

**After  
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
August 5, 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, August 5, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Donald Hawbaker, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, James Dutton and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Also present were Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson who recorded the minutes. County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr. was absent from the meeting.**

**I. INVOCATION**

Pastor Steven Dervan with the Oak Hill Baptist Church will deliver the Invocation. Pastor Dervan notified the Board that he would not be able to deliver the Invocation so Commissioner James Dutton, District #2, delivered the Invocation.

**II. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner Donald Hawbaker, District #5 will deliver the Pledge to the Flag.

***Motion/Second by Fowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to amend the agenda to include an Item #10 under New Business to consider a request from the Griffin High School Band for an amplification permit for a fundraiser at 460 Aerodrome Way on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**III. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Consider appointment to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Charles Jones. Mr. Jones resigned in May, 2019 and his term will expire December 31, 2019.

Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, advised that this is an annual appointment for a local business representative on the Board. The City of Griffin appoints in odd years and Spalding County appoints in even years. The board meets the fourth Thursday of every month. She then advised there was one name in the book, it was placed in the book for consideration by Commissioner Hawbaker on August 1, 2019 and that individual is Krystal Pate.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Dutton to appoint Krystal Pate to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Charles Jones to expire on December 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider appointment of Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors to fill the appointment as County Chair or Designee to replace Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Hawbaker advised that he is in favor this motion.

***Chairperson Johnson stated that since this is an appointment of the County Chairman or designee she would appoint Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors for the unexpired term to end December 31, 2019.***

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Introduction of Miles Neville as the new Human Resource Director.

Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, introduced Miles Neville as the new Human Resource Director. Ms. Irizarry stated that Mr. Neville comes to the County with more than 27 years of experience, he worked 15 of those years with the City of Griffin as the Human Resources Director. Mr. Neville has a Bachelor's degree from Clayton State University and has numerous certifications that will be very useful in this position. Mr. Neville was chosen after an exhaustive search that identified a number of competitive and qualified candidates. We would like to welcome Mr. Neville.

Miles Neville, Human Resource Director, advised that he is very happy to be coming over to the County. He has lived here 14 of the 15 years he had worked for the City and he loves Spalding County. He stated that he has attended the meeting many times as part of leadership graduations and he loves Spalding County, he is excited to get to retire from the City and come over here, bring his talents and he hopes to make everyone proud.

2. Cindy Sweda, County Extension Coordinator to introduce the new 4-H Agent and two senior 4-H participants.

Ms. Sweda then introduced Leah Woodall, the new 4-H Agent at the Spalding County Cooperative Extension Office. Ms. Woodall joined Spalding County UGA Extension back in April of this year. She came from Bacon County with 2 ½ years experience and a number of years with Americorp in Tift County. Leah is going to be a tremendous asset to Spalding County and to the 4-H program. She then asked Ms. Woodall to introduce the two young ladies in attendance and advise why they are dressed in green coats this evening.

Ms. Woodall stated August 1<sup>st</sup> started the new 4-H year, we are getting into our in school club meetings, our after school program and all of the programs that are provided to the community. We are very excited to serve the youth in Spalding County. She then introduced Jhaycee Barnes and Hope Stewart and they will tell you about 4-H and what it means to them.

Jhaycee Barnes stated she is a sophomore at Spalding High School and currently she is serving on 4-H's Northwest District Senior Board for 2019 and 2020. She stated that she had been in Georgia 4-H since the fifth grade and she started by participating in project achievement. This is a program where 4-H members are invited to share their experience in a particular subject area. She has been competing in the project area of Computer Project Information Technology since the fifth grade and recently she competed at the State Congress and through this program she became a Master 4-H'er. That means she won first place in her project area.

Ms. Barnes advised that 4-H has helped her throughout her life and she feels that it has changed the way that she approaches everyday situations and it has pushed her to learn that she can do anything that she sets her mind to and even if she fails, if she continues to try, she will eventually become a success.

Hope Stewart stated that she is a Junior at Griffin High School and she has been in 4-H since the fifth grade as well. Starting August 1, she began her term on the State Board of 4-H Directors, which is comprised of 8 youth from all over the State who decided to campaign and run. She had to give speeches in front of hundreds of 4-H members advise why she would be a good choice for director, they dressed up in fun costumes and carried around posters with fun slogans on them, it was a lot of fun. She then stated that approximately 30 youth ran for the Board of Directors and the eight who were elected had to go to Officer's Training which is a three-day event at UGA and you learn a lot about leadership and how to represent your peers and what it really takes to be a leader.

Ms. Stewart advised that she has been in 4-H since the fifth grade and it has helped her to blossom into someone who can stand in front of a group and talk about 4-H which is very much out of her comfort zone. Ms. Stewart stated that 4-H is in every county in Georgia, but in her opinion Spalding County has one of the best programs and she is thankful for what it has done for her and her friends.

## **V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## **VI. CITIZEN COMMENT**

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.

Peter Phelps, 804 Dusky Sap Court, would like to speak to two items under New Business, Items #6 and 7. We have an opportunity to bring Wyomia Tyus, a much accomplished local legend, who has brought acclaim to the Griffin-Spalding County Community home next month. He hopes that the BOC will help bring her back to her home and her roots.

He wants to be clear that although the Spalding County Pickleball Association is involved two of the functions, there are 4 other events that are planned in and for the larger community. Wyomia Tyus will be telling her inspirational story, her journey from her childhood as the daughter of a tenant dairy farmer through the Olympic triumphs to first competition struggles to make a name for herself and other female athletes. In 1968 Wyomia Tyus became the first black person in history to win gold medals in the 100 meter sprint in two consecutive Olympic Games a feat that would not be repeated for 20 years, nor exceeded for almost 50 years. It is a compelling story for a black girl from Griffin, Georgia in the 40's, 50's and 60's.

He then reviewed the itinerary for Wyomia Tyus's visit. He wanted to be clear that the SPCA is an organizer and a facilitator for this visit and he hopes that the Griffin-Spalding County leadership will see the bigger picture.

Jason Mattox, 925 Springer Drive, stated that he would like to speak on Items #6 and 7 under New Business. It is a great thing to bring Ms. Tyus back to Griffin, but he was on an association board for 6 years, two different sports here in Spalding County. As Commissioner Miller will attest, associations have to turn over their budgets. He advised that he has done a formal request for the Pickleball Associations' budget, why are they not covering this? The Pickleball Court was \$975,000 on the SPLOST and it cost approximately \$1.6 million. \$600,000 over budget. The County has yet to complete the Fairmont/Heritage Park Project, the Animal Shelter Project and you haven't even selected a site for the Aquatic Center. You have 3 other SPLOST Projects that aren't even completed and we've got one that has been completed coming back to the trough for more money.

Why aren't they covering the cost of this? Again, he has done a formal request for their budgets, they should have provided, why are they not going out to local businesses instead of coming back to the taxpayers to cover the cost of this. It is a great thing that she wants to come back, some great itinerary items, it was a difficult time that she grew up in, it is still difficult times here in the south. Taxpayers should not be funding this.

Mike Laster, 1415 Vineyard Road, spoke regarding the garbage collection centers. This seems to be something that constantly comes up. In his area, there are a lot of people with long driveways and Vineyard Road is a long, narrow road and the edge of the right-of-way is not big enough to accommodate large trash cans. Many people are of the opinion that the goal is to get rid of the collection centers and everybody will wind up going to garbage pick-up. That is not a good option for most of the citizens in his area. He would ask that you leave the collection center as they are.

Ken Parker, 500 Yarbrough Mill Road, stated that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> time in a little over three months that he has come to speak to the Board about the roads. He advised that he would ask that when Public Works has time to fix the road right, that they come back out to do the work. Doing the work piece meal is not working.

Bettye Jones, 110 Jacquelyn Drive, spoke in support of keeping the Community Garden at Heritage Park, and to please not take it out of the proposed project.

Sheila Phelps, 804 Dusky Sap Court, spoke regarding items #6 and 7 under New Business and expressed her support for the County providing the funds for Wyomia Tyus to come to Spalding County. She expanded the history of Ms. Tyus that was began by Mr. Phelps and stated that it would be of great benefit to the County for Ms. Tyus to come back to Spalding County to visit and attend the functions as they are laid out in the itinerary.

Marjorie Richardson, 100 Meadowlark Court, advised that she is not a resident of Spalding County but she is a land owner in Spalding County and that two houses located on her street were owned by the Land Bank Authority and she would like for the County to address the blighted condition of these two properties.

Jewel Walker-Harps, 103 McEthel Drive, objected to the removal of the Community Garden from the revised plans for Heritage Park.

## VII. MINUTES -

Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Closed Session on July 15, 2019 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on July 25, 2019.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Closed Session on July 15, 2019 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on July 25, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

## IX. PUBLIC HEARING –

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

At this time, I will recognize those citizens who have signed up to address the Board. Once your name is called, come to the podium, state your name and address for the record and make your comments. All speakers who are recognized will be allotted three minutes. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Please 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.

1. Conduct a public hearing for the 2019 Capital Improvement Element (CIE) and Community Work Program (CWP) for Spalding County, City of Orchard Hill and City of Sunnyside.

No one signed up to speak on this matter.

Chad Jacobs, Community Development Director, advised that the matter under consideration is the annual update that has to be submitted to the RDC and then it goes to DCA since we receive Impact Fees as a part of our Comp Plan. We have had a very good year this year, there are a lot of projects that have been sitting for a while that are now either completed or into an on-going phase. Many of the on-going projects are in the Parks and Recreation section and he stated that within the next 6 months the on-going projects would be completed and they will be moving off the list. Mr. Jacobs stated that this has been a very good year for Spalding County and he is proud of all of the Departments work that has been done.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she has some questions and concerns regarding this proposal. Why she doesn't see is any reference to Heritage Park or

to the Aquatic Center. Both of those items are expansion of existing facilities that we have and to her understanding they would be eligible for some form of Impact Fee funding.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then referenced the Capital Improvement Projects update sheet for Recreation and on there is an Adult Softball Complex slated to start in 2020 and expected to be finished in 2025. She doesn't have an older copy of this document, but this softball complex has been on here for at least 10 years.

Mr. Jacobs agreed that the item had been listed as a project for quite some time.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that this project is something that we don't know if something is going to happen within the next 5 years, but what is going on with the Aquatic Center right now and what is going on with Heritage Park should be on this page, because this is a source of funding that we're not tapping into. She stated she would have a real problem submitting this without those items being on there.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then added that the Big Shanty renovations and walking trail which are 100% Impact Fees and the total amount is approximately \$250,000. We don't even own the land that the Big Shanty is on, so she feels that project like that should be taken out of the plan and we should be supporting projects such as the Aquatic Center and Heritage Park. One thing this will do is allow us to have some stream of revenue down the road to help us pay for the additional cost that both of these projects are going to cost.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that we said we were going to talk with the tourism board about getting some funding from them and the Hospital Authority, but we, as a County and as a Board, we need to do everything we can do to try and generate money where we can. This is one area she feels that we really need to look at the projects seriously and reprioritize some of the projects.

Commissioner Dutton then advised that the Big Shanty project that Commissioner Flowers-Taylor made reference to is at the Lakes of Green Valley. Mr. Dutton stated that he is the designee to the Development Authority who owns that property, and that is one of the proposed sites for the Aquatic Center. The walking trail is actually integrated into the plan that was presented for the Aquatic Center location, so essentially it is part of the Aquatic Center build out. This is separate money that would go into that area to compliment the Aquatic Center should it be built on that location.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that Big Shanty is not located on the 40 acres that the Development Authority presented as the location for the Aquatic Center. (If the Aquatic Center is going to be there, but when she looks at the current projects and she looks at the total of \$1.6 million in Impact Fees collected, why can we redo the projects and redo the priorities and assignments to create a funding mechanism to assist in the cost of both projects.)

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that while she feels all of the projects are important, this Board has made a commitment to the Aquatic Center and a full commitment to Heritage Park. So, as a Board, we need to look at any funding sources available to help accommodate this commitment. We can't go out and ask the public to assist us with funding when we're not doing all that we can with what we have to work with. She feels this needs to be looked at.

Mr. Jacobs stated that this could not be presented to the Board any earlier because they had to wait on the final financial statement for the fiscal year. He would have liked to get this information to the Board in July, but it wasn't ready. Mr. Jacobs

advised there is no reason we can't look at these projects and update the list moving forward because as we finish the projects that are listed as on-going, they are going to be dropping off this list and we will need to replace them with other projects. He further advised that he has already had this conversation with the Department Heads that are subject to these Impact Fees. That being said, you need to think of this Annual Transmittal as a Report Card. This is something that we send to the State of Georgia so they can look at the report and make sure we are doing everything we are going to do up to this point. So, there is no reason for you not to approve the report so that it can be forwarded to the State.

Mr. Jacobs then advised that the report will have an affect on our QLG status and if there is a delay we will run the risk of losing our QLG status and that can create problems with respect to receiving grant funding. He advised that he would urge the Board to authorize the transmittal be sent to DCA.

Mr. Jacobs then added that any project that we want to send for consideration, will be tied to a methodology and level of service established for this program. He stated that he had already submitted information regarding the Aquatic Center for consideration. He then advised that Impact Fees are based on projected population over a 20-year span and it has been suggested that we look at the current methodology and level of service and see if it needs to be revised.

Mr. Jacobs then encouraged the Board to authorize the transmittal of this report to the State as it is the best report we have had in a very long time and he would hate to not transmit it in a timely manner and it reflects forward progress on the projects. He then added that while they are doing their review we can start getting some replacement projects together and submit them to see what the terms of eligibility are for Impact Fees.

Chairman Johnson then stated that what Mr. Jacobs is saying is that he needs to get the report approved and to the State.

Mr. Jacobs advised that he needs to get the documents into the State so if they have questions, we will have time to research and answer any questions by the deadline of October 31.

Chairman Johnson then asked if the Board approves transmittal now, how long will it be before we can start looking at new projects to be added.

Mr. Jacobs stated that we can start looking at new projects right now. This simply needs to go to the State now to give them time to do the review. We are required to have the documentation into the State and they have to have enough time to do their review by October 31. They may come back and say there is something that needs to be "tweaked" then we will need to have time to make the changes and come back before the Board and resubmit. The State generally asks for the submittal 90 days prior to the cut-off date for submittal which is October 31, that is why I would love to have gotten this to you in July, but the fiscal numbers were not provided to me and this was the first meeting that he could present it to the Board.

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

## **X. NEW BUSINESS -**

- 1.** Consider approval of Resolution authorizing transmittal to Three Rivers Regional Commission for the 2019 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and Community

Work Program (CWP) and incorporation of these changes into the Spalding County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve a Resolution authorizing transmittal to Three Rivers Regional Commission for the 2019 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and Community Work Program (CWP) and incorporation of these changes into the Spalding County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried 3-2 (Flowers-Taylor/Miller).***

2. Consider approval of Revised Budget for 2019 CSBG Fund to include \$6,750.19 in additional funding.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the revised budget for 2019 CSBG Fund to include \$6,750.19 in additional funding.***

Commissioner Miller asked how the \$6,750 would be disbursed.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that part of the funding would go to the back pack for kids food program and the remainder will go to the Salvation Army After School Program.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider approval of a task order from Paragon Consulting Group for revision of the Heritage Park Masterplan and Architectural Renovations as discussed at the May 15, 2019 meeting with Commissioners, staff and other interested parties.

Brian Upson from Paragon Consulting stated that he would like to clear up one matter before getting started. The Community Garden is not to be removed, it is to be relocated. Mr. Upson advised that this change will make a parking lot and entrance from the rear and the garden would be relocated behind the parking and driveway access. It would be in the general area, but it would be moved to the north of it's current location.

Mr. Upson stated that Paragon Consulting attended a meeting in April and presented the plan for Heritage Park. Subsequent to that, there was a meeting held on May 15, in attendance were members of the Board, Spalding County staff, members of the community and Melissa Jest who works for the Department of Natural Resources in the Historic Preservation area and Jenny Serriach who recently retired from the position Ms. Jest is now in.

Ms. Jest and Ms. Serriach both came to speak on the historic preservation of the Rosenwald area and the Equalization Building. Ms. Serriach is also an expert on the Rosenwald Schools. They presented a number of items on how to preserve the character of the building and how to maintain the historical significance of the building.

Out of that meeting there were architectural changes requested and also a number of site changes were requested. The original layout had the main entrance in the front of the building and we planned to add on to the gym that would house

restrooms and foyer area. It was requested that be removed and that the main entrance be relocated to the rear of the building. We would also relocate the kitchen area to the basement. There are a number of changes that have been requested and this task order request is to create new plans as well as a new cost estimate.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the task order from Paragon Consulting Group for revision of the Heritage Park Masterplan and Architectural Renovations as discussed at the May 15, 2019 meeting with Commissioners, staff and other interested parties. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider on first reading an ordinance to amend the Spalding County Code of Ordinances Division I - Laws of Local Application, Part VII - Courts, Chapter 2 - State Court, Section 7.29 to establish terms for State Court.

State Court Judge, Josh Thacker, advised that he was here this evening to “tweak” some things with the Court to help it run better and these things require the Boards approval. He then explained the terms of Court and the changes that he is requesting. Currently, State Court is required to maintain 8 terms of court and he is requesting that this be changed to mirror the 2 terms of court that the Superior Court currently uses.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve on first reading an ordinance to amend the Spalding County Code of Ordinances Division I - Laws of Local Application, Part VII - Courts, Chapter 2 - State Court, Section 7.29 to establish terms for State Court. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Griffin to allow a joint filing of a FY 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant.

Ms. Irizarry advised that if approved this Intergovernmental Agreement will allow the City of Griffin to file for the disbursement which will then be divided between the City of Griffin Police Department and the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$16,683.50 to each entity.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what the funding would be used for, traditionally when the Board approves a grant the request includes how the funding will be spent.

Sheriff Dix stated that the funding from this grant can be used for anything technology related such as body cameras and radar. It is a grant from the Federal Government, there are no matching funds required. In the application, you have to delineate what is going to be purchased, the cost, if there will be an overage or underage for the items being purchased and how any underage will be addressed.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that all that is being asked today is for an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City to apply for the grant. The grant request will still come back to the Board once it is completed.

Sheriff Dix stated that the grant would come back before the Board for approval.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Griffin to allow a joint filing of a FY 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider request from Commissioner Hawbaker and Mr. Peter Phelps of the Spalding County Pickleball Association for the use of \$2,000 in Commissioners' Contingency Funds to cover travel expenses for Wyomia Tyus to visit Spalding County in September 2019.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Dutton to approve the use of \$2,000 in Commissioners' Contingency Funds to cover travel expenses for Wyomia Tyus to visit Spalding County in September 2019.***

Commission Miller asked why this request couldn't come from the Hotel/Motel tax and he wants to know why Pickleball doesn't have to do a budget for Parks and Recreation. This came out during the meeting, all of the other associations have to submit a budget.

Ms. Irizarry advised that the Pickleball Association does have to submit a budget to Parks and Recreation just like every other Association.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that Mr. Mattox stated he had submitted an Open Records Request for the Pickleball Association Budget and he had not receive it.

Commissioner Hawbaker advised that the request was made today and the County has 3 days to respond.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that her concern is that if this is a Leisure Services event, they should not be making decision regarding Leisure Services because we have a Board that will give us a recommendation. Secondly, this is a tourism item and should be submitted to the GSBTA who has the funding for these types of projects and she feels if we fund this project, even though it is out of contingency, it is still out of the General Fund, then we are opening ourselves up to being responsible to fund any other association that wants to a project that they feel is going to be beneficial for the community. For that reason, it needs to go through the normal process through the Park & Rec Advisory Commission and through the GSBTA because it is tourism.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that he hasn't lived here all of his life, he wasn't raised here, but he got here as fast as he could. He stated that he loves Spalding County, but it amazes him as to how many folks in this community are so negative about honoring not only people who have brought regional, statewide, national and international acclaim to Griffin, Georgia. Yes, there is not time to run this request through multiple levels of Boards, Commissions, Advisory Councils. The GSBTA has already indicated that they would not fund this "tiny," "minuscule" request to fund the travel expenses of a local legend and hero to come back and spend a week bringing some dignity, honor and inspiration to this community.

Somebody who, like many other minorities suffered in the 1960's racial indignities and now there are experiences that discourage her from living here and promoting this community. Unfortunately, the name Pickleball got associated with Wyomia Tyus and because her name is associated with the jewel of our county park and recreation system.

People wonder who is Wyomia Tyus and why is the park is named after her. He feels it is appropriate that the person for whom that park is named to attend briefly and speak in some sort of welcoming ceremony at the Regional Component of an international event that is going to happen on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. And if the GSBTA doesn't want to fund the whole thing, that is why we have the Commissioners' Contingency Fund to fund things that are off budget, but would be an advantageous thing for the community. Ms. Tyus will speak not only at that event, but at the library, at the Hall of Fame and at a very large function that will happen out at Sun City and other events. He does not understand why people in this community are so ashamed of heroes and legends who come from this community that they would oppose a very modest request that will be accounted for down to the nickels and dimes and refunds will be given if the full \$2,000 is not utilized.

Chairman Johnson stated that it is not that we do not want Ms. Wyomia Tyus to be here, she is personally excited to have her coming back to Spalding County. The point that we are missing here is that we need to look at the proper funding mechanism for this request. We should be last resort for this request, she has no problem voting for the \$2,000 at a later time should the GSBTA decide not to fund and with the recommendation of the Park and Rec Advisory Commission. If there is something Park and Rec can do through their budget, it needs to be done that way. If they don't want to do it then she will be the first one to say "yes" but the proper funding mechanism needs to be explored first. It has nothing to do with pickleball and nothing to do with "Nay Sayers" or anything like that.

She would like to give a shout out to the Pickleball Association for arranging this visit and it is going to bring a lot of positivity to us and we need to know who Wyomia Tyus is because she is one of our heroes. That is not the point, the point is how do we fund her to come here. Personally, she is in agreement with having Park and Rec look at the request first, if GSBTA says they will not, then she will be the first to vote yes from the Contingency Fund. She feels the property avenues need to be followed.

Commissioner Dutton stated he was one of the first classes of kids to get to attend the Cowan Road Elementary School and he has grown up and Griffin and lived here all of his life and have never met Wyomia Tyus and he would really like to. He is in favor of funding it the way it has been presented. He then asked for a consensus from the Board that if there is no funding from another channel that at our next meeting we will then come back and vote for it. The plans can be made and that go forward so that we are bringing her to town, even if we are going to argue over which pool of money it is going to come from, can we at the very least say that if it doesn't work out the other ways, then we can come back and do it here.

Commissioner Miller stated that his response was not aimed at pickleball he was just stating there should be another way of getting the money without going to the

General Fund for the money. It does have something to do with tourism and it should come out of the Hotel/Motel Tax. He stated that pickleball has been a great thing for the community.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she is on the GSBTA Board and she doesn't recall having a meeting where they have decided that they were not going to fund this initiative, so she is not sure where Commissioner Hawbaker got the information that the tourism board is not interested in funding this. However, if the Fairmont Alumni Group, which is the school that Wyomia Tyus attended came to us and asked us and to pay for her to come here, she has to really wonder if there would be this consensus that we need to do this. We need to be just and we need to be fair to everybody and if we set the precedent here we need to expect that when the other associations have a project that they feel are worthy, they are going to do that.

She stated that she thinks it is wonderful, she was here in 1960 when Ms. Tyus won in the Olympics and at that time there was not a single ticker tape parade or even an ad in the newspaper recognizing her and she feels it is good to have her here, but she feels it can best be done by following the proper channels.

Stephanie Windham then asked that the motion be revised so as not to appear a gratuity.

The motion was then restated as followed:

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Dutton to approve the use of \$2,000 in Commissioners' Contingency Funds to cover travel expenses for Wyomia Tyus to visit Spalding County in September 2019. Motion carried 3-2 (Flowers-Taylor/Miller)***

7. Consider request from the Spalding County Pickleball Association for complimentary use of the Banquet Hall at the Senior Center for banquet on Sunday evening, September 15.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how much it cost to rent the banquet hall.

Ms. Irizarry advised that it is \$600 to rent the banquet hall with a \$300 refundable deposit.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Dutton to approve the request from the Spalding County Pickleball Association for complimentary use of the Banquet Hall at the Senior Center for banquet on Sunday evening, September 15.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that the Parks and Rec Department has not allowed any associations or any groups in the community to use this facility for free. So, when you allow one group to use it, then you need to allow everybody else to use it.

Commissioner Dutton then advised that they were looking for a place for one of the other associations to hold a meeting and they were allowed to utilize the newly renovated building across the street for free. The City of Griffin created and spent millions of dollars on this building so that the community can use it. He loves the idea of all associations from every neighborhood having access to these facilities.

Chairperson Johnson stated on this one she would have to say “no” because this would be opening a Pandora’s Box to other associations and she doesn’t want to do that.

Motion failed 2-3 (Johnson/Flowers-Taylor/Miller).

8. Consider appointment of 2019 Legislative Leadership Voting Delegate for Spalding County to attend the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference on October 3rd in Athens, GA.

Ms. Irizarry advised that Commissioner Hawbaker has served in this position in the past; however, he has a conflict and will not be able to attend.

Commissioner Dutton has agreed to represent Spalding County as the 2019 Legislative Leadership Voting Delegate.

9. Commissioner Miller requests to set a workshop date to discuss yard waste, bulky items and household garbage disposal.

Commissioner Miller stated that something needs to be done with regard to the Carver Road Collection Center, people come in there with 16 ft. trailers with 30-40 bags on it. Some of the people who are working there have been told that these people are being paid to haul other peoples trash off and they are bringing it to the collection center and we are having to pay to dispose of it. Something has got to be done about. They should be able to take yard debris one day at the location and one day only.

Public Works is having a problem getting truck drivers for the dump trucks, it’s a bad situation when you have a trailer come in with 50-60 bags and they have to stop and compact the container, you end up with 20-30 people waiting in line. Something needs to be done to regulate the amount of household garbage that people are bringing to the collection center.

Consensus of the Board is to schedule a work session on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

10. Consider approval of an amplification permit from Griffin High School for a fundraising event to be held at 460 Aerodrome Way on August 11, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Chairperson Johnson advised that the Amplification Permit has been reviewed and approved by both the Sheriff’s Office and Community Development and staff recommends approval.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the Amplification Permit from Griffin High School for a fundraising event to be held at 460 Aerodrome Way on August 11, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

Michelle Irizarry, Assistant County Manager, presented the County Manager’s Comments.

- 2016 SPLOST revenues for June were \$809,319.01 representing a 4.25% increase over last year's total. The total for 39 months of SPLOST collections is \$29,186,082.27 a 6.94% increase over the estimated collections of \$27,300,000.00. Average collections per month for the 39 months has been \$748,361.08.
- We are advertising for construction on the North Hill Street at East McIntosh Road Intersection No. 3. All properties have been acquired and bids are due by August 27<sup>th</sup>, this will be on the BOC Agenda for consideration September 16.
- The State Mobile Construction Crew has been delayed due to a Supervisor not being available until September. This will delay the Dog Park, Quilly Street and Quarry's Edge construction projects.
- The upgrade to the intersection in the City of Orchard Hill is underway. The message boards were placed on Macon Road on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and are scheduled to be in place for 2 weeks prior to the installation of LED stop signs, stop bars and rumble strips at the location. Construction should be complete and the 4-Way stop in place by August 19<sup>th</sup>, the message boards will remain on Macon Road for two weeks after completion of construction.
- The 2018 Federal Off System Safety project will be starting the end of August. This project includes striping and signage on Old Atlanta Road, Jackson Road, W. McIntosh Road, Malier Road, Teamon Road, W. Ellis Road and Macon Road.

## **XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER**

- The United Way Kick-Off is scheduled for Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. It is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Way and our goal at Spalding County is to raise \$7,500 this year. Ms. Irizarry is the workplace ambassador this year and she will be attending a meeting for workplace ambassadors on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- E-911 has filled their three full time vacancies, so they are currently fully staffed with their full-time positions.
- We currently have two personnel postings: Citizen Engagement Specialist which closes on August 20<sup>th</sup> and we have an opening for one Code Enforcement Officer.
- Spalding County Fire Department has submitted a grant through Walmart Foundation for box fans for the community. It will be a fan donation for community heat relief in the amount of \$1,500.
- Phase I thru III of "Let's Make East Griffin Great Again" is underway. Code Enforcement Officers have been out in the neighborhood, they have talked to many of the residents and they have issued some notices of violation. They will continue to do the follow-up until they can get that area cleaned up to the satisfaction of the ordinances.
- She and City of Griffin Chief of Staff, Jessica O'Connor met at the City of Griffin offices on Friday and went over all of the intergovernmental agreements and contracts to make sure that we can determine what needs updating and what doesn't.
- Metro Analytics, who is doing the Freight Cluster Study in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission and the City of Griffin. Spalding County has kicked off this study to identify opportunities and infrastructure needs necessary to better

promote economic development in the area through freight. There should be a press release on this soon and it will let the community know how they can be involved in this initiative.

- Kick-Off meeting with NORESO regarding the energy audit on July 19<sup>th</sup>. NORESO started the audit on July 29<sup>th</sup> and we will have our first bi-weekly update meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- She will be attending the Georgia Region for Academy for Economic Development in Newnan on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- We have signed up for the “Clear the Shelter” initiative which is a national event on August 17<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday. They would like to have the Animal Shelter open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The initiative is being promoted by NBC and Telemundo and it is to help get pets out of the shelter and into homes. She then asked if the Commissioners would waive or reduce the Adoption Fee on that day. The requirement for spay and neuter would remain as well as the vaccinations that are required for all of the animals, but if any assistance could be given in the way of adoption fees, they would greatly appreciate it.
- The railroad crossing at Carver Road has been repaired.
- She wanted to remind the Board that Spalding County Offices would be closed on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Labor Day and there will be no Regular Meeting that evening.

### **XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

Bart Miller – Concerning Yarbrough Mill and dirt roads in Spalding County, he knows they have worked out there, but he also knows that they have not finished it, but we have 70 miles of dirt road in Spalding County and they currently do not have dump truck drivers. They are working on the dirt roads. He understands the frustration, right now we need to get the roads to where they are passable.

We as the Board have done everything we can do in raising salaries to become more competitive, but we can't compete with Henry County and other surrounding Counties when we are drawing from the same pool of candidates. We have openings for dump truck drivers that we having a hard time getting applications. The people we do have are working just as hard as they can, it's just that we're short of help.

He stated that he wasn't trying to be offensive to pickleball earlier today, he was simply trying to look for other ways to get the money other than pulling it from the General Fund. He thinks it is great that Wyomia Tyus is coming to Spalding County, but he still feels it should be funded by Hotel/Motel tax.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Stated she was sorry that a lot of people didn't get to meet Wyomia Tyus when she came home for the Olympics in 1996. She has been back here since then. There isn't much to say other than to say she is disappointed that we have opened a Pandora's Box and she hopes she is not here to see it “bite us in the butt.”

She wanted to talk about what Mr. Laster had said about the trash pick-up, she doesn't believe anyone has said anything recently about closing the collection centers. What we have said is that we have a lot of abuse and that we opened collection center for household garbage. She totally gets what he is saying that we built the centers with

SPLOST dollars, but the cost of getting rid of trash has increased exponentially over the years. So, building the facilities did not cover what it would cost us to get rid of the waste that comes through there. That is a general fund item, so it is two different pots of money that you're talking about. She stated that she can share his concern about the waste and abuse. She feels whatever decision is made at the workshop there certainly needs to be input from the community, but we need to look at a rational way to solve this problem. If the problem is the bulky items, then we need to fix that, but we cannot continue to operate the collection centers the way we have been running them.

Ms. Richardson who talked about her property out on Meadowlark. She wanted to explain that the Landbank Authority is not the County. They are an Authority and they have power all of their own. We do help fund them to a certain degree, but they are no different from the Airport Authority, the Hospital Authority or the Development Authority, so when you say the County and the Land Bank Authority together, it makes it sound as though we are synonymous, they are not the same thing. While she appreciates her coming here, we have this problem throughout the County, Commissioner Flowers-Taylor lives in the City and her neighbors are not the cleanest people, but you have to do what you have to do to maintain the property.

James Dutton – Stated he is excited to meet Wyomia Tyus, the last time she came to Spalding County he was 14 years old. He feels she can be a big voice as an alumni in helping us to get more funding for Heritage Park. She could be a key voice in that and he hopes that she makes some time to visit that site and see what we want to do with it.

In October, the Community Emergency Response Training is being held again and he and some of his boy scouts attended the training last year and it is super great and he encourages everyone to attend. They learned a lot.

Everyone is talking about the collection centers and people come to him all the time wanting to know if we are closing the collection centers. No one is talking about closing down the collection centers, that is not what we want to do. Right now the collection centers are being taken advantage of and it's not by the average citizen it is by lawn maintenance crews that go out of town to do work and then go fill up the container at the collection center and no one else uses the container because they made exclusive use out of it. The matter of people dropping off 10 mattresses and 5 refrigerators, that is not something that would occur in normal daily disposal, that is someone taking advantage of the service that we are providing members of the community and because of that we are having to empty that bin instead of emptying household garbage bins. He is looking forward to the workshop.

Wanted to update everyone regarding redoing the Public Defender's fee to recoup some of the costs there. That is going very well, we had a very productive meeting and there have been a number of emails regarding best practices. We had a meeting with the State Court Judge, the Superior Court Judge, the District Attorney's Office, the Spalding County Solicitors Office, the Superior and State Court Clerks, the County Manager and County Attorneys as well as the Superior and State Court Public Defenders Offices. We got all of the stake holders involved in the Court and talked this through to make sure we can grab some of the best practices from around the State and figure out how to do this legally, ethically and efficiently. We don't want to be punishing people who are not guilty of anything. We only want people who are guilty of something to have to pay fines and fees.

The raise the bar theme from Archways, talking about blight has to go, but we can't get rid of blight and build more near blight adjacent to it. We need to raise those standards so the housing that gets built is not just going to fall apart around people. We need to make sure that the housing is not to bare minimal standards, but housing that people from every neighborhood in Spalding County can feel proud to live in. It is the sort of housing that you would want your mom and your daughters to live in as opposed to some of the literal blight that we have in Spalding County.

Donald Hawbaker – No comment.

Chairman Johnson – Stated she would hold her comments to the next meeting.

#### **XIV. CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Johnson requests an Executive Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6).

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enter into Executive Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6) at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to close Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***