

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 5, 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, October 5, 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.

II. INVOCATION

Pastor Tim E. Conort with Union Baptist delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –

1. Recognition of Kathy Gibson upon completion of the Clerks Masters Education Management Development Program from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia on September 16, 2020.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a culmination of many years of study for Ms. Gibson and I would like for her to tell us what she had to do to get the masters certification.

Ms. Gibson advised that to become a Certified Clerk involved two and a half years worth of classes (101 credit hours) each class was 8-10 hours long. Once she became a Certified Clerk, she could start on the Masters Program. This was an additional two years, another 10 courses (60 credit hours) and she was required to complete a project.

The project she chose was to catalogue and record all of the right-of-way deeds for Spalding County. The right-of-way deeds dated back to the early 1900's, each right-of-way deed was catalogued into an excel spreadsheet so that it could be searched. The deeds were recorded by street, by the family, builder or entity that signed the right-of-way deed over to the County for easier searchability.

Originally, the right-of-way deeds were filed by the name of the street, the family, builder or entity that signed the deed over to the County. They could also be filed by subdivision name. All of these references were incorporated into the spreadsheet so that the deed could be located by any of the variables someone may be researching for them. This has been a huge help, the roads are now alphabetized in a fire proof safe and once they are located on the spreadsheet we can locate them easily in the safe. She is now in the process of making a pdf copy of each deed and attaching the pdf to the line item in the spreadsheet, so if anyone needs a copy, they can click on the link, look at the document and print it. Finally, she had to write a paper about the project and incorporate how the classes she attended influenced the way she did the project.

Mr. Wilson stated that we have a lot of open records requests involving the right-of-ways in the County and we use this continuously. There are six drawers of deeds in the safe and they were in various states of disorder and if you wanted to search for a road or a deed, it could take hours depending on how lucky you were at guessing what family owned the property, or what developer developed the subdivision or what the name of the subdivision was when it was originally platted. She has also done the Road Easements and then we are going to work on any plats we may have. It is going to be a great tool for the County and will last for many, many years.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she wanted to thank Ms. Gibson for taking the time to do the training and still do everything that the Board calls upon and asks her to do.

2. Elections Supervisor, Marcia Ridley, to provide an update on early voting and preparations for the November 3rd General Election.

Marcia Ridley, Elections Supervisor, stated they are excited about November 3rd, they have a lot of work going on in the Elections Department. Ms. Ridley then gave an overview of her department and gave updates on what is being done to accommodate social distancing and making the election safe for everyone on November 3rd. Ms. Ridley also gave important dates to remember for the absentee voting, the advanced voting and polling places for people to vote on November 3rd.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated there is a lot of good information in the presentation and she would like for it to be posted on the website.

Ms. Ridley stated that she was currently working with Ms. Conort on some media releases and she would definitely get with her on this request.

Commissioner Miller stated he appreciated Ms. Ridley's presentation this evening and it contains a lot of information that will be very helpful to the voters.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the two months ended August 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 Dutton/Johnson to approve the financial statements for the two months ended August 31, 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.

Joe Bailey, 4079 H. Newnan Road, Griffin, GA, asked that the Board consider amending the ordinance regarding manufactured homes. Currently, the ordinance reads “The manufactured homes can only be accessory to an active farm with a minimum track size of 100 acres. Mr. Bailey is asking that the ordinance be amended to read “Manufactured homes can only be accessory to an active farm consisting of a minimum of 100 contiguous acres.” Mr. Bailey advised that he currently owns approximately 150 acres of land; however, they are not all contained within one parcel due to the fact they have been purchased over the years and it would cost thousands of dollars for the survey and legal fees. Later, he may have options to purchase even more property to add on to his farm, spending the money to combine the parcels at this point would be a waste. He would appreciate the Board’s consideration in making this change.

Mr. Bailey also thanked the Board and the County Manager for being frugal with the taxpayer dollars and not raising the millage rate this year. He hopes this is the type of decision making that will carry over into future years.

Sam Vesper, 1009 Chesterwoods Court, Griffin, GA, stated he would like to bring to the Board’s attention the problem with speeders on his road. It is very loud all times of the day and at night. He stated there are people constantly discharging their firearms into the air and others racing up and down the street, smoking tires day and night.

Tony Jones, 1739 Honeybee Creek Drive, Griffin, GA, stated he is a lifelong resident of Spalding County. He is here as a business person regarding concerns, as a real estate broker we are constantly running into situations in Spalding County and the City of Griffin that is stopping commercial growth coming here. The sewer moratorium on the Shoal Creek Side of the County. We are pulling people in to look

at properties to find out that we can't connect them to sewer. He has been talking with both the City and the County for over a year and a half. We have people looking at Tri-County Crossroads intersection a lot, but the sewer line ends at that part of it. There is a lot of interest not only from local people but from a lot of bigger developers. We are constantly losing sales because when they come in we have to tell them, it's a great place, but we can't tell you if or when you will be able to tie into the lines that are already there. He then asked if there were any discussions going on between the City and the County. The sewer lines are there, they belong to the City, but they are in the County. Everytime he asks he is told they won't even talk about it until the Water Contract between the City and County is settled. The County has "stabbed us in the back" when it comes to the water contract. This is severely affecting the growth in that area and he was simply wanting to know if there have been any discussions regarding this area. We are losing millions of dollars in development right now at this intersection.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked Mr. Wilson to get with Mr. Jones and update him on the Water Authority meeting from last week.

Mr. Wilson advised that he would get with Mr. Jones.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and Executive Session on September 21, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on September 24, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and Executive Session on September 21, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on September 24, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING –

1. Conduct a Public Hearing on a street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Pod 7.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to open a Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Mr. Wilson advised that no one had signed up to speak during the Public Hearing and then asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak. No one expressed an interest to speak at the Public Hearing.

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

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of a street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Pod 7.

Mr. Wilson stated that all street light districts are paid 100% by the property owners in the subdivision. There is no cost to the County whatsoever and the single property owner at this time is Pulte Homes, the developer. This is standard for Sun City Peachtree and the residents pay 100% of the costs, there is no cost to the county. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Pod 7. Motion carried unanimously by all

2. Consider approval of the following 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for the Wholesale Sale of Beer and Wine:

Jackson Beverages, LLC, located 915 S. Pinehill Rd., Griffin, Ga 30224

Mr. Wilson stated that they have completed the application and paid all fees. There are no negative findings for this location and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve a 2021 Alcohol License Renewal for the Wholesale of Beer and Wine for Jackson Beverages, LLC. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of the 2021 Alcohol License Renewal-Consumption on Premises for:

Victoria McDaniel-Hole N the Wall Lounge, located at 1647 N. Hill St., Griffin, GA 30223.

Mr. Wilson advised that they have completed the application and paid all of the fees and there have been no negative findings for this location. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the 2021 Alcohol License Renewal – Consumption on Premises for Victoria McDaniel – Hole N the Wall Lounge. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider the approval of the following 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for:

- Retail Package Store Carver Bottle Shop, located at 1557 D Williamson Rd., Griffin, Ga 30224
- HUB, located at 7770 Newnan Rd., Suite A&B, Brooks, GA 30205
- Sam's Package Store, 1301 N Hill St., Griffin, GA 30223
- VJ Sons, located at 2004 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223
- The Liquor Gate, located at 1740 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224

Mr. Wilson advised that all of the businesses have completed the necessary applications and paid all of the fees and there have been no negative findings for these locations. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to approve 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Package Store Carver Bottle Shop, HUB, Sam's Package Store, VJ Sons and the Liquor Gate. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of the 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine:

- 362 Express, located at 1600 Williamson Rd., Griffin, GA 30224
- Circle K Store #2723331, located at 3420 Jackson Rd., Griffin, GA 30223
- Expressway Food Mart, located at 2903 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223
- Aman Food Mart, located at 3970 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223
- Food Station, located at 1779 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224
- Huckaby's, located at 7652 Hwy 16 West, Brooks, GA 30205
- Ingles Markets #457, located at 1735 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224
- JV's Corner, located at 1700 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224
- Petro Griffin, LLC, located at 1639 N Hill St, Griffin, GA 30223
- Prince Food Mart, located at 3425 Jackson Rd., Griffin, GA 30223
- Super Food, located at 2529 Old Atlanta Rd., Griffin, GA 30223
- Tony's One Stop, located at 4275 Hwy 19/41, Hampton, GA 30228
- Zetella Express, located at 4319 Newnan Rd., Griffin, GA 30223

Mr. Wilson advised that all of the businesses have completed the necessary applications and paid all of the fees and there have been no negative findings for these locations. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for 362 Express, Circle K Store, Expressway Food Mart, Foot Station, Huckaby's, Ingles Markets #457, JV's Corner, Petro Griffin, LLC, Prince Food Mart, Super Food, Tony's One Stop and Zetella Express. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider the approval of the following 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sale of Beer only:

- High Falls Country Store, located at 2662 High Falls Rd., Griffin, GA 30223.
- Monoprix Food Mart, LLC, located at 390 Airport Rd., Griffin, GA 30224
- S&M Grocery, located at 3244 Fayetteville Rd., Griffin, GA 30223

Mr. Wilson advised that all of the businesses have completed the necessary applications and paid all of the fees and there have been no negative findings for these locations. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the 2021 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sale of Beer for High Falls Country Store, Monoprix Food Mart, LLC and S & M Grocery. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval of G-17 Disclosure Letters and Letters of Intent with Raymond James for renewal and extension of the 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Mr. Wilson stated that at the retreat in January, consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to have two votes in 2021. The first vote to be held in March of 2021 for a proposed T-SPLOST. The second vote to be held in November of 2021 for the extension of the current SPLOST which will expire March 31, 2022.

At the last GSATC Meeting and over the past several months we have discussed the T-SPLOST and whether or not we are at a point in time with our studies and with the Atlanta Regional Commission as to where we want to go with a March T-SPLOST vote.

The Commissioners recently authorized two request for proposals that will be coming in later this month, one of those is for a Transit Feasibility Study with those results being available about a year from now. The other one is the SR 155 relocation. Due to these two major projects pending, staff is recommending that you postpone the T-SPLOST vote until March of 2022. At that time we should have all of the information available from these studies, the Freight Cluster Study that we are doing now will finish up in late October or early November and we will have more information available to us at that time from that study.

There is paperwork in the Agenda should the Board wish to continue with a March 2021 T-SPLOST, but right now he is only presenting the paperwork for the November 2021 SPLOST Extension vote. At the last GSATC Meeting there was concerns about potential projects for the T-SPLOST. There were talks about trails, sidewalks and things of that nature and whether or not we are at a point to determine the cost feasibility and study of those. Then you mix transit in with it and the GSATC Board felt that we might be pushing it for a March 2021 T-SPLOST vote. The decision is completely up to the Board of Commissioners.

Raymond James is our Investment Banker and they compile all the paperwork necessary along with King and Spalding, our Bond Counsel, for the SPLOST referendum. They help us with revenue projections and the filing of all the paperwork.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she would like to proceed with the 2021 Extension of the SPLOST, but hold off on the T-SPLOST until the studies are done then push for a 2022 T-SPLOST date.

Mr. Wilson asked that the Board just approve the disclosure statements for the extension of the SPLOST and not the T-SPLOST, then we can move forward with the SPLOST.

Motion/Second by Johnson Miller to approve the of G-17 Disclosure Letter and Letters of Intent with Raymond James for renewal and extension of the 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax to be held in November 2021.

Commissioner Dutton stated he is in favor of the motion, he just wants to make sure when it comes to the projects on the SPLOST, in the past there have been a lot of “wants” on there not just needs and there are way too many needs in Spalding County that need to out weigh the wants. He has received a lot of negative feedback from constituents regarding where the money has been spent in the past and they state they will not be voting for another SPLOST.

He will have a hard time voting for a SPLOST that list amenities instead of items that Spalding County desperately needs. There are some real infrastructure

issues in Spalding County that the SPLOST would absolutely help out with. The projects need to be thought out and just be a list of needs. He stated that he also does not want to be in a situation where we are guessing how much the items are going to cost, just to find out it is 7 times what was projected. We need to get ahead of this so that we know “this is what we want to do” and “this is how much it is going to cost.” We need to have a good idea of what these projects are going to cost and he feels we owe it to the voters to have this information ahead of time.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she agrees with Commissioner Dutton on his second argument. However, the SPLOST actually passed with a 60/40 vote, so there was a majority of the citizens who know the projects were on there and came out and passed the SPLOST. We had a lot of people come out in support of the projects on the SPLOST. We definitely need to be mindful of the people expressing the interest and that can be supported by the vote.

Commissioner Miller added there has been a lot of money spent in the last 8 years on recreation items.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then reminded the Board that it is wonderful to get as much pricing for the items as possible on the front end, but it costs money. So, the people sitting on this Board is going to have to have enough fortitude to raise their hand to say we need to spend money on the front side. We were not willing to spend the money on the last SPLOST to get the best numbers we could get. If we don't want to spend the money on the front side, then we end up paying for it on the backside.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider request from Spalding County Water Authority with regards to SDS (Service Delivery Strategy) and the Water Contract with the City of Griffin.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, advised that in 2004 when Griffin and Spalding County executed the first Service Delivery Strategy, there was water distribution included and it identified the existing Wholesale Water Contract and that contract is set to expire in December of this year.

In 2017, both the City of Griffin and Spalding County enacted Resolutions to continue that Service Delivery Strategy through October of 2022 and that was approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The Water Authority had sought additional information from the law firm of King and Spalding regarding the existing water contract and King and Spalding looked at it from a Service Delivery Strategy point of view and realized that this contract had been part of that in 2017, it was listed on that extension until October 31, 2022. Water distribution is specifically listed there and as such it is their opinion that the Water Contract should not expire as of December 31, 2020, but should be extended until October 31, 2022 based on that agreement between the City and the County and the approval by DCA.

Mr. Wilson then stated that the Resolution specifically addresses that any and all intergovernmental agreements that are made part of the SDS shall automatically extend.

Ms. Windham advised that it says they are being extended without changes and because the Water Contract is a three party contract with Spalding County, the City of Griffin and the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority, the Authority would not have any standing to enforce a service delivery strategy issue. That would be up to Spalding County because the Authority is not a party to the Service Delivery Strategy and as such the Water Authority is simply asking for the County's backing to pursue the strategy for the contract being extended through October of 2022.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that what is needed this evening is an acknowledgement that this document does exist and that it in fact stated that in our Service Delivery Strategy we enacted in 2017, that we agreed, along with the City, we voted for it and both Chairmen signed, that it would extend to October of 2022. So in order for the Water Authority to stand on this service delivery agreement, we have to acknowledge that the agreement exists. That is what the Water Authority needs from the Board of Commissioners is that the Service Delivery Strategy does exist and everything listed on that agreement is part of that extension.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to acknowledge the fact that the Water Contract is part of the Service Delivery Strategy entered into by the City of Griffin and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners in 2017 and as such the renewal of the Water Contract should be extended to October 2022 to coincide with the renewal of the Service Delivery Strategy. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Commissioner Dutton would like to discuss development standards for residential and commercial construction in Spalding County.

Commissioner Dutton advised that as was discussed in the last two Board retreats with the City and the Archways Partnership, we have talked about repeatedly raising the bar, increasing the quality of life for the citizens of Spalding County and those who want to move here. Another discussion we have at those meetings is how to get rid of the blight.

Currently our standards allow for builders to come in build what he would term as "near blight." They build a house, it passes inspection and six months later, through no fault of the homeowner, it is falling apart. That is not fair to the person who purchased the home, it's not fair to the citizens of Spalding County and it's certainly not fair to the taxpayers in general when the house gets Land Banked. We need to solve that problem by preventing, not through zoning, but through the actual building code. Changing those standards to increase the quality of products used: roof shingles, piping, wiring and voltage, requiring double paned windows.

At one of the protests this year, many of the people were upset about their power bills and wondered why the City of Griffin is charging them so much. The rate is actually lower than Georgia Power's, but in Griffin, we allow people to build with virtually no insulation so you have to run an air conditioner all the time so

the power bill is outrageous because 24-7 you're A/C is on. So, it's not the fault of the power, it is the fault of the building code that allows builders to build and pass inspections and have these kind of near blight houses.

We need to address that, not through zoning, but across the board all houses need to meet certain standards that will make the houses safer, cheaper and more reliable. The upkeep is cheaper, the power bills are cheaper and that helps the people who live here and the people who move here. We don't have to do this all at once, but he would like to at least address the changes he has just talked about. There is a lot of things that other Counties do that we simply are not doing. We've got to do better and it is our responsibility as commissioners to do better.

Commissioner Johnson stated she likes what Commissioner Dutton is saying and wondered if it should be an action item for the retreat in January?

Commissioner Dutton stated he feels this requires more than our desire to do something.

Mr. Wilson stated that since we now have Charles Abbott and Associates upstairs, they have come to us with several changes that they would like to see. So, if it is okay with the Board he will arrange a meeting with Charles Abbott and Associates and Commissioner Dutton and go through what we have now and the recommended changes and have a draft for the Board to look over during the holidays. Mr. Galloway has drafted some commercial standards, there are Southern Building Code Standards and there are other standards that we adhere to, but we need to unify all of the standards. Mr. Wilson advised that in the agenda package there were some ordinances that Mr. Galloway had drawn up for commercial and then we have the general standards for all subdivisions.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he would like to see standards across the board, not just for specific areas. That's not fair.

Mr. Wilson stated there are standard energy codes that change every year regarding the wrapping of homes, insulation and R factors. Right now, our code has to be changed every few years when those codes change. We just need to make it read "energy codes as adopted by the State of Georgia," so they are automatically made a part of the code.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that her concern is the legislation that has been trying to be "slipped through" by the General Assembly for the past two to three years, where the legislators want to say that the local governments cannot have codes more stringent than the State. That doesn't make sense because the State doesn't require insulation in your house. You need a window in the house that is not going to let all of the heat out. You need have a plastic cover on the ground underneath to prevent moisture. These are things that she feels are valuable to have. She doesn't know if our standards would be more strict than the City, but we can't fix the City if theirs is different, but we can set a standard in the County that would be easy for someone to follow. We are talking about it costing some money due to the people who do the inspections having to do more in depth inspections. If you want somebody inspecting everything then

you are going to have to pay them to do it.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she thinks this is important and we will have to wait and see that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Galloway come up with and we also have to keep in mind that the State may still say something, but until they do we need to put some standards in place that we can live with.

Mr. Wilson stated that we can have a draft this year that we can adopt in January, but one thing that is going to be recommended is a increase in fees and also, we do not currently require building plans for homes. The City does require building plans for homes and they review the plans for the homes, we don't require that in the County and that is another level of being able to get better quality of homes.

Ms. Windham stated that we are talking about standards here, but nuisance abatement and code enforcement is also a very important part of that. She then asked if Bob Dull could be included in the meeting with Commissioner Dutton?

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then added that when people are rehabbing houses there needs to be an expectation that they will not simply be fixing it up on the outside to sell it, you are still going to do the things that are necessary.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that for the record we are expecting to have some kind of draft before the end of this year.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ New Home Data – 30 new home permits in September. Average home size is 2,928 Square Feet. Total permits year-to-date are 197, Average square foot of the homes year-to-date is 3,102.
- ✓ The ArtSpace Study is complete, Mr. Galloway would like to present the findings to the Board. He then asked if the next meeting would be okay and consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Galloway present at the next meeting.
- ✓ Ms. Garrison and Spalding County have received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for the 19th year in a row for our 2019 Comprehensive Annual Report.
- ✓ SPLOST Update - \$1,276,567.66, 50.58% more than the same month last year. But there is a caveat. The revenue department at the state did an audit that covers three years and we received approximately \$380,000+/- from that audit. So, if you take the audit number out we are at \$890-\$900,000 which we have been at for the last three months. This is a one-time anomaly, it boots the collections to a total of \$41,793, 273.90 or an average of \$788,558 per month average.
- ✓ There is a Special Called Meeting, Wednesday morning, October 7th at 10:00 a.m. We are lowering your taxes. The County and the School Board both adopted the rollback rate. The School Board has historically adopted the rollback rate for approximately six years. This is the first time that the County has adopted the rollback rate in five years. Do not forget, Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m., we need at least three of you here.

- ✓ There is an Ethics Workshop scheduled for October 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Camp Stephens was brought up at the last meeting. We have determined (a) that the County does not own that park, the Historical Society does. (b) we have an agreement that we will do the maintenance and upkeep on it at no cost and he has a call into the co-chairpersons of the Historical Society to speak with them about the renaming which was brought up at the last meeting.
- ✓ Mr. Wilson stated that he would be out of the office all of next week and Ms. Irizarry will be in charge.

XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- Unfortunately, Animal Control has experienced some technical difficulties with their internet and phone lines since it is VOIP. Hopefully, this will be fixed by tomorrow morning.
- In the month of September, 23 animals were fixed, vetted and ready for adoption.
- The Animal Shelter SPLOST project has begun.
- Weekly COVID testing will now be on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the same location as a drive thru.
- The annual flu shot event is scheduled for October 29th from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and that is a drive-thru as well.
- GEMA wants to remind everyone that October is Cyber Security Awareness Month.
- Chief Byrd and Chief Hamilton, from the City of Griffin, will be presenting a Fire Officer 1 Course for City of Griffin and Spalding County Firefighters.
- It is National Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department has put something on their Facebook page if you want to check that out it is October 4-10th.
- The Fire Department has been working at the fair giving out fire safety materials and did a standby for the Demolition Derby.
- One firefighter has started basic training at the Georgia Fire Academy this week, it is an eight-week course and he will finish up around November 20th.
- There are meetings planned for the Halloween Public Safety event which will be on October 31st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and we want to say a special thanks to the Fire Department. Tish Russo designed the tee shirt which reads “Extinguishing Breast Cancer – Saving Lives.” The Griffin Daily News has done an article on it and the Fire Department will be doing pink lined license tags for the month of October and any additional funding received for this will go to the Susan G. Komen

Foundation.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – He wants to thank Public Works for all of the work they have been doing on dirt roads. Over the last six months, the rain that we have had has been “gully washers” and has washed out many of the dirt roads. There have been some dirt roads that have been washed completely out and Public Works has had a lot of work to do in the last 3-4 months and he wants to thank all of Public Works.

Rita Johnson – Last month she got a chance to sit in on the Water and Sewerage Authority Public Meeting and there was a lot of great information around the things that Mr Jones was discussing during the Public Comment section, regarding moving forward and the need for sewerage in certain areas. There were a number of agencies there who share the same interests that you expressed. She walked out of the meeting very excited about what she heard and what she has learned.

She wanted to give a “shout out” to the Board of Elections that was a great presentation from Ms. Ridley and she is excited to learn there is about 44,000 registered voters. She is hoping and praying that we can get these people to the polls.

James Dutton – Wanted to give a big “shout out” to the Kiwanis, they did a great job with the fair this year. They used a new company and he has heard nothing but good things. He stated that the Demolition Derby was amazing and hopefully next year we will have more entrants.

He and a group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints went down to Florida this weekend to assist in hurricane clean-up. They have gone to every hurricane relief clean-up since 1992 when Hurricane Andrew devastated Homestead Florida. We were in Pensacola this year and everywhere you look there were trees on houses and homes without power. To be able to go down and help those people out, there were over 300 volunteers from the Church.

Last Wednesday morning we had a meeting in the State Courtroom and though many attended virtually, there were a number of folks there including the entire Jewkes Firm to discuss how to safely restart jury trials. Some of the stuff they talked about may have been overkill, but the links they are going to make this a safe situation for all those involved the jurors, the grand jurors, witnesses and the public that may want to attend is really amazing and he wants congratulate them on those efforts. Judge Thacker hosted the meeting, but it was Judge Fletcher Sams from Superior Court who led the meeting. The D.A.’s office was there and the Solicitors Office was there. It was interesting to see the Defense Attorneys, the District Attorneys the Solicitors and the Judges all working together to see how can we get this done in a safe way.

Hopefully, on October 19th we will start a week of grand juries and get the cases moving again.

The infrastructure in the Ingles area, the triangle at 19-41 and Zebulon Road, is a prime area and that goes along with that commercia code that we look at.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Wanted to acknowledge and thank Rachel Connort, the Citizen Engagement Specialist, for all of the hard work and all of the walking that she has done over the past two months with the census. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she went out with Ms. Conort once or twice, she is very excited about what

she does and people respond to her well. Since the census has been extended to the 30th of October, maybe some of the rest of us will have the opportunity to go out with her and try to encourage people to be counted. She was surprised to learn there were only 60% of the residents of Spalding County counted in the last census. She wanted to thank Ms. Conort for getting out there and getting the community involved in this and not making it a county thing or a city thing, but bringing people out of their houses and out of their organizations to help make this happen

She wanted to talk about the problem at Chesterwood Court. She stated she was sorry that gentleman left, but she felt bad when he asked if the Board could do anything and we said no. She has tried to explain to the young lady who has sent her texts and pictures that this is something they are going to have to work with the Sheriff's Department on. This may be a good opportunity for them to develop a neighborhood watch or to figure out some way to use their doorbell cameras to record the violations.

She was glad Mr. Wilson talked about Camp Stephens, she spoke with someone this weekend. An organization or a couple of citizens who were very interested once they found out the Griffin Historical Society owns the property and they would like to talk with the Historical Society about maybe maintaining that property. Her issue with it has always been is that we should not expend taxpayer money on a monument that is someone who was in favor of slavery. They are a private property owner and if they want to keep it as Camp Stephens, then hopefully there is something they can do to arrange for maintenance.

One of the things that was talked about at the retreat was a Customer Service Survey for Indigent Defense and we are seeing that the Jewkes Firm trying to do something with it, but she feels it is also very important for us to know whether or not our employees are providing good customer service when they are out representing Spalding County. She doesn't know what the answer is, but she feels that we also need to look at how the employees are interacting with their department heads. One thing she has on her check list is to see what customer surveys look like not only for customer service, but for employees to supervisors.

There are representatives here this evening from the Rotarians and the Masons, the Collaborative is doing the poverty initiative which most of the Board went to that seminar. Part of that effort is coming up with mentors for people who are in the community who are impoverished and who would like to rise above poverty. This going to be a good opportunity to learn some mentoring skills as a navigator or super navigator. A navigator person is the individual who can analyze a situation and recommend that someone go to the Department of Family and Children Services to address a specific problem or you need to go to the courthouse to get something accomplished or get a copy of something that may be needed. A super navigator could be an attorney and you can advise the individual as to what they will need to bring to court when that time arrives or they can advise the individual to see a doctor for the problem they are experiencing.

What she is saying is there are several skill levels for the navigators, this is not a program where you go and give people stuff. You don't buy the gas or give them food, but you help take them in the direction that will benefit their individual case and help them to rise up out of their current situation. She stated that she is trying to encourage anyone who is interested in making a difference in this community and giving a person a hand up and not a handout, this is a great opportunity to become involved in this poverty initiative through the Collaborative. They are having zoom training this week,

but there will be a six-hour training later on this month. She is going to try it, nobody likes to think that they have a skill set nobody can use, but there are so many that have attributes that just a simple word to somebody else can make the difference in them knowing and not knowing.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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