

**After
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2020
6:00 PM
Room 108, Annex Building**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, February 3, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners Donald Hawbaker, James Dutton, Rita Johnson and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry who recorded the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) by Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Pastor John D. Brack with Friendship Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3, will lead the pledge to the flag.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Miller Edwards of Mauldin & Jenkins LLC is present the FY 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Edwards stated that he was here to present annual audit for June 30, 2019. He opened by saying it was a very good audit: (1) we were able to give a clean and unmodified opinion of your financial report. (2) there were no findings or any recommendations for improvement. Typically, when he comes there are a number of items to be discussed, to be here today and have no findings and no management points of any kind, is a first for him in Spalding County.

Mr. Edwards stated that when you look at what Spalding County has been able to do over the last 6 years alone. Spalding County has been able to increase fund balance over time to a very nice level. It is a nice level, but he feels it needs to be even more. Right now, the Fund Balance is approximately \$6 million which represents approximately 50 days of expenditures. At the time of the most recent recession the County had \$11 million and he brings that up because y'all ate that down to around \$2 million during the recession. Building it back up like you have done the last few years is a good thing and he would ask that you continue to try to

build on it because you never know when the next recession is coming and you never know when the next natural disaster might be around the corner.

Fund Balance is very liquid, in this case it is 100% cash. Fund Balance is looking good, it's improving, and the County did an overall very good job this year.

Mr. Edwards advised looking at the General Funds operations, the revenues, the biggest area is Property Tax which represented approximately 54% of the revenues that ran through the General Fund. Your Public Safety was also the biggest expense which was 53% of total operations. These two items are right where we expect them to be. When looking at the Budget to Actual, you have done very well on the Budget. You came in at approximately \$800,000 under revenues budgeted, but you came in even less on the expenditure side, you spent almost \$3 million less than budgeted. This resulted in an increase of the Fund Balance by approximately \$2 million.

Final note, in looking at the Benefit Plans. The Pension Plan right now does have a liability when you look at the total assets invested and total liability and what it would take to pay off the pension, but the good thing is it is about 81-82% funded which is where most of their clients are. They service approximately 480 governments, approximately 200 of which have defined benefit plans and the average is at 81-82%, so Spalding County is in line with most other governments.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked what the recommended number of days of Fund Balance is recommended?

Mr. Edwards advised that it would be 100 days or 3 months of Fund Balance would be a good place to be, right now the County is just short of 2 months of Fund Balance.

Commissioner Dutton then inquired about the Debt Service of \$170,000.

Mr. Edwards stated that that Debt Service including principal and interest was approximately \$170-180,000. One thing about this County is you are not sitting on a lot of long-term debt. The Water Authority is doing very well also, when you look at the cash flows, it is maintaining its abilities to proceed going forward. Often times we see where governments have to bail out and provide funding to such operations, that is not the case here.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if this was newly acquired Debt? He thought in the last SPLOST all the long-term debt was paid off.

Mr. Wilson stated the long-term debt has been done away with; however, this is the bonds for the Airport Authority and then there was some purchasing for Public Works after Budget Review. If you compare us to any other local government, Spalding County has ZERO in long-term debt.

Mr. Edwards advised that the County does have some Capital Leases where

you are leasing equipment, but you don't have general obligation debt that other governments have. That is a great thing. All of the Economists are saying that we are going to have another recession in the future. You are walking into it without debt right now.

Mr. Wilson stated that the longest debt we have right now is the Airport Authority and it was a fixed at the time of the bonds. If you look in the back of the CAFR the notes will tell you how much our debt ceiling is and we are a long way from that ceiling.

2. Peachtree City Chief of Police, Janet Moon will be representing the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police in presenting Sheriff Dix with State Accreditation.

Ms. Moon advised that she is the Second Vice President on the Executive Board of the Georgia Associations of Chiefs of Police which oversees the State Certification Program. More importantly, she is a citizen of Spalding County and she is very proud of this accomplishment.

Ms. Moon then explained the process that the Spalding County Sheriff's Office had to complete in order to achieve this certification. They have overcome some challenges to get to this point and they should be acknowledged for what they have done.

Ms. Moon then stated that Certification is a time proven way of helping law enforcement agencies review their overall performance. The foundation of certification developed standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. After policies and procedures are replaced, a team of trained assessor verifies that applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The report is then submitted to a joint review committee, who then determines if that agency has met the requirements for certification.

Certification Status represents a significant professional achievement for this organization. Certification acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. For the citizens there are benefits for this agency being certified:

- Confirmation that the agency's practices are consistent with professional and progressive standards.
- Career operational, administrative effectiveness.
- Enhanced understanding of the Agency's policies and practices by the Deputies at the line level.
- Greater public confidence, that they are operating on the best professional practices.

- Recognition in the field of outstanding achievement.
- Potential for reduced liability on the insurance because the department is now a state certified agency.
- Greater governmental and community support.

The agency certification process identifies standards that are essential to the effective operation of law enforcement agencies. Participating agencies are expected to implement all applicable standards and if some of the standards do not apply, then the agency can apply for a waiver. If they do not perform a service, then they are not held to that standard.

The standards provide a detailed blueprint for professional law enforcement. They are credible, realistic, flexible, effective and under constant review. The standards incorporate contemporary professional thought and practices in Georgia Law Enforcement and if followed insure the goal of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency that is seeking the certification.

State Certification is earned by a law enforcement agency, it is not given. They have put a lot of hard work into this. There are more than 700 law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia, there are only 133 that are certified. There are 159 Sheriffs' Departments in the State of Georgia and Spalding County's Sheriffs' Office is only the 23rd to go through this process.

By presenting this award, the Georgia State Certification Program Agency recognizes the agency for doing the right things and doing things right. State Certification shows that the Spalding County Sheriffs' Office has illustrated professionalism in law enforcement, to achieve this they went through approximately 139 standards of the certification program which covers eight areas essential to law enforcement.

She then stated that the initial certification is hard to get because you are developing policies and procedures and you are training deputies all the way to the line level on how things are going to be done. The next one will be a little bit harder as you will have to prove that you have adhered to every one of those standards every year and she feels this agency is up for the challenge and she is honored to be here this evening to present this certification.

Sheriff Dix then thanked Chief Moon for being here on behalf of GACP. This has been a long process, it has been very difficult with a lot of bumps in the road, but he wanted to thank his staff, the men and women in the Sheriff's Office because they showed up and they showed out. They did exactly what they were supposed to do. Sheriff Dix then added that he would be remiss if he didn't thank Sheriff Ezell Brown of the Newton County Sheriff's Office for his assistance through this process.

3. The Fire Department would like to recognize Mike Ellis and Corey Dufresne on their years of service in the Spalding County Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Glenn Polk stated that they are here this evening to celebrate a milestone in Captain Mike Ellis' career. 30-Years in Public Safety is a lot of years in Public Safety and we have had the opportunity to watch his grow through the ranks. He started as a volunteer in 1988 and became career in 1989. He has served the County for 20 years as a Lieutenant and now is currently serving as Captain. He asked the Board to join the Fire Department in thanking Captain Ellis for 30 years of service.

Deputy Chief Polk then stated that they would also like to acknowledge Corey Dufresne who was unable to be here this evening, but he will be receiving his 15-year service award later this week.

Mr. Wilson then introduced Deputy Chief Michael Byrd who comes to us from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Mr. Byrd is a Spalding County resident and started out as a volunteer at the Fire Department and came back and was made Deputy Chief just after Deputy Chief Clark retired.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2019.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, advised that these statements are for December 2019. The property taxes were due on December 15th, but we did not receive those taxes until January 2020. So you will see the bulk of property taxes in next month's statement.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously by all.

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.

JoAnn Phinazee, 859 Park Point Drive, Griffin, GA – She is growing weary of standing here meeting after meeting and not getting anywhere with this Board. But he has been reminded by a dreamer that came before her and she will fight until we are exonerated, and Fairmont will be exonerated. Griffin is where she lives and where she dreams. She will be in here from now on with others who want to know how long, when and why so long you have not kept your promise to us.

You never meant to remodel our school, just the park that bares our name, but that is not Fairmont, that is a park that you put the name on. Fairmont is the only black high school in this City, and it is our pride and joy and always was our pride and joy. And someday, somehow, you are going to keep your promise to us. There is no other way for it to go in this City, you never meant to do anything that would bring this to fruition, because you have done nothing to bring this to fruition and you even changed the name to Heritage Park, we don't know a thing about Heritage Park and neither does anybody else in this City. So until we get done, and we will get it done, because she's not coming by herself anymore, she is going to bring some people that will help her get it done and justice will be done.

Daa'ood Amin, 133 N. Hill Street, Griffin, GA – He was informed by Chairman Flowers-Taylor that there is a consensus of this Board at the recent retreat that he will be able to work with stakeholders, concerned citizens, supports and those citizens who are interested in the possible funding to complete the Fairmont/Rosenwald Project and he would like for the people he will be reaching out to, to work with the Board in securing the grants, funding and other mechanisms that may be out there so that the Rosenwald Project can be completed as it was proposed. In closing, he will be reaching out to supporters inside and outside of Spalding County to bring that about.

Donald Driver, 534 Moore Street, Griffin, GA – He is a citizen of Spalding County and he is here to reiterate a request that was proposed in June of 2019 that South Atlanta Youth Association requested the use of the whole Fairmont Field. He is a member of the Spalding County Advisory Commission. He wanted to know why the football field was being cut-up. That is the legacy of the Fairmont Community and we are trying to preserve that field we played on. We're trying to do something in our neighborhood and we would like for you guys to back off and let us use the fields and part in our neighborhood, so that we can do the things that we would like to do.

Edward Akin, 4484 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA – He has been there for over 35 years, but at the Anderson Road/Hwy 16 intersection when it rains, it overflows and for the last two months they have had to send the State Patrol and the Sheriff's Office to direct the traffic. This has been happening in that location 2-3 time per year and nobody had done anything. The County says it's the State's problem, the State says it is the County's problem. It seems like he is the only one

to have a problem. Somebody is going to get hurt. The temporary fixes that have been implemented are not going to hold. It can't continue to be the County pointing fingers at the State and the State pointing right back at the County, why can't we work together and get this problem solved? This is not an issue that can be solved, we just simply need to get the two parties together and work on it.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on January 23, 2020.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on January 23, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Lift from the table and consider appointment to the Griffin Downtown Council.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to lift items 1 and 2 from the table for consideration by the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that Commissioner Dutton served on this Council last year and asked if he would like to continue in this appointment.

Commissioner Dutton advised that it was his intention to continue on all the Boards that he was appointed to last year.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that Commissioner Dutton's is reappointed to the Griffin Downtown Council for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2020.

2. Lift from the Table and 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.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would fill the appointment for the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2020.

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

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

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed Commissioner James R. Dutton to the Spalding County Board of Health for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2020.

- 4. Consider approval of a Task Order form from Paragon Consulting to research and compile existing information regarding space needs and size requirements of building, parking and other amenities as determined to be in the master plan for the Aquatic Center for a possible Cowan Road location.

Mr. Wilson advised that this item was tabled until we could get a request back from the Board of Education as to what properties might be available and what requirements for a pool may be placed on the property. As discussed at the retreat, we have this back on the agenda for approval and we also have under New Business a consideration for the same evaluation at the Lakes at Green Valley so that we can make a final determination on a location, hopefully in March. This Task Order is \$12, 700 and the one for the Lakes at Green Valley is a little over \$9,000, so it would be approximately \$22,000 to evaluate both sites and come back with costs associated with both sites.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve a Task Order form from Paragon Consulting to research and compile existing information regarding space needs and size requirements of building, parking and other amenities as determined to be in the master plan for the Aquatic Center for a possible Cowan Road location.

Commissioner Dutton stated that the plan for the Lakes at Green Valley is an excellent plan, there is no stipulations on it. It is surrounded by lakes and nature trails. He feels that looking into Cowan Road is getting us farther away from where we wanted to be. He feels the choice between the two is pretty obvious at this point and he feels spending money to do engineering studies at Cowan Road when the choice between the two is very obvious to him and is simply a waste of money and we should only look at spending money on engineering plans at the Lakes at Green Valley.

This is the location the swim team wanted, that's the one that makes the most sense, we already own the land and there is no stipulations to the land. He simply doesn't understand why we would spend the money looking somewhere else when we have such tight budgets both with this and the Heritage Park Projects.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that to her it makes sense to put the recreation together and visiting other Counties, particularly LaGrange where their Parks and Recreation is very successful. It seems more conducive to put the Aquatic Center in the same location as the Pickleball Facilities, Softball Facilities and Soccer Facilities are at this location and so it would

make sense if we have space out there to put an Aquatic Center.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that she had talked to the City Manager after the retreat and it was suggested that the Aquatic Center could actually go in City Park, if the City signs the property over to the County. Fairmont belongs to the City of Griffin as well as City Park, but the County maintains it and we run it. What she would like to suggest is that there is a possibility that City Park would be a very good site: we wouldn't have to buy the land, infrastructure already in place, parking is in place and it would also allow us to have access to the golf trails and other walking trails and spaces for baseball fields/football fields, whatever.

She doesn't agree with either one of the sites that we have chosen, but she knows that we need to pick a site. She respects what Commissioner Dutton says, but after going through what we went through with the Senior Center, you have to do this work on the front side. When you are looking at doing a \$7-8 million project, spending \$12,000 to make sure you are putting it in the right place is really not a lot of money to spend. City Park is central to the entire community, there are already park facilities there, you don't have to buy the land and just as a correction, we don't own the land at the industrial park, that land belongs to the Development Authority, so it is not County Land, even though they will sign it over to us.

Commissioner Johnson stated that City Park was one of the locations that was discussed a while back when talking about the Aquatic Center, but we had ruled out that location. Can you advise why we deviated from that location originally.

Mr. Wilson stated that we were talking about where the City Public Works Department is located at City Park or maybe across the street where the golf course is located. Public Works would have to relocate and that was going to be 3-4 years down the road. What Chairperson Flowers-Taylor is talking about is actually putting the Aquatic Center on the golf course itself, that was never looked at as a possibility because we were never under the impression that the City would be willing to allow the golf course to be closed.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he is categorically against the Aquatic Center being placed at City Park. He has asked a number of his constituents and they categorically do not want to see the Aquatic Center at City Park. He would be in favor of doing a survey. That is why he wants this done at the Lakes at Green Valley, he feels that doing it twice would be silly. He feels the Board needs to decide where they are going to put the location. Doing the study at two different locations, you are wasting money on doing the study at one of the two locations. The Development Authority has looked into that area and have had some mock-ups done and he feels it is going to work. It meets all of our needs and exceeds them and we will have a better, larger facility that all of our constituents will be able to enjoy and interact with out there. He personally feels it would be better at the Lakes at Green Valley rather than Cowan Road, but he is very against City Park, and every single

person he has spoken to at all of the meetings he has attended at the HOA's and different community groups have universally said no way, that they would never use it if it is at City Park.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she appreciates that Commissioner Dutton's constituents feel that way, but she feels that the Cowan Road location would still be the best location within the county.

Commissioner Dutton stated he feels that the Board should vote on where to put it and then do the engineering at that location. Doing two engineering studies is a waste of money.

Commissioner Miller then stated that Cowan Road is a terrible place to put an Aquatic Center because that is one of the busiest sides of town there is. Even if you were to put it into Cowan Park, then what the school system wants out of it is ridiculous.

Motion failed by a vote of 2-3 (Miller/Hawbaker/Dutton).

IX. PUBLIC HEARING –

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

T.J. Imberger, Director of Parks & Public Works, advised that the Board of Commissioners asked them to do a full marketing plan regarding this proposal. This presentation includes suggestions as part of that marketing plan. He then proceeded with the presentation.

Mr. Imberger stated that Spalding County currently collects and disposes of 21 million pounds of garbage. We are currently collecting over 4 million pounds of bulky items, so each of the bins in which we collect bulky items are having to be emptied, 1,300 times on average. The current budget for solid waste is just over \$1 million and the bulky items make up almost ¼ of that amount which comes close to \$250,000 for disposal costs on bulky items alone.

Mr. Imberger then advised that the proposed changes being suggested in the presentation this evening:

- Eliminate the bulky item collections at all centers.
- Limit household items to five 33-gallon bags of garbage, per day, per household. He then noted that at the end of the presentation they will be doing a presentation on trash bag size so there may be some additional suggestions regarding the size of the trash bag at the end of the presentation.
- All centers will remain open and operate at the current hours.

The reasons for these changes is to:

- ✓ Eliminate fraud and have a more effective garbage collection system.

- ✓ Eliminate long lines and traffic to our citizens
- ✓ Provide more access to citizens for disposal of their household garbage and to maintain the original use of the centers for household garbage only.

Problems being experience and the reason for the change is abuse by individuals, commercial haulers and landlords with businesses within Spalding and surrounding counties. Currently, any Spalding County Citizen can employ any approved garbage at any collection center and the citizen only needs to prove residency at the center regardless of out-of-county tag, vehicle type or trailer size.

He then showed pictures that reflected the abuse currently being experienced at the collection centers. He advised that they didn't use actual pictures from the collection centers because they didn't want to post pictures of our citizens. He went and found pictures online to use as an example.

Mr. Imberger then stated the changes the citizens can expect will be:

- ✓ Discontinue collection of bulky items beginning March 1st, 2020
- ✓ Limit to five 33-gallon household garbage bags per day, per center, per household.
- ✓ Days and hours of operations will remain the same.

Mr. Imberger then advised that bulky items would include, but not be limited to mattresses, large toys, non-metal furniture, anything that is a large bulky item.

Mr. Imberger then stated that if the collection centers discontinue taking the bulky items, where can you dispose of them? He gave several examples:

- If you are a resident of the City of Griffin and can prove residency with a utility bill. All of your options are at no cost, you simply have to take the items to the transfer station or the C&D Landfill.
- If you are not a resident you can still utilize the City of Griffin transfer station or the C&D Landfill and you will be charged a per ton rate with a minimum rate of \$15.00. The majority of the visits made will be the \$15.00 minimum.
- There is also Lamar County and Pine Ridge Landfills, these are landfills that we currently use to dispose of trash and they are available for a per ton fee to anyone who visits those facilities.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the fees are as of the end of December 2019. He knows that the City of Griffin is looking to adjust the fees they will be charging.

Mr. T.J. Imberger then stated that as part of the request for a marketing plan included how we would get the word out regarding changes at the collection centers. We will be developing an informational brochure that will be distributed at all of the collection centers and will be available at all of the collection centers and all of the county buildings. Informational flyers will be

distributed at the Spalding County Leisure Services facilities, Senior Center and at all of the Fire Stations. They will include the Library and any public gathering place for distribution of the informational brochure. We will do a series of Collection Center press releases, he included a sample of three and the time frames in which they would be released. We will use all of the social media outlets to distribute those press releases. There will be additional items posted on social media.

We will have a PowerPoint available to present to any group upon request.

Mr. Imberger stated in order to combat litter overall, we will be launching a "Keep Spalding Sparkling Clean" program. Banners and slogans will be placed throughout the County to assist in controlling litter as a whole. We would offer services to groups that want to have trash pick-up days. They would provide the garbage bags, the road safety signage and safety vests for participants. Pick up and disposal of all garbage picked up and a Public Works staff member will be present to assist in traffic control and collect the trash bags at the time they are being filled. Our Hash Tag Trash Tag program will be getting a lot more publicity, it has been very successful in other communities and we would love to do the same thing here.

Mr. Imberger stated that we will be rolling out an enhanced code enforcement program, which will not only be Code Enforcement, but we will be cross training county employees to notice code violations, report them to Code Enforcement and also be able to recognize abandoned vehicles, unkept yards and illegal dumping as our employees are working that come from the other departments like Parks, Public Grounds, Community Development and Animal Control. They will also be trained to collect the evidence necessary to locate the addresses inside of the trash. Identification of where the trash came from can be in trash bags or underneath couch cushions. We will be able to collect that evidence and turn it over to Code Enforcement so they can take that case to court.

The Collection Center Attendants will be receiving additional training for program information distribution, we want to make sure they all understand what the program is and they are all familiar. They will also be handing out the informational brochure, and they will be given additional training on customer services regarding the options available to the citizens. We want to make sure they can fully explain what the options are, if they do show up with an item that is not allowed. They will also be trained to recognize and report fraud as it comes in, if it comes into the centers.

Mr. Imberger stated that there has been much concern regarding the number of bags citizens will be limited to on a daily basis. 33-Gallon trash bags is what we have chosen as a starting point as this is more of a standard trash bag. He then gave examples of how much would fit in a 33/42/55-Gallon trash bags.

Commissioner Dutton stated going to bag size, what if it is an elderly person who cannot lift a 55-Gallon bag. What does that person do?

Mr. Imberger stated that the attendants' main role at this time is to supervise the center; however, they are trained currently that if there is an elderly person or any person with any type of need that can't actually move the bag from the vehicle to the compactor, they already do that and will continue to do that. At many of the centers we also have community service workers and their sole purpose is to unload trash.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated there has to be uniformity, you cannot allow subjectivity. We need to be just and equal.

Mr. Wilson then asked if we could say the equivalent of five 55-gallon bags and have a chart of how many of the different size bags will fit into the 55-gallon bag.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to enter into a Public Hearing to allow Spalding County Citizens to voice their opinions on how to handle abuse of resources at the Collection Centers. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Bethany Randolph, 339 Chehaw Road, Griffin, GA – She advised that Chehaw is a small dirt road in eastern Spalding County. Their road is already being used for dumping of trash and bulk items, thankfully our neighborhood works together to keep it clean. Her concern is that when bulk items are no longer allowed at the Collection Center the illegal dumping on our county roads will significantly increase, because they are going to find a place to dump it and not pay.

Some people cannot afford to pay, they don't have a vehicle that could navigate the terrain at the landfill. You take a risk of having a flat tire when you take items to the landfill because you never know what you are going to run over when you go up the hill to dump. The taxpayers of Spalding County should not be penalized for those who would abuse the centers, it seems like there is a consensus that everyone knows who the abusers are and she feels should be looked at. Home in on the ones you know are abusing the service and don't penalize all of the citizens.

Cathy Chewning, 119 Runnymede Road, Griffin, Ga – She understands the proposal as presented, but her reason for being here is to ask that you not make it difficult for the everyday taxpayer to use the recycling centers. I don't go to the center when I have 5 bags, I wait until my car is full and make one trip. When her son comes to visit, he will put her trash into his sedan and his tag would read Glenn County, but she would always be in the car with him, he would never go to the collection center without her being in the car. She asked that whatever is done to make it user friendly. She utilizes very small bags because they are easy.

Mike Laster, 1415 Vineyard Road, Griffin, GA – He stated that for years he has used the Woodroof Station and he utilizes 33-gallon trash cans. He can only get three 13-gallon bags in a 33-gallon trash can and it is full. The men who work there on a regular basis are usually walking around to determine

what is going on, but the people up there on Community Service will most of the time say they can't pick up anything heavy. His 33-gallon cans do not weigh that much. He was just wondering if there would be a difference with cans or bags or whatever? That needs to be ironed out. On the bulk items, it is a piece of cake to put a mattress or couches or whatever into the bulky bin, but then he drives back home and finds mattresses and couches along Westmoreland Road between SR92 and Vineyard. There is constant dumping right in that area with Woodroof Station just a few miles away. If we take bulky items away at Woodroof Station he feels we are going to see stuff dumped constantly.

Joe Bailey, 4079 Newnan Road, - Spalding County has a population of approximately 65,000 and we are growing at a rate of 1.5% according to Google of that 65,000 many of whom are paying taxes want services and this is one of the services that he feels they deserve and should get. Every citizen in Spalding County has the right to go to a Collection Center and take their garbage there and he feels we need to respect that, and he can see the Board is trying to do that. Out of the 65,000 of people who live here there is a small collection of people who abuse the service. Either they can't read, or they won't take advantage of the system. He feels that we need to be going after those who abuse the system, not punish the ones using the system like they are supposed to. Go after the ones abusing the system and slap heavy fines on these individuals. If we do away with the bulk containers, which he is a mistake. He would like to see cameras at the Collection Centers and those caught abusing the system should be charged severely and they won't be doing it.

Stan Gordon, 290 Hereford Farm Road, Orchard Hill, GA – This is a dirt road and there is a lot of dumping, he has picked up a lot of trash out there. It has gotten bad, he has put up cameras and caught a half dozen people over the past couple of years. Some of that has involved the Sheriff's Office. He has another neighbor that posts it on Facebook when we get the picture of the vehicle, I usually have the tag and notify them if they don't come back we are going to turn you in. It's working. Getting rid of the bulky items at the Collection Centers will result in a lot more trash being dumped out. He was wondering if anyone had considered charging at the Collection Centers for bulky items. That may be something to look at, because these folks are not going to the landfill, that's too much work and the people who are doing the dumping are not going to do that. He asked that the Board consider allotting more money in the budget.

John M. Wallace, 371 Wallace Road, Griffin, GA – Henry County has had similar problems delivering services to the citizens. The County Board was divided in half and there was a vote. They decided to continue building the large warehouses and the reason he mentions it is they are giving tax breaks and the funds that would normally come to pay for services they are giving away in tax breaks. So, you could have cameras and video staff talking to people and telling them they are not allowed to dump and if they decide to do

it, there won't be a fight, they back up and you take a picture and it is turned over to the Sheriff's Office to prosecute. He feels that it is not just the bulky items and there are people who are not going to obey the rules no matter what. Has to do with giving tax breaks to multi-million dollar corporations and he feels that is a mistake.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to close the Public Hearing.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Mr. Wilson then asked the Board how they would like to proceed?

Commissioner Dutton stated that he liked the idea of the equivalent of five 55-gallon trash bags. He feels it should also be tied to this the increased enforcement for dumping and increased fines. He would also like to establish some type of award program for people who turn people in for littering. There are known places where there is always trash.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she would like to see an up-to a certain amount of smaller bags. She would like to move forward with larger fines for those who litter or dump. Let's go ahead and set some fees for this. Penalize those who are actually doing wrong.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would caution the Board because in cases where we had people who were keeping animals in deplorable conditions and they went to Magistrate Court and they received a \$100 fine, they paid it and the next week we wrote them another ticket. They came back, they got another \$100 fine. This is in Magistrate Court, and she's not sure how that works and she would like to hear from the attorney on this matter. The Judge stated that she did not want us telling her how to fine people. It was not our place.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would approach the Judge and let her know that littering and dumping is now a priority for the Board much like tent city was a priority and that we would appreciate any efforts to make the garbage disappear in this county with any interactions in her court would be appreciated.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the purpose of the SPLOST that set up the Collection Centers was for household garbage and she is okay with five 55-gallon bags if that is what works for people. It's not for us to figure out how residents manage their household, that is for the individual to figure out. She is torn, she loves this plan to where do we make the decision to incur more debt to allow the bulk. The other thought is the gentleman who mentioned the 90 bags of trash, that would cost us more money still to get somebody to look through the trash. She doesn't feel the Board can just cart blanc stamp this because of the concerns of the citizens who showed up here tonight.

Commissioner Dutton stated we have to do something and baring a better plan coming forward, this is the best plan that we have.

Commissioner Johnson asked if we could move forward with this and start conversations with the Judge.

Commissioner Dutton stated that baring a better plan coming forward, he doesn't

see a better plan than the one presented this evening. It is not perfect, but it is better than the system that we currently have.

Mr. Wilson asked that since this is February 3rd, he would suggest that we make the changes effective on Monday, May 4th and we need to start moving forward with the press releases. He then asked for clarification on the size of the bag five 55-gallon bags or the equivalent.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the recommendation of staff to discontinue bulky items at the Collection Centers and to limit the household garbage to five 55-gallon bags or the equivalent effective Monday, May 4th. Motion carried 4-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of the 2020 New Alcohol License for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for: Shahnaz Bhaidani-Jiwani Business, LLC dba Super Food located at 2529 Old Atlanta Rd., Griffin, GA 30223.

Mr. Wilson stated that all of the criteria has been met for the issuance of this license and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the 2020 New Alcohol License for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for: Shahnaz Bhaidani-Jiwani Business, LLC dba Super Food located at 2529 Old Atlanta Rd., Griffin, GA 30223. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Mr. Wilson then advised that he would step-out of the room for Item #2 as it involves property that his family owns.

2. Consider the conditional approval of the request for a new 2020 Alcohol License for Retail Sales- Package Store for Baljinder Singh, President- Highway 155 Package, Inc. dba Highway 155 Package Store located at 3430 N McDonough Rd., Locust Grove, GA 30248.

Commissioner Dutton stated that this came before the Board for a variance, it is located on SR 155 right of the border of Henry County and Spalding County.

Ms. Irizarry advised that this request would be like the RaceTrac request and would be contingent upon the Certificate of Occupancy. Staff has recommended conditional approval of this license.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson for conditional approval of the request for a new 2020 Alcohol License for Retail Sales- Package Store for Baljinder Singh, President- Highway 155 Package, Inc. dba Highway 155 Package Store located at 3430 N McDonough Rd., Locust Grove, GA 30248. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Mr. Wilson re-entered the meeting.

3. Consider request from Leisure Services Department to add a Spring Co-Ed Youth Flag Football Program to their FY 2020 Budget.

Kelly Carmichael stated that in response to citizens requests to have a Co-Ed Flag Football Program, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission asked that she prepare a proposal to be presented at their last meeting. Upon review, they did approve it and recommended that it be accepted by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if they are requesting additional funding for this endeavor?

Ms. Carmichael stated that they currently do not have funding in the 2020 Budget for this program.

Commission Dutton then asked how much funding the program would require?

Ms. Carmichael responded that they anticipate it to cost approximately \$6,500.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request for the Leisure Services Department to add a Spring Co-Ed Youth Flag Football Program to their FY2020 Budget.

Commissioner Miller then asked how much the registration fee would be for this league?

Ms. Carmichael advised that it would be \$60.00 per player.

Mr. Wilson then advised that it is anticipated that the registration fee for this program should pay the cost of running the program.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of resolution supporting locally established building design standards for residential dwellings.

Mr. Wilson stated that this was discussed during the Retreat and the Board asked that a Resolution be drafted and sent to our local legislative delegation stating that we are opposed to any State Legislation that would remove local control. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve a resolution supporting locally established building design standards for residential dwellings. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider request from Commissioner Donald Hawbaker to adopt a Resolution supporting the legislation currently being considered by the State of Georgia regarding upholding the Second Amendment rights of our citizens.

Mr. Wilson advised that Commissioner Hawbaker and Commissioner Dutton requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he spoke with the County Attorney about this at the Retreat and he has spoken with a number of people about this. Our rights are not something that gets to be toyed with. Our rights are not something that gets to be negotiated. The Second Amendment is not something that grants us the right, it limits the government's ability to take our god given rights as human beings and this is simply affirmation of those rights. He has spoken with the District Attorney and he agrees that he will support us in such a Resolution. He has also spoken with the Sheriff, we're on the same page. We will not stand by and let our rights be infringed upon.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Hawbaker to approve a Resolution supporting the legislation currently being considered by the State of Georgia regarding upholding the Second Amendment rights of our citizens. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider approval of a Resolution Authorizing amending the current SDS Agreement by adding the word "Grants" to the Wastewater and Water Distribution Services as a Funding Method.

Mr. Wilson advised that both the City and the County would be amending the SDS to include the word "Grants." As you may recall, last year we had to do some changes for the County. This change is for the City of Griffin because they are applying for a new CDBG Grant and they have new personnel at the Department of Community Affairs who have read the forms and notified us that both the City and the County have to include "Grants" in order to apply for CDBG funding. It is a minor change we have a Resolution prepared and we have a number of documents that the Chairperson will have to sign to send to DCA. All it does is add the word "Grants" so you can use grant funding for water and wastewater in Spalding County and the City of Griffin. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve a Resolution Authorizing amending the current SDS Agreement by adding the word "Grants" to the Wastewater and Water Distribution Services as a Funding Method. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval of a Task Order Form from Paragon Consulting to research and compile existing information regarding space needs and size requirements of building, parking and other amenities as determined to be in the master plan of the Aquatic Center for a possible Lakes at Green Valley location.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Board did not approve the Task Order Form for Cowan Road. This is the one he mentioned for the Lakes at Green Valley. Mr. Wilson advised that since the Board did not approve the Task Order Form for Cowan Road, there will be an additional expense of approximately

\$3,000 on this one to bring it up to the other one. Because the footprint that needed to be established would have been established for the Cowan Road location and could have been utilized for this location as well. However, now that footprint will now have to be established for this location. Establishing the footprint was not in this Task Order Form because staff was under the impression the Board was going to approve the Cowan Road location as well.

The Cowan Road location was \$12,700 and included the \$3,000 for establishing the footprint; however, that Task Order Form was not approved so we will need to add \$3,000 to the Lakes at Green Valley Task Order Form bringing it up to \$12,500.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Hawbaker to approve a Task Order Form from Paragon Consulting to research and compile existing information regarding space needs and size requirements of building, parking and other amenities as determined to be in the master plan of the Aquatic Center for a cost of \$12,500 for a possible Lakes at Green Valley location. Motion carried 3/2 (Johnson/Flowers-Taylor).

8. Consider approval of the FY2021 Budget Calendar.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Calendar attached to the Agenda Item has an incorrect date for the week of the meetings with the County Commissioners. The date should be April 20-23, which is the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before we go to Savannah for the ACCG Annual Meeting. Historically, we have had it after, but this year it is before. Please check your calendars. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to approve the FY2021 Budget Calendar. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Council on Aging who assists us with Meals on Wheels for the Senior Center was awarded \$20,000 by United Way. This should be going to our Senior Center.
- ✓ Building Permits for the 12 months ended 2019 were 281 new housing starts, in 2018 we had 275, in 2017 we had 239, in 2016 there were 191 and our all time low was in 2012 of 92. Already this month, we have had 21 for the month of January and the square footage size of the homes in January is 2,850 square feet.
- ✓ He is extremely happy to report that Glass Pest Control performed their sixth follow up inspection last Friday. The inspected area was clean, clear and free, no bed bugs found and no chemical treatment was needed. The next inspection will take place this Friday. So, it will have been 7 weeks with no return of the problem.

- ✓ Intersection #3, if you have been up there or if you have been following the Facebook page, today they tested the subgrade and tomorrow they are going to put the base on. Hopefully, they will start paving the section north of East McIntosh and then start working on the section south of East McIntosh. Things are really moving ahead, depending on how much rain we get. There are updated aerial photographs on the Facebook page.
- ✓ Don't forget the Archway Retreat this Thursday and Friday. We will be leaving at 7:30 a.m. The County will be providing biscuits and coffee for the trip and we will be riding Big Blue.
- ✓ Collections for the SPLOST in December were \$973,289.75. If you average the 12 months of 2019 alone, average collections were \$837,731.72, this brings our average collection for the 45-month total to \$764,000. As you know we talked about a TSPLOST in 2021 and the SPLOST Renewal in 2021 and he is very hopeful that we will stay at that \$800,000 range for the remaining 27 months of the SPLOST and we will be able to use the \$800,000 per month collection for the upcoming SPLOSTs.

XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- Today was the final review for the local Emergency Operation Plan Update and it will be submitted to GEMA for the approval process. Once it is approved we will be working on getting Resolutions signed.
- The EMA began the 14th CERT Program and 4th CERT Refresher Program last week.
- The RFP for Hazard Mitigation has been issued.
- IPAWS recertification paperwork for the emergency notification system has been submitted.
- This is Severe Weather Awareness Week and Wednesday, weather permitting, there will be a Statewide Tornado Drill.
- Fire is helping to coordinate "Stop the Bleed" courses for staff at the Griffin-Spalding School System on February 14.
- The Fire Department is beginning some Professional Development training and personnel in the area of Risk Management.
- Tomorrow is Georgia Firefighter Recognition Day and ceremonies will be held at the State Capital. Capitan Harold Williams, Spalding County Fire Marshall, will be deputized by the State Fire Marshall tomorrow at the Capital. This will give him a higher level of credibility and it is through the State Fire Marshall's Office.
- Friday is Career Fair, there are several departments participating: the Correctional Institute, Parks and Public Works, Fire, Human Resources and the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Wilson advised that this will be held at the College and Career Academy.

- You may recall on January 24th, she sent out a Pitt Bull Policy email with the policy attached to the email, the adoption application and the certificate that will be issued. We are going to be moving forward with that, as she has heard nothing back from the Board, tomorrow February 4th, 2020.
- Animal Shelter Project Kick-Off Meeting is scheduled for February 5th.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a meeting with staff, animal shelter staff, the design and engineering team to work on a final design to bring to the Board.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – Advised that he has two things. He has received a number of complaints regarding youth baseball prices. Some of these citizens are threatening to leave the program. He stated that he didn't realize that the money from the concession stands was no longer going to support the program. Now private groups run concessions and they get all the money from concessions. He addressed this with Ms. Carmichael earlier this evening.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she always thought the Association handled the concessions.

Commissioner Miller stated that in the past that was how it ran, but the Association has now turned it over to someone else and they are getting the money out of it. Raising the costs like the Associations have done is going to force people to go to Pike County where they can play ball for \$105.00. You can't keep raising the price. The parents used to help run the concession stands.

Commissioner Miller advised that he asked Ms. Carmichael to go and talk to the Association.

Rita Johnson – She knows the budget review is set for April 20-23, she wanted to ask when we should have the Health Insurance figures? We will need those numbers prior to the budget hearings.

Mr. Wilson stated he is hoping to have something in March on that.

The Archways Retreat is just Elected Officials and the Executive Committee this year. She had some questions about why some of the partners were not invited this year. Why is it just us? Mr. Wilson advised it was a decision of the Archway Executive Committee.

She is glad to see Daa'ood Amin has decided to step-up and be our spearhead/ liaison with the Fairmont Project. She feels he will be very helpful and she is sure that it will be discussed at the Archway Retreat. We are looking forward to working with him to get these projects completed.

Donald Hawbaker – No comments.

James Dutton – One of the items that he brought up at the Retreat is making Veterans Day a holiday for County Employees, he wants to continue to move forward on this and he would like to vote on it as soon as possible so that people can start making plans now for that County holiday.

We are continuing our work to fund the Heritage Park Project we spoke at the retreat about a possible solution to this and it is something that has been discussed at every single meeting and it is a huge priority for this Board. The idea that we “never meant to do this” is wrong, if not completely disingenuous. We are actively working on this and all of those working with us to actually accomplish this goal knows all the work that we have done, all the work that we are doing and all the work that we are continuing to do to get this project passed and completed as proposed and anyone who tells others something different, that we’re not working towards this and we don’t want it past, that person is totally mistaken or actively lying to you.

We are absolutely devoted to making sure that this project is fulfilled as per the vote for that SPLOST project. It is a personal goal of his to make sure that this gets done and gets done right. We talk about it non-stop we are working towards it non-stop, but the speed of government is just slow. He would love to have already done the project, but we want to do it right we don’t want to half-way do it and then come back and do stop-gaps. We want to do it right and do it right the first time.

He and Commissioner Miller get a lot of comments from folks who live on dirt roads. Some people have approached him as well. It takes a tremendous amount of time, we have two scraper crews that are working every single day, one on each side of the County on the dirt roads. Even so, it is a four-month cycle to get back to every road. There is a lot of roads and it takes time to get to them all.

In talking to T.J. Imberger today, there was one culvert washout last week, and they had to stop everything for three days to repair the culvert. In that three days, it cost approximately \$80,000 in manpower and time to fix one culvert washout. We would love to get to all of these roads much faster, but he feels they are doing a great job.

There is a group out of Henry County that has a lot of money to put towards an Aquatic Center and he would like to bring it to the Board. They have over \$1 million to put toward an Aquatic Center and the people who are providing the money are doing so as a memorial to their grand daughter whose passion was swimming. Henry County is not committing to the project. They may not want to go as far away as Spalding County.

Mr. Wilson advised that he would provide Commissioner Dutton with a copy of the naming policy and we will contact those individuals, if that is okay.

Consensus of the Board is for Commissioner Dutton proceed to talk with the family and advise them of our naming policy and see if they have any interest in investing in the Spalding County Aquatic Center.

Regarding the dumping problem, he likes the ideas that several municipalities

have adopted, not only raising the fines, but putting out rewards to the citizens that turn those folks in and can provide video back-up that can be used to aide enforcement. It has worked remarkably well in other places, especially when you couple it earmarking the fines and fees collected to go back into picking up the trash, it has worked remarkably well. He feels looking into some kind of system like that would be great for Spalding County.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Wanted to thank the Board for approving funding for the Park and Rec Flag Football for Co-ed. She feels we do a very good job in Parks and Rec in preparing our youth for high school and other travel sports. She feels this is a good step toward starting to build a basis for women being able to compete more at the high school level.

She wanted to comment about one of the things that was said during Citizens Comments. She can certainly understand the frustration of the residents who are here regarding the Heritage Project, she still does not understand how a Bonded Project has not been done. Because she sits on this side of the table, she knows why it hasn't been done and she feels like we have done a really good job of explaining that to the public, but that still doesn't make it right. So, she doesn't want to try to minimize any of the complaints that the people have because we have completed all the other Bonded Projects and there is no reason why that particular project has not been completed. We simply have not been able to do what we said we were going to do. It is our goal to make sure it gets done and she feels like after the Retreat, we came up with some conclusions that will help us to begin that work. It may not be everything that everybody wants, but we will definitely be able to do the projects that the citizens voted on in the SPLOST.

She congratulated the Sheriff on obtaining Certification for his Department. She remembers when the City got their Certification there was a lot of celebration. She knows it is a big deal, you had to go through a lot to achieve the Certification and you have to continue in order to maintain the Certification. She wanted to thank Sheriff Dix for providing our community with that added assurance that there is going to be transparent and there is a "Play Book" that you operate by and we can go back and reference it.

We talked at the Retreat about funding, but we did not talk about the Budget. Some of us have expressed the desire to not increase property taxes, but she feels that what Mr. Edwards from Mauldin and Jenkins said was very important about the Fund Balance. We take it lightly and Mr. Wilson tries to make things happen and we plan to use "this much" fund balance and maybe you do or maybe you don't, but at the end of the day it was because we had a good fund balance at the beginning of the last recession that we didn't have to lay anybody off at that time. Nobody lost their job, we may have had to cut some benefits, but nobody lost their job and their families still had their insurance and we muddled through, but we spent that Fund Balance down. We live in a time were Cyber Crimes can literally stop the flow of money. By that same token, if we don't have money in our Fund Balance and something does happen, how are we going to continue to serve the community. She feels it is important for us to look at trying to maintain and improve the Fund Balance in our Budget.

She asked Mr. Wilson about this last year, we are in dire need of additional help in Planning and Development. Before the recession, when Chuck was here, there was a Senior Planner, there was Chuck there was a GIS guy, there was an erosion control specialist and then it all kinda dwindled down to nothing because nobody was building anything during the recession. Now, we are back to almost full speed and we are trying to have one person do the work of four people. She feels that we have come to a place where it is not only time to have a Director, but the Director needs some help. She hopes that in the budget we can look at additional staff for Planning and Development.

Mr. Wilson advised that a Senior Planner is already in the recommended budget.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***