

# After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
January 6, 2020  
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, January 6, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Donald Hawbaker, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Commissioner James Dutton was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, James Fortune, County Attorney Stephanie Windham and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson to record the minutes.

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

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

**II. INVOCATION**

Chairperson Rita Johnson, District #3 delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner Bart Miller, District #4 delivered the Pledge to the Flag.

**IV. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

1. Election of Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2020.

James Fortune, County Attorney, stated that the rules are very simple any Board member can nominate any member of the Board for this position. The first to get 3 votes will be the Chairman.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Hawbaker to appoint Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor as the Chairperson of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried 3-0 (Flowers-Taylor abstained.)***

2. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2020.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Hawbaker to appoint Commissioner James R. Dutton as Vice-Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## V. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment of County Manager for Calendar Year 2020.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to reappoint William P. Wilson, Jr. as the County Manager for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Appointment of County Clerk for Calendar Year 2020.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to reappoint William P. Wilson, Jr. as the County Clerk for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Appointment of Deputy County Clerk for Calendar Year 2020.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to reappoint Kathy Gibson as the Deputy County Clerk for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Appointment of County Attorney for Calendar Year 2020.

William Wilson asked that the Law Firm of Beck, Owen and Murry be appointed as County Attorney, during the year there are times when Mr. Fortune may not be able to attend the meeting and this will allow Ms. Windham to assume these duties in Mr. Fortune's absence.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to appoint the Beck, Owen and Murry Law Firm to represent Spalding County as the County Legal Counsel for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider appointment of County Zoning Attorney for Calendar Year 2020.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to reappoint Newton Galloway of the Galloway and Lyndell Law Firm as County Zoning Attorney for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider appointment of County Human Resources Attorney for Calendar Year 2020.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to reappoint John Lowery as the County Human Resources Attorney for Calendar Year 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## VI. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Chairman will make a special presentation.

Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor then presented out-going Chairperson Rita Johnson with a plaque and the thanks of her fellow Commissioners and the citizens of Spalding County for her leadership and inspiration over the past year as Chairperson.

## VII. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.

## VIII. 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.

Bob Beyer, 516 Orchid Lights Court, advised that he wanted to speak in favor of a candidate for the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority. He then advised why he felt that Mr. Dennis Knoll would be a good candidate for this Authority and asked that the Board give serious consideration to his appointment.

John M. Wallace, 371 Wallace Road, spoke about Solid Waste Management and the reduction of services at the Collection Centers.

Ken Parker, 500 Yarbrough Mill Road, spoke against the proposed limit on household garbage (5-33 gallon bags per day). He also stated that there is a huge pothole in his road that needs immediate attention.

Earnestine Cain, 28 Crest Road, spoke of her concerns regarding individuals speeding on Futral Road and asked that the County put the electronic speed limits signs back out on the road as traffic seemed to slow down when those signs were out there. She again requested a reduction in the Speed Limit.

## IX. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on December 16, 2019.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to approve the minutes of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on December 16, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## X. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Set a date for a Public Hearing to allow Spalding County Citizens to voice their opinions on how to handle abuse of resources at the Collection Centers.

***Consensus of the Board is to set a Public Hearing as part of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting, at 6:00 p.m. to allow Spalding County Citizens to voice their opinions on how to handle abuse of resources at the Collection Centers.***

## XI. NEWBUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of resolution setting qualifying fees for publication for each County office to be filled in the upcoming General Primary and General Election as provided in O.C.G.A Section 21-2- 131 (a)(1) & (a)(2): County Commissioners (Districts 1, 3, and 4); Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Tax Commissioner, Coroner, State Court Judge, Magistrate Court Judge, Probate Court Judge and Board of Education (Districts 2 and 4).

Mr. Wilson stated that these fees must be set by February 1, of each year and since we only have one formal meeting in January, we put them on this agenda. It is 3% of the base salary which will be paid to the Board of Elections and distributed to the County and the State depending on the position.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to approve the resolution setting qualifying fees for publication for each County office to be filled in the upcoming General Primary and General Election as provided in O.C.G.A Section 21-2- 131 (a)(1) & (a)(2): County Commissioners (Districts 1, 3, and 4); Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Tax Commissioner, Coroner, State Court Judge, Magistrate Court Judge, Probate Court Judge and Board of Education (Districts 2 and 4) based on 3% of the actual salaries. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider appointment to the Atlanta Regional Commission to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the reappointment of Commissioner Donald Hawbaker to the Atlanta Regional Commission for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider appointment as the Spalding County Legislative Coordinator for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Commissioner Donald Hawbaker as the Spalding County Legislative Coordinator for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed Commissioner Rita Johnson to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.***

- (b) To succeed County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr. for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Hawbaker to reappoint County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr. to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber***

**of Commerce Board of Directors for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

5. Consider appointment to the Council on Aging succeed Janie Clark for a three-year term ending 12/31/2022.

**Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to reappoint Janie Clark to the Council on Aging for a three-year term ending 12/31/2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

6. Consider appointment to the Griffin Downtown Council.
  - (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2020.

**Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to table the appointment to the Griffin Downtown Council until the next meeting when Commissioner Dutton is present. Motion Carried unanimously by all.**

7. Consider appointment to the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board.
  - (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2020.

**Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed Commissioner Rita Johnson to the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2020.**

8. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority:
  - (a) To fulfill the unexpired term of Brett Bell to expire December 31, 2022

Mr. Wilson advised there are a number of individuals in the book. There are 8 people in the book. We only have the one appointment and only four of the nominations have been signed by a Commissioner. Traditionally, the nominees have been voted on by the date that the Commissioner signed the nomination form in the book.

B. Frank Harris, signed by Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor on November 26, 2019. Vote 1-3 (Hawbaker/Johnson/Miller)

Joseph M. Reheiser, signed by Commissioner James Dutton on December 2, 2019. No votes were cast for this nominee.

Alexander Hope, signed by Commissioner James Dutton on December 2, 2019. No votes were cast for this nominee.

Dennis Noll, signed by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker on December 18, 2019. Vote: 4-0.

**Dennis Noll was appointed to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority to fill the unexpired term of Brett Bell to expire on December 31, 2022.**

9. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee.

- (a) To succeed Commissioner Bart Miller for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Commissioner Bart Miller to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.***

- (b) To succeed Deputy Chief Glenn Polk for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

Mr. Wilson then advised that with the exception of Commissioner Hawbaker and Bill Bryant, the remainder of these appointments are by their position.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to reappointment individuals designated in items (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g) to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

- (c) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2020.***

- (d) To succeed Todd Harris for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

- (e) To succeed Chad Jacobs for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

- (f) To succeed William P. Wilson, Jr. for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

- (g) To succeed Sheriff Darrell Dix for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

- (h) To succeed Bill Bryant for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to reappoint Bill Brant to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

- 10. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Business & Tourism Association, Inc.

- (a) To succeed Commissioner Flowers-Taylor as the Spalding County Board Member for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to reappoint Chairperson Flowers-Taylor to the Griffin-Spalding Business & Tourism Association, Inc. for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

- (b) To succeed Donald Hawbaker as the Sun City Peachtree Representative for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to reappoint Commissioner Donald Hawbaker as the Sun City Peachtree Representative on the Griffin-Spalding Business & Tourism Association, Inc. for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

- (c) To succeed T. J. Imberger as the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Representative for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

**Motion/Second by Johnson/Hawbaker to reappoint T.J. Imberger as the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Representative on the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association, Inc. for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

- (d) To succeed Bonnie Pfrogner as the Spalding County Citizen Representative for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

**Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to reappoint Bonnie Pfrogner as the Spalding County Citizen Representative to the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association, Inc. for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

11. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority.
- (a) To succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton as the Chairman's designee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to table the appointment to the next meeting when Commissioner Dutton will be present. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

- (b) To fill the unexpired term of Ballard Brooks to expire 12/31/2020.

Mr. Wilson advised that there are three people who have submitted nominations and that have been signed by Board members:

Harvey Booker, signed by Commissioner Rita Johnson on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Vote: 3-1 (Hawbaker).

**Harvey Booker is appointed to the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority to fill the unexpired term to end December 31, 2020.**

12. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital Authority.
- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

**Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor will remain on the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.**

- (b) To succeed Katherine Lindgren for a four-year term ending December 31, 2023.

Mr. Wilson advised that Ms. Lindgren has indicated that she would like to continue in this appointment and her nomination form was signed on November 18<sup>th</sup> by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker. Vote: 3-1 (Flowers-

Taylor).

***Katherine Lindgren was reappointed to the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2023.***

13. Consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to succeed Sandra Wimbush for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Mr. Wilson advised that Ms. Wimbush had not responded to any inquiries as to if she wished to remain on this Board. We do have one individual who has submitted a nomination, Connie Klopfenstein and it was signed by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor on December 2, 2019. Vote: 4-0.

***Connie Klopfenstein is appointed to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.***

14. Consider appointments to the Board of Appeals and Adjustments Unsafe Building Abatement Code:

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Krepps does not wish to be reappointed to this Board, that this Board only meets on an “as needed” basis and we have no one signed up for this Board.

(a) To succeed Doug Krepps for a four- year term ending December 31, 2023.

(b) To succeed Fred Edwards for a four- year term ending December 31, 2023.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to table the appointments to the Board of Appeals and Adjustments Unsafe Building Abatement Code. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Mr. Wilson the stated if anyone knows someone with building experience who would like to be on this Board to let us know. This Board meets on an as needed basis and in the time Mr. Wilson has been with the County they have only met twice. What they do is if the Building Official rules something out of order, you go to this Board and they will make a ruling based on the facts that are presented.

15. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Health:

Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to table the appointment to the next meeting when Commissioner Dutton will be present. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

16. Consider the appointments to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children.

(a) To succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to reappoint Rita Johnson to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***



- (b) To succeed Irma Lewis (Law Enforcement Representative) for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to reappoint Irma Lewis as the Law Enforcement Representative to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

17. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees:

Mr. Wilson advised that Virginia Church, Tangela Williams and Nancy Morris have advised that they would like to continue on this Board.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to reappoint Virginia Church, Tangela Williams and Nancy Morris to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

- (a) to succeed Curtiss Peek for a four-year term to expire 2/31/2023.

Mr. Wilson then advised the names in the book for consideration are:

Kay Wideman nominated by Commissioner Hawbaker on November 20, 2019.

Kristi Fenley nominated by Commissioner Miller on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Tim Suda nominated by Commissioner Hawbaker on December 5, 2019.

Chairperson then asked for a vote by individual:

Kay Wideman – Vote: 3-1 (Miller)

***Kay Wideman was appointed to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.***

- (b) to succeed Virginia Church for a four-year term to expire 12/31/2023.

- (c) to succeed Tangela Williams for a four-year term to expire 12/31/2023.

- (d) to succeed Nancy Morris for a four-year term to expire 12/31/2023.

18. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

***Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that she would love to continue to serve on the Spalding County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.***

19. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board.

Mr. Wilson stated there are four nominations for this Board, one that is not signed. Mr. Kelly would like to serve again and was nominated by Commissioner Hawbaker on December 9, 2019. Mr. McLean would like to serve again and he was nominated by Commissioner Johnson on December 26, 2019.

- (a) To succeed Bill Kelley for a three-year term ending December 31, 2022.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then requested a vote for Mr. Kelley. Vote: 3-1 (Miller)

**Mr. Bill Kelley was reappointed to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board for a three-year term ending December 31, 2022.**

- (b) To succeed Gerald "Dan" McLean for a three-year term ending December 31, 2022.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then requested a vote for Mr. McLean. Vote: 3-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

**Mr. Gerald "Dan" McLean was reappointed to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board for a three-year term ending December 31, 2022.**

20. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

**Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that she would like to continue to serve on this Authority.**

- (b) To succeed James Brooks for a six-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

**Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then called for a vote for Mr. James Brooks. Vote: Flowers-Taylor, Miller/ Hawbaker, Johnson.**

Mr. Wilson advised there are names in the book all of the nominations with the exception of 1 do not indicate which position they would fill. The one being Ms. Matlock who would like to be considered for the unexpired term of Robert McIntyre.

Mr. Dick Morrow signed by Commissioner Johnson on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and one signed by Commissioner Hawbaker on November 26, 2019.

Mr. James Brooks signed by Commissioner Miller on December 2, 2019.

Mr. Harris Stokes signed by Commissioner Miller on December 3, 2019.

Mr. Wade Cannon signed by Commissioner Miller on December 4, 2019.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked for a show of hands for Mr. Morrow for this position. Vote: 4-0.

**Mr. Dick Morrow was appointed to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority for a six-year term ending December 31, 2020.**

- (c) To succeed Johnny Goodrum for a six-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked for a show of hands for Mr. Harris Stokes. Vote: 1-3 (Flowers-Taylor/Johnson/Hawbaker)

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked for a show of hands for Mr. Wade Cannon. Vote: 3-1 (Miller).

**Mr. Wade Cannon was appointed to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority for a six-year term ending December 31, 2020.**

- (d) To fill the unexpired term of Robert McIntyre to expire December 31, 2023.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked for a show of hands for Ms. Cheryl Matlock. Vote: 4-0.

**Ms. Cheryl Matlock was appointed to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.**

21. Consider appointments to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending 12/31/2020.

**Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to continue to serve on this Board.**

22. Consider appointments to the Two Rivers RC & D Council.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2020.

**Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed Mr. Hawbaker to the Two Rivers RC&D for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2020.**

- (b) Alternate member to succeed Michelle Irizarry for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2020.

**Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to reappoint Michelle Irizarry to the Two Rivers RC&D Council for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2020.**

23. Consider appointment to the West Central Georgia Workforce Investment Board to succeed Chairperson Rita Johnson for a term to expire 12/31/2020.

**The West Central Georgia Workforce Investment Board mandates that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners serve on this Committee. Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor will serve on this Board.**

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

- SPLOST Revenue for November 2019 was \$861,863.20. Collections for the 43 months averaged \$777,478.26 which is 11.07% above the estimated collections.
- 2019 Home Data – For 2019 a total of 286 new housing permits were issued with an average of 2,901 square feet per home. There was only one home permitted in 2019 that was under 1,500 square feet. In 2018 when had 273 new housing permits issued. Our low was in 2012 when we issued only 92 housing permits and our all time high is 439 housing permits in 2006.

- The Development Authority and the State of Georgia announced a new industry locating in the Lakes at Green Valley. Mitsui Kinzoku Die-Casting Technology America will be investing approximately \$20 million into the project and it will result in 30 jobs. This division of Mitsui services the automobile industry.
- On January 17<sup>th</sup>, the State will deliver all of Spalding County's new voting machines. What you may not know is, the new machines will take up the entire room that was used for early voting. So, we will not be able to utilize that area for early voting. He met with the Board of Election Chairman and Marcia Ridley and looked at the Athletic Hall of Fame which is currently under utilized and it will now be the place for early voting. This will be good for the County because there will be plenty of space at this location, there are handicap restrooms, plenty of parking etc. and folks will get to see the Athletic Hall of Fame who may have never seen it before.

Mr. Wilson then stated there is more to come as each of the new machines will require a table of its own which is not supplied by the State, there will be additional electrical requirements, because there is a Voting Machine and a Printer at each location. Votes will be printed on card stock that the County will have to purchase that will go through the scanner and be deposited in a metal container underneath the scanner. Your vote is not counted until your card stock goes through the scanner. There will have to be an extra person positioned at the exit of the polling location to make sure that the individual does not exit with their vote because their vote will not be counted unless the card stock is placed through the scanner and deposited in the metal receptacle underneath the scanner.

- The State of Georgia has eased our Drought Level, we are no longer in a drought and the City of Griffin has decided to lift the restrictions at the Still Branch Reservoir and reopen it for fishing.
- The Martin Luther King Parade will be on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. He advised that the County would be participating and asked the Board to let staff know if they plan to attend.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised she will be riding in her own car and Commissioner Johnson stated she would like to ride in a fire truck.

- The 2019 Employee Winter Newsletter has been released. Mr. Wilson advised that a copy of the Newsletter had been placed each of the Commissioners' mailboxes for their review.
- Mr. Wilson stated that the Sheriff's Office had issued a press release and he asked Sheriff Dix to come to the podium and tell the Board about the recognition his department received from the Georgia Police Accreditation Coalition and the Georgia Association of Police Chiefs.

Sheriff Dix stated that one of the goals they had set as an agency when he came into office was to obtain State Certification. In mid-December of this year, we accomplished that goal. Spalding County Sheriff's Office is now a State Certified Law Enforcement Agency through the Georgia Association of Chief's of Police. Out of 159 Counties, we are the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sheriff's Office in the State to achieve this designation. This represents a lot of hard work by a lot of hardworking people at the Sheriff's Department that made this happen. That is the first step and we are

hoping in the upcoming years to obtain National Accreditation which is the next step in this process. He stated he is very proud of what his department has accomplished and they look forward to achieving the next step.

This achievement shows that we have a set of standard policies and procedures that are in line with best practices of law enforcement agencies and it helps us be more accountable to the community and it reduces risks.

- Mr. Wilson then reviewed the Tire and Trash Report from Public Works received earlier today. Mr. Wilson stated that we get complaints all the time about trash and trash is one of the big items that the Commissioners want to work on. The Chairperson wants to quadruple emphasis on trash. Mr. Wilson advised that the Board would be receiving this report monthly and for the month of December there were 100 tires pick up off Spalding County roads, he added that it costs the County \$2.00 per tire to dispose of those, so that is \$200 for this month. He then stated that he wants the Board to pay particular attention to there were 911 bags of trash collected on County roads during the month of December.

Mr. Wilson advised that he will be sending this report out every month and he will be providing it to the News Media. He wants people to know that we are out there every single day picking up trash.

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

Ms. Irizarry advised that she just had a couple of things to follow-up on:

- The Spalding County Fire Department has taken delivery of the two new Quick Response Vehicles (QRV). Manufacturer training is scheduled for personnel next week. They are working on outfitting the trucks with equipment and the projected in service date is January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Emergency Management is finishing up on the update to the Emergency Operations Plan to be submitted to GEMA and FEMA for the every 4-year approval that is needed.
- The Spalding County Fire Department is beginning the 5-year update to the Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The Search and Rescue Exercise on December 19<sup>th</sup> was a success. There were approximately 50 participants from various public entities and Ray Lightner from the Griffin Daily News was the “victim” in the exercise and wrote an article about the experience.

### **XIV. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Bart Miller** – Stated that if he sees another Public Works truck sitting on the side of the road not doing anything, he is going to take the number down and turn it into Mr. Wilson. He has had four complaints in the last two weeks of people sitting in truck beside the road around 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. It’s not lunch time and they need to be out picking up trash.

The other thing is pot holes, there is going to be good weather in the next few days and you need to get those crews out working on pot holes. There is no grass cutting that will need to be going on and it's time that something starts being done about some of these dirt roads, he has roads in his district that are terrible.

**Rita Johnson** – Asked if we were going to look into the Speed Limit issues on Futral Road.

Mr. Wilson advised that he would get an email out to Public Works.

Asked if Mr. Wilson could follow-up with the School Board regarding the Aquatic Center location, before we have the Retreat.

She advised that she would like to participate in the MLK Parade and would be riding in one of the Fire Trucks.

**Donald Hawbaker** – Thanked the citizens who received appointments this evening for their willingness to serve the County. They have accepted a lot of responsibility and it is appreciated.

Regarding the SPLOST, according to reports holiday sales were up nearly 4% over last year, so he is looking forward to the December report.

He then thanked Commissioner Johnson for her service as Chair for three of the five years he has served on the board and he feels she has done an excellent job every year.

He congratulated the Sheriff's Office on their achievement, the certification is really something to be proud of.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – Thanked the Board for appointing her as the Chairperson for the upcoming year. She has been on the Board for approximately 15 years and has served as the Chairperson in the past, but she is coming in with about 10 years more experience and is hopeful she has learned something from Commissioner Johnson about tempering herself.

One of the things she is hoping to look at this year to try to establish a checks and balance for our service. When we send somebody out into the street to represent the County, if they provide a service, how do we know if the citizens are okay with the service provided. We have no feedback mechanism in place to indicate that we provide good customer service. She would like at some point looking at how we can get a better grasp on this and know how we are being perceived in the community.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she agrees with Commissioner Miller on the trash problem in the County; however, if you want to know what Public Works was doing last month, apparently, they were picking up 911 bags of trash. For her, this is a community education problem. It doesn't matter where you are or how you live at home, when you go to the Police Station or when you go to Church, you don't throw paper on the ground, so people know not to do that, they just choose to do something different. She further stated that the City of Griffin is also struggling with the same problems that we are struggling with. Recycling is not paying for itself at this time. It

was a good thing to be conscious of recycling and keeping the world clean, but when it starts costing a lot of money to do it you have to look at the bottom line. She hopes that as we move forward, instead of us going in two different directions on how to work on the trash problem in our Community, that somehow we may be able to work together. There is a lot of education that is going to have to happen in the community in order for us to see some good results. It is a major problem and she hopes to make it one of the County's major priorities this year.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that she would also like to be in the MLK Parade, but she will be driving her personal vehicle.

She then asked all of the Commissioners to look at the website and make sure that their profile information is up-to-date.

She hopes this is the year that we get the Animal Shelter built. Michelle Irizarry has been working diligently over the past year trying to turn our Animal Control Operation into a first-class department and they have done an excellent job. She hears in the community that people are recognizing that we are no longer a "kill shelter", that we are more about adopting and being more community minded when it comes to animals and trying to education people. She is looking forward to completing this project.

The last thing is we have a lot of transportation money just sitting out there. We have projects that we wanted to work on, but they simply haven't come to fruition. With that being said, if we can't spend the money where we need to spend it then "scrape some roads." If we wait another 6 to 10 years to figure out what GDOT wants to do with our stuff you will have a "pot hole to hell." She would like to start looking at this and that the Board needs to start making decisions as to whether the plans we have in place regarding transportation are still relevant, because we haven't seen any progression.

Commissioner Donald Hawbaker exited the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

**XV. CLOSED SESSION – None.**

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.  
Motion carried 3-0 (Commissioner Hawbaker had not returned to the meeting.)***