

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 2, 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, March 2, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Rita Johnson and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Commissioner Donald Hawbaker was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson to record 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 Thomas Hill with Crestview Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner James Dutton, District #2, led the pledge to the flag.

Commissioner Rita Johnson the asked to amend the agenda in two places. First, to add a recognition item under Presentations and Second, to move the Public Hearing before consideration of the item under Old Business.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to amend the Agenda to add an item under Presentations and Proclamations and to conduct the Public Hearing before considering the item under Old Business. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. Consider request from the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority for the Board of Commissioners to appoint another County Commissioner to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker on the Authority for a term ending December 31,2022.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that Commissioner James Dutton would like to serve on the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to appoint James Dutton to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee.

Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for term ending December 31, 2020.

Chairperson Flowers -Taylor stated that this is the Chairman or designee appointment and she will be taking Commissioner Hawbaker's place on the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee.

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

To succeed Donald Hawbaker as the Sun City Peachtree Representative for term to expire December 31, 2022.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had asked Clay Davis to send out a request to Sun City Residents, because this is actually a Sun City Peachtree Resident appointment on this board. There were four individuals from Sun City who have signed up to be on this Board: Vera McIntosh, Joseph Kurey, Sally Sullivan and William Burns. He then advised that the nominations would be announced in the order they were received and the first one to receive a majority of the vote would be appointed to the GSBTA. Mr. Wilson then stated that Vera McIntosh who lives on Begonia Court and is a retired educator and is the first name for consideration.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve Vera McIntosh as the Sun City Resident representative to the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Sun City Peachtree Representative to succeed Donald Hawbaker for a term to expire on December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider appointment to the Atlanta Regional Commission to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker on the Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC) for the term ending December 31, 2020.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked the Board to entertain tabling this request, because we aren't sure what is required of this appointment.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to table item #4 the appointment to the Transportation and Air Quality Committee. Motion Carried Unanimously by all.

Mr. Wilson advised that he has a telephone call into ARC to get some additional information on this appointment. He should have something from Mr. Orr for the next meeting.

5. Consider appointments to the Two Rivers R C & D Council.

Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a term to expire 12/31/2020.

Chairperson Flowers -Taylor stated that this is the Chairman or designee appointment and she understands that this meeting is

only once a year so she will be taking Commissioner Hawbaker's place on the Two Rivers RC & D Council.

Mr. Wilson then stated that the session is about halfway finished, but we were made aware that Commissioner Hawbaker was appointed as the ACCG Legislative Coordinator for Spalding County. Mr. Wilson advised that if the Board approves, this appointment will be placed on the next meeting for consideration.

V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Consider approval of a Proclamation nunc pro tunc declaring Friday, February 21, 2020 as Jeff Treadway Day in the Spalding County, Georgia.

Mr. Wilson stated that Commissioner Dutton presented the proclamation and can tell us about the event in Macon.

Commissioner Dutton stated that growing up in Spalding County and playing second base when he was young, Jeff Treadway was the Major League guy from Griffin. When he got the call to present this Proclamation, he was both honored and thrilled. He took his father to the event as photographer. He met with Griffin's Mayor and presented the proclamations before the actual event. It was an amazing ceremony, there were some real household names who were inducted that night and it was "really cool" to see our hometown guy right there with them. It could not have been a more memorable evening and he was so glad the he was able to represent the Board at the event.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the Proclamation nunc-pro-tunc declaring Friday, February 21, 2020 as Jeff Treadway Day in Spalding County, Georgia. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. The Spalding County Public Works Department would like to recognize Jason Williams, Senior Public Works Officer, for his participation in the APWA Georgia State Equipment Rodeo on February 11, 2020. Mr. Williams received 1st Place in the rodeo and will represent the State of Georgia at the national equipment rodeo to be held in August of this year in New Orleans.

T.J. Imberger, Public Works Director, stated that it is exciting to be here this evening to honor one of the great employees we have in Spalding County, Senior Public Works Officer, Jason Williams. Mr. Williams is one of our equipment operators and a few weeks ago we went to Perry, Georgia and participated in the statewide American Public Works Association Conference trade show and rodeo. Representatives from all of the Public Works Departments in the State of Georgia sent their best to the Rodeo and we had three participating: Kenneth Wilkerson, David Cox and Jason Williams.

Mr. Williams competed in the mini-excavator portion of the rodeo, he had a time of 1 minute and 27 seconds which was a perfect score, as he had no deductions for any mistakes. This makes him #1 in the State of Georgia and in August, he will be representing the entire State of Georgia at the National APWA Equipment Rodeo in New Orleans, Louisiana.

VI. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.

VII. 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.

Mr. Wilson stated there was confusion in signing up, there were two lists, one for Citizens Comments and one for the Public Hearing section of tonight's agenda. He then advised that anyone who has designated that they would like to speak on the Board of Elections could comment during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. There are two who have signed up to speak under Public Comments.

Margaret Varnom, 111 McKinley Drive, Griffin, spoke regarding "Big Blue" what a blessing it is to have it available for our Senior Citizens and spoke regarding the problems with the heating and air conditioning on this aging piece of equipment. She encouraged the Board to replace Big Blue soon.

Peter Cabrel, 1260 Hillview Road, Hampton, wanted to thank the Public Works Department for all of their hard work on Pomona Road, he advised that he has taken pictures of that dirt road and sent them to Henry County to show how a dirt road should be maintained. He also express concern over ATV's and UTV's on roadways, he would like to have some clarification as to if these types of vehicles can travel on the roadways and would like to hear something from law enforcement.

Once again 2160 Rocky Creek Road, the event center, he was in North Carolina this past week and arrived back home around 7:30 in the evening. He could not believe it, it was like having the fair. He did call the Sheriff's Office at 10:30 p.m., he had enough. He would like to have this "looked" at again.

He also had a question regarding the intersection of Boynton Road and Happy Hollow, where Jordan Hill meets Rocky Creek. It is a racetrack there. Would it be possible to get stop signs put there to at least slow them down?

VIII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on February 17, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on February 17, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – Per Amendment to the Agenda this item to be considered after the public hearing.

1. Consider local legislation to restructure the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration.

Commissioner Dutton stated that it appears there is a lot of misconception or misinformation regarding the changes to be requested and what some of the concerns have been. What he has discussed is moving the County toward doing what most of the counties in Georgia are doing, whose legislation he has read, the only change he sees that could help the Board is instead of political parties who are unanswerable to anyone internally deciding who sits on that Board, the elected County Officials appoint one person for a specified term. Anyone who says anything different, it simply is not true. Any change in legislation would go into effect July 1st, but all the current Board members would stay until new appointments could be made in January 2021. This would have no affect on our current elections. Dr. Gooden, who is from his district, would be his appointment, he doesn't know why that would change.

He stated that instead of the two political parties choosing individuals from their respective groups, then those four individuals choosing the fifth member of the Board the appointments would be made by Officials who were elected by the citizens and ultimately answer to the citizens of this community. It wouldn't change how the Board works, it wouldn't change the Supervisor's reporting responsibility, you would simply take it out of the hands of literally the most political way it could possibly be done, literally by the Democratic and Republican Parties with no other political party being considered.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she wanted to applaud everyone who actually came out tonight to speak on this issue. This is what a Public Hearing is all about and you have taken advantage of this forum. It is very important that we, as commissioners, got a chance to hear you. You are right, we are here working on your behalf. She wanted to say thank you for coming out and she wanted to thank the Board of Elections for coming out and speaking as well. Without hearing how you feel, we simply don't know.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she is in agreement, she doesn't feel that any restructuring is needed or that any changes should be made at this time. As one gentleman mentioned, we are coming up on a major election year. When you go to the office, everything is organized perfectly and ready to go, she was very impressed with what she saw. She understands some of the reasons for restructuring this department, but in listening to the citizens who came in this evening, she feels it needs to be left as it is.

Commissioner Miller then expressed his concern regarding the Board

requesting a significant increase in salary for the Elections Supervisor. The Board of Elections has no idea regarding the County Budget and what it takes to run this County. We have 500+ employees and when you want to give someone a significant raise who has only been here a few years it can cause a lot of problems. He stated he hasn't had any problems going to vote and he hasn't had anyone complain to him directly, but he does have a problem with a Board making budgetary decision without considering the overall budget of Spalding County. This County is on a tight budget, so we need to look at any raises and the Election Board shouldn't be requesting special raises for anybody without consulting the County Manager and is then presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he respectfully disagreed with Commissioner Miller as the Board of Elections should be given a budget and if they choose to reallocate funds within that budget to accommodate a increase in pay for the Supervisor of Elections, that should be allowed as long as they keep their expenses within budget.

Commissioner Johnson then added that at the end of the day the Board of Commissioners approves the budget.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the budgets are approved on a line-item basis; and that is a level of control that the County exercises over the budget, We also have a Personnel Ordinance that covers most employees, which would need to be considered as well.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he understands; however, he doesn't agree.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated she remembers when this legislation was passed and part of the reason was because at the time this Board was a majority of Republicans and she has seen Board members sit on this dais and say that they couldn't appoint someone in the community that is not a Republican, because they had promised that to the Republican Party. When she looks and sees that a grown man cannot choose the best candidate, but has to choose a political candidate, she doesn't feel that the power on this board should have anything to do with the Elections Office.

The thought of changing the Elections Supervisor to answer to the County Manager is problematic for her because Mr. Wilson works for the Board of Commissioners and if this Board was completely full of Democrats or completely full of Republicans, Mr. Wilson's job is to do what they tell him to do. And that is the climate that operated in this County some years ago. She is proud to say that it doesn't work like that now. That is the reason the legislation was drafted the way it was.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor then added that she agrees with many of the individuals who spoke during the Public Hearing. There is more customer service going on in that Elections Office than she has seen in many years, this is not a Black/White issue, this is a "have" and a "have not" issue. When you go into the Elections Office and you cannot read and people talk ugly to you, she heard a woman in the Elections Office, who has been retrained since the Elections Supervisor came in, tell a gentleman that if he could not read then he shouldn't vote. She attributes this type of behavior directly to the leadership. Just because you can't read, doesn't mean you don't know who

you want to be elected. She doesn't feel that it is broken.

With regard to what Commissioner Miller was saying regarding the Board of Elections requesting a salary increase for the Elections Supervisor was based on our pay scale. We have a set pay scale, you can arbitrarily say what you want. Her understanding was their impression was that the Supervisor was going to be paid at a certain level on the pay scale and she was actually paid at a different level on the pay scale.

She does agree that the Board should have come to us and advised that this is a misunderstanding that we had. There needs to be a lot more communication between staff and the Board of Commissioners.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to not submit any local legislation to restructure the Spalding County Board of Elections. Motion carried 3-1 (Dutton).

X. PUBLIC HEARING –

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enter into Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.

1. Conduct a Public Hearing to determine if Spalding County should request legislation to restructure the Board of Elections.

Spoke Against Restructuring the Board of Elections

JoAnne Phinzaee, 859 Park Point Drive, Griffin
Bob Beyer, 516 Orchid Lights Court, Griffin (*)
Margaret Bentley, 1317 North 2nd Street, Griffin
Randall Gooden, 107 Ola Circle, Griffin
Arthur Yarbrough, 135 Poplar Point, Griffin
Jewell Walker-Harps, 103 McEthel Drive, Griffin

(*) Mr. Beyer also presented the Board with petitions that had been circulated throughout the County containing approximately 130 signatures asking that the Board of Elections legislation remain as it is. According to the petition, the Elections Board is functioning fairly and effectively and there is no need for a change.

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

The agenda then addressed Old Business as requested by the Agenda Amendment.

XI. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of an Ordinance establishing the On-System Speed Zones for Spalding County approved by the Georgia State Patrol.

Mr. Wilson stated that in October the County Commissioners submitted a list of roads that we felt should be allowed to have radar or speed detection devices on. We submitted the list to the State of Georgia, Department of Transportation. They reviewed the list and recommended all but about four

roads. This incorporates the approved roads into the County's code of Ordinances. There are two sections of the Ordinance: On-System and Off System. On-System road are roads State Roads that run through the County. Off-System are the local county roads.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve an Ordinance establishing the On-System Speed Zones for Spalding County as approved by the Georgia State Patrol. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of an Ordinance establishing the Off-System Speed Zones for Spalding County approved by the Georgia State Patrol.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve an Ordinance establishing the Off-system Speed Zones for Spalding County as approved by the Georgia State Patrol. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider award of contract to Lux Mitigation & Planning, low bidder in the amount of \$18,000 for Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Mr. Wilson stated that we received three bids from a high of \$23,500 to a low of \$18,000. Lux Mitigation was the low bid. He then reviewed what is included in this Plan Update per the Spalding County Fire Department:

The scope of the Spalding County Pre Hazard Mitigation Plan update encompasses all areas of Spalding County, including all of its municipalities. The plan identifies all natural and technological hazards that could threaten life and property in Spalding County. This includes both short and long-term mitigation strategies with implementation and possible funding sources of project funding for those items listed in the plan, through additional grants that result from being federally declared from an emergency and or disaster.

The Spalding County Pre Hazard Mitigation Plan was last updated in 2016 and approved by FEMA in 2017, which we are required to perform this update on a 5 year basis. We were awarded a Hazard Mitigation grant of \$24, 000 to assist with the update of this plan and the county match of 15% will be funded using in kind match of the time of all parties that will be participating in this planning process. Thus, the county will not have any funds to be used to supplement this grant.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the contract with Lux Mitigation & Planning, the low bidder in the amount of \$18,000 for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of revised FY2020 Budget and Carryover Funds for CSBG Grant with Georgia Department of Human Services.

Mr. Wilson stated that we have this adjustment to the budget every year and this year the carryover amount increases our budget by \$37,703 which is will be split between the educational program with Salvation Army Administrative Cost, the Senior Center Nutrition Program and the Youth

Backpack Program. This carryover will provide additional funding for these projects. Ms. Brantley is here should the Board have any questions.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the revised FY2020 Budget and Carryover Funds for CSBG Grant with Georgia Department of Human Services. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of an agreement with Three Rivers Regional Commission for the Operation of the Spalding County Section 5311 Public Transportation Program.

Mr. Wilson stated that there were some problems with the previous 5311 Contractor and a problem with GDOT and they thought that they may not be able to continue that program, so we signed an extension through December 31, 2019. When we were reviewing our contracts, we found that we did not have a current contract. Three Rivers has been able to get a new contractor, and everything is back on-line and working well. This contract will take us from January 1 through June 30, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve an agreement with Three Rivers Regional Commission for the Operation of the Spalding County Section 5311 Public Transportation Program thru June 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider request from the City of Griffin to participate in a Joint Workshop on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Service Delivery Strategy issues.

Mr. Wilson stated that before we had received this request from the City, staff had sent the Board an email letting you know what services had been agreed to and the seven that staff was unable to come to an agreement on with staff from the City of Griffin. We had hoped to meet with the Board on March 16th or April 6th. We had no idea that the City of Griffin would be sending a request to meet on March 10th. We did clarify with Kenny Smith at the City of Griffin, that he has not discussed SDS with his Board any more than giving a memo like we have done. So, it will be the first opportunity for both Boards to talk about SDS.

However, if you listen to the City of Griffin's meeting and you read the Griffin Daily News, this meeting will probably center around Parks and Recreation Service Delivery Strategy more than anything else and will actually involve location of the Aquatic Center, pools and things of that nature and we may or may not get to the other six things that we disagree on.

Mr. Wilson the advised that the Board may be asked at this meeting to take over services that we currently do not offer and he simply wants to remind the Board that the cost of these services are high and it is not something to be considered lightly and not something to be considered at a work session that was called by the City of Griffin. We need to do extensive research on what may or may not be offered at that meeting.

Consensus of the Board is to participate in the in a Joint

Workshop on Tuesday, March 10th beginning at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Service Delivery Strategy Issues.

7. Consider approval of the addition of Veteran's Day to the County Holiday Schedule as requested by Commissioner James Dutton.

Commissioner Dutton stated that when heard that Veteran's Day was not an official Holiday in Spalding County he couldn't believe. It is obvious that Veteran's Day should be a holiday for the employees. The idea that we are sitting here in a free country exercising rights in a democracy is because of veterans and at the very least we should honor that with this day.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve Veteran's Day as an additional holiday for Spalding County Employees. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ A joint meeting of the Water Authority and the Board of Commissioners, Chad and Newton Galloway to review the FLUM, Comp Plan and discuss future economic development in the County. The Water Authority suggested March 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- ✓ Marie Broder will be sworn in as the District Attorney on Thursday, March 5th at 3:00 p.m. on the 4th Floor of the Spalding County Courthouse.
- ✓ Early Voting started today. Remember that it is now at the Athletic Hall of Fame from March 2 – 20. The location will be open on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be open on Saturday, March 14th.
- ✓ SPLOST Collections for January 2020 were \$781,767.04 which is a 4% increase over 2019. Average monthly collections for the 46 months have been \$764,926.57.
- ✓ New Single Family Dwelling Information – January there were 21 permits with an average of 2,850 square feet and in February there were 23 permits with an average of 3,369 square feet.
- ✓ Intersection #3 Update – We have been sending the Board updated pictures of this intersection. If we can ever get the rain to stop, we will try to get more curb and gutter in. They have been doing a great job in maintaining the soil and controlling the erosion. This was one of the projects on the 2008 SPLOST. Intersections #1, 2 and 3 were all part of our north side revitalization and this is the last of that. We did receive a GTIB grant for \$856,000 of the \$1.6 million construction.
- ✓ City of Griffin Fire Chief Tommy Jones is retiring and he will be having a reception in the Historic City Hall on March 13th from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- ✓ BMX Usage at the Skate Park. We have received the initial response and guidelines from our insurance carrier today. We will review that information and have a formal recommendation at the March 16th meeting.

- ✓ Tomorrow bids are due for the Bar Screen that will help us with the problem at the CI and the Sheriff's Office with garbage getting into the sewer system.
- ✓ Other news from the CI, there is a 1000 gallon pressurized hot water storage tank that is now 20 years old and is leaking. The water is 200 degrees and is pressurized. It has two boilers that generate the hot water. We are going to have to replace the system and are looking at a Rinnai solution with a bank of tankless hot water heaters that can replace all of this and utilize budget funds for that.

XIII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- Informational Brochures are rolling out for the Collection Centers: "Keeping Spalding Sparkling Clean."

She visited two Collection Centers last week, looking at the signage and how the Collection Centers looked and get an idea of their current state because the goal is for all of the Collection Centers to have a consistent look. To have the same kind of signage so it is easy to navigate through the sites. This will continue this week and she will be visiting three more Collection Centers.

We are also getting the Press Releases out as we are moving the Strategic Steps forward toward the implementation of the May 4th Collection Center changes.

- Animal Shelter Meeting – The kick-off meeting was held on February 5th and a follow-up progress meeting was held on February 21st. We are working on all the updates and are hoping to bring something to the Board by the April 6th meeting.
- Heritage Park – We met with Historic Preservation regarding the Places In Peril designation. Ben Sutton the Director of Historic Preservation came out as well as Dennis Lavello who is the Historic Properties Coordinator. Attendance was mainly staff, but we also had a really good turn out in addition to staff Virginia Church from the Land Bank Authority, Daa'ood Amin from GSBTA and Ms. Jewell Walker-Harps were also in attendance.

The Georgia Historic Preservation Representatives took lots of pictures and looked at the whole site and will be send more information to us.

- The Fire Department has been very active in the schools in the County. This week they have personnel presenting as part of the Reading Across America Program. They also participated in Career Day at Kennedy Road School.

The Fire Department also met with Henry County Fire and Butts County regarding mutual aid.

EMA has been busy as well, they hosted a Pandemic Planning Meeting for the Plan update process.

Hosted Community Partners for the creation of an Animals In Disaster Plan and completed the process for certification renewal for IPAWS capability with Civic Ready.

- Thursday, March 5th at 10:30 a.m. there will be a ribbon cutting for Sumika

Polymers North America, LLC here in Spalding County at the Hudson Industrial Park.

- April 1st is the kick-off day for Census 2020. She passed out an informational post card that contains information on the Census and what the Census is for. This is the first time that U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online. Also, in the past when they didn't get responses from people, they would visit their homes up to 15 times, this year will be a maximum of 3 times. She wants to remind everyone that your response matters, everyone counts.

XIV. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – He just wanted to repeat from the other meetings. We are not getting much done on the dirt roads because of all the rain. He talked with Mr. Wilson already and he feels that instead of people working at the Dog Park they should be out there cleaning ditches out where the driveway pipes are clogged and all that water is coming back up on the dirt road and once it stops raining they need to get out and really start doing some work. We have to have ditches dug out and everything else.

Rita Johnson – Wanted to say thank you and congratulations to Ms. Vera McIntosh for volunteering as our new GSBTA Representative for Sun City.

She also wanted to commend the folks who came out this evening to participate in the Public Hearing. She would like to see more of it in future Public Hearings, this is the time when we are allowing you to pass along information to us on how you feel.

She stated that she hates to see Chad Jacobs go, he will be going over to the City of Griffin. We are looking forward to have someone else come in to replace Chad, but he is going to be a tough one to replace.

James Dutton – He stated that the rain has been nice, but whoever has been praying for rain, if you could save that until we get into another drought, it would be appreciated.

He then stated that he harps all the time for folks to please come to these meetings there is so much stuff on Facebook and other social media that is misinformation. Why don't you come to the meetings, you will see that the "sky is not falling" this is a great community, no one is out to get you and it is fantastic that we had so many people come out this evening. He stated that he wishes this was the standard attendance at every meeting. Your presence and your voice matters.

He is looking forward to the meeting with the City of Griffin. We discussed at our Board Retreat some asks that we have for the City as well and he feels if the City is amenable to that the meeting will go much smoother than it otherwise would.

Heritage Park is a big deal project, he is glad that historical folks are looking at it as it may give us more grant money. We discussed it at both the Archway Retreat and at our Board Retreat and we are very close to that unexpected number that we received from the engineers and hopefully we can get all of that done and turn it into the facility that it needs to be for the community.

We have talked about raising the bar on building requirements for Spalding County, the actual building code. He wants for this initiative to continue, the citizens of Spalding County deserve this, the people who are going to move to Spalding County deserve to have quality housing instead of poor quality housing that has been allowed to be built in the past. He would like some language from staff on some building code changes, even if it is one at a time. Whatever little change that can be done to upgrade the building standards in Spalding County.

He stated that there hasn't been a Board of Health meeting since the Coronavirus started making the news, but he wanted to assure everyone that the Spalding County Board of Health is aware and proactively working on viruses and bacteria that are threats to the County. There is nothing that we need to be wary of, our Board of Health is conscious of this and as prepared as we possibly can be.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – She wanted to segue onto what Commissioner Dutton stated regarding raising the bar with regard to commercial and residential building in Spalding County. She wishes that she had said this before so many had left the meeting this evening. HB937 is legislation that has been introduced by the Georgia House that will take away the power of the local City and County Boards to determine what kind of quality we want people to use when building house in Spalding County.

The legislation states that whatever the State deems as the minimum is what we should all follow and we all know from living in a small rural community that sometimes when developers come here, they simply want to put up numbers, they want to put up the cheapest material and you don't want to move into a subdivision that looks like that. We don't want that kind of development, so she is asking that everyone call their representatives: Representative Knight, Representative Mathiak and Senator Harbin and let them know that Cities and Counties need to determine what kind of construction we want to see in our community. She added that we need the citizens in the County to let the representatives know that we don't feel it is proper for the State to tell us what we have to have in our community.

She stated that she understands the lady here this evening who talked about Big Blue. After riding on Big Blue from the Archways Retreat at Calloway Gardens, she almost froze to death. So, she gets it. If you are older and have to ride on a bus that is not properly heated or cooled, that is not good. She hopes that we are able to look at our budget this year to see what, if anything, we can do.

She talked with Mr. Wilson and Ms. Irizarry earlier this year about the need for an Assistant Planner. This is a position that went away during the recession and it is ironic that we have just decided that we are going to look at hiring an Assistant Planner and now our Community Development Director is departing.

She added that in Mr. Jacobs tenure he has pulled together a group up there that know what to do when he's not there. She doesn't feel things are going to fall apart, but this is a position that we need to have filled.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Jacobs, he and Ms. Irizarry will be meeting this week to determine job duties in the interim. We have a sentence in all of our job

descriptions that states “Other duties as may be assigned,” so we may be spending a little bit more time upstairs. We are going to split the duties between the two of us and Brett Hanes with Charles Abbott and Associates. We are relying on Newton Galloway as well, but we are actively recruiting for that vacant position.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.