

**After
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, July 20, 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, July 20, 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 Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, James Fortune, Citizen Engagement Specialist, Rachel Conort and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes. County Manager, William Wilson was absent from the meeting.

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

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner James Dutton, District #2 delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Bart Miller, District #4, led the pledge to the flag.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the twelve months ended June 30, 2020.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, stated that the financial statements are through the month of June and there will be a number of adjustments to these numbers before we will have the final financial statement for June, 2020. The numbers will change because we continue to pay invoices for FY2020 through the middle of August and we will not have a final until after the audit is complete.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to accept the financial report for the twelve-month period ending June 20, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct your remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairman has the right to limit your

comments in the interest of disposing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

No one signed up to speak.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on June 15, 2020, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on June 25, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on June 25, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the minutes for the for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on June 15, 2020, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on June 25, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on June 25, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of New 2020 Alcohol License for retail sale of beer and wine for
 - (a) Jay Mahakali 1080, Inc. dba Valero Food Mart, 2995 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223- Ruchitkumar J Patel, Owner

Ms. Irizarry stated that all documents have been received by Community Development and all criteria has been met for the issuance of this license. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the 2020 Alcohol License for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for Jay Mahakali 1080, Inc. dba Valero Food Mart, 2995 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223- Ruchitkumar J Patel, Owner. Moton carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of an amplification permit request from Mr. Humberto Colon to hold his 50th Birthday Party at his property located at 1650 N. Walkers Mill Road.

Ms. Irizarry advised that our Community Development Director, Deborah Bell would review this application.

Ms. Bell stated there has been some issues with building permits on this property, they initially obtained the permits, but didn't follow up with the proper inspection procedures and they made some changes/additions to the building. Community Development had been attempting to contact the property owner, prior to this request to bring them into compliance. Several letters were sent to the owner, but

hadn't been successful in reaching them. The letters were returned. When they applied for this request, it gave us a new address with updated contact information and we were able to reach the property owner and let them know that they would need to resubmit a building permit for all of the structures, including the additions that were made from the original permits. Which they have done; however, because the work has already been done and some of the things that the building inspectors would inspect are covered up, we have required they get an engineer's letter from a private engineer to a sign-off on the things that the Building Inspectors would normally inspect during the build process. So, we need a private engineer's certification that these things were done and done correctly, and they have used the proper materials for the project.

Community Development is recommending conditional approval of the Amplification Permit pending receipt of the Engineer's Letter. At this time, we have not received the letter, so the Building Officials have not been out to do a formal inspection of the property and we can't issue a Certificate of Occupancy without the letter and inspection. Additionally, because some of the additions made for the structure, the Building Official has requested that they provide us a survey of the property showing the footprint of all the structures.

Ms. Bell stated that even though we cannot close out their permit completely, the Building Official did agree that if the letter could be received from the private engineer assuring the buildings are up-to-code, the Amplification Permit can be issued; however, the Certificate of Occupancy would be held until a new survey can be received from the owner.

Ms. Bell advised that they have requested the engineer's letter in hand by July 22nd, so the Amplification Permit can be picked up on July 24th.

Commissioner Dutton asked how the two things were connected?

Ms. Bell advised that it is a matter of safety. The Certificate of Occupancy has not been issued and we do not know if the structures are safe, issuance of an Amplification Permit would be condoning having an event on the property.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked when the amplification permit was applied for?

Ms. Irizarry advised that the permit was applied for on July 2nd and the date of the event is July 25th from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked why last year the Board was able to approve two amplification permits for this location. Why was the Board not notified of the problem prior to these events?

Mr. Bell stated that the first building permit was issued in 2014 with a second being issued in 2016. She stated she doesn't know the full history of why these permits weren't closed out previously, but one of the building inspectors went by and noticed some activity and notified her office of the activity. This is the first time she has had any dealings with this property since coming to Spalding County. She was notified by the building inspector that the structures had never received their proper inspections. Then we realized there was a series of problems, because they

had done some additions outside of the original scope of the permits. The first permit was for a large barn for horses and the second was permitted as a covered arena. However, there has been a bedroom and a bathroom installed in the primary barn and a deck has been added. Those two things were not permitted, and no one ever modified the building permit or called in for any additional inspections.

Ms. Bell stated that we are aware of a situation where we don't have a properly inspected building and we don't want to issue the permit amplification without the engineer's letter, so our approval of the amplification permit would be conditional upon the receipt of the engineer's letter which is related to the safety concern. She then added that she doesn't feel it unreasonable to have a sleeping area and a bathroom in a large barn, but we want to make sure that it is not being utilized as a continuous residence. You may have situation where you need to keep an eye on a horse overnight, so you need somewhere to stay. She doesn't feel it is an inappropriate addition to have, they just didn't get it permitted.

Mr. Fortune stated that 12-15 years ago, Spalding County was sued because there was a barn built on somebody's property which was never inspected, and that barn collapsed on a woman and nearly killed her. He stated that he is pointing this out because if we have buildings where you can't see the footings, or other items that the Building Inspectors would look for, he would suggest that the Board wait on the engineer's letter because they may have a problem finding an engineer to certify the construction of this building.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that staff's recommendation is conditional approval on receipt of the engineer's letter. We know that it hasn't been inspected and there is a certain obligation that we should be doing something until this structure is verified.

Ms. Bell stated the advisory letter stated that they need to bring the building into compliance. It asked that the owner come in and work with us to bring the property into compliance, whatever the violation may be. As a rule, we won't progress to citations or other measures if the property owner is making an effort to work with us on it.

Mr. Fortune stated that since the building doesn't have a Certificate of Occupancy if there were people in the building other than Mr. Colon, arguably law enforcement could say this building doesn't have a CO, he can't occupy it. That is what a CO is for. He stated he is not Mr. Colon's attorney, but if it was him, he would take steps to make sure that nobody got into the building until it was certified by a CO and an engineer's letter stating it is stable.

Mr. Colon then stated that he was going to try to explain everything. Humberto Colon, 1650 Walkers Mill Road, Griffin, GA. He advised that at this time every one of the buildings have a permit. The only thing he doesn't have is a final inspection, but he has been doing everything that has been asked of him. As a matter of fact, it was Friday when Community Development advised he needed a letter from an engineer, and he is working on obtaining the letter. He stated he could provide the letter within 2 days. He stated he had never gotten a final inspection because he was not finished. He didn't know the permit had expired. He advised that he had requested a final inspection and he was told that the permit had expired, and he

would need to come in and pull another permit. He stated he has been trying to do everything the way it is supposed to be. The only mistake he made was he didn't know that the permits expired.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated she doesn't have a problem with the recommendations from the staff. If there is a letter from the engineer stating the building is safe, then we will come and inspect the building and make that determination, but we can't do it until then.

Ms. Bell advised that is why they recommended that they have the engineer's letter in hand by the 22nd, so that the Building Inspector can go, and she has spoken with Brett Hanes about this and he concurred that they could go on Friday and do the final inspection, so they could be issued a permit if the Board approves it.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve an amplification permit request from Mr. Humberto Colon to hold his 50th Birthday Party at his property located at 1650 N. Walkers Mill Road with condition as stated by staff. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of final plat for Sun City Peachtree Subdivision - Pod 7.

Ms. Irizarry stated this is a request from Pulte Homes for the final plat approval that has been received by Community Development. Staff recommendation is approval, all criteria has been met for approval of this final plat.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the final plat for Sun City Peachtree Subdivision – Pod 7. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider acceptance of Right-of-Way Deed for the extension of Little Gem Court in Pod 7 (Sun City Peachtree).

Ms. Irizarry stated that Ms. Debbie Bell would address this agenda item.

Ms. Bell stated they do have the right-of-way deed for the extension of Little Gem Court. It will not be recorded until after the final plat is recorded because reference is made in the deed to the plat book and page. We do have the legal description and it does reference the plat book and page number.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve acceptance of Right-of-Way Deed for the extension of Little Gem Court in Pod 7 (Sun City Peachtree). Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of Master Software Agreement with Nitorco Inc. and Spalding County for new software for the Spalding County Tax Commissioner's Office.

Ms. Irizarry advised that Sylvia Hollums, Tax Commissioner, is here to answer any questions the Board may have. This is an agreement for new software for the Tax Commissioner's Office and it was budgeted for FY2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a Master Software Agreement with Nitorco Inc. and Spalding County for new software

for the Spalding County Tax Commissioner's Office. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider approval of low bid in the amount of \$1,859,897.80 from E R Snell Contractor Inc for the 2020 LMIG Resurfacing Projects.

Ms. Irizarry advised this is the low bidder for the 2020 LMIG resurfacing projects. E.R. Snell was the low bidder, Paragon has recommended this contractor and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the low bid in the amount of \$1,859,897.80 from E R Snell Contractor Inc for the 2020 LMIG Resurfacing Projects. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval of an agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission to develop a Spalding County Transit Master Plan.

Ms. Irizarry advised that ARC would provide \$155,987 toward the funding of this project and the additional amount is \$38,996 which will be provided by the 2016 SPLOST. Staff recommends approval.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she attended the GSATC meeting and this plan that we are asking for is what we were asking for at the retreat. We wanted to look at whether or not there was potential for us to provide transportation from one end of the county to the other, or from the other end of town to the Industrial Park. That is the whole purpose of this study that ARC is going to help us with; however, she thinks it is vital to have the information from the study before we try to do a transportation SPLOST. It came up in the meeting that if we have to have the study before we are ready to do a transportation SPLOST, then we might need to look at the dates again. That includes our having a meeting with the City to talk about projects.

She then stated there are only certain dates you can have a TSPLOST referendum in the coming year, March and November. Then the next time will be during a regular election year, so we need to figure this out. The other part of this story is the Freight Cluster Study which is going to talk about bringing the truck route up I-75 and then the I-75 Corridor which we are trying to get them to look at doing an interchange closer to us, instead closer to SR138. Part of what the lady at GDOT said was getting a competitive grant and getting approval to have the funding will depend on preparation on the other end. So, you may be able to get a stop on a commuter rail, but how are the people going to get to the commuter rail station which is where local transit will come in.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that we have kind of set a date of March for one of the SPLOSTs and November for the other and we need to look at changing that, cause we have to have this study. We need to look once and for all at how feasible it would be for us to have some local transportation. We will then be able to tap into the 5307 or 5311 funds that we have for transit.

Ms. Irizarry advised that based on the retreat and goals the dates would be March 2021 for the TSPLOST and November 2021 for the SPLOST. There are a lot of things we need to consider. She stated she would find out when it would be

completed and let the Board know.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked the Board what they would like to do. Do we want to set up a meeting with the City to determine if we are going to have a TSPLOST and when we are going to have one?

Commission Dutton stated we need to do whatever we need to do to get all of the information. We don't want to have the problems we want to have with our current SPLOST. If we need to put off the TSPLOST, we need to put it off.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve an agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission to develop a Spalding County Transit Master Plan. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Ms. Irizarry then asked since we are approving to move forward with the Transit Master Plan, does the Board want her to set up some dates with the City once she finds out from Paragon how long the study will take so that we can have those talks.

8. Consider approval of the Subgrant Award from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for FY2021 funding of the Accountability Court in Spalding County.

Ms. Irizarry stated this is a continuance of the grant that funds the Accountability Court in Spalding County. The grant of \$150,087 funded by Federal Funds and \$16,676 is funded by the County.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the Subgrant Award from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for FY2021 funding of the Accountability Court in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider approval of contract with the Georgia Public Defender's Council, the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office and the County of Spalding to provide Circuit Public Defender Services in Spalding County for FY 2021.

Commissioner Dutton asked the specifics of this: Are we voting to pick who will provide the service for Spalding County.

Ms. Irizarry advised it was the funding and the funding was approved in the Budget.

Commissioner Dutton stated then that this doesn't select who it is it simply funds an already predetermined arrangement? He didn't know if he needed to recuse himself.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the contract with the Georgia Public Defender's Council, the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office and the County of Spalding to provide Circuit Public Defender Services in Spalding County for FY 2021.

After consideration, Commissioner Dutton stated he thinks this is approving the contract; therefore, he will need to recuse himself and withdraw his second due to a conflict of interest.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the contract with the Georgia Public Defender's Council, the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office and the County of Spalding to provide Circuit Public Defender Services in Spalding County for FY 2021. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Dutton).

10. Consider approval of Resolution to adopt a moratorium on the acceptance of an application for Rezoning, Permit Application for Improvement and/or Development and Request for Approval of Construction plans for certain properties currently zoned "C-2 Manufacturing" under the Zoning Ordinance of Spalding County.

Ms. Bell advised the properties that are zoned C-2 were originally part of the mill manufacturing complexes in the County. Residential Mill Villages were built up around those complexes. With the mills gone, there is some concern that many of the uses that are allowed in C-2 Zoning are no longer compatible with the surrounding residential. C-2 has some pretty heavy duty uses with manufacturing traffic and things like that. What this would do is temporarily control and prohibit the development of manufacturing facilities on the C-2 properties. The moratorium would allow some time to develop some zoning policies near and within the residential mill villages.

Commissioner Dutton stated that his concern is by putting a moratorium on just some of the C-2's as oppose to a moratorium on all C-2 properties in town until we figure this out.

Ms. Irizarry advised that these are areas of C-2 that are surrounded by residential, which is more of an issue. These are surrounded by all residential opposed to other C-2 Zonings within the County.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that particularly in the east Griffin area, every piece of property over there is residential that was built by the mill was put into a commercial district. So, all of the property, even the mill houses that were built are in a Commercial Zoning. Now the mills are gone and people are wanting to come there and put in all kinds of businesses right in the middle of where these people are living. We looked at this because one of the biggest problems in our County surrounds the mills that were here. That is why these particular areas were chosen, at some places they have already torn the mill down. We didn't have anything that said you need to tear the building down and grade it, they took all of the good stuff down and just left a stub up there. That is the reason for wanting to pick these two areas, because we know they are densely populated. At some point, we may need to look at other mill areas, but right now these areas are very densely populated and it's not fair for somebody to come in next to a residential lot and because it is C-2 they can put a garage there or a motorcycle shop or whatever.

Commissioner Dutton stated he is in favor of doing what we're doing, his problem is only doing it in certain areas instead of putting a moratorium on all C-2 zonings throughout the entire county all at once. So that we can come up with a plan to deal with it. He feels the same issues in these areas could be said to be the same issues in any other C-2 zoning, so he's not sure why we won't expand it to all the C-2's around the County and look at dealing with everything at one time.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that the detriment to that is if there is someone who wants to do something in a C-2 zone and they want to do something that meets the C-2 criteria, they will have to wait.

Ms. Bell stated that she felt the motion could be amended to include all C-2 areas in the County.

Mr. Fortune stated that when you do that, you run into the unintended consequences. From the tax map number provided, we know where this is and there is a good reason to do it; however, if you want to extend that it could present a problem.

Motion/Second by Dutton//Johnson to adopt a moratorium on the acceptance of an application for Rezoning, Permit Application for Improvement and/or Development and Request for Approval of Construction plans for certain properties currently zoned "C-2 Manufacturing" under the Zoning Ordinance of Spalding County with the change to include all the properties currently zoned C-2 Manufacturing throughout the County for a period of six months. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider approval on first reading a request to amend the Spalding County Code of Ordinances to provide for Service of Process of Housing Code Violations by OCGA 15-10-62(c).

Ms. Irizarry advised this would help out both Code Enforcement and Community Development in some of the blighted areas. At this time, Code Enforcement and Community Development have problems contacting the owners of these properties because they may live out-of-state or they cannot be located. What this amendment does is it allows the citations to be heard in either Magistrate or State Court and it also provides for process of service whereas if they cannot serve the owner in person they have three other options: (1) putting a copy of charge and summons on the door of the premise, (2) sending it via certified mail or (3) filing a copy of the summons and charge with the Clerk of Spalding County Magistrate or the Clerk of the State Court of Spalding County. It provides more options for getting in touch with the owners of some of these properties that have held us up in the past.

Mr. Fortune advised that this amendment would require a second reading at the first meeting in August.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve on first reading an amendment to the Spalding County Code of Ordinances to provide for Service of Process of Housing Code Violations by OCGA 15-10-62(c). Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER – None.

XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- SPLOST collections for May 2020 were \$965,289.03 bringing the average monthly collections to \$773,694.30.
- Census Update – Our Citizen Engagement Specialist, Rachel Conort, is

collaborating with the City of Griffin in their second Saturdays in July, August and September for the Census. They are also planning some larger events in the areas where we haven't had a good turn-out. They are also partnering with City Church to do some things as well. There are a lot of partnerships and collaborations going on. We are trying to get the word out on the Census. She will be publishing it on Facebook, so if anyone has not liked the Spalding County site, please do.

Ms. Conort has also done a Census video with the Spalding County Firefighters, which is on the Facebook page as well. A lot of good information has been going out with the Census.

- Building Permits for June were 19, with the average square footage being 2,872 square foot.
- Chairperson Flowers-Taylor talked about getting in touch with the City of Griffin to discuss TSPLOST and she will get to that this week.
- EMA has been assisting the Department of Public Health on Wednesday with a Pod set up behind the Department of Public Health for COVID testing from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. You can make an appointment on line for this testing, it is a drive through pod.
- EMA is also working on an updated test for infectious disease plan.
- This past Saturday they held the second Lions Club Food Drive at City Park.
- The Fire Department will be holding an Instructor Firefighter course with Spalding County and the City of Griffin.
- The four recruits who attended the Public Safety Training Center have all graduated and are joining our team at Spalding County. We have just added four additional recruits to begin training on 7/21.
- Fire and several other departments are working with the United Way Allocations Team. They are helping the United Way insure the funding is going to places that deserve it and need it.
- Auburn University opened back up on July 1. There will be three transports to be spayed and neutered through the Foundation in the month of July. We also contracted with HELP Spay and Neuter and they are coming about twice a month to pick up animals. We got behind during COVID but we are stepping back up with the spay and neuter. Last month, they were at a 6% ethnicization rate which is amazing.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – No Comments.

Rita Johnson – Encouraged everyone to look at the Spalding County Facebook page. She congratulated Rachel Conort, she has liked a lot of the information she has added to the page and shared a good bit of the information. If you haven't seen the video that was done regarding the collection centers, she encourages everyone to go in and look at it, it was very good. She added that she hasn't seen as many complaints on Facebook regarding the Collection Centers, since the video was released.

She wanted to say great job to Sheriff Dix for everything that he is doing within

the community. She watched the 20/20 Special, she knows it was tough and a lot of work went into that. We appreciate you and the work you have done.

James Dutton – He wanted to remind everybody about the second Saturday and the Farmers Market here in town on Friday at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. until noon.

He then stated there is so much good stuff going on in our community. Our State Court is the model of efficiency as far as how to run a remote courtroom. Judge Thacker and Patrick Shephard have gone above and beyond in accommodating everyone. They do morning and afternoon sessions and they split them up into two days so there is actually four court dates instead of being one so everyone is spread out.

Commission Dutton then stated that the hardware being utilized by State Court is a pre-production model. The company that created it, out of Norway, has only actually made 5 of the units and of the 5: one went to Facebook, one went to LinkedIn, one went to a large Wallstreet Bank, one went to Ford and one went to Spalding County. Now all of the other Courts are asking how they can do this in a timely manner. Judge Thacker's courtroom is the model that other courts are emulating. Liberty Technology has bent over backward to make that happen.

Spalding County's response to COVID and to the unrest in the Country right now has been to come together as a community and he couldn't be prouder. It is because of the leadership within this community. For example, the special on 20/20, we have a cold case that was solved because of the current leadership that said we are not going to let this continue without being addressed. We're going to deal with it. He can't be prouder of the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office. He couldn't be prouder of our town and he wishes everywhere else in the world could see what we are doing and could catch the same fire and passion about justice and everyone coming together as a community.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Advised that as an order of business, we have an Ethics Complaint from Mr. Solomon. We have to set a date to let the Board address receiving that complaint. She suggested that we do it at the next meeting.

Mr. Fortune stated that the matter will be simple, it will be taking all the facts if true would it be a prima facie violation of the Ethics Ordinance. It requires three positive votes to move it on further in the ordinance. If it doesn't receive three votes it goes no further.

Consensus of the Board is to place this item on the Agenda for Thursday, July 23rd, at the Zoning Public Hearing.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that there really isn't such a thing as a good ethics ordinance, she has never known a politician that would vote on something that was going to hurt them. However, when we created this ordinance it was based on three on the panel in agreement, based on a five-commission panel. She doesn't know it should be any different now, but going forward we need to look at this. In that since, if we can't get three people together and this ordinance is based on a board of five, then that person's concerns basically do not get heard. That is her concern, she knows we will never have a perfect ethics ordinance, but she feels it is a dis-service because we have had two people on the board at one time who did have ethics complaints against them at the same time. This is something we need to look at in the future.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that she had a totally different feeling after the 20/20 Special aired. She stated that Spalding County is usually only noted for the bad things that happen. We don't get recognized for the kid who was valedictorian and slept in their car for the last two years, we get the uncomplimentary stuff. But, just as an individual what she felt after seeing this program was, this is a town that she lived in, this is the town that she grew up in. She's not saying that she was oblivious to the kind of danger here, but it was alarming to her to know that not only black people were afraid of the Klan, but white people were afraid of them as well.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she is happy that the picture that documentary painted was of a progressive community that is facing its demons. None of us are who we were 20 years ago, none of us are who we were 40 years ago, and she is evidence that anybody can change, but it does give her hope. However, it brought to light how really bad it was. She didn't realize how bad it was because she didn't have those experiences herself. It is very sobering, and she can now understand why the younger generation of kids, not just black kids but white kids and others are asking us why we can't see it. She stated that she has to ask herself why it is so easy for them to see it. She simply stated she wanted to say she was very happy it brought to light where we are today. She felt the people were very honest about their feelings and it showed to her that this is a very forgiving community.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if the Detention Center is up to staff yet?

Sheriff Dix advised they are currently six down. Considering they went from a high of 23 vacancies, they are making progress. They are heading in the right direction.

She then asked about the Fire Department staff?

Ms. Irizarry advised there will only be a couple of vacancies once the four who just graduated come onboard full time.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that this time last year when we were starting the first phase of the pay program and the incentive program the Sheriff's Office had approximately 23 vacancies and the Fire Department had almost the same amount?

Ms. Irizarry advised that the Fire Department had at least 15 vacancies at the time.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked about Public Works.

Ms. Irizarry stated that Public Works is fully staffed at this time.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that we can say the pay plan and incentive program has been successful. We have accomplished what we had hope to do.

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.