Centers and wanted to know where he could get his water tested.

Judy Baumann, 70 Terracedale Court, thanked the members of the Board for introducing the need to bid out certain professional services for Spalding County. She also thanked the Board for the work they have done on Heritage Park and asked that they continue in their commitment for the Park.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on December 2, 2019.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on December 2, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING –

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Flowers-Taylor to enter into a Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m. Motion Carried unanimously by all.

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.

1. **Amendment to UDO #A-19-08:** Article 1. General - Section 106:A - amend Uniform Development Standards adopted by Spalding County.

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

Mr. Jacobs advised that these are all building code amendments moving the current codes in the UDO from referencing 2015 and 2016 codes to referencing 2018 codes. This is a housekeeping item, to codify it in the UDO. Staff recommends approval. The Planning Commission recommended approval at their November meeting.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve Amendment to UDO #A-19-08: Article 1. General – Section 106:A – amend Uniform Development Standards adopted by Spalding County.

Commissioner Hawbaker exited the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

This request is moving to the most current codes for plumbing and electrical recognized by DCA.

Motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Hawbaker had exited the meeting and was absent during the vote.)

2. **Amendment to UDO #A-19-09:** Article 23. Official Zoning Map - Section 2303:E - semi- annually adoption of official zoning map in revised Geographic Information System (GIS) platform as applicable to unincorporated Spalding County.

Mr. Jacobs then advised that twice a year they come to the Board to adopt a new zoning map that reflects the changes done with regard to zoning during the course of the year.

Mr. Wilson then stated that no one had signed up to speak for or against this agenda item.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve amendment to UDO #A-19-09: Article 23. Official Zoning Map – Section 2303:E – semi-annual adoption of the official zoning map in revised Geographic Information System (GIS) platform as applicable to unincorporated Spalding County. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Discussion of proposed revised Concept Plan for the VN zoning section of Heron Bay.

Mr. Jacobs advised that he would give a brief overview then he would turn it over to Brian Davidson to update the Board on the changes Minerva is planning for this area.

Mr. Jacobs then stated that within the Village Node Zoning Ordinance there is a portion that ties the VN to a concept plan. When the Village Node at Heron Bay was approved in the mid 2000's it was tied to the concept plan submitted to this body at that time. Since then Minerva has contacted us with some changes and modifications that they would like to do to both to the concept design and they are looking at introducing a different product in terms of multi-family. Since the approval of the zoning is tied to that concept, they have to come back through for approval. They have already gone through the Planning Commission and it is back before the Board for approval. The Planning Commission did recommend approval at their meeting with one change, there was some conversation regarding the area for a future school campus to the north of the development. There was some conversation to move that to another location.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she would like to know the impetus for changing the plan as the original plan called for more individual homes. One question, does this new layout increase the density in the area? Secondly, what size structures are planned for the area, are they still going to be individual homes?

Mr. Jacobs stated that Minerva provided a letter to the Board that may answer some of the questions dated October 8th, where there is a unit count breakdown provided. Basically, there is no density change, the overall total number of units approve originally was 465 and will remain 465 overall units; however, the make-up of how it is divided between single family residential and multi-family will be a little different.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked how many single family lots will remain?

Mr. Jacobs advised that the number of single family lots will remain the same. Originally, there was going to be 50 lots and were tied to the width of the individual lots, so they originally they had 50 – 40' wide lots and then 40 – 50' wide lots for a total of 90. Now, what they are looking to do is to do away with the 40' wide lots and just have 90 – 50' wide lots. Where you are going to see a change in the overall make-up of numbers is going to be a change in the number of townhomes from 123 to 145. Probably the biggest change in scope for this design is going to be in the apartments, they are moving from a traditional garden style apartment, to an Eco-Cottage. So that will go from 252 apartment units to 230. Overall, once you add all of the numbers up, the density remains the same.

Brian Davidson, Minerva USA, 2292 Henderson Mill Road, Atlanta advised that most of Heron Bay and adjacent sections were zoned from 2002 to 2005. They have developed this over the years since. For a while the south side of Atlanta was off everybody's radar from a development perspective, but it seems to be coming back. The path of new job growth, transportation is good and there are still development opportunities. Now it is time to get to this section of Heron Bay.

Mr. Davidson then advised that they had been approached by a very high-quality home building company on this property. Mr. Davidson then advised that the first plan before the Board was the approved concept plan which had a series of uses. What we have done is tried to mimic as closely as we can in keeping the Village Core and then keeping the uses essentially the same. However, we have changed a few things.

Mr. Davidson stated there were smaller single-family lots that were 40' wide, we have doubled the product for that, so we have made all of the single-family lots 50' wide, so they are slightly bigger, but the same number of lots. The apartments are the biggest variation from the original plan. Before the downturn we had planned to build the traditional three-story garden apartments, now there has been an evolution in that market, those types of buildings are not aging well.

People have been searching for new designs for rental communities, there is a huge amount of the population who have moved out of for sale homes and in the case of younger people who are happy with renting. The problem is most of the rental stock of homes are old, worn out and not very appealing and the only alternate has been apartment buildings with long hallways and stairways. The communal dumpsters and that type of arrangement which isn't very community friendly.

So, what they have done is taken the lead of this builder who has constructed this in other parts of the Country. It hasn't been done yet, that we know of in Atlanta. However, they have had good success with it and basically the concept is, rather than build three-story buildings what they are doing is smaller cottages, either two-bedroom units or a pair of units together that are one-bedroom each. So you have more one-story homes, each one having easier access, every single unit has a yard as well, windows on three to four sides of the unit for more light. These are just a far more livable environment. Promoting a situation where people are actually interacting in the community around them.

Interconnecting these units are pedestrian walkways, landscaping and parks. They are trying to create a more livable and enjoyable setting for those who choose to rent. The concept being choosing to rent is not placing individuals into whatever rentals happen to exist. They are trying to find ways to make renting more attractive and more desirable. This results in tenants staying longer, there will be less turn over and the residents are happier. It is anticipated that people will care more for their houses and the damage will be less. It is hoped that the renters will care more and will actually have control over a bit of character on your own property, rather than just existing behind a door.

Commissioner Hawbaker re-joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Davidson then advised that the individuals in this complex will not be accessing the amenities at Heron Bay, they will have their own amenities within the Village Node. The rental community will have its own pool and amenity complex and the for sale housing which is the town home and single family will have another pool and amenity complex. There is a large interconnectivity between the entire complex with the trails and the parks that will be open across the board to everybody.

Mr. Davidson advised that the total number of units in this plan and the old plan are exactly the same the only difference being the total number of units in the rental side have been reduced. He then advised that the water for this location would be provided by the Spalding County Water and Sewer Authority. They will also be donating a separate piece of land between Heron Bay and Sun City for a new fire station to serve this section of the County as well. This development will have it's on access onto Sr 155. Eventually, there will be a couple of back side connections into Heron Bay which would serve if there is any incident that would block one of the roads, it would provide an extra service exit which has been requested by fire and police.

Mr. Davidson added there are lots of trails and pocket parks designed throughout the neighborhood as part of the design of what we do and we will carry in forward into this development.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Flowers-Taylor to approve revised Concept Plan for the VN zoning section of Heron Bay with staff conditions. Motion carried 4-1 (Dutton).

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Flowers-Taylor to close the public hearing at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of the 2020 Alcohol License Renewal-Beer and Wine for: RaceTrac Petroleum, Inc. dba RaceTrac #2495 located at 1638 US Hwy 41-William M. Tanner. No Violations.

Mr. Wilson stated that staff has reviewed and they meet all the criteria. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve the 2020 Alcohol License Renewal-Beer and Wine for: RaceTrac Petroleum, Inc. dba RaceTrac #2495 located at 1638 US Hwy 41. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Review of proposed changes to collection centers with regards to bulky items and household garbage.

Mr. Wilson advised that Tim Crane is here to address any questions the Board may have. The Board asked that staff come back with a plan to phase in the offer of alternatives for bulky items and placing a number of bags of household garbage that can be disposed of in a day. Public Works has worked on this and he is proud to announce that the transfer station at the City opened today and we will start tomorrow utilizing the comingle containers. We had originally set this up for a March 1, effective date, that date can be moved.

Commissioner Dutton stated that we need to be mindful of how we roll this out and the branding of the changes so that it doesn't come off as "You can't do this any more" that it be more of a "Hey, so that this is more effective and you can make better use of the facilities, we are going to change the way things are done." Yet,

here we are: "Notice, you can't do the following things anymore." And that explodes exactly like everyone know it was going to, that is why we repeatedly said, hey this needs to be rolled out in a manner that explains this is so that it works more efficiently and you don't get turned away because the bins are full, you don't get turned away because the centers are being abused.

Commissioner Dutton then added that people have come to the Board and expressed their concerns, we have found a way to address those concerns, yet the rollout is "You don't get to do this anymore." We have said repeatedly this is a new

thing so that people can take better advantage of our collection sites, use them more often, they will be run more efficiently and yet that is not what it looks like. It looks like now you are limiting it and you are eventually going to close and there is all kinds of rumors flying.

Commissioner Dutton then stated he is very disappointed in how this was branded in the rollout, because this has been addressed numerous times. We have big problems right now, it is filling up, the service is being abuse by for profit companies who should be paying to dump at the proper locations, yet they are dumping at the Collection Centers and putting that burden on the taxpayers and not by the County paying to dump, but the citizens are not able to utilize the center because the bins are full because these companies are abusing the privilege.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what exactly been rolled out?

Mr. Wilson then advised that the documents for consideration this evening is first draft from the Board's discussion. Nothing has been rolled out at this time.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that the most questions she has been asked regarding the changes are in the size of the bags to be allowed. Are we talking about 5-33 gallon bags or 5 lawn/leaf size bags because it makes a difference. She feels for her it would be very hard to generate 5 bags of garbage in one day.

Mr. Wilson advised that what we are trying to address is the abuse. Commissioner Miller states that he goes to the dump every day that it open, so he won't have a problem, but we may have somebody with 4 children that can only go once a week and they may generate more than 5 bags of garbage.

Commissioner Dutton stated that the target for limiting the amount to 5 bags a day is to prevent the companies who come in with dump trucks full of clearly commercial garbage. We are clearly being targeted by these folks and that is who we are trying to limit. It doesn't limit the average person who comes in.

Mr. Crane stated he feels the proposal for limiting the bags to 5 bags of garbage is going to be a great deterrent to those who are currently abusing the collection centers.

Commissioner Dutton stated he would like the information to the public to reflect that in order to take care of the abuse of the Collection Centers these actions are being implemented.

Mr. Wilson advised that Commissioner Miller was concerned about the signage at the Collection Centers and what is before you is a sample of the signage at the Center.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like the wording for bulky trash to not be expressed as “we are no longer accepting bulky items” as this looks like we are taking something away.

Commissioner Miller stated that the information needs to show what it is going to cost to take the bulky items to the transfer station and landfills.

Mr. Wilson stated staff would take the Boards comments back and redraft the rollout and send it to you. He then advised that the Board had originally indicated March 1 as the roll out, do you want to move that date out or do you want to keep it at March 1.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she feels that the public should be able to comment, because it is such a big issue. She feels this is such a huge topic, it is worth having a meeting to allow the public to come and verbalize their suggestions or their concerns. They may have some suggestions to assist in how we get to where we need to be. She is not comfortable with making the decision without offering an opportunity for the public to come in and weigh in on offering their suggestions because it is so contentious.

Mr. Wilson advised that he would add an agenda item to the January 6th meeting to set a date for a Public Input Meeting on the Collection Centers.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she wanted as part of this initiative some type of proposed action implemented to monitor if we are getting excessive dumping. How will Code Enforcement work so as soon as they see a violation they report it, there needs to be some other actions going on in conjunction with us saying you have got to take certain items someplace else.

Commissioner Bart Miller exited the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Commissioner Donald Hawbaker left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

3. Consider cancellation of the January 20, 2020 Extraordinary Session due to observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday and the September 7, 2020 Regular Meeting due to the observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to cancel the January 20, 2020 Extraordinary Session due to the observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday and September 7, 2020 Regular Meeting due to the observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Commissioner Dutton asked if this would be a good time to talk about giving Veterans Day as a holiday.

Mr. Wilson advised that we have that scheduled for discussion at the Retreat.

Motion carried 3-0.

4. Consider approval of the 2020 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Miller rejoined the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Wilson stated this is something that we do every year and you will notice the January 20th and September 7th had the asterisk, we will remove those meetings and note that they have been cancelled. We will then publish this notice and place it on the website and bulletin boards so everyone will know these are the regular scheduled meetings throughout the year.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the 2020 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Meeting schedule. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of the 2020 Zoning Public Hearing Schedule.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the 2020 Zoning Public Hearing Schedule. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Establish a date for the 2020 Planning Retreat.

Mr. Wilson stated that January 25th is the date available for UGA. Gordon Maner is the facilitator that is available for that date and the Senior Center is available.

Consensus of the Board is to have the Retreat on Saturday, January 25th and Mr. Wilson will get a letter out to the Board this week asking for the Top Priorities for discussion.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- Spalding County Parks and Recreation will host three GRPA Tournaments in 2020.
- Spalding County Senior Center be closed for Maintenance and Deep Cleaning beginning Thursday, December 19th and will reopen on Thursday, December 26th.
- The Unveiling of the Commemorative plaque and dedication was held at the Spalding County Courthouse on Friday, December 13th.
- Spalding County Offices will be closed on December 23, 24 and 25 in observance of the Christmas Holidays and will reopen on December 26th. We will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st for the New Year's Holiday and reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.
- Deputy Chief Jamie Clark's retirement reception will be on Wednesday, December 18th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- The City did take under consideration our 800 MHz contract at their work session and they referred that to Drew Whalen for review and revision. So, we should be getting something back from the City soon.
- He then wished everyone a Merry and Safe Christmas.

XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Since the last Board of Commissioner's meeting she has had two meetings: one with Ms. O'Connor and one today with Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wilson. We are working hard to get the forms ready for the SDS to present to the Board at the Retreat so that you can look them over and we will know which direction to take.
- ✓ Employee Appreciation went well thanks to all who donated cards and to Liberty Technology for donating a 55" television.

She then announced the employees who won.

\$25.00 Gift Card recipients were: 1 Employee from Public Works, Tim Crane; 2 from Leisure Services, Cortese Mathis and Annie Bing; 4 from the CI, Nathan Stodghill Tracey Dorsey, Don Garvin and Vincent Sims; 3 from Parks, Wayne Harper, Brandon Cook, Steve Stone; 1 from Voter Registration, Marcia Ridley; 1 from the Water Department – Tim Granger.

The two recipients of the Long Horn Gift Cards were Rocky Kenway from the Water Department and Mr. Joe Adams from Parks.

Bryan Head from the Sheriff's Office was the recipient of the 55" UHD TV.

Kim Williams from Tax Assessors and Susan Evans-Messic from the CI received the \$50.00 gift certificates to Stash Studio.

- ✓ Our second Code Enforcement Officer has been sworn in and will begin field training in January.
- ✓ There was an event at Pet Sense which Animal Control participated. They took out three dogs and four cats and one cat was adopted. Pictures were made with Santa and there were a number of donations including donations of food, toys and some treats.
- ✓ Deputy Chief Mike Byrd just started with the Spalding County Fire Department yesterday.
- ✓ The new Spalding County Fire Truck was delivered on Friday, December 11th and on December 18th we will be receiving two QRV's.
- ✓ United Way pledges and donations from employees of Spalding County totaled \$19,957 for 2020. Our original goal was \$7,500.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller asked where we stand on the Animal Shelter, he has had several calls about it.

Mr. Wilson advised that (1) we are not renovating the old shelter, (2) it is going to be built where the RYDC was located, (3) it will be within budget and (4) we have a preliminary design that we are getting everyone to look at from engineering, drainage, usage, etc. and we hope to have a design contract in January for the Board so we can start construction. It will take a year to build.

Commissioner Miller then asked when there would be a decision made on the Aquatic Center?

Mr. Wilson advised that is up to the Board. We are currently awaiting the response from the School System on the requirements that they are going to place on our request for locating it on the school property on Cowan Road. We are awaiting their

specifications so that we can get them to a pool designer so that they can tell us how much that may or may not increase the cost of the pool.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor stated she took her dogs to Pet Sense to get a picture with Santa, it was very nice except for Santa was located at the front of the store and there were four dogs in cages right at the front of the store and her dogs went crazy because they thought they were going to jail. She was wondering why they did that like they did, but she was glad to see the Animal Shelter staff out there. We still need to do a better job advising people that we are working toward a no kill shelter designation.

James Dutton stated that when it comes to the Aquatic Center it is going to take a lot of convincing to get him to not agree with the Swim Team on the site that they prefer. Going over to the Lakes of Green Valley and it hooks into the natural water features there, it's a free site. It is accessible to a major highway and the interstate. It just doesn't make sense to not put it there, especially if somebody is going to put requirements. Unless the proposed site is better than the one the Swim Team wants, it doesn't make any sense to move it somewhere else.

Just like with the Animal Shelter this project will come in within budget. There are already notifications out on social media stating that we are already over budget for the Aquatic Center which is weird since we haven't broken ground or even designed the center.

Heritage Park, we have the new proposal. He likes the idea of the Welcome Center on the end; however, he doesn't know that we need it. He likes the fact that the project did come in lower, but it is still \$5 million more than what we have. So we are still going to need that outside money, we are still going to continue our efforts to get that money. We will continue to do what we can. So far he has been disappointed in the other two entities participation, i.e. the City of Griffin and the School System. We took this property over from the School System and we say "hey let's collaborate" and they are totally not interested in it and are not interested in that neighborhood. The same thing, for the most part can be said about the City, they didn't even want to participate in doing the study.

The idea for the Collection Center changes is to make the centers available for the citizens can use them more and not less. No one is interested in closing the collection centers. We want to make them more efficient so that people can use them more, not less, but right now we are being taken advantage of which prevents people from using it as they want it. We are making some tweaks so that people can use it more and get rid of their trash more often and with less hassle.

Regarding the question raised regarding water testing in Spalding County. This can be done through UGA he was not certain if they do it at the campus or through the Extension Office.

The Bar Association had the plaque unveiling at the Courthouse last week and they also had their Christmas Party last week. Both were a big success. The Bar Association Christmas Party had close to 90 people in attendance.

He is getting a lot of questions regarding the State Court/Public Defender issue. He has been working with the Bar Association and with the Court, the County Manager and we are going to try to create a matrix so that we can insure that we will get quality people to bid on this and will get the contract. Saving money is a secondary concern, our top concern is that the defendants have their rights upheld in the best possible manner so they are getting somebody who does know what they are doing and they are getting good

representation. At the same time, he does feel there is an opportunity for the taxpayers to save money.

He was approached this week, some of the trail runners around here have approached him regarding the abandoned railroad tracts from the UGA Campus that goes all the way to Senoia. They are saying why do we have this abandoned tract when Cobb County turned their abandoned track into the Silver Comet Trail and worked with those counties. He stated that he had learned there is a track to trail group that provides grants to do exactly that, so it may be something we want to look into. He drove the tract to see if it is abandoned and it appears to be abandoned.

Mr. Wilson stated that that track is not used, but it is not formally abandoned. He advised we will check into it.

He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Donald Hawbaker – departed the meeting early.

Rita Johnson – Congratulated Jamie Clark on his upcoming retirement. Hopefully, we will all get a chance to say farewell to him at his retirement reception. He also congratulated those who went out of the way for the United Way, we surpassed our goal which is awesome. Now that we have a date for the Retreat we need to get the items for discussion to William and let's use that Saturday wisely to figure out what needs to be done in 2020.

She then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***