

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Special Called Joint Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
10:00 AM
Room 108, Annex Building**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the City of Griffin Commissioners held a Joint Meeting in the W. Elmer George Municipal Hall at One Griffin Center on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the following individuals in attendance:

For Spalding County: Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Vice Chairman, James Dutton, Commissioner Rita Johnson, Commissioner Bart Miller, County Manager, William Wilson, Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson to record the minutes of the meeting.

For the City of Griffin: Mayor Doug Hollberg, Commissioner Cynthia Reed-Ward, Commissioner Cora Flowers, Commissioner David Brock, Commissioner Rodney McCord, Commissioner Holly Murray, Commissioner Truman Tinsley, III, City Attorney, Drew Whalen, City Manager, Kenny Smith, Deputy City Manager, Jessica O'Connor and Executive Secretary, Teresa Watson to record the minutes of the meeting.

- I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Mayor Hollberg for the City of Griffin and by Chairperson Flowers-Taylor for Spalding County.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Truman Tinsley, III.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

The pledge to the flag was then led by Mayor Doug Hollberg.

IV. AGENDA ITEM

1. A joint meeting between the Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the City of Griffin Commission to discuss the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS).

Mayor Hollberg stated that they had tasked the staff to come together and work on Service Delivery over the last 9 months and they have come back to us with some items that we can move forward with for the betterment of our community.

City Manager, Kenny Smith, then advised that last year it was decided that

the Service Delivery Strategy needed some work and like the good managers that both he and Mr. Wilson are, they tasked their assistants with working on the Service Delivery Strategy, going over each piece of it to sort out any issues we may have and recommend updates to these documents. He then added that Ms. Irizarry and Ms. O'Connor had worked very hard and he wanted to compliment both of them because they have worked extremely hard to review each item in the Service Delivery Strategy, as well as to review contracts that were included and not included when the Service Delivery Strategy was originally adopted to determine what needed to be updated. Several items were discovered that had expired and needed to be updated.

County Manager, William Wilson then stated that the ladies had done an awesome job. They worked together great and we, as a staff of 4, met and went over each and every page of this document. We still have some disagreements; however, we have a lot of agreement. What we are planning is to go through each of the items individually and letting you know whether we agree or disagree and then move on to those that are going to require input from our Elected Officials at the end. At this point the meeting was turned over to Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry and Deputy City Manager Jessica O'Connor.

Ms. Irizarry and Ms. O'Connor then presented the Form 2 Documentation for each item completed as part of the SDS.

800 MHz – Ms. Irizarry then advised that this is an area of disagreement between the City and County.

Mr. Wilson stated that the main disagreement on this is that the 800 MHz system was purchased with SPLOST funds. At the time the system was implemented everyone received radios and there are 5 tower sites required to make the system work. The County provides the operation and up-keep on the system and assesses a \$16.00 per month charge per radio that is attached to the system to pay for operation and maintenance.

The City of Griffin buys its own radios and maintains its own radios at this time, but the tower sites and everything required to make the system work is in the County and the County is funding that through user fees of \$16.00 per radio per month. Mr. Wilson then advised that the City of Griffin has submitted a revised contract to the County to pay for non-emergency radio equipment only which would mean no fire or no police radios would be paid for which is the bulk of usage of this service by the City of Griffin.

Ms. O'Connor stated that in the current SDS, 800 MHz is not listed as a service, right now it is under Emergency Communications and it is the City's belief that is where this item should remain. The radios are part of emergency communication, the systems and operations are part of emergency communication so dividing that out is fine for non-public safety; however, we feel that the public safety portion should remain under emergency communications because there is no way to be able to contact the police or fire department without the radio. That is staff's disagreement,

which is why we need to bring it to the Boards to decide what you want to do.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if the City feels this is a service the County should provide at no cost to the City?

Ms. O'Connor responded that the taxes paid by City Residents that go into the General Fund is the City's contribution for this service to the General Fund. So, if we pay for it again, you are double taxing City Residents. City Residents also pay County taxes and the County pays for this service out of the General Fund. So, if we pay user fees then we are paying for it twice.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he believes there was an up-front cost for the service that is being defrayed by the user fees as to the up-keep that is being paid out of the General Fund.

Mayor Hollberg then asked if this service was being paid for out of the General Fund.

Mr. Wilson advised that 800 MHz is a Department in the General Fund and we charge each of the entities that utilize radios \$16.00 per month per radio and that revenue goes back in to offset the cost of those operations.

Mr. Smith then advised that the Sheriff's Office also pay for the maintenance fee and the Sheriff's Office is also in the General Fund. The Hospital pays for EMS; however, they are a private company, they are not a government and they can't be double taxed. The school system has a few radios, they are not emergency responders, so they are not covered under emergency communications. We are willing to pay for non-emergency, electric, solid waste, water because that is not emergency communications.

Commissioner McCord stated that this is paid for out of the General Fund.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the cost overage that is not covered by the Usage Fee is covered out of the General Fund. We built the Senior Center under a SPLOST and that covered the construction of, it does not cover the operation of and that is why we have to charge a membership fee there, that is why people have to pay to rent the building. When they use that space, they have to pay and that helps to offset the cost of maintenance and operation; however, it doesn't cover it and we do have to make up for that difference out of the General Fund.

Commissioner Flowers then asked if under the previous agreement if there was a set number of radios that the City was contractually obligated to.

Ms. O'Connor stated there was not a number designated in the contract, there was an 800 MHz team established at the time of the SPLOST and was supposed to get together every month to discuss who had radios and what they were being used for and that never happened. The agreement which has now expired just says \$16.00 per radio per month. Our audit that was done last year, is a little different from what the County shows. We haven't gotten into that because the contract has expired. The number of radios in use can change daily, so it is hard to keep up with and that is one of the problems.

Mayor Hollberg then stated that the County feels that the City's usage is approximately \$85,000 per year based on the number of radios. We sent an offer based on non-emergency radios of \$31, 689 versus the \$83-85,000 the County requested.

Ms. Irizarry then advised that in the expired contract the Cost Allocation Method as described under item #4: "The Parties agree the annual cost for operating and maintaining the County Radio System, derived from three distinct areas: Infrastructure, Maintenance, Warranty Contract and Tower Site rentals and Utilities as well as Salary and Benefits of the System Administrator shall be reimbursed by the City based upon a \$16.00 per user device per month." This is the same methodology being used for the County dispatch services contract with Spalding Regional Medical Center.

Mayor Hollberg then asked about the fees that are paid by telephone and cell phone users?

Mr. Wilson stated that is one thing that the City and the County disagree on is that 800 MHz is different from Emergency Communications. We do have a separate fund for Emergency Communications, that is when you pick up and dial 911, those charges are put into the Emergency Communications Fund and they are use only to fund the 911 Center. Mr. Wilson then stated that before the 800 MHz, the City had a Motorola Radio System with radios and towers and the County had a Motorola Radio System with towers and radios and each entity paid for the maintenance and operation of their systems.

With the advent of the 800 MHz system, we merged the two systems together and those VHF radios became obsolete and at that time the City who had operational costs for those radios, their operational cost went to zero. We did have an 800 MHz Communication Group that met for over a year after implementation. Mr. Smith was in the group and Mr. Wilson was in the group along with Brant Keller. During that time, it was said at every meeting and Mr. Smith disagreed at every meeting, but it was stated that the operational cost for the 800 MHz would be shared by the users of the system. Mr. Smith disagreed at every meeting and we disagree today.

Mr. Wilson stated that he didn't expect this to be resolved today, this is the first time that the County Commissioners have been made aware of the exact details and it is his understanding it is the first time that the City Commissioners have been made aware of the exact details. The County does have a contract that has been returned by the City and the County needs to review and vote up or down.

Mr. Wilson further stated that he was not under the impression that we were going to agree on anything today or take any votes. It was his understanding that this is a work shop to let everyone know where the City stands and where the County stands on these issues and where we go from here.

Commissioner Flowers then asked if Mr. Wilson could repeat the items that were agreed upon regarding the 800 MHz.

Mr. Wilson then stated that before 800 MHz the City had a radio system and the County had a radio system. We each paid for our operational costs, towers, maintenance, etc. All that went away when the 800 MHz system was established. The infrastructure and equipment for this system \$10.5 million was bought with SPLOST money. At that time of the SPLOST, no one ever talked about the operation of the system once it was up and running. After the SPLOST, we formed an 800 MHz Committee and the Committee talked about what brands to purchase, what brands give the best service, how many radios needed to be purchased, etc. This Committee met for over a year. At those meetings the County emphatically stated that operational costs would be born by the users of the system based on the pro-rated number of units they have.

Commissioner Flowers then asked if at the point we asked the community to vote on this, there was no dialogue regarding maintenance of the system? We are asking the community to support us in purchasing this equipment, but we have not planned out how we are actually going to fund it. So, we only agreed to buy "a thing" but there was no agreement as to how we would use "the thing" at the point that we asked people to vote on it.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that there was nothing in writing, but the entire conversation in all of the round table meetings it was determined immediately that the SPLOST would pay for the radio system, but the groups that would use it would have to pay for the maintenance. At the time we felt that the maintenance cost would go down because we had hoped that Pike or some of the surrounding counties would want to rent radio space off the towers which would generate funds to help cover the maintenance cost. She stated that she was surprised to hear that Mr. Smith was never in favor of paying for maintenance and she did not recall ever hearing this during those meetings and she attended many of those meetings. During the meetings we did talk about how the system would be paid for and we stated the maintenance would be paid by the user fees.

Mr. Smith stated that he was not the only one in attendance at the meetings who misunderstood, because he has minutes from one of the meetings where the chairman of that work group took issue with the County's demand that the City pay per unit, per month as the 800 MHz system is a County system and the City pays for it in taxes paid to the County. The chairman of the work group at the time felt the same as Mr. Smith, so he wasn't the only one who misunderstood.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked who was the Chairman of that work group.

Mr. Smith advised that Dick Morrow as the Chairman of that work group.

Ms. O'Connor stated that this was started in 2008 and we did not have a

contract until 2015 and that contract was only valid for 2 years because the City stated that they still disagree, but we will come up with something in 2 years because we will revisit this in 2017 with the renegotiation of SDS and at that time SDS was not renegotiated in 2017. So the actual contract was signed 7 years after all of this started and at that time the City stated that they did not like it, but they would agree to a contract to make sure that we can continue moving forward with the service, but in 2017 we are going to “hash the out” and we are now into 2020.

Mayor Hollberg stated that the contract was for the City to pay \$16.00 per radio up until 2017.

Commissioner Johnson then asked if there were any Minutes available regarding the conversations had in 2008? There was no contract, is there any minutes out there that talk about what was actually said at those meetings. If it was discussed there should be a record of it correct.

Mr. Smith stated that he was not aware of any minutes from the 800 MHz Work Group.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated we know there is a problem on this topic that will need more discussion, let's just move on to the next item.

Commissioner McCord stated that he doesn't see us meeting today as City and County, as separate entities, he sees us all working for the taxpayers of our community. The people that live in our community. He wants to make sure as a representative of City residents he doesn't leave here saying that he is going to agree to double tax people who live inside of the City. So, if we approach issues that appear that the City taxpayers are going to be double taxed, we are going to have to figure out a way to address that. If we don't do this we are going to continue doing what has been done before, moving right over it. On this point he has acknowledged that this is double taxation if we are paying for something that our County Taxes is already paying for.

We are trying to figure these issues out to where the taxpayer benefits the most, not the strain on whose budget. He has never heard Mr. Wilson's side of the story and he is here to get as much information as he possibly can, so that we can give back to the taxpayers proper information, that we sitting as two boards together are doing what is best for our community. This is the time for us to figure out what we are going to do and get it on record as to “This is what I'm going to do”, “This is what I can live with.” The staff has worked very hard on this and he can see that from the amount of paper brought into the meeting. We should be able to come to consensus on some of these issues real soon.

Mr. Wilson stated that while we move forward with the SDS topics he asked that those in attendance keep in mind there is something called a level of service. The County provides a basic level of service. The City provides an enhanced level of service. The City Fire Department and the City Police Department is an enhanced level of service and enhanced level of services

need to be paid for. You are not mandated by State law like the County to have a Sheriff's Department, the City is not mandated to have a Police Department or a Fire Department, you choose to provide these services to the residents of the City of Griffin.

Commissioner Reed-Ward then asked when you say enhanced level of service, but the County taxes help to pay for the Sheriff's Department and the County Fire Department.

Mr. Smith stated that those who live in the County have a special tax district for their Fire Department. If you live inside the City, you do not pay a fire tax. The unincorporated area of the County is a Special Tax District that pays for the Fire Department, so the residents of the City don't pay for it twice. There may be other areas that need to be looked at in the County to avoid the double taxation, in addition to the fire district.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that Mr. Smith is correct, if the City wants to provide their own service, then the City can fund that service. Just like the City has their own Fire Department, so the City doesn't pay the County for fire services. If the City wants to have their own 800 MHz system, then they can have that and they won't have to pay the County. If the County however, wants to contract with the County to use our infrastructure in the City, then we have a greatly reduced rate for doing so at \$16.00 per radio. If you want to provide your own or contract with an outside entity, he doesn't think that it could be done for \$16.00 per month. It's the same thing as the Fire Department, it would be double taxation if you were paying for County Fire and City Fire, but you aren't because you are providing your own City Fire. If we apply that here and say, "If you want to use this County Service, then the City also has to pay for that." "If the City wants to use their own service, then the City can come up with their own service and the City can pay for their own service." To somehow say that the City Police Department doesn't have to pay the same rate as the Sheriff's Office, that simply doesn't make any sense.

Mr. Smith then stated that part of what Commissioner Dutton states is correct except for the fact there are countywide services that everybody in the County pays for including City taxpayers and his argument is that Emergency Communications is a countywide service. We have agreed it is a countywide service, it is in the Service Delivery Strategy since the beginning as a countywide service, so we shouldn't have to pay for that service through our County taxes and then pay for it again through a user fee.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that the 800 MHz system is not a countywide system, the 911 system is an emergency system. So, if we look at the big picture and having a Police Department and Fire Department inside the City is not required by State statute and the City wants to offer the citizen of the City that higher level of service, if they create another police force they create something outside of what is mandated by the State because the Sheriff has arrest powers in both the City and the County. So, from where

we're sitting, when you add your own Fire Department where the County has fire service already, you are adding an additional service, so you are becoming an additional user. That is the side we are sitting on as this is an enhanced service that is already being provided by the county mandated services and when you ask for something more there is a user fee associated with it.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that the user fee is not a foreign concept, so having to utilize the 800 MHz system to provide a level of service means you are doing something extra, outside of what the County would normally provide.

Mr. Smith stated that he agrees, except that the 800 MHz system is not an enhanced level of service and their argument is that it is part of Emergency Communications because when someone calls 911 without a radio system to dispatch public safety, you don't have Emergency Communications.

Commissioner Dutton then added that once a call is dispatched, the City department goes to the site. The County doesn't pay for your cars, you pay for the cars. When they are there, they have utility belts and uniforms, the County doesn't pay for that equipment, the City does. The radios you have you have to pay for, it doesn't make sense that some outside entity would have to come in and pay your radio fees. The Sheriff's Department has to pay for the radios, the Police Department has to pay for these things and the EMTs have to pay for these things. Why would one entity get it for free when everyone else has to pay for it? It doesn't make any sense.

Mr. Smith then stated that the Sheriff's Department is paying into the County's General Fund so they are paying the County. The EMT's are a private company so they are not covered by a double taxation because they are not a government and the School System, if they have any radios, are not emergency responders. Our argument is that you can't have emergency communications without a radio system, just like you gotta have phones and chairs for them to sit in and microphones for them to talk into. Radios are part of the system. Cars are not, guns are not because that is not part of communications. The radio is part of the communications and that is the argument that we disagree on and it is okay for us to disagree.

Commissioner Tinsley then asked if there has ever been consideration of having a mediator to step in, because it appears that we continue to "agree to disagree" with regard to this subject.

Commissioner Flowers stated she would like to go through the whole SDS to see what items are on the table.

Ms. O'Connor then stated that one thing to remember is this is a requirement that the law has for those governments who want to be a Qualified Local Government. We all agreed on this in 1999, again in 2004 and during updates in the past and the only thing that DCA cares about is that the Cities and the County agree, which all they care about. We can "agree to disagree"

on certain items and still go forward with this process. It is not that everything is going to be a right or wrong answer, so please keep this in mind.

Administration – Mr. Wilson stated that currently we do not have any disagreement on Administration.

Mr. Smith then stated that we might have some disagreement. There are parts of Administration for the County that is paid for out of the General Fund that are used for Administration of things that would be double taxation. Part of Administration would be Administration of the Fire Department, so there is a portion of Administration that would need to be separated out. So, we don't necessarily agree that 100% of Administration should be paid for as a countywide service.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the County does indirect cost accounting and does charge the Water System, the 911 System, the Fire Department and any fund for our portion of the Administration. He does not know that it was actually discussed because when we reviewed these items, Administration was not an issue.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if this was a major issue or a minor issue?

Mr. Smith advised that it was a minor issue.

Adult and Juvenile Probation – Ms. O'Conner stated that it is being recommended that this item be updated due in the past it simply covered Superior, State and Juvenile Courts and did not include Municipal Court. Municipal Court does have Adult Probation as well, so although it is an overlapping service, it is an enhanced service in Municipal Court and both the Adult and Juvenile probation services are paid through contractual relationships, so we are going to add the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia Contract and mention Municipal Court. We are recommending this change from what we currently have on file as part of our SDS, but we don't disagree on it at all.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the one thing that has been done throughout the agreement is staff has added SPLOST and grants. Recently, we had to add grants to the SDS for funding of CDBG grants that the City received. We have taken this time and gone through every unit and if we felt it would ever be funded by a grant, or ever be funded by SPLOST it has been included in the section that tells where the revenues for this item are derived to pay for the service.

Airport New – Ms. Irizarry advised that they had separated the Airport into two categories "Airport New" and "6A2". We have updated this one as well to make sure that all funding sources and contractual partners were listed.

Mayor Hollberg then asked if a statement regarding annexation had been included.

Ms. O'Connor advised that at the bottom it states: "City and County agree that the New Airport will be annexed into the City of Griffin."

Mr. Smith stated that this is one of those areas that the City has agreed to provide funding for, that could have been argued that the New Airport is a countywide service, but they agreed through a contract to provide funding for this. This is a joint agreement that was never argued or discussed.

Airport 6A2 – Ms. Irizarry stated that this was updated as well, it is very similar to the Airport New.

Ms. O'Connor advised there is no disagreement with this item. We wanted to have a 6A2 designation instead of current, because once we are moved we don't want to have to update the SDS and have confusion as to what is being referenced so the New Airport will not be called 6A2.

Animal Control – Ms. Irizarry stated that "d" is checked indicating that one or more cities will provide the service in their incorporated boundaries and the County will provide the service in the unincorporated areas and it lists the funding sources which include: General Fund, User Fees, SPLOST and Grants.

Ms. O'Connor stated there could be some disagreement on this one; however, she believes staff rectified a little bit of that as it gets confusing when you are talking about Animal Control versus the Animal Shelter.

Mr. Wilson then clarified that with Animal Control there is an issue with the Ordinances, the County had asked and the City had adopted almost every ordinance that we have with the exception of the Spay and Neuter Ordinance and the City did not adopt the Mandatory Spay/Neuter. Which adversely affects the next service which is the Animal Shelter. So, we ask again that the City consider adopting a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Policy like the County. We have seen a significant reduction in numbers in the County from this program and you may not be aware that we are currently working towards a "No Kill Shelter" which is 10% or less. Last month we were at 8.7% which qualifies us as a "No Kill Shelter."

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she feels it is redundant to do this if the only difference is the City has a Leash Law and the County has an Animal Restraint Zone.

Ms. Irizarry stated that the City providing Animal Control is a higher level of service as they have officers that pick up the animals and deliver them to the shelter. The one area where we are not straight across the board and where we would like to be is the Mandatory Spay and Neuter. As Mr. Wilson stated over the years, we have seen a significant decrease in the intake of animals.

Animal Shelter - Ms. O'Connor stated that currently this is a countywide service and they are proposing that it should remain a countywide service there is no overlapping of services because it is countywide and it is funded through: General Fund, User Fees, SPLOST, Grants and Donations.

Commissioner Flowers then stated that the only item of contention is there not being an alignment of the Ordinances.

Commissioner Dutton stated that the misalignment on the Animal Control side costs the County money on the Animal Shelter side because we do not qualify for some available grants due to the fact that some of the animals brought to the shelter aren't mandatory spay/neuter.

Mr. Wilson stated that the only item of disagreement, which isn't really an item is we would like to see the animal control officers assist in cleaning the shelter and assist in euthanizing. Many years ago, they did help and assist us in these areas, they stopped when they were placed under the Police Department, he's not sure when it was, but this would help us with on-call and things like that. That is the only thing that we talked about.

Ms. O'Connor stated that there was an agreement that the City and County entered into in 1996 which was for a 5-year term to expire in 2001 where the City did agree to clean and assist in euthanizing animals; however, it was voided by the SDS in 1999, the State came in and said you can't do that it is a countywide service and you are being double taxed. They told us that the 2004 agreement shows that the contract was voided and we couldn't do it that way. If we go back to that we are going to have duplication and possibly double taxation problems. So, the City disagrees that we should do this, it is a countywide service and the State agreed with us in 1999.

Commissioner Flowers then added that what she has gotten is in moving forward the County would like for us to put some emphasis on looking at the ordinance.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the County would like for the City to adopt the Mandatory Spay and Neuter. When staff brought this to the City in 2017 is when we did adopt the tethering, we had put the Mandatory Spay and Neuter in there to mirror the County, but the Commission was not willing to do it at that time. If it is something that the Commission is now interested in, it is something that we can discuss.

Mayor Hollberg asked how many animals were being euthanized annually.

Ms. Irizarry advised that we do have those statistics and she would provide them to the City, she does not have that information available. We have the numbers for the Intake as well and through the years there has been a mandatory spay and neuter, we have seen a decrease in the intake of animals.

Archivist – This is a new service that we are adding. There is an agreement of the funding sources for the Archivist. The current agreement is between Spalding County and the City of Griffin, the effective dates are March 26, 2013 thru June 30, 2023.

Mr. Wilson stated that the contract is for the Archivist to be a City Employee, but her position is jointly funded 50/50 and the facility is located in a City building.

City Police – Ms. Irizarry stated that this was not in contention and there were not changes to this. However, we did add Grants and SPLOST to the funding sources. There is an agreement that automatically renews and there is a supplemental to Item #2 which is the City of Griffin and Spalding County have found some overlap of services between the City of Griffin Police Department and the Spalding County Sheriff's Department do exist; however, the provision of law enforcement services by the City of Griffin Police Department represents a higher level of service by the City of Griffin which is permitted by OCGA 36-7-1.

Code Enforcement – Ms. O'Connor stated that the County will provide this service in unincorporated boundaries and the City will provide the service within its incorporated boundaries. Right now, it states there are no overlapping service areas, unnecessary competition or duplication of this service. This can remain that way if Code Enforcement is paid for out of user fees from the County. If they do have to supplement it with General Fund then we would argue that there is a double taxation issue. The County has indicated that this service is paid by user fees from their Code Enforcement so at this time there is no overlapping.

Ms. Irizarry then added that our Code Enforcement Officers are deputized and are able to write tickets for No Thru Trucks in addition to some tent cities that we have dealt with and there have been very high fines placed on these violations.

Collection Centers – Ms. Irizarry advised that service will be provided countywide. Yes, we did identify overlapping service areas which we will give justification for. This service is paid by the General Fund from Spalding County.

Ms. O'Connor advised that is another matter that the City would consider a minor issue, since we do provide curbside service which is an enhanced level of service, but we are also paying for this out of our county taxes with their General Fund, so we are paying for a service that we are not utilizing. The argument is, the Centers are available and can be utilized. That can be a issue if the City choses to raise it.

Commissioner Dutton stated that there are plenty City residents who utilize the Collection Centers.

Ms. O'Connor stated that there were a lot of City residents who used the Collection Centers until the recent changes were made where you can't take bulky waste, because the City would not accept that either without a fee. Or that you could take an unlimited amount of yard debris, because the City charges a special handling if the resident is over the limitation. However, with the recent changes she feels that even less City residents will be utilizing the Collection Centers. We can't know right now because that change just occurred, but monitoring it over the next few months the County will probably see a sharp decrease in City residents utilizing these facilities.

Mayor Hollberg then asked if the County utilized the transfer station for dumping or the local landfills?

Mr. Wilson advised that the County does both, we carry it to the transfer station and the landfill, depending on which is more economically feasible and they charge us a per tonnage fee.

Cooperative Extension – Ms. Irizarry advised that this is a countywide service, there is no overlapping service areas and the funding method is the General Fund and University Systems of Georgia Board of Regents-UGA. There is a current agreement for these services.

Coronor – Ms. Irizarry stated this is a countywide service, no overlapping service areas, it is provided out of the General Fund.

Correctional Institute – Ms. Irizarry advised this is a countywide service there are no overlapping areas of service. The funding methods are General Fund, State of Georgia Department of Corrections, Grants and SPLOST. There is a list of all agreements regarding Inmate Contract Details.

Ms. O'Connor added that if you see an ending date that looks like it is expired, it is because it has an automatic renewal clause. The ending date is for the initial term and the City's contract is automatically renewed after June 30th and runs with the budget year.

Municipal Court – Ms. O'Connor stated this is an item that is being added, this is a service that is provided has not been included in the past. The City provides this service only within our incorporated boundaries, there is overlapping service areas which is okay because it provides an enhanced level of service and the service that we provide to the Municipality.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the one thing that was noted is there are some concurrent jurisdictional issues, which means that some of the cases could be heard in Municipal, State or Superior Court and that is the justification for the overlapping.

Other Courts – Ms. O'Connor stated that this item includes the other Courts that we currently have; however, we are adding the Accountability Court to this because it is new since the last time we did the SDS. Accountability, Superior, Juvenile State and Probate Courts are all countywide services and there is no overlap of the services. Since they are countywide they are funded out of the General Fund, Grants, Fines, User Fees and SPLOST.

Curbside Solid Waste Collection – Ms. O'Connor advised that this item is marked as "Other" because sometimes we do have contractual arrangements outside of the incorporated boundaries or in unincorporated areas. We do have a contract for this service that goes until 2056 and we fund this out of User Fees, this is our Enterprise Solid Waste Fund and that contract was executed in November 2006 for 50 years.

Detention Center – Ms. Irizarry stated that this is a countywide service, we do have overlapping service areas. Funding sources are Spalding County, City of Griffin, General Fund, SPLOST, Grants and User Fees for Spalding County. Jail Add-On Fees, User Fees, General Fund and SPLOST for the City of Griffin. There is a current contract or agreement between the Sheriff's Office and the City of Griffin for the detention of these inmates.

Emergency Communications – Ms. O'Connor stated that she believes this has been addressed during the 800 MHz discussion, so we will just keep going.

Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security – Mr. Irizarry stated that this is a countywide service, there is no overlapping service areas, it is paid by Spalding County through General Fund, Grants, Impact Fees and the SPLOST.

Fire Protection – Ms. Irizarry stated that "d" is checked for Spalding County and City of Griffin.

Ms. O'Connor advised that this is the one that the County has a special tax district to fund as discussed earlier. Ms. O'Connor added that at some point the information regarding the Fire Protection and Sheriff's Office had gotten mixed up and they were correcting these items in the SDS update.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the County's Fire Protection Services is funded by the Fire District Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, Grants, Impact Fees and SPLOST. The City's services are paid out of General Fund, SPLOST and Grants. Right now, it is backward and contains the Sheriff's information and we will be correcting that. Ms. O'Connor stated that is an automatic aid agreement that was signed last Fall and will extend through 2024.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if this was to assist in major events?

Ms. O'Connor stated that it is for instances that may occur at locations for example Carver Road where the County has a Fire Station right there who can deliver services until the City fire equipment can arrive. If, the County has equipment in the area where they can respond first, then the County will respond until the City can get there and then assist and vice versa.

Griffin-Spalding Development Authority – Ms. Irizarry stated that this is a countywide service, no overlapping service areas. It is paid through the Spalding County General Fund; however, there is an opportunity to levy up to 1 mil of ad valorem tax.

Health and Human Services – Ms. Irizarry advised this is a countywide service there is no overlapping service areas. Funding sources are General Fund, SPLOST and Grants by Spalding County. Health and Human Services are provided in accordance with State Law.

Indigent Medical Care – Ms. Irizarry stated that this provided countywide, no overlapping service areas. The funding source for this a Hospital Trust to fund indigent residents of Spalding County for healthcare.

Mr. Wilson stated that the sale of the Hospital generated Trust Funds, those trust funds are used to pay indigent healthcare up to a limit of \$1 million per year and under the agreement for the sale of the contract and any future sale in perpetuity, whoever purchases the hospital has to cover any and all indigent costs above that \$1 million. We are very fortunate to have this, there are some counties that pay in excess of \$2 million a year for indigent healthcare.

Library Services – Ms. Irizarry stated this a countywide service, there is no overlapping service areas. This funded by Spalding County through General Fund, Grants, Impact Fees and SPLOST.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. O'Connor stated that this is one of the items that the City and the County disagree on and she isn't sure that the four individuals preparing these documents disagree, they simply did not know where to start. There is a lot of different services provided by the County, there are some services provided by the City. There has been talk about closing the pool and closing the golf course. This is something that the County does very well, they are the best at Parks and Recreation, we need to let them do this. We have expired agreements that have to be addressed, because there are buildings and infrastructure belonging to the County located on our property without current agreements.

Mr. Wilson stated that these are lease agreements, not operation agreements.

Ms. O'Connor then stated that staff needs some direction regarding this item.

Commissioner McCord stated that we have to do whatever we have got to do to make sure that children in Griffin and Spalding County who do not have access to a private pool will have access to a public pool where they can swim. Whatever, we as two Boards have to do to make that happen whether it is the County building an Aquatic Center or taking over the City pool or taking over all recreation. Whatever is going to help us to achieve that for the citizens that we represent in the City and the County that does not have a public place to go swimming is what he is in favor of.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that the County is obligated to build an Aquatic Center and we're moving forward on that although it was the last item on the list of things to do. At some point in the future, there will be a County Aquatic Center.

Ms. O'Connor added that the current arrangement that DCA has states that this service will be provided countywide, which would then make it item 2 the answer would be "no" there is no overlapping service areas. If we keep it as "e" as Other, the answer becomes "yes." The way we are currently operating doesn't match what our SDS shows because the City does have some Parks and Recreation because we have City Park, some pocket parks, the pool and tennis courts. SDS currently shows this as a countywide service, but we don't really operate that way. The form being considered we need your input to complete.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he feels this item does overlap, both entities provide parks and both entities provide recreational opportunities.

Commissioner Flowers then asked what input is staff hoping to get from the group today.

Ms. O'Connor stated that staff needs to know if you want to keep the pool open, if you want to keep City Park? What about the Golf Course? We have pocket parks. There are all types of options that you have as a Board. She believes, as staff, that the County does a great job with Parks and Recreation and that they should do that because they are best at it. Staff would like to give it to them, we know there are concerns regarding where to put the pool, there still is not a place for that. City Staff believes that City Park is the perfect place for that. Staff believes there are some opportunities at City Park, County Parks and Rec already run a majority of City Park except for the Golf Course, Tennis Courts, the Playground Equipment which is more passive. There is not a lot of running that has to be done, the maintenance is done by the City and there is not much of the operations. We don't believe it would be much more than the County already does in the Park and we would like them to take that.

Commissioner Murray stated that she wants to do everything to keep recreation and the pool open. Especially since the citizens voted for an Aquatic Center and that is to be last on the list. Her position is she knows the County is going to build an Aquatic Center, it is last on the list and she understands that and as far as recreation, keeping the pool open is on her agenda because, we don't know how long it is going to be until the Aquatic Center is built and she wants us to do whatever we can to keep this pool open. Whether the County is in agreement to take over the pool services in City Park.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she agrees that the City pool should remain open. She was surprised that the City was considering closing the pool, but she does feel that recreation should be under the County because we do it better than anyone else. She feels that if the County were to arrange to acquire City Park from the City, it would be a gem for the entire City because it is almost 200 acres of green space in the middle of the County. Plus there is redevelopment in the area, access to the hospital; however, with all that being said, there is always the issue of how will it be paid for? And how till the transition happen? She doesn't have any problem at all with the County taking on the responsibility of Parks and Rec in this community, but she feels in order to make that transition we need to talk about numbers and money.

Mr. Wilson stated that the current City Budget for City Park is approximately \$430,000, we realize that most of that goes for the golf course. When we discussed this last week, we talked about LOST funding, which is a part of Service Delivery Strategy. Currently, we estimate about \$100,000 per point in LOST. As we have said, without any LOST funds to fund this, the County

would be looking at a minimum of \$200-300,000 to talk over that 180 acres and maintain it to the level to which Spalding County maintains our parks. So, he doesn't know that we will get anywhere on that today, but that is as County Manager, his opinion of City Park.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that if the City closes the pool and the golf course then the cost would be about \$280,000 a year. If they don't do that it is over \$400,000 a year. So, if the City is interested in us taking over City Park in its current incarnation, then you are looking at around \$400,000 a year. If the City changes the City's arrangement with City Park, if it closes its golf course and closes its pool and then wants to transfer what is left over to the County then you are looking at approximately \$280,000.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that she doesn't see that. If the Park becomes part of the County Parks and Rec system, it is certainly not in our plans to run a golf course. So, the golf course would automatically be changed into some other type of passive recreation area and the expenses associated with the golf course would not be in any budget form other than the maintenance for cutting the grass or whatever else we would be doing with that. She doesn't see what the difference would be if the City closes it or the County closes it.

She stated that she gets it, it is a bad thing if the City closes the golf course. It has been there forever and that is why it is still open and as a County Commissioner, and we do recreation, she doesn't have a problem making that statement that there is simply no money to be made there. There are golfing facilities in the community that people can use. So, asking the City to close the pool, which she is totally against closing the pool, there is no access for the High School Swim team, the local recreation swim team, plus the actual recreation aspects of it. So, she definitely does not want to see the city close the pool in order transfer that property to us, if we are able to do that. It is about the continuity of service and care and there is an expectation from citizens that the service which has been here for many years is going to continue to be here. Then you have older people who remember that the pool was closed by the City in the 60's, who feel that pool does not need to be closed until there is another facility available, or until someone can repair it to make it usable to the entire community and the entire county.

Commissioner Reid-Ward stated that her position is that in 2016 we voted for a SPLOST and her concern is that the Aquatic Center and the Heritage Projects, who were voted on by minorities and those who use the pool were put on the agenda to be the last thing handled. It is now 2020 and the County does not even have site for a pool. She heard Commissioner Dutton say that we are going to get it, she wants to know when? This is why we, as a City were so encouraged to assist in having people to vote for the SPLOST and support the SPLOST because back in 2016 we were looking at the same thing that we are looking at now. All the money that we are having to spend for the pool we are having to spend now. We are not in the Park and Rec business, we don't have the employees who do Park and Rec stuff. The pool

is in the Public Works Department, so we're having to try to come up with trying to hire somebody to run the pool and come up with repairs for the pool every year. We're not in the Park and Rec business, so the City shouldn't have to be doing this and every year the conversation has come up. Last year we paid to open the pool with the understanding that by this year the County would be in a position and they would have someone to manage the pool. We are still in the same position that we were in last year.

Commissioner Reid-Ward stated that it is her opinion that the County should be running the pool, if it stays open. The City is just not able to continue to do this and she doesn't feel that they should have to because the SPLOST was countywide and in four years she feels the County should have been able to figure out something.

Commissioner Dutton stated that in his earlier statements regarding the closing and cost estimates, it was in no way a value judgement or indicative of what his opinion of the future of the pool and the golf course should be. That said, there is a City Pool and a City Park and to say that the City is not in the business of running Parks and Pools is simply not a reflection of the reality of this situation.

Mr. Smith stated that was part of the confusion with service delivery because Parks and Rec under the current Service Delivery is a countywide service, so from the City's standpoint to have City Park, tennis courts and pool is Parks and Rec, so if it is a countywide service then why are we doing it? The County has had a lease on Fairmont Park and Volunteer Park, the leases have expired. The County leases a large part of City Park the ball fields, gym and skate park has been leased by the County, that lease also has expired. So, when we reached an agreement on this Service Delivery Strategy, it was a countywide service, but it really wasn't a countywide service because the City is still in the business.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that if the City wants to get out of that business and turn the City Park into a County park and turn the City Pool into the County pool along with all the pocket parks, he is not categorically against the idea, but the idea that wouldn't come with the money to take care of those, so that we could continue to take care of them, obviously that doesn't work. If the City wants to transfer services that the City currently provides, then the money that the City uses to currently take care of the services should also be transferred.

Mr. Smith then stated that Commissioner Dutton wants to tax the City residents by them paying County tax for Park and Rec and them paying additionally to maintain City Park.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that the City has chosen to provide extra parks and extra pools and extra stuff. If the City wants to do something "extra" then they can. The idea that somehow the liabilities of these services can be transferred without benefits to the County, then the County can't maintain the high level of standard that we have for Parks and Recreation.

We do our Parks and Recreation correctly, we do it physically as far as the numbers go, we do that very well because we plan for it, we've thought about it for the future and we have created the situation so that our Parks are sustainable and affordable. If the City has run their parks in such a way that now they want to get out of that business and transfer that "loss that you can't take anymore" over to the County, that's okay we can probably do a better job, as you have stated today. That said, there's money that goes along with those things.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that on just City Park alone, the City spends around \$480,000 a year on the upkeep, services and running of that Park. If the City wants to transfer to the County that liability, then it should also transfer 4-5% of its current LOST funds, which the City currently uses to pay those costs, to the County.

Commissioner Flowers then asked if the group could be provided with some actual numbers.

Mr. Smith then stated that Parks total, operationally is \$406,000, now we share personnel with the golf course and we also maintain five pocket parks with this money. So, all of that is in our Parks budget and we would still have to maintain those pocket parks, because all of that is included in this budget.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that if the City maintains the pocket parks then there would still be areas of overlapping service. If you want to get out of the parks business, then you need to get out of the parks business.

Mr. Smith stated that the City can have passive parks that are not part of Parks and Recreation.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the County is Parks and Recreation, if somebody has a community park across the street from there house that is not recreation. That is green space.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how does a park that has playground equipment in the community differ from the park that has slides and recreation equipment? It is still same park, maybe it is smaller, but it provides the same level of park and recreation that the County Parks do.

Discussion regarding the City's Budget item for City Park. It was clarified that the number in the Budget was the total number for all of the Parks in the City, not just City Park.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that if the County were to take over City Park would we not receive any additional funding from the LOST funds?

Mr. Smith stated that is not his decision, what he would say from a staff perspective is it would be double taxation on the City's citizens if they paid again for Parks and Recreation because it is a countywide service.

Commissioner Reid-Ward stated that her concern is that the City continues to bare responsibility and to pay for the pool, when the SPLOST was

obligated to build and Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Johnson stated we are concerned as to what funding we would receive from the City should we take over the City Pool.

Commissioner McCord stated that the reason they were discussing closing the City Pool was because the County was discussing the opening of an Aquatic Center. So, once you open an Aquatic Center, we possibly would close the City Pool.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that during the last SDS discussions, we had a consultant tell us what we should get out of the LOST and he told us that we should get all of it. The City also had a consultant to advised the City that they should receive all of the LOST and here we are in the middle. However, if the City has felt that their justification for what they receive in LOST or they collect in lost is through recreation, they do provide a higher level of service and she agrees with that.

She went on to state that when there was no park except for Dundee Park, there was a City Park. That's why it is here and that's why they have provided recreation. She's not blowing the horn for the City she is simply explaining that is why the current situation is what it is. So, the County's concern is that we believe we can take over City Park, but are you willing to look at the numbers and make some adjustment to your LOST collection to allow us to take it over, keep it running and run it right.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that the Aquatic Center was scheduled as a pay as you go project in the SPLOST. The SPLOST is a six-year SPLOST and we are only four-years into it. You are absolutely right, Heritage Park was a bonded issue and it's not completed and that is our fault, but if it is a pay as you go project and you are two-years out from completion of the SPLOST, you cannot expect us to have the money there to complete the pool.

Commissioner Reid-Ward then stated that Spalding County could have made the Aquatic Center a priority. That was the County's choice to put it on the end. The people on the swim team and everybody else in the Community that don't have a place to swim, everything else was more important than that, so y'all put that on the end.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then advised that the Aquatic Center was the largest amount of money to be collected, that is why it was on the end. It would take the longest to collect the \$4.5 million to build the Aquatic Center.

Mr. Wilson then advised that there has been nothing agreed to as to what the Aquatic Center should be. If we build a build an Aquatic Center with a competition pool, those kids who come to "City Pool" are not going to get in it because it will be 5-8 degrees colder than the pool that they are accustomed to. It is also deeper, so we have to decide, as a group, what we are going to build for an Aquatic Center. Are we going to build one pool, two pools, three pools? There are folks at the Senior Center who think that we are building a

therapeutic pool that they are going to be able to walk into and do exercises, that was never discussed.

Mr. Wilson then advised that at the Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday night, Paragon Consulting will be presenting a conceptual plan on where we could place the pool at the Lakes at Green Valley. The County Commissioners did move ahead with that. Since that time, there has been a lot of discussion about City Park and the closing of the golf course and actually putting the pool somewhere physically on the golf course. There is still a lot of things out there. No matter where we put it, we still have not, as a group, decided what kind of pool or pools we are going to build.

Commissioner Reid-Ward stated that from her constituency and the people she talks to the idea of putting a pool out at the Industrial Park basically equates to 1960 when the City covered both of the pools with dirt.

Mayor Hollberg then stated, that he doesn't have 100% of his Board in support of this, but if the County would take on the pool as a responsibility this year, we have in our budget through the end of this budget year which is June 30, 2020, we have half of the expense funded and the County could pick up the other half, hire a pool director and start getting acclimated to being in the pool business. Since you are going to be in the pool business, he would like to work out some type of negotiation on that.

With regard to the rest of City Park, if you take out the line item budgeted for the running of the golf course, then the amount of money it takes to run City Park isn't the \$400-480,000 it is a lot less. If it means us figuring out how much, not on the LOST side, but on an annual basis we need to offer up the amount of money that we spend on that line item as being partners over a 2, 3, to 5 year period as LOST revenues keep coming in on both sides for the City and County. Is there a compromise we can come to taking it bite by bite and work through the process? That is what he would like to see us do, to get to the pool where the County would take responsibility this year. The rest of City Park we could set a goal of July 2021.

Commissioner Miller stated that as far as he is concerned, we need to be considering the taxpayers of Spalding County, the County is not equipped financially to run two pools. It is definitely not equipped to run a golf course that has never made any money. He doesn't understand why the golf course even has to come into this argument. He doesn't have a problem with doing something with the City Park pool until the Aquatic Center is open for the swim team and autistic people that is using it. Other than that, this County cannot afford two swimming pools.

Mayor Hollberg then stated that the intent would be to close the City Pool once the Aquatic Center opens.

Commissioner Miller then stated that as far as he was concerned they could close City Park and the City could keep it up because you are talking a substantial amount of money that will need to be expended just to keep that

park up. No only in the number of people required to maintain it, but the additional equipment that would be needed. The people of Spalding County are being taxed to death, for the last two years we have had to raise property taxes. We currently cannot compete with law enforcement salaries because, we give them a raise, but they can go to surrounding counties and get a substantial raise. We need to look at what the people of Spalding County can live with and afford, because the people who pay taxes here are not going to be able to stay here. Some of them are already leaving.

Commissioner Reid-Ward then stated that she feels the discussion regarding the Park was something they were throwing out there. She doesn't feel this is something the City is trying to "get y'all to do." She said the only thing they are trying to get the County to do is to take over the pool, because the County should be responsible for it.

Commissioner Miller then stated that he doesn't have a problem with taking it over until the Aquatic Center is built. There are also a number of autistic people who utilize the pool and he doesn't feel that we should just cut them off from access, but for the County to sit here and say they are going to run two pools is wrong. They have already set a price on what they anticipate the cost to be for those who utilize the Aquatic Center of approximately \$8.00 per person and that is supposed to pay for it.

Mayor Hollberg then asked that the discussion on recreation end and that we move on to the next item.

Commissioner Flowers then asked how do we follow up the conversation regarding the pool for this year? She agrees that we need to move on, but she doesn't want that to get lost and we don't revisit it. Are we saying that we want to have a meeting, do you want to exchange emails, what is the expectation about the discussion regarding the pool? She doesn't expect it to be done today, but when can we reapproach this matter because the pool gates need to be opened soon. We need to determine what needs to happen before the pool opens for the Summer. It's not a "we can decide in June how to fund it" we have to decide now so that it can be prepped for Summer.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that if it is a matter that you want the County to take the pool over this year, are you willing to forgo the funding that you were going to spend anyway to allow us to manage the pool this year?

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he didn't feel we would be able to reach an agreement for this year, he believes staff should continue to discuss it and bring it back before the Boards.

Mr. Wilson advised that County staff recommends FY2022.

Ms. O'Connor stated that City staff does not.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that staff would like to budget for the pool in 2022, but we are just getting ready to budget for 2021.

Mr. Wilson stated that the City would like for us to take it over July 1, 2020 which is not what is being recommended by County staff.

Commissioner McCord then stated that the County doesn't anticipate having the Aquatic Center ready for another two years.

Mr. Wilson stated that we haven't even decided on the type of pool, so yes he does see it being another 2 to possibly 3 years before the Aquatic Center is open.

Commissioner Flowers then stated that based on Commissioner McCord's statement, the County would anticipate taking over the City Pool at about the same time you would anticipate opening the Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Flowers stated the discussion was not to have two pools once the Aquatic Center was opened which means that the City would continue to front the pool basically until the Aquatic Center gets open.

Mr. Wilson then stated that he feels the County needs to make a decision on what type of pool we are going to build. He reiterated that what people are expecting is totally different from what we could build. He doesn't feel that the County should make any commitment to the City to take over anything until the County decides what kind of pool we are going to build.

Commissioner Flowers then asked if there wasn't blueprints or plans for the pool at the time of the SPLOST.

Mr. Wilson advised were no costs estimates, there were not blueprints, there were no plans.

Commissioner Dutton then stated it was the same thing for Heritage Park, we budgeted \$1. Million for Heritage Park and when the estimate came back it was \$7.2 million. So, if you wonder why Heritage Park has not been completed, it is because we budgeted 1/7th of what it is going to cost. Again, I say we because I am now on the County Commission, but that decision was made long before he joined the Commission. Now instead of looking back and trying to draw on the rearview mirror and correct things that we can't we have to look forward and say this is the way we've got to go. Stuff happened in the past and that is in the past, but if we want to actually get where we are going, we have got to look forward. Where we are at is folks saying that it wasn't done correctly, and he wishes that his predecessors had done it correctly. He wishes they had had better cost estimates, he wishes they had already had the design plans, and now we have a set budget, and everyone thinks we are building the Taj Mahal. That being said, this is the reality of where we are and we have to move forward towards it. He thinks we can get where we all want to go, and he certainly feels there is wiggle room where the City wants to be as far as the pool, but he agrees with Bart that we should not both run pools at the same time.

Commissioner Flowers then stated for the sake of moving forward what it sounds like what she is hearing is that the City does not need to expect any

involvement from the County with regard to the pool in the near future.

Planning, Zoning and Building Inspections – Ms. Irizarry stated that “c” and “d” are both check on the page, that is an error, it should just be “d”. She will make that correction this afternoon. One or more Cities will provide this service only within their incorporated boundaries and the County will provide it in the unincorporated areas. Spalding County and the City of Griffin do have overlapping service areas and the funding sources are listed.

Ms. O’Connor stated that this is another one of the double taxation issues for the City, if they are paying for their Planning, Building and Zoning out of the General Fund then they are double taxing the residents because they are getting all of their services through the City. At one time, this could have been covered by the user fees, but since they have contracted with Charles Abbott and Associates it is not anymore. This is a minor issue for us in that there is some amount of double taxation on the City residents.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated she was confused about the double taxation.

Ms. O’Connor advised that 70% of the fees the County charges for their permits and plan reviews and those type of fees that are taken in for Planning, Zoning and Building Inspections now go to Charles Abbott and Associates, that is how you pay them for their services. So, the 30% that remains does not cover the expenses for that department and you are having to supplement that with the General Fund. The amount that is being supplemented would be a double tax to the City because we are also providing that service to our citizens.

Mr. Wilson stated that the expenses were covered before we contracted with Charles Abbott, but we have not done a full accounting yet for FY2020, but is it going to be close. We will have to see the exact amount because when you give them 70% of the revenues, it does take a large portion of the revenues we receive in Community Development. Which may mean that we need to increase our fees, which we can do.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that in the past the Community Development Department has made in excess of what it would take to operate that Department. Now, with the implementation of the contract with Charles Abbott we are now in the hole for running Planning and Development?

Commissioner Dutton stated that we might be, we haven’t done the full accounting analysis yet.

Mr. Wilson stated that at this time we don’t know what percentage, we think there is a small percentage that is not covered. We have only been contracted with Charles Abbott for the past 7 months.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that once the analysis is done and if we are in the hole, then we could raise fees to cover the difference.

Public Works – Ms. Irizarry stated that “d” selected: Spalding County and City of Griffin and “yes” is checked for overlapping service areas and we have identified the funding sources.

Ms. O’Connor advised there are minor issues with this item depending on what Public Works does for the County if there are services that the City is also performing, then the work that is done by the Public Works Department for the county only in the incorporated areas would be double taxation for City residents. Again, they don’t feel it is much, but it is a minor issue.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County disagrees with that theory.

Sewer – Ms. Irizarry stated that a change had been made to the funding method on this item to show Enterprise Funds and it has recently been resubmitted to DCA.

Stormwater Collection – Ms. Irizarry stated that “c” is selected for this one: One or more Cities will provide this service only within their incorporated boundaries and the service will not be provided in the unincorporated areas. No overlapping service areas and it is funded through Stormwater Utility Fees.

Mr. Smith stated that this could be one of the areas where the Public Works question would come up because the County has to deal with stormwater through Public Works.

Street Lighting – Ms. Irizarry stated that this one is “d”: Spalding County and City of Griffin, there are no overlapping service areas. The funding methods are listed on page 2.

Mr. Wilson stated that all of the County street lights are paid for through Street Light Districts and assessment on their tax bill.

Ms. O’Connor stated the City does not have an issue with this.

Tax Billing and Collections – Ms. Irizarry advised that service would be provided countywide. There is no overlapping service area; however, we did include the agreements with the different municipalities.

Voter Registration and Elections – Ms. Irizarry stated this is a countywide service, no overlapping service areas. Funding sources are listed for Spalding County as General Fund, Grants and SPLOST. For City of Griffin and City of Orchard Hill the funding is General Fund. Copies of the agreements have been included as well.

Water – Ms. Irizarry stated they have marked “Other” for water as there are agreements currently circulating and discussion around this topic.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Water Authority is currently working on a response to the City of Griffin for a contract. The current contract is a Three Party Contract and the new contract will be a Two Party Contract.

Mr. Wilson then advised that there are a few items that the City and County disagree on. We have been working on this for a number of months and we are not going to come to an agreement today, but at least everyone has been made aware of the points made by both the City and the County and how we feel about those points. Staff will do whatever the Board directs, but we are currently at the point to where we need some direction. You have heard our stances on these items on the points. Whatever the majority of the City and County Commissioners tell us to do we will do. This is a very complicated issue, thank you for coming.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Truman Tinsley/Cora Flowers to adjourn the meeting for the City of Griffin at 11:54 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by James Dutton/Bart Miller to adjourn the meeting for Spalding County at 11:54 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.