

# After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Extraordinary Session  
Monday, June 15, 2020  
6:00 PM  
Room 108, Annex Building**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, June 15, 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, Citizen Engagement Specialist, Rachel Conort and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary 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**

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3 delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Recognition of Miss Gabriella Isabella Hand for acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

William Wilson, County Manager, stated that Ms. Hand is an outstanding student who has received many attributes during her short life. She is here with her family and will give some information regarding herself and then we will present Ms. Hand with some small tokens from Spalding County and will take pictures after the presentation.

Ms. Hand stated that it was an honor to be here this evening. She stated that she never thought that she would be preparing herself to go to basic training and start a 4-year military college experience in Annapolis, Maryland. She expressed her gratefulness to God, her family and members of the Griffin Community, all of whom have supported her in her endeavors throughout her journey. As part of the Class of 2020 she has earned her high school diploma along with her Associates in Science and Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and in 16 days she will report to the United States Naval Academy where she will begin her journey of becoming a Naval Officer.

**V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the eleven months ended May 31, 2020.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, stated that she would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the financial statements.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller approve the financial statements for***

***the eleven months ended May 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **VI. CITIZEN COMMENT**

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that before she read the Citizens Comments Section, she would like to read a procedure that would be effective this evening. As the Chairman of the Board, she is expected to manage the meetings in an orderly fashion and after review the video of the last two meetings, she has found that she has failed in that area. Because of that she would like to read the following statement:

“As Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners it is my responsibility to ensure that our meetings are carried out in an orderly and dignified fashion. Well run meetings are the result of careful planning, respect and proper etiquette. As members of the Board of Commissioners, we are expected to behave with dignity and conduct ourselves in a professional respectful manner. I wanted to remind everyone that all remarks should be directed to the chair and not to individual commissioners, staff or citizens in attendance of the meeting. Speaking at the meeting should not happen until recognized by the chair and all remarks should be addressed to the motion or agenda item being discussed. Personal remarks are inappropriate and moving forward will be ruled out of order.”

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 then stated that there are five people signed up to speak this evening.

**John Kelley, 2500 W. Ellis Road**, spoke against the new rules at the Collection Centers requiring that Driver's License be shown in order to dump.

**DeAndre White, 266 Ella Circle**, spoke regarding changing the name of the Camp Stephens Park.

**Jewell Walker-Harps, 103 McEthel Drive**, spoke regarding Heritage Park and the Aquatic Center.

**JoAnn Phinzaee, 859 Park Point Drive**, thanked the Board of Commissioners for keeping their word in getting something done at Fairmont.

## **VII. MINUTES -**

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting, Zoning Public Hearing and Executive Session on May 28, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on June 1, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the minutes for the for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting, Zoning Public Hearing and Executive Session on May 28, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on June 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all***

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS -**

1. Update from Parks and Leisure Advisory Commission regarding phasing in public Leisure Services programming and park facility usage.

Kelly Carmichael, Spalding County Leisure Services Manager stated that the Spalding County Leisure Services Commission recommended that services begin to be phased in at the Park and Leisure Service Facilities:

- A. Pavilion and facility rentals - Motioned the recommendation to allow pavilion and facility rentals that meet Governor Kemp's social distancing and gathering guidelines.
- B. Youth and adult sports - Motioned the recommendation to allow sports to resume interleague scrimmage games with neighboring communities per staff discretion and within state recommended protective measures in place.
- C. Tournaments and events - Motioned the recommendation to postpone tournaments but allow staff to approve and phase in outdoor events within state guidelines.
- D. Community Center programming - Motioned the recommendation to reopen community centers for managed programming and summer activities per staff discretion and within state recommended protective measures in place
- E. Senior Center programming - Motioned the recommendation to resume senior programming for outdoor activities at staff discretion within Governor Kemp's social distancing and gathering guidelines.

Mr. Wilson then asked what that means for the Senior Center?

Ms. Carmichael advised that what it means for the Senior Center is to host activities outdoors on the lawn such as a Zumba Class or a Tai Chi Class, socially distanced out on the lawn, but the building would remain closed. We could also host a Senior Fishing Event at the lake, socially distanced.

Commissioner Dutton then asked when would everything reopen?

Ms. Carmichael advised that would be recommended by the Advisory Commission at a later date. As far as the Senior Programming, Spalding County will be hosting a ZOOM meeting with Senior Centers across the State, because the population that enjoys the Senior Center meets the average age that are affected by COVID-19.

Ms. Carmichael stated they will continue the congregate meals and the meals on wheels programing, and they would like to phase in an element of outdoor safe activities.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider request from The Lake Pavilion, Ms. LaWanda Strachan Burks, for an amplification permit on Saturday, June 27th, 2020 from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. for an "Arts on the Lake" event.

Mr. Wilson stated this has been reviewed and approved by both the Sheriff's Office and Community Development. Mr. Wilson stated he had provided the Board with information from the County Attorney regarding this event. We still have concerns, it is two days, June 26-27, the Governor has relaxed venues and he's not sure how you handle an event like this and follow the Governor's distancing requirements.

Commissioner Dutton then advised that the amplification permit is only for the 27<sup>th</sup> of June from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and that is what the Board is considering, not if it is appropriate to have the event.

***Motion/second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the request from Ms. Lawanda Strachan Burks for an amplification permit at the Lake Pavilion on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for an "Arts on the Lake" event.***

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that her concern is that we have had numerous complaints regarding events at this location. If you are going to be there from 12 – 5 p.m. and her concern is that they are going to have amplification on both dates. She feels that either we do not have all the details and her question would have been why do you need it on one date and not the other, or did you make a mistake?

Commissioner Dutton then stated that if amplification is utilized outside of the date and time requested, then the Sheriff's Office should be called and they should be issued a citation, but if they are inside the hours of 12-5 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> then they will have our permission for their request.

***Motion carried 3-1 (Flowers-Taylor).***

2. Consider request from Donna Jester to host a Fourth of July Party for neighbors, friends and family with outside amplification on Saturday, July 4th from 2 p.m. - 9 p.m. at 1237 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street .

Mr. Wilson stated that this request has also been approved by the Sheriff's Office and Community Development. Ms. Jester advised that she has made arrangements to have people attending park in the neighbors yards, limiting parking on the street.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the request from Donna Jester to have amplification for a Fourth of July Party for neighbors, friends and family on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider request from Small Treasures Summer Food Program to provide meals from a Food Truck to children at the Fairmont Community Center, the City Park Community Center and the Ambucs Community Center beginning June 29, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Ms. Carmichael stated that the USDA Summer Food Program is traditionally offered at the Community Centers. We have learned about the Small Treasures Food trucks and the reports that we are received from other user groups is that the children are enjoying the hot meals. They serve 4 days of hot meals and Fridays may be a cold meal, but sometimes it will also be a hot meal. It has been her experience that children respond to the visual of the food truck. On Friday's, City Church's Ice Cream Truck will follow along behind the food truck. They can serve directly from the window on the truck and they will be responsible for all of the meal count sheets, they have a 100% food service inspection on their vehicle and they will go to the parking lot at all three sites and serve any child that walks up for a meal.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the agreement with Small Treasures Food Program to provide meals from a Food Truck to children at the Fairmont Community Center, the City Park Community Center and the Ambucs Community Center beginning June 29, 2020 through July 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider a request from the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services to allow the funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 to roll over for use in fiscal year 2021 in addition to the funds allotted for fiscal year 2021.

Mr. Wilson stated that we budget \$28,000 annually for the DF&CS Program, this is predominantly for Foster Children, they have been unable to spend the funds this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak and they currently have approximately \$8,959 remaining. Staff proposes that those funds be moved to the FY2021 Budget, they will not adversely effect the Budget and it has been incorporated into the Budget Ordinance that you will preview this evening.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the request from the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services to allow the funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 to roll over for use in fiscal year 2021 in addition to the funds allotted for fiscal year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider approval on first reading FY 2020 year-end budget amendments.

Mr. Wilson stated that these are the year-end budget amendments. Historically we come to the Board every year for these amendments. Predominantly, these are other financing sources which are the lease purchase payments for vehicles/equipment, we do not finance these purchases and throughout the year we receive financing for those through the ACCG or the GMA Lease Pool. These amendments are for the end of the year. These amendments also allow the fund balance to decrease, as the property taxes were a little more than estimated. Staff recommends approval.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve on first reading the FY 2020 year-end budget amendments. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider approval on first reading the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Ordinance.

Mr. Wilson stated this is the ordinance for the upcoming budget year which includes everything the Board approved. There were no comments at the Public Hearing during the last meeting. The amounts for Indigent Defense was reduced in the budgets as required and the off-setting amount was a reduction in fund balance. It does include everything the Board approved, no increase in Health Insurance Premiums, it does include a 2% Cost of Living across the Board and there is no tax increase.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve on first reading the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider approval of Rental Agreement between the Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the State Properties Commission for Department of Veterans Service office located at 819 Memorial Drive.

Mr. Wilson stated that we do provide facilities for the local veterans' services. We charge them a nominal \$100 per month, this is predominantly done so that we will have this service available to Spalding County Citizens so they will not have to go to Atlanta. We pay for the utilities and Veterans' Services pay for their internet, burglar alarm system, telephone, etc. We only provide the building and utilities at Memorial Drive Plaza.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to approve the Rental Agreement between the Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the State Properties Commission for Department of Veterans Service office located at 819 Memorial Drive. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

8. Consider approval of amendment to water sales agreement and intergovernmental contract defining the relationship between the City of Griffin, Georgia, County of Spalding, Georgia and Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority to extend the contract expiration date to December 31, 2023.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that when this contract was drawn up, the County Commissioners backed the Bonds that were issued, because the Water and Sewerage Facilities didn't have bonding ability at that time. Any new contract going forward will not involve the Board, but since we are still in the original contract, so in order for them to extend the contract the Board has to say it is okay to be extended. The Water Authority would like to extend the contract for 3-years.

Mr. Wilson stated that everything would remain the same for the next 3-years. Mr. Wilson stated that they had tried to negotiate with the City and items have been discussed and COVID-19 has also delayed the process. The current contract expires December 31, 2020 so we need to extend it. It doesn't hurt the City of Griffin and it doesn't hurt the Authority, it simply continues the contract. We had sent a two-year condition to the City which was turned down; however, Kenny Smith indicated in an email to Mr. Wilson that the City might consider something in the 3-5 year range, but would not consider a 2-year contract.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then advised that if the Board approves this amendment, it will go with the Water Authority's approval to the City. If the City accepts it, we are good for 3 years, if they don't, we may see this again.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the amendment to water sales agreement and intergovernmental contract defining the***

***relationship between the City of Griffin, Georgia, County of Spalding, Georgia and Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority to extend the contract expiration date to December 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

9. Consider request from the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Authority to proceed with application for Phase II funding of the Dundee Mills Sewerage Program through CDBG Grant funding.

Mr. Wilson advised that in 2019 the Board of Commissioners approved a CDBG grant application. CDBG Grants can only be awarded to the County or City Governing Authority, they cannot be awarded to a Water Authority. These grants have to go through the County, but they pay for everything. We recently bid the current project and the Water Authority awarded the bid to McElroy Construction for almost \$1 million for Phase I of Springs/Dundee Mill Village Project.

In February 2021, we will need to apply again, but in order to get there we have a lot of preliminary work that has to be done. Deborah Smith with Allen Smith Consulting is our Grand Writer for this, she is compensated by the Water Authority, there is no cost to the County at all. This is Phase II of the project and we will come back in two years for Phase III of IV total phases.

Commissioner Dutton asked if all of the phases would be around \$1 million?

Mr. Wilson stated the maximum grant for CDBG is \$750,000 and the Water Authority has committed up to \$500,000 in matching funds for Phase I because these grants are competitive grants. We had estimated the bid for Phase I at \$1.3 million and it actually came in at approximately \$967,00.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how many bids were received?

Mr. Wilson advised there were seven (7) bids received on this project.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to see the Planning and Zoning Development Office to start creating an overlay for that area for a RAZ so that we can start looking for infrastructure grants and money, but having the Water Authority make sewer available in this area is not going to do us any good if we don't spur any development. This would allow people to develop without having to use septic tanks as they would have access to both water and sewer, which opens a new door for development on these small lots.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated it is important for the County to make sure we help people to develop this area. It doesn't make sense for the Water Authority to put sewer into the area if we're not going to do anything to spur development of the area.

Mr. Wilson stated we are working with Debbie Bell the Community Development Director and she is familiar with RAZ as well. He then stated that the City of Griffin has gotten eight (8) CDBG Grants in a row. If you are in a RAZ which is a State Designation for an area you have planned and programmed for transportation, sidewalks and sewer, you can apply for a CDBG Grant every year. In the past three (3) years they have increased the amount of the CDBG Grant from a \$500,000 cap, of which the County has received several, to \$750,000 and this is the first \$750,000 Grant we have received. There is talk that they may in years to come go up to \$1 million and you can apply every year, but there are certain criteria we have to meet in the planning arena in order to be able to do this and Ms. Bell is familiar with and we are already talking about a RAZ for that

area and Highland Mills as well because there are some vacant properties in that area that could be tied onto the High Mill Lift Station.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that we have to get the overlay plan into place and the plan costs money, those are the “hoops” that Mr. Wilson is talking about. That is how the City of Griffin has been able to do sewer and water line updates, street, sidewalk and drainage improvements. As long as they keep the status and are operating on that plan they will continue to get these Grants.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the request by the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Authority to proceed with application for Phase II funding of the Dundee Mills Sewerage Program through CDBG Grant funding. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

10. Consider approval of appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Contingency Fund to a designated Spay and Neuter Account to provide for assistance with spay and neutering of up to two animals per household.

Mr. Wilson stated that Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked if we could do this. In years past, we have funded a Spay and Neuter Fund and she wanted a fund where we could help folks who could not afford to have their animals spayed or neutered. We talked about limiting it to two (2) animals per household and they will have to use the HELP Spay Neuter Clinic who is the organization the Board authorized a contract with for this service. Mr. Wilson advised that this money can be placed in a separate account and it can be maintained separately for only those who can qualify for this funding.

Mr. Wilson then advised that no discussion regarding qualifying for the service has been held, but the details will be forthcoming.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated the reason she asked that this be funded by Contingency is because we are at the end of the year and this money has not been spent. We do a very good job with taking the animals that come into the Shelter over to Auburn, this funding will provide those people want who keep the animals at home and can't afford to get their animals spayed or neutered the opportunity to do so. Hopefully, it will prevent pets from being dumped on the side of the road and becoming part of those housed in the Shelter. If we can keep the pet in someone's home that would be good, we have done some of this with people at the Senior Center in the past, but we haven't done this for the community at large. She then stated that her hope is that this will keep the new Shelter from being full and anything that we can do to keep that animal from making it into the shelter we should be doing. She just wanted to make sure before the end of the budget year that this money was allocated for next year.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he wouldn't want to see this limited to certain neighborhoods and he would like for there to be no income requirement. He feels it is something that should be open to the community. He feels it could be pushed out and advertised in the areas of the community with the greater need; however, it would like for it to be available to the community as a whole.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Contingency Fund to a designated Spay and Neuter Account to provide for assistance with spay and neutering of up to two animals per household. Motion Carried unanimously by all.***

## **X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**



- ✓ Reminded the Board that their Personal Financial Disclosure Reports for Elected Officials are due by July 1. If you have any questions on these please contact Marcia Ridley at the Board of Elections.
- ✓ Currently the City's Zoning for the Rosenwald/Heritage Park area does not allow for what the Housing Authority wants to do. The City has asked if the Board will allow Mr. Wilson to sign a rezoning application for that property, so that it can be zoned for multi-family development. They will be rezoning some property in the area as well, but right now because of the way it is zoned, the City's Land Use and Zoning Map will not allow for the multi-family units that we are discussing with the Housing Authority about building.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked what the current zoning on the property might be.

Mr. Wilson advised that he believes it is Office and Institutional because of the school. This will be a City and County project because the property is located within the City limits and the Housing Authority gets the bond funding that way.

***Consensus of the Board is to allow give Mr. Wilson the authority to sign a rezoning application with the City of Griffin on behalf of Spalding County.***

- ✓ The ArtSpace Market Study is currently underway. Ms. Conort has been working with Newton Galloway and the local group and ArtSpace in Minnesota, it has been published and is out for public comment. We will get the Board a link to the Study so you can give your input on this Market Survey. It will be out until July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that this Market Study is also critical to the piece that the Housing Authority is doing as well.

- ✓ As a source of information, the Board modified the code several years ago regarding driveway pipes. Mr. Imberger investigated current pricing for driveway pipe and we are currently losing money when we sell the pipe directly to individuals who come to the facility to purchase pipe, because prices have gone up and we have not changed our price to the public since it was instituted. So, he will be raising the cost of pipe by 100% in order to cover our costs. This will not affect the driveway pipe that the County installs. Currently the County charges \$1,800 to install a driveway and our costs are covered in that installation.

What we have found out is that Spalding County has become "the place" in the South Metro where people come to purchase driveway pipe because: (a) No one else carries them and (b) because we sell them so cheap. We never calculated the price of to the county for processing a driveway pipe purchase:

The individual comes in to make the purchase. The secretary has to make sure we have the pipe by calling down to the shop. Someone from the shop then has to stop what they are doing to go out and make sure the pipe is there and get it ready to load. The person pays for the pipe then drives to the yard to where the pipe is located and they load the pipe, secure the pipe and the people drive off. So, 30 minutes to 1 hour of productivity time for one of the guys in the shop every time they have to do a driveway pipe and they have calls all during the day for driveway pipe. In the past, none of this cost was consider as part of the acquisition process.

Mr. Wilson then advised that effective Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, prices would be increased.

- ✓ He placed on the dais the 5-day rolling average for Spalding County, you will notice our numbers for COVID are going down. We are still observing the social distancing rules and will continue to do this for another meeting or two and we will see what the Governor says regarding this.
- ✓ We have just received a Local Project Framework Agreement from the Georgia Department of Transportation. This preliminary engineering commitments for the relocation of SR155 to McDonough Road. We have been working on this for years. This is the scoping agreement, which is the first step. He will let the County Attorney read over it. Essentially the Board had approved one of these years ago, this is a new one that they have assigned a project information number. We had to track it down because they made it a totally separate project.

We have been working with the Transportation Committee for three years and for the past year trying to get a meeting with Russel McMurry, the DOT Commissioner, to see if we could advance the project. It got pushed up and we have it and once the County Attorney has reviewed it he would like permission to sign it and return it to GDOT and get it moving.

- ✓ The last thing is there is a peaceful protest going to happen this Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, and will start at Fairmont Park and move to Courthouse. They will be walking along the route. We have met with Kenny Smith and Jessica O'Conner this afternoon and at that time the person who is overseeing this event has not filed a parade permit, should they wish to walk in the street. If they walk on the sidewalks they will not need a parade permit, but they do need a permit for gathering. Both of the sites are located within the City of Griffin, but both of the sites are highly valued and treasured county property.

The Sheriff has recommended that both the Courthouse and the Annex close at 3:00 p.m. on Friday because the group will be getting to the Courthouse area probably about the same time that most people will be leaving to go home. Most of the elected officials and constitutional officers in the courthouse will be closing their offices at 3 p.m. and going home. The City has not determined what they are going to do, but a couple of offices in One Griffin Center have decided to work from home that afternoon. As of right now the Annex will be open unless you direct otherwise. Mr. Wilson advised the Sheriff is here and can answer any questions. From everything he has heard it is to be a peaceful demonstration. The last one was a peaceful demonstration. Mr. Wilson then stated he is leaving it up to the Board if you want us to stay open it is fine, if you want us to close it is fine.

Sheriff Dix stated that there are no indications that this will be anything other than a peaceful protest. We are estimating it will take approximately 45 minutes for a large group of people to walk that distance, which will put everyone on the courthouse steps and around the area at about the same time that all the businesses and the courthouse closes. Employees are going to try to get out, there will be a traffic problem. It's not because we think anything is going to happen, there have been no rumors of that. This this being done so that employees will have time to get out of the building and clear traffic before the crowd gets here.

Commissioner Flower-Taylor stated that with the train blocking the intersection at 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. every day which is the same time the group will be coming

through the area, is going to cause significant traffic back-up and she total agrees that anything that will reduce the traffic in that area should be done.

Mr. Wilson stated that what this has brought light to is that the County does not have any ordinance currently to address a gathering like this in unincorporated Spalding County, so we will be bringing you one in the future.

Consensus of the Board is to release Courthouse and Annex employees in the downtown area at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Thanked the Board for the \$10,000 for the Spay and Neuter Program for the animals, that will make a big difference.
- Animal Control has heard from the Foundation and they will resume their usual schedule on July 1st.
- Fire Department and Volunteers assisted the City of Griffin Fire and the Lions Club in distributing boxes of food last Friday to our citizens. Ms. Conort was out there with Patrick Key from the City giving out information on the Census. So we are working on that as well.
- The four (4) new hires for the Fire Department will graduate from the Academy on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Griffin-Spalding County schools hosted an advisory meeting, they had the Department of Public Health, representatives from the Community that is involved with Archway to go over the plans for graduation and they have determined they will be holding those ceremonies June 25<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a revised scheduled for the Census, it is now scheduled to be completed October 31<sup>st</sup> and she is very happy that Ms. Conort is on board to assist.

## **XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Bart Miller** – A number of his constituents have complained about having to show their driver's license at the Collection Centers. He would like to see some type of decal that could be issued annually to the residents of Spalding County that could be placed on their windshield. If we start a permit program where a permit could be purchased it would be ideal. You can't go by the tag because some of them have Spalding County, but others have "In God We Trust" which doesn't identify the County. He has witnessed some of the confrontations at the Collection Centers and we need to look at trying to do something that would make it easier on the people working at the Centers. We need to find a simpler way for the people working at the Collection Centers to identify Citizens who are allowed to utilize the service.

He also wanted to thank the Sheriff's Office, he had a burglary at his home and they were as nice as they could be. They came out and checked everything, He thanked Detective Phillips and Chief Deputy Tony Thomason for everything they did.

**Rita Johnson** – Congratulations to Gabriel Hand for her acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

She welcomed Rachel Conort to the Spalding County family. We are really going to need you and you are going to be a big asset to Spalding County.

Excited about how the SPLOST projects are moving along. We are moving along very well and she is excited about that.

Great job to the staff for their work on the 2021 Budget, no tax increase.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> and she wanted to say “Happy Independence Day” to everyone. She then asked Mr. Wilson what the plans were for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mr. Wilson stated that the City and County Joint Fireworks will be held again at the Volunteer Park/College and Career Academy location. There will be no other events planned due to COVID, but the fireworks will take place.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that we will have a Zoning Meeting next Thursday night, June 25<sup>th</sup> and a Special Called Meeting at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday night for to approve on second reading the Budget.

**James Dutton** – Congratulated Ms. Hand as well and is so glad that someone from our community will be representing Spalding County and will be one of the Blue Angels one day.

As far as the COVID situation goes, he wants us to open right now, all the way, no restrictions, let’s go.

He also wanted to talk positively about the Sheriff’s Office. He deals with a lot of Sheriff’s Offices in the South Metro Area from Macon to Columbus to Atlanta to Eatonton and our Sheriff is second to none of those guys. We have a great Sheriff, a great staff and he simply can’t say enough.

The Sheriff’s Office responded correctly and appropriately to the last protest and he expects them to do the same this time. The last protest was incredibly peaceful and while people showed up to the protest with those very non-peaceful ideas in mind, the people at the protest self-governed and as soon as somebody said something that was designed to incite something other than peaceful the other individuals in the protest or organizers would call them and say “we’re not going to have that” and that was really good to see.

He has seen some posts regarding local citizens starting a Citizens’ Review Board for law enforcement and they have reached out to a lot of elected officials. To date the only folks who have said they want to be actively involved in that are Commissioner Dutton and the Sheriff and both stated they would love to have that conversation regarding a Citizens’ Review Board.

He feels that Spalding County does a great job in implementing the alternative to arrests to the prison pipeline. Right now our officers are called out to mental health crisis, out to addiction crisis and they are trained to respond in a certain way and if we can give alternative to that he feels we could alleviate a lot of the pipeline of sending these people to prison. We have many alternative courts here in Spalding County, we have a Drug Court for people with addiction problems, we have a Veteran and Mental Health Court for people who have those issues and he would love to continue to expand those. Many counties around us have a DUI Court which is an alternative to train individuals and get them on the right path.

He is excited to get the Heritage Park Project underway. We had someone ask why we don’t have a plan to put a bathroom inside the Rosenwald School and it is because that is a historic building and you would have to knock down walls and rip up floors in

order to put pipes and a bathroom into a building that didn't historically have a bathroom, so we have put one as close to it in order to uphold the historic integrity of the building. He feels the project is going to be outstanding. He can't wait to see what the Housing Authority adds to it and he hopes that ArtSpace gets involved as well because that could be an amazing thing for the community as well.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – Stated she would like to go back and “hit some of the things” that some of the citizens talked about in Citizen Comments.

Mr. Kelley talked about the issue at the Collection Center with showing his license at the Collection Centers. Whenever, she goes to Kroger or Food Depot and she needs to purchase a bottle of wine, she knows she has to show her ID. If it is the rule that in order for you to be able to use the services of the County and the way to do that is to show some ID that shows your address, then that is what people should do. Under no circumstances should the employee be verbally attacked or abused because he is following the rules that we set up. We should look out after our people. The point is we have set up some rules and that is what people need to abide by, if they aren't working then the process is to let us know and we can revisit the subject, but we have to protect our employees.

She then asked how much we pay our employees at the Collection Centers?

Mr. Wilson advised it is approximately \$9.80 an hour to start.

She then stated that the Collection Centers really aren't a place where one person can do the job and if we want it to be run correctly, then we need to put more staff at the location. If you need one person to check ID, how is that same person going to help elderly residents remove trash from their car. She feels the complaints that people have are valid, the same person checking ID cannot be running back and forth to assist people with unloading their cars.

She further stated that the idea of a decal of some type for windows is all well and good; however, some people are then going to say they don't have the money to purchase a decal. She feels we should definitely have a discussion regarding the possibility, but in the meantime, under no circumstances should we be allowing our employees to be abused or cursed at because they are following the rules that we have set in place.

Mr. White came in and made the comment about Camp Stephens, she thanked him for the history lesson, but she thinks it is very important for us to realize that this is not going to be an isolated situation. She doesn't know for sure, but the City of Griffin is going to have a major problem owning where the Confederate Cemetery is and where all the Confederate Monuments are. She understands that one of the Confederate Cemeteries has already been vandalized, but as a Board we really need to look at what it is we want to look like. Do we want to glorify people who were rapists, slave owners, slave traders, whatever. We need to figure that out because this is not going to be the last time someone comes to us and asks us, as a government, to support the fact that we are raising up people who are horrific. She didn't know that about Camp Stephens, she never even bothered to look up the history on it and should have. She just wants everyone to understand that this request is not going to be the first one we receive. She doesn't know if there are any other monuments in the County, but she does expect this particular thing will be coming back to us for the same reasons Mr. White expressed.

She also wanted to talk about Third Street at Fairmont. We need to figure out what it is we are going to do, by the time the garden opens we are going to have to make sure that Third Street is One-Way. Part of what we had talked about is trying to get an easement from the VFW Organization. But Mr. Smith says if there is still access to the street, we have not deprived them of their right to have access to their property. She is just concerned with all the traffic it is going to be a prime place for speeders. We need to figure out what we are going to do about rerouting traffic over there.

Regarding Ms. Jewel Walker-Harps and the comments regarding the Rosenwald School, she has to say that it never occurred to her that anyone would ever think that the addition to that building for the restrooms would be called an "Out House," but she can certainly understand, once she shared that, where that thought process is coming from and to a degree she can understand their concern about us taking the focus off the Rosenwald Building, she doesn't know how to fix that, but she wishes we had known about it a month ago. Before, we voted to get a concept plan. The bad thing is we have spent money on a concept plan, the good thing about it is there were a number of concept plans before one was settled on for the Senior Center. This is not something unusual, but she feels it is very important is consideration of what the programming is going to be there. Is it going to be an area where people will have meetings or where they want to lease a room out or where they want to do something. Maybe it shouldn't be just about showing 4 rooms that are set up for the period of the 1950's. She feels there needs to be a discussion as to what the options are. Still now that whatever we decide has to be for the greater good. It has to serve the greater number and we have to look at what is best for the entire county.

She had a great talk with the Sheriff and he said something to her that was very important, it is very easy to look at the things happening in the world and say that the police are bad and for some people that means all police are bad. But what happens when it is a school teacher charged with sexual molestation or having an affair with some child at school do we say that all teachers are bad? What happens when it's a minister and there has been a history over a number of years involving priests, is everyone going around saying that all ministers are bad? So, by that same token, she tries to live her life, she grew up in the 60's and she had some bad things said and done to her by white people, but she has never felt that she hated all white people, she just dislikes those who did something bad to her. So she urges people at this time at this point in time, don't look at the police as "them" because if you allow yourself to make "them" the enemy, you'll allow yourself to make other groups the enemy simply based on being a member of the group. This thing going on now is a time for us to look into our motives, into our means and to make a difference that is significant in this community. So, we are in a great place, but she asks people to be very cognizant of not lumping everybody into a category because individual people take individual actions, they are no representative of a whole section of a county. That is representative of them as an individual not as the group. She asked that everyone think about that before we start putting labels on people. There is enough anger, hatred and up-setness right now, that when you meet somebody and they start with "the police", "the this", help them to understand, "that police, not all police", "that preacher, not all preachers", "that teacher, not all teachers." That is all she wanted to say and because she is the Chairman she has to sit on her soap box and say all that.

Mr. Wilson stated he wanted to address two things:

1. Regarding Collection Centers, this past weekend there were no reports of problems at the Collection Centers. He thinks that people are getting accustomed to the new

rules and he asked that the Board give it 90 days and see what happens before we make any changes.

2. With regard to Ronsenwald, he is used to everyone changing their mind at 11:59 and he has put Paragon on hold and he has asked him to give us a price. He also advised Ms. Walker-Harps to put a restroom inside Rosenwald that meets ADA requirements and everything to today's standards is probably going to use up  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one of the classrooms there. He told her he would get a price and compare it to the cost of the Welcome Center because it does sound like that the philosophy that we had of the Rosenwald School as a historic museum type venue is not what EPI (Educational Prosperity Initiative) had envisioned for that building.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION** – None.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***