

# After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 3, 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, August 3, 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 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.**

**I. INVOCATION**

Pastor Zachery Holmes with Grace Paradise Fellowship Baptist Church started by asking everyone to observe a moment of silence for Reverend C.T. Vivian, Herman Cain and Congressman John Lewis. Pastor Homes then delivered the Invocation.

**II. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

**III. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS** – None.

**IV. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** – None.

**V. 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.

**Lisa Amey, 7216 Newnan Road, Brooks, GA**, asked that the Board consider revising the subdivision ordinance for AR-1 and AR-2 which are 3 acre and 5 acre lots in those districts to eliminate curb and gutter and simply require open ditches in these rural neighborhoods.

**Kenneth Hester, 1001 Serene Lake Drive**, asked what could be done about people dumping bulky items on Vineyard Road. He stated that since the collection centers have quit taking the bulky items, people have been dumping them on Vineyard Road.

#### **VI. MINUTES -**

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on July 20, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on July 23, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on July 20, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on July 23, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

#### **VII. CONSENT AGENDA-**

1. Consider approval on second 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).

Mr. Wilson stated this Ordinance was approved on first reading a couple of weeks ago, this is the second reading and will allow us to utilize alternative methods of service for our county ordinance violations. Right now, we must serve in person, this will allow service by Certified Mail. This will make it easier to serve out of town or out of State property owners with minimum housing citations.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve on second 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).***

Commissioner Dutton stated he felt it is a great step forward toward holding absentee landlords accountable to the people of Spalding County.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

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

1. Reconsider approval of the Resolution to adopt a moratorium on the acceptance of an application for a 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.

Mr. Wilson stated that earlier today he had provided the Board with a memo from Newton Galloway. The original intent of the moratorium was just to deal with the problem at hand which is currently within the mill village areas. The Board broadened the affect of the moratorium and made it County wide, which had some unforeseen consequences and staff is asking that this be reconsidered to only the locations in the original moratorium which is around the mill villages because that is where the immediate need is at this time and it will not stop commercial development in other C-2 zoning areas throughout the County.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a the Resolution to adopt a moratorium on the acceptance of an application for a 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. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to rescind the Moratorium of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider approval of revised Rosenwald School Renovation project concept and authorize solicitation of bids for construction.

Mr. Wilson stated that earlier this year the Board of Commissioners had approved a concept plan with an additional building to the north of the Rosenwald Building that would house restrooms and a Welcome Center. The community asked that the separate building not be constructed and that the restrooms be placed inside the Rosenwald Building. We have done that and the current design shows a courtyard where the Welcome Center and restrooms would have been. Everything, else remains the same. The Board has approved working with the Griffin Housing Authority on renovation of the Equalization Building and they are moving forward with that. What you are approving this evening is the amended plan, which puts the restrooms inside the building and allows for the courtyard out back and the parking. It is to be paid for out of 2008 SPLOST funds.

Staff is recommending the Board accept the concept presented this evening, allowing the architects to finalize plans and allow Paragon Consulting to bid the project out and bring back to the Board a recommendation for renovation and construction. This proposal has the buy in of the Community and staff recommends approval.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the revised Rosenwald School Renovation project concept and authorize solicitation of bids for construction. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider approval of a contract in the amount of \$1,864,500.00 with Ward Humphrey, Inc. the low bid for construction of the new Spalding

## County Animal Shelter.

Mr. Wilson stated that for historical purposes we had planned on renovating the existing shelter and expanding it. After meeting with several engineers and architects, it was determined it would be more feasible and economical for the County to build a new shelter. Plus we already owned the land that the old RYDC occupied and the Board of Commissioners authorized demolition of the RYDC building. That was done and the Board authorized the placement of the new animal shelter at that location. He feels the Board will be very impressed with the new animal shelter, they have gone through a number of plans. This is another 2016 SPLOST project we have been working on.

Brian Upson, Paragon, stated the County had a bid opening on July 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Animal Shelter, five bids were received and four were responsive. The base bids ranged from \$1,843,000 to \$1,893,474. They were very tight bids. They felt comfortable the plans were good and the bidders understood what we were doing. We have vetted the low bidder, Ward Humphrey, and the architect has checked references, we checked for bonds, insurance and the technical nature of the actual bid and we are here this evening to recommend the Board approve Ward Humphrey Inc. for the total price of \$1,864,500 which includes \$21,500 in add alternates that were proposed in the bid.

Commissioner Dutton then asked what were the alternates we would be getting?

Mr. Upson advised that they would be doing the brick veneer around three faces of the building to comply with the architectural standards. There will be acoustical tile ceilings in the offices and there will be a suspended gypsum board cloud ceiling in the other areas. Instead of having the metal roof exposed ceiling it will have a ceiling.

Mr. Wilson advised that the building is completely air conditioned, including the kennels with a separate system for administration.

Mr. Upson stated the kennels have an exhaust system built in, so there will be no crossover air. He reminded the Board that they asked for in the last meeting was included in the base bid and then we went through alternates to look at additional items and deduct items. They felt the bids came in where we thought they should be, so we didn't go through any of the deduct items. Mr. Upson stated they are here this evening to ask the Board approve Ward Humphrey for the low bid on the animal shelter.

Commissioner Dutton then asked what the original budget for this project was?

Mr. Wilson advised that the original budget was \$1.185 million and he would be reporting to the Board a little later about sales tax numbers. We had our third highest collection in June. Our average collections are now \$776,000 over the 51 month period. We had budgeted \$700,000 and we are running 11% above estimates. So, we should have enough money in

excess collections to do this. The money for the Rosenwald Building is actually coming from the 2008 SPLOST and the remaining money will be used for the Aquatic Center and the Gymnasium. He believes staff is comfortable with the money being available for this project and recommend approval.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a contract in the amount of \$1,864,500.00 with Ward Humphrey, Inc. the low bid for construction of the new Spalding County Animal Shelter. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider approval of a request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to declare surplus forfeited weapons, obsolete and irreparable weapons and to allow trade to a licensed Federal Firearms Dealer.

Mr. Wilson stated that Sheriff Dix has been doing since he has been in office and the County hasn't had to expend county funds to purchase new service weapons for the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Dix stated the last time the Sheriff's Office did this they were able to generate approximately \$85,000. In 2017 when they went into the Sheriff's Office they found over 800 guns in the building and it is a common practice that law enforcement agencies is to bid these out as a lot to a licensed federal firearms dealer and we get in-store credit and by doing this last time we were able to outfit everyone in the agency with brand new firearms, leather gear to carry them in and even some ammunition for training and to be put out in the field without it costing anything out of the budget. These are things that we actually need and he feels that the record shows since 2017 the stewardship the Sheriff's Office has used with County money in trying to do things like this to help cut what we are having to spend out of our budget.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he knows that the Sheriff 100% follows the rules on this and act under these rules as far as civil forfeiture goes. That said, the law itself he abhors, the Sheriff's Office is doing it right to uphold the law but the whole idea of civil forfeiture is completely abhorrent to him. He then stated because of this he feels he should recuse himself from this vote due to a potential conflict with his personal business and personal feelings regarding civil forfeiture.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to declare surplus forfeited weapons, obsolete and irreparable weapons and to allow trade to a licensed Federal Firearms Dealer. Motion carried unanimously 3-0-1 (Dutton).***

3. Consider approval of contract amendment with Charles Abbott Associates Inc.

Mr. Wilson stated that a couple of years ago the County entered into an agreement with Charles Abbott for providing building inspection and building official services for Spalding County. This has worked out

extremely well for us and our current contract calls for a revenue sharing where 70% of the permit fee goes to Charles Abbott. No matter how large the permit fee may be. We have negotiated with them because there are some very large permit fees coming up with Rinnai and other companies and we have asked they match the contracts they have in other places where if the value is greater than \$10 million, the permit fee goes to 50% instead of 70%. The first permit to be issued under this contract amendment we will be keeping approximately \$50,000 of the permit fee instead of it going to Charles Abbott. Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the contract amendment with Charles Abbott Associates Inc. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider approval of resolution to contract with the Ga. Dept. Of Human Services for the CSBG CARES Act Program.

Mr. Wilson advised that if the Board approves this, the County will receive \$381,080 in CARES funding. We have worked extensively with Jeannie Brantley at Three Rivers and we propose the following budget:

\$28,000	Youth Nutrition Program
\$50,500	Senior Center Nutrition Program
\$28,900	Technology Assistance Program

Programs for the Community offered through the Spalding Collaborative which is under the EPI (Educational Prosperity Initiative), Mortgage Assistance, Utility Assistance, Rental Assistance, Prescription Assistance, Foot Assistance along with program supplies and equipment. All of this will be administered through Three Rivers and they will be subcontracting with the Collaborative for some of this. Staff recommends approval of the CSBG Cares Act Program in the amount of \$381,080.

Mr. Wilson stated there is no match required by the County. It is CARES funding and it is coming from the federal government. There will be a lot of paperwork to keep up with this and he told them we don't have the staff nor the expertise to do the paperwork, so they are contracting through the Collaborative who has the staff to do it.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve a resolution to contract with the Ga. Dept. Of Human Services for the CSBG CARES Act Program. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority to fill the unexpired term of Shirley Gardner to expire on December 31, 2020.

Mr. Wilson advised that Ms. Gardner was unable to attend meetings and has resigned from the Authority. Her appointment ends December 31, 2020. Mr. Wilson stated that the Board has been provided with the name of a nominee that staff is recommending. The nomination form has been signed by Chairperson Flowers-Taylor.

Mr. Wilson then stated that in order to be a member of the Land Bank Authority, you must be a resident of Spalding County. The City and County had a discussion after the latest SDS meeting about the Land Bank Authority and members on the Authority and what they are doing and whether or not they had a pulse on what the County and City Commissioners wanted so that everyone would be going in the same direction with substandard housing, etc. He then advised that the Land Bank Authority would be coming to the Board later this year requesting that two members be added to the Land Bank Authority. It has been recommended and the Land Bank Authority Chairman has no problem with those two members being either the City or County Manager or their appointees to be voting members on the Land Bank Authority. So that we can express the County and City views.

Mr. Wilson then stated that Joseph Brett Hanes is a resident of Spalding County, he works with Charles Abbott and Associates and he currently is the City and the County's Building Official. His department will actually go out and inspect these homes and he will have extensive knowledge of the homes, whether they should be renovated or whether they should be demolished and he brings an added layer of expertise to the Land Bank Authority that they don't currently have.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that when they talked with the City it was agreed that we had a different vision for what we wanted to see the Land Bank do. Without people who have expertise in zoning and buildings, it's really hard for them as citizens to understand the dynamics. She has met Mr. Hanes, he is the Building Inspector and he is very involved in the community and she feels he will make an great addition to that Board.

Commissioner Dutton then expressed concern over the Building Inspector who could potentially determine a home is blighted and issue citations could be in a position where there may be a conflict.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Land Bank only buys homes that are foreclosed on, they do not go out to privately owned properties and condemn them. That is what the City and County does for substandard housing, but the Land Bank Authority is a buyer of last resort.

Ms. Windham stated that in Spalding County the Land Bank Authority typically picks up properties that are not purchased by anyone else at a Tax Sale. They don't have the power to condemn properties. Their mission is to sell the property such that it can be used for home ownership.

Commissioner Johnson stated she feels that Commissioner Dutton simply wanted to make sure there are not conflicts and that is what she is hearing there are not conflicts of interest.

Mr. Wilson stated that this appointment will end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, it is only a 4 ½ month appointment and if we see there is a conflict we will get back to you.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to appoint Joseph Brett Hanes to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority to fill the unexpired term of Shirley Gardner to expire on December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider recommendation of The Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to modify the Festival of Lights event into a drive through holiday lights concept at City Park.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Festival of Lights has outgrown Airport Road Park. In the past we have had buses to transport participants and last year we tried no buses and walking. It involves a tremendous amount of law enforcement, fire department, public works, leisure services and other folks to hold this event. What was suggested to the Park and Rec Advisory Board was instead of doing the one-night event, let's do something that could be enjoyed for 31 days. Airport Road remains decorated throughout the season, but the big event that everybody wants to come to is the Festival of Lights where we have the tree lighting and is the event.

Mr. Wilson stated that Airport Road Park would stay the same, all of the lights that have been there in the past will remain and the Christmas tree would be moved to another location within the area so it can be viewed better from the road. Currently, the Christmas tree is hidden behind the other trees at the park. Everything at airport road would remain the same except for the one-night event.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had presented the concept at the City Commissioners workshop last week. Four of the seven commissioners were present at that meeting and they approved in concept doing this at City Park. He then added that he also asked for funding for this. There has been some talk about the fireworks and there is some talk about collaborating with another entity for the fireworks display. Right now, we collaborate with the City. It is approximately 25 minutes worth of fireworks and we spend approximately \$20,000 per year on the fireworks and the City and County split the cost. We take our portion of the money for the fireworks out of the OLD Hotel Motel Tax money. We have approximately \$100,000 left in that fund and we have anticipated using it every year for this event until the fund is depleted.

Mr. Wilson then advised that they are looking at putting all new displays at City Park. The City has installed new lights at the Park, this was done for the BBQ and Blues. They have replaced all of the lighting around the big circle of the Park. \$25,000 is what Mr. Wilson is asking for our of the OLD Hotel Motel Tax money. Originally, he was asking for half of the money from the City and half from the County, but he was told at the City Workshop, they felt if we did away with fireworks that the citizens of Griffin and Spalding County would be upset. The County never does anything halfway and we are not going to do this halfway. The Park and Rec Advisory Board is recommending this, it would be a drive through only event, we might have special nights during the season for walking with



kids and parents.

This would be a mini Christmas Light Extravaganza that we could grow every year and we could use the money that we were going to put toward fireworks toward it every year. We could even ask for sponsors. It is probably too late to try to acquire sponsors because we have to order the displays in August in order to receive them by November.

Mr. Wilson added they are asking for approval of the concept, we are currently on working on leases with the City for all of the Parks, but he feels the City Commissioners will approve it in concept and work with us to do this. He thinks would be a great City/County cooperation and it would get folks back into City Park like it was years ago.

Mr. Wilson stated that we don't want to abandon Airport Road Park in any way, but he feels we can make a new tradition at City Park. Maybe have a family night, maybe have a dog night and eventually expand it to the area on the inside of the initial route. COVID this year will eliminate many of the events that are normally held during the Christmas season.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated it would give us the opportunity to have more than one event. A bigger thing for her is we do have a lot of industry in the County and she is sure that once we talk with them about being a sponsor, they will be receptive to sponsoring a display every year.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he is not in favor of doing away with the big event. If we want to move the location to City Park and do an even bigger event that even more people than that is certainly something he can get behind. The other issue is the branding on this, if this is a County funded event at the City Park, then it certainly needs to be branded as Spalding County. If the City want to do it with us, then by all means it can be a collaborative project, but it certainly needs to be displayed and marked as the County is doing this is the City chooses not to participate.

Mr. Wilson agreed stating that the perception of the fireworks display is that it is the City doing it.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he likes the idea of multiple nights; however, we still need to have one night where there is a big event. That is what he is in favor of, this is a larger area than Airport Road Park so we can put more people into that one even larger event this year.

Commissioner Miller stated that at Airport Road we can utilize Rose's parking lot and other areas surrounding it. City Park is not going to hold all of those cars and people. A drive thru is one thing, but to have a big event is not possible.

Commissioner Dutton stated that if it is an either or type situation that he wants to have the big event.

Commissioner Johnson stated that due to COVID this year it may not be possible to have a big event.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the focus is not going to be on people coming and parking in City Park. You will be able to drive thru just like you can at Calloway Gardens and Lanier Islands. Or you can walk through.

Commissioner Miller stated that what Commissioner Dutton is wanting is a night where we have a large event out there and people come to the event. They are going to have to have a place to park.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he is not in favor of turning this into a 30-day drive thru and not having the big event. He definitely wants to have an event, COVID be damned. He stated that everyone coming one night and walking the trail, that would be a great idea as long as we can set stations inside so as they walk-thru they could enjoy the experience. That way they could walk through and bring more people out, that would be an even bigger thing. He is not in favor of not doing at least one big event, that is something the residents of Spalding County really enjoy.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Hotel Motel funds you are talking about is not the GSBTA funds?

Mr. Wilson stated that these funds are pre-GSBTA.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that the request is \$25,000 of the \$100,000 currently in that fund?

That is correct.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then added that we are just voting on the concept, nobody has come back to us with the specifics. Mr. Wilson is just trying to explain what we are proposing.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to move \$25,000 from the Hotel Motel Tax Fund to go toward modifying the Festival of Lights event into a drive-thru holiday lights concept at City Park. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider cancellation of the September 7th Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting due to observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the cancellation of the September 7th Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting due to observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

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

- ✓ SPLOST collections for June 2020 were \$908,145.93 brings the total collections to \$39,600,220.73, we had budgeted \$35,700,000. This brings our average collections to \$776,474.92.
- ✓ Mr. Wilson advised that Ms. Windham needs to make the Board aware of a matter

involving Beck, Owen and Murray.

Ms. Windham stated that Commissioner Hawbaker has filed a lawsuit against Sheriff Dix, Major Sowell and Captain Phillips. He is filing this in his individual capacity, not as a member of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners. The County's Insurance Carrier, Liberty Mutual, has hired Beck, Owen and Murray, to represent the Sheriff and the Deputies in this lawsuit. They do not see a conflict of interest as the suit has been filed in Mr. Hawbaker's individual capacity, but she wanted to make the Board aware.

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

- The CI COVID Strike Team has been busy cleaning County buildings and sanitizing them. They have also been in any office where someone has tested positive to make sure it is sanitized before any other employees come in. We are continuing to stay on top of this.
- EMA is assisting the Department of Public Health with Fight COVID Testing each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Last week they had 100 tested in the 5-hour period. There are a number of people showing up for the tests.
- This week they will also be assisting a 4-hour COVID Testing with DPH on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- There will be a tabletop exercise on Friday, August 7, to test and update the infections plan. They are limiting in-person participation and it will also be available via ZOOM.
- The Fire Department just finished hosting an instructor course in conjunction with Deputy Chief Byrd and Chief Hamilton of Griffin Fire.
- There are two new personnel attending the Fire Academy and two other firefighters working on orientation.
- The Fire Department will be placing the four firefighters that just graduated from the academy onto their shifts.
- Animal Control applied for a \$5,000 grant from DCSP (Dog and Cat Sterilization Programs). Part of the proceeds from the Sterilize Your Animals initiative go to support this grant. The State of Georgia has granted \$711,000 this year for this grant program. In 2020, we applied and have received \$3,000.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the City of Griffin has adopted on first reading a Spay and Neuter Ordinance, as was asked by the County at the last Service Delivery Strategy Negotiation, so we are moving forward with that as well.

## **XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Bart Miller** – Stated that with all the housing and building going on in Spalding County, he feels the County needs to start looking at ways to help the taxpayers here in Spalding County by cutting their property taxes somewhere down the line.

**Rita Johnson** – She is very happy that we have approved the Rosenwald Project, we are getting that project off the ground and are moving forward with that SPLOST project along with the Animal Shelter. She will be excited to see those projects break ground.

Ms. Amey who was here regarding a zoning matter. Ms. Amey had contacted her and she asked Ms. Amey to come in to speak and she hopes we can look at the zoning matter as she requested.

She also wanted to thank Pastor Holmes for doing the invocation this evening and for recognizing our great heroes that passed away: Reverend C.T. Vivian, Herman Cain and Congressman John Lewis, they will be greatly missed. They did a lot for this nation.

**James Dutton** – He wanted to talk tonight about the Fire Department. He and family were coming back home around 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, they witnessed a house fire in progress on Poplar Road. They were the first on the scene, called 911, then tried to determine if anyone was inside of the building. Both Griffin and Spalding County Fire Departments were on the scene immediately and they were unbelievably professional, knowledgeable and experienced on how to deal with these fires. Spalding County and the City of Griffin forces worked side by side in responding to the fire and their professionalism and ability to work together and their efficiency in dealing with the fire was impressive.

Commissioner Dutton stated that we had a young lady in here, Jaycee Barnes. Ms. Barnes was recognized for being on the State Board for 4-H. She was just elected as the President for the State Board for 4-H, the first one ever from Griffin. She is who he wants to be when he grows up, she is amazing. He feels we need to do something for her at our next meeting as well.

He stated that he couldn't be more excited about getting started on the Rosenwald School. There has been a video that was sent to all of our emails and he would like to see that shared more on-line. We need to encourage everyone to watch it and fill in the survey so that we can show more viability for the development of the area for artists.

He has talked with the Judges about the possibility of developing a program, along with the Flint River Regional Library to have people be able to work off Community Service Hours by doing an advanced reader program there. In his practice, they always try to deal with the underlying problem and many times it is as simple as they can't read. There are counselors for mental health problems, there are places to go for drug addiction, but there are a limited number of resources available to those who can't read or sign their name. How do you build that person up to assist them in not returning to the system? He and the Librarians are trying to come up with an accelerated reader program and incentivize people to attend, by allowing them to work off Community Service hours by attending.

We talked about this at the last meeting, there is not a very high fine that is being levied for littering. He asked around about that and he was told that the fines seem to be substantial and he encourage those folks to levy the maximum possible for those who are charged with littering and he hopes the Board will support him in that. If we can increase the punishments for people who dump on the side of the roads then we can reduce the number acting in this manner. He is very hopeful that this will help

detour this behavior.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – No comments.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously by all.***