

**After
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Special Called Meeting
Monday, June 25, 2020
5:45 PM
Room 108, Annex Building**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Thursday, June 25, 2020, beginning at 5:31 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Commissioners James Dutton and Donald Hawbaker were absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr. and Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, 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 Bart Miller, District #4, led the pledge to the flag.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider approval on second reading FY2020 year-end budget amendments.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that the amendments had been approved on first reading at the June 16th Extraordinary Session and nothing has changed since that time. These are year-end budget amendments, primarily for lease-purchase contracts and things of that nature.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve on second reading FY2020 year-end budget amendments. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval on second reading the FY2021 Budget Ordinance.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the FY2021 Budget approved by the Board of Commissioners on first reading at their Extraordinary Session on June 16th. The Budget does not include a tax increase. All of the public hearings have been held and there were no comments at the public hearings and this is the second and final reading. The budget will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2020.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to know next year when the County takes over the City pool and the remainder of City Park, how will we get that money? Will that money come out of Fund Balance or is that something we need to make an adjustment for?

Mr. Wilson stated that depending on which fiscal year Chairperson Flowers-

Taylor is talking about. If you are talking about FY2021 which begins July 1, it would have to come out of Fund Balance. If you are talking about FY2022 then we can program it into next year's budget which begins July 1, 2021.

Commissioner Miller stated that if we are going to take over the City pool then we need to work out a way to cut taxes. You are always reading about the City of Griffin cutting taxes.

Mr. Wilson stated that the City has not actually cut taxes, they are utilizing what is know as the roll back mileage rate and the County Commissioners have chosen to not use the roll back mileage rate. So, what happens is if the value of your home stays the same, if we keep the mileage rate the same, the tax bill stays the same. But if your home has increased or decreased in value, it will go up or go down which happens if we adopt the roll back mileage rate, but the Commissioners have chosen to not adopt the roll back mileage rate. It is not really a tax increase, and there is action in the legislature to change the wording so if you do not use the roll back mileage rate it would not be considered a tax increase.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she totally hears what Commissioner Miller is saying, she lives in the City and the mileage rate is 7 or 8 mils and they like to say they haven't increased taxes in 20 years, but she can assure you that the creation of the stormwater plan, the sewer costs and the water costs have gone up over the last 10 years, every year. The County's only revenue stream is property taxes, we don't have the luxury of drawing money from electric and water and cable. So, for the people who live in her district and live in really poor housing, they pay lots of money for utilities and the houses are substandard. If you have 12 of them in one block you have that part of the community paying the bulk of that bill. So, it doesn't hurt the taxpayers for them to not raise the mileage rate because everybody's utilities are going up.

Commissioner Miller stated there is a lot of houses being built in Spalding County which is more tax money coming in and at some point he feels there should be a decrease in the mileage rate. We need to show the people who are living here that we appreciate them living in Spalding County and give them a tax break.

Mr. Wilson asked that Commissioner Miller remember that over 64% of the tax bill is not controlled by Spalding County, it is controlled by the Board of Education.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked how much of the tax bill was the County's?

Mr. Wilson stated that 64% of the tax bill is the Board of education, 36% of the tax bill is unincorporated Spalding County and it is approximately 30% for those in the City of Griffin.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she is thankful that we are approaching the budget this evening with no mileage rate or tax increase. She thanked the staff for that.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve on second reading the

FY2021 Budget Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously by all.

V. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***