

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2021
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, January 4, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Rita Johnson and Ryan Bowlden (via ZOOM) were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, Citizen Engagement Specialist, Rachel Conort, 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

Cameron Shiflett, Executive Pastor at Rock Springs Church delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3 will deliver the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. Commissioner Dutton asked that the Agenda be amended to include an item between Items III and IV to address the temporary replacement of Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for District 5, now that he has been suspended from office by Executive Order we need to have this replacement named as soon as possible.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to amend the agenda to include request for a letter to replace Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for District 5. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Commissioner Dutton stated that the Governor has suspended Commissioner Hawbaker due to the indictments he is currently facing. That leaves us a commissioner down and it is up to the Governor to either call for an election or to appoint a 5th person and he requested that the Board ask that the Governor to either make the appointment or call for an election as soon as possible so that this vacancy can be filled. He is requesting that staff draft a letter regarding this request and he will personally deliver it on Wednesday, January 6th, as he will be going up to the Capitol on that date.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, what kind of time line the Board is looking at? When you suspend a seat, don't you know you need to put somebody in there? She is trying to figure out why we need to ask that it be done? She is not opposed to asking, she is just wondering why there is a need that is a process.

Ms. Windham then advised that the process is to ask the Governor to appoint a

temporary. The Suspension of Commissioner Hawbaker is temporary and he has to continue to be paid during the suspension, so it is at the Governor's pleasure to appoint a temporary replacement. Whomever is appointed to fill this position is going to be temporary. Right now, the quickest response will be for the Governor to appoint a replacement. There are other ways to have done this, there could have been a re-call election, but his district did not choose to do that.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor then stated that she is for the Governor to appoint somebody because we really can't get the business of the County done because the people who live in District 5 simply have not had any representation which is made evident by the appointments this evening. Obviously, the people who are currently on the Board in that District will continue to serve because they don't have a replacement, but there needs to be somebody fairly representing that District.

Ms. Windham then advised that there is also a possibility that Commissioner Hawbaker could appeal the Governor's decision. He has the right to do that. And there is also the possibility that the Governor could reconvene this Commission to advise him on the appointment of a temporary person. So, the sooner this Board acts, the better.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to ask Governor Kemp to appoint a temporary replacement for the District 5 commission seat as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously by all.

V. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

1. Election of Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2021.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to table Items 1 and 2 under Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman pending the 5th person being seated and allow the people currently in these positions to continue in those capacities as acting representatives until the appointment is made and a full Board can vote. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment of County Manager for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint William P. Wilson, Jr. as County Manager for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Appointment of County Clerk for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to reappoint William P. Wilson, Jr. as County Clerk for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Appointment of Deputy County Clerk for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton Bowlden to reappoint Kathy Gibson as Deputy County Clerk for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Appointment of County Attorney for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint the firm of Beck, Owen & Murray as County Attorney for Calendar year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider appointment of County Zoning Attorney for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reappoint the firm of Galloway & Lyndall as County Zoning Attorney for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider appointment of County Human Resources Attorney for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to reappoint John Lowery as the County Human Resources Attorney for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VII. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Sandra Brownlee to update the Board on DSP2 Community Activities.

Sandra Brownlee was unable to attend and Mr. Terrance Lawrence, Board Chairperson and Executive Director of DSP2 presented. Terrance Lawrence, 105 Murphy Creek Lane, Fayetteville Georgia addressed the Board. Mr. Lawrence handed out a copy of DSP2's Annual Report and advised that he was here to give an update on DSP2. Known in the Griffin Community as the WayPoint Griffin Veterans' Center.

Mr. Lawrence advised that their mission is to end veteran homelessness and to make sure that every veteran receives the benefits that they deserve. He then thanked Home Depot, the Military Affairs Committee, VFW, the Sun City Garden Club for their donations and the Board of Commissioners for their support of WayPoint and the veterans in this community.

Mr. Lawrence then stated that just like the "for profit" businesses, non-profit businesses had to discover new ways to communicate. New ways to serve customers and new ways to stay engaged with the customers we have. We also had to find new ways to stay involved in our Veterans Services Community. He is here to report that DSP2 has been successful on all accounts.

Since November of 2019, DSP2 has serviced over 3,400 claims for Veterans. We have a 98% claim success rate. We have over 17,000 hours of volunteer service logged for Veteran care. 37 veterans have transitioned to permanent housing. We have one home renovated in this community that currently houses veteran homeless women. 110 care packages have been distributed. 17 guest appearance to talk about veterans' care and our CEO made all of those appearances. 20

Emergency Fund Vouchers have been issued, 151 other than medical consultations. Through their assistance with the veterans' court systems they have been able to help over 60 veterans by either limiting their sentences or stay out of jail.

In the last four years, DSP2 has provided assistance to over 8,000 veterans and our goal is to double that amount in the next four years. We can and will meet that goal with your continued assistance and we appreciate everything that you have done for us.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if there was anything special the group has going on now?

Mr. Lawrence stated that they are in the process of establishing two more WayPoints: WayPoint Columbus and WayPoint Clayton. He then advised that they also are in the process of renovating a building in LaGrange.

VIII. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.

IX. 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.

X. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Executive Session on December 21, 2020.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Executive Session on December 21, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA –

1. Consider approval on second reading a Resolution to amend the Code of Ordinances of Spalding County, Georgia Part VI - Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 4 - Logging and/or Pulpwood Operations by amending Sections 4003, 4004 and 4006 to comply with changes made in House Bill 897 of the 2019-2020 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve on second reading a Resolution to amend the Code of Ordinances of Spalding County, Georgia Part VI - Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 4 - Logging and/or Pulpwood Operations by amending Sections 4003, 4004 and 4006 to comply with Changes Made in House Bill 897 of the 2019-2020 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XII. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Lift from the table a request to authorize payment for legal services from Dexter Wimbish to the Board of Elections on November 4, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to lift from the table a request to authorize payment for legal services from Dexter Wimbish to the Board of Elections on November 4, 2020. Vote 2/2. No action taken.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider Spalding County appointment to the Atlanta Regional Commission to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Mr. Wilson stated that this involves a monthly meeting in Atlanta at the Atlanta Regional Commission. Historically, the Chairman of the Board represents the counties at the ARC, but since only a portion of our county is in the ARC for transportation planning purposes, we are allowed the Board Chair or any other elected county commissioner. That is why Commissioner Hawbaker has held the appointment since he has been on the Board. We are represented on the TCC by our Transportation Planner, Brian Upson and Sam Davis. They are up there twice a month for the county and anything has to go through them to get to the TAQC which is the committee where the board member participates.

Mr. Wilson further advised that Spalding County has not had a member attend those meetings since January 2020. The meetings since COVID 19 have been conducted through ZOOM.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would attend these meetings until a new chairperson is elected.

2. Consider appointment to the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton as the Legislative Coordinator for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Commissioner James R. Dutton as the Legislative Coordinator to

the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia for a one-year term ending 12/31/2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairperson reappointed Commissioner Rita Johnson to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

- (b) To succeed County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr. for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to reappoint County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr. to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider appointment to the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor appointed Commissioner James Dutton the Griffin-Main Street Advisory Board for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

5. Consider appointment to the Griffin Downtown Council.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor appointed Commissioner Rita Johnson to the Griffin Downtown Council for a one year term to expire December 31, 2021.

6. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority:

- (a) To succeed Bart Miller for the Elective Term of the County Commissioner.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to appoint Commissioner Ryan Bowlden to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority for his elective term to succeed Commissioner Bart Miller. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (b) To succeed Dr. Randall L. Peters for a term of 6 years.

Mr. Wilson advised that Dr. Peters name is in the book and he would like to continue to serve on this board.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint Dr. Randall L. Peters to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority for a term of 6 years to expire December 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee.

- (a) To succeed Commissioner Bart Miller for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to appoint Commissioner Ryan Bowlden to succeed Commissioner Bart Miller on the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (b) To succeed Deputy Chief Glenn Polk for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to reappoint Deputy Chief Glenn Polk to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee and the County Fire Representative for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (c) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would remain on the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for another year.

- (d) To succeed Todd Harris, Griffin-Spalding County School Board Representative, for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint Todd Harris to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee as the representative for the Griffin-Spalding County School Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (e) To succeed Deborah Bell for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to appoint Deborah Bell to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee as the county staff appointment for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (f) To succeed William P. Wilson, Jr. for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to reappoint William P. Wilson, Jr. to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee representing the County Manager position for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (g) To succeed Sheriff Darrell Dix for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint Sheriff Darrell Dix or his designee to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee representing County Law Enforcement for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (h) To succeed Bill Bryant for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Bryant is our citizen appointee, his name is in the book and has been signed. Mr. Bryant does wish to continue to serve.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Bill Bryant to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority.
- (a) To succeed Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor as the Chairman's designee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor appointed James R. Dutton as her designee to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

- (b) Reappoint

- Tom Gardner
- Harvey Booker
- Robert Parker
- Brian Miller

for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Dutton stated that Mr. Brian Miller has been on the Board in his capacity as a Public Relations individual. In the past, the County has not had a someone in this capacity and he was wondering if Rachel Conort, the County's Citizen Engagement Specialist might be the County's appointment to this Authority? Nothing against Mr. Miller, but if this is something that Ms. Conort would be interested in doing.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that this is something that needs to be discussed with the Authority as it appears that Mr. Miller is just a member, but he may be providing some service for the Development Authority. We need to find this out before we change anything.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to table the reappointment of Tom Gardner, Harvey Booker, Robert Parker and Brian Miller to the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023 until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital Authority.
 - (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated she would remain on the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority for another year.

- (b) To succeed Bonnie Pfrogner for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Mr. Wilson stated that Ms. Pfrogner does wish to serve on this Authority again and she is currently the Chairman for the Authority.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint Bonnie Pfrogner to the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024. Motion Carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to succeed Sandra Wimbush for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked that this appointment be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to table the appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to succeed Sandra Wimbush for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023 until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority:
 - (a) To succeed Joseph "Brett" Hanes for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Mr. Wilson stated that we had scheduled a joint meeting with the City, the County, the Board of Education and the Land Bank Authority and it had to be cancelled because of COVID in December. We are trying to reschedule that meeting because right now there are only 4 members appointed to the Land Bank Authority. The Land Bank can now have 5 members and they were asking to change the legislation creating the Authority. We are recommending that you appoint Brett Hanes. The City and the County, both adhere to the philosophy that until someone is appointed to fill a slot,

those currently in that spot will continue serving on that committee, even though their term may have ended they will continue serving until they are replaced. We are requesting that Jim Smith's appointment be tabled until the School Board until a new Supervisor is appointed.

- (b) To succeed Jim Smith as the Board of Education Representative on the Authority.

Motion/second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to table the Land Bank Authority appointments until a meeting can be arranged with the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority, the City of Griffin, Spalding County and the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- 12. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Health:

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would serve on this Board for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

- 13. Consider the appointments to the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board.

- (a) To succeed Ms. Portia Lacy for a five-year term ending December 31, 2025.

Mr. Wilson stated that Ms. Lacy does want to be appointed again and she has been serving on this Board for 17 years.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to reappoint Portia Lacy to the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board for a five-year term ending December 31, 2025. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- 14. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor to remain on this Commission for another year.

To succeed:

- Donald Driver and Tyrone Ward – District 1 Appointments

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor appointed Kenneth Hester and Tyrone Ward for District 1.

Mr. Hester is not in the book, but will provide his contact information to staff.

- David Dodd and David Johnson - District 2 Appointments

Commissioner Dutton requested that his appointments be tabled until the next meeting.

- Zachary Holmes and Beth Horne - District 3 Appointments

Commissioner Johnson reappointed Zachary Holmes and Beth Horne for District 3.

- Reese Simmons and Thomas "TJ" McDaniel - District 4 Appointments

Commissioner Bowlden reappointed Reese Simmons and "TJ" McDaniel for District 4.

- Joseph Kurey and Byron Pierce - District 5 Appointments

Appointments for District 5 will stand as these individuals will remain in their current appointments as there is no one to request and change and both individuals have indicated they would like to remain on this Commission.

for a two-year term to end December 31, 2022.

15. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board. To succeed:

- James Campbell
- Ronnie Lowe
- Lewis Patterson

for a three-year term ending December 31, 2023

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated there was someone else who expressed interest in serving on this Board.

Mr. Wilson advised that he and Chairperson Flowers-Taylor had talked about Rita Bagwell earlier. She works for the City of Griffin, but she lives in Pike County.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to table the appointments to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.

16. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Planning Commission. To succeed:

- B. Frank Harris (Post #1)
- John Youmans (Post #3)
- Sonny Eubanks (Post #4)

for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed B. Frank Harris to the Spalding County Planning Commissioner Post #1 for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Johnson reappointed John Youmans to the Spalding County Planning Commission Post #3 for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Bowlden appointed Nick Allen to the Spalding County Planning Commission Post #4 to replace Sonny Eubanks for a four-year period ending December 31, 2024.

17. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority.

(a) Chairman or designee to succeed Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to remain on the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

18. Consider appointments to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors.

(a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending 12/31/2021

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to remain on the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021

(b) Matthew Middleton who was appointed to this Board in January 2020 by the City of Griffin as the Business representative for a one-year term. Spalding County appoints for this seat in December 2020. Mr. Middleton has expressed his desire to continue on this Board.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she spoke with Jan Perez at Three Rivers and was advised that Mr. Middleton had only attended one meeting in 2020. She requests that the item be tabled until another business person can be found to replace Mr. Middleton.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to table the appointment of Matthew Middleton to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors until a replacement can be found. Motion

carried unanimously by all.

19. Consider appointments to the Two Rivers R C & D Council.

- (a) Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked what the Two Rivers RC & D Council entailed.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Two Rivers RC&D council consists generally of smaller counties. Spalding County is the largest county involved on this Council. Troup, Spalding, Pike Meriwether, Upson and maybe one more they meet once a year.

Commissioner Dutton asked what the C & D stood for and Mr. Wilson stated it was conservation.

Commissioner Dutton stated he would like to serve on this Council.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor appointed Commissioner James Dutton to the Two Rivers RC&D Council for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

- (b) Alternate member to succeed Michelle Irizarry for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to reappoint Michelle Irizarry to the Two Rivers RC&D Council for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

20. Consider appointment to the West Central Georgia Workforce Investment Board to succeed Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a term to expire December 21,2021.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners will retain appointment to the Board for a one year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

21. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Board of Zoning Appeals. To succeed

- (a) Patricia McCord (Post #1)
(b) Tangela Williams (Post #3)
(c) W. Ed Brown (Post #4)

four a four-year term to expire on 12/31/2024.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor reappointed Patricia McCord to the

Spalding County Board of Zoning Appeals for Post #1 for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Rita Johnson reappointed Tangela Williams to the Spalding County Board of Zoning Appeals for Post #3 for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden reappointed W. Ed Brown to the Spalding County Board of Zoning Appeals for Post #4 for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

22. Consider the appointments to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children.
- (a) To succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to reappoint Commissioner Rita Johnson to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Family & Children Services for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (b) To succeed Irma Lewis (Law Enforcement Representative) for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Irma Lewis as the Law Enforcement Representative to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Family & Children Services for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- (c) To succeed Jewell Walker-Harps for a 2-year term ending December 31, 2022.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to reappoint Ms. Jewell Walker-Harps to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Family & Children Services for a two-year term ending December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

23. Consider reappointment to the Spalding County Board of Assessors Mr. Johnie McDaniel for a six-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Mr. Wilson advised that Mr. McDaniel has completed the training required and has stated that he would like to be reappointed to this Board. Mr. McDaniel is currently the Chairman of this Board.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Mr. Johnie McDaniel to the Spalding County Board of Assessors for a six-year term ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously by all.

24. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Ethics Review Panel:
- **District #1 to replace:** Virginia Church Syntel Brown Robert Lattimore
 - **District #3 to replace:** Larry Caldwell Thomas Coggins Jeff Jackson
 - **District #4 to replace:** Henry Sims, Rita Mace, William E. Brown
- for a term of 4 years ending December 31, 2024.
Chairperson Flowers-Taylor reappointed Virginia Church, Syntel Brown and Robert Lattimore to the Spalding County Ethics Review Panel for District 1 for a term of four-years ending December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Johnson reappointed Larry Caldwell, Thomas Coggins and Jeff Jackson to the Spalding County Ethics Review Panel for District 2 for a term of four-years ending December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden appointed Blaked Locke and reappointed Rita Mace and William E. Brown to the Spalding County Ethics Review Panel for District 4 for a term of four-years ending December 31, 2024.

25. Consider approval of the 2021 Spalding County Hospital Authority grant allocations.

Mr. Wilson advised that the proposed grants for 2021 will go to the Spalding County Board of Health for flu shots in the amount of \$22,000.00 and the Spalding County Senior Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels) in the amount of \$48,000.00.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the 2021 Hospital Authority grant allocations. Motion carried unanimously by all.

26. Consider approval of a Resolution to apply for a CDBG Grant to assist counties with improvements to public facilities, economic development and housing in Georgia. This grant will be for Phase II of the sewer improvements in the County's FY 2021 CDBG Target Area.

Mr. Wilson stated that this CDBG Grant application will be for Phase II of the Dundee Mill Village Sewer Improvements.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the Resolution to apply for a CDBG Grant to assist counties with improvements to public facilities, economic development and housing in Georgia. This grant will be for Phase II of the sewer improvements in the County's FY 2021 CDBG Target Area. Motion carried unanimously by all.

27. Consider approval of a contract with Chandra Fussell, an independent

contractor, to provide instruction for classes and content established by the Georgia Department of Corrections at the Spalding County CI.

Mr. Wilson stated that the current contractor for these services has resigned and this is the new person staff at the CI is recommending fill this position.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a contract with Chandra Fussell, an independent contractor, to provide instruction for classes and content established by the Georgia Department of Corrections at the Spalding County CI. Motion carried unanimously by all.

28. Consider approval of two change order requests on the construction of the Spalding County Animal Shelter:

- Correcting the soil problem at the site.
- Providing the internal layout changes.

Total cost for these changes totaling approximately \$42,000.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that these changes were approved at a prior meeting and the changes orders reflect the actual cost of correcting the soil problem and the site and the internal layout changes to the building.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the change order requests on the construction of the Spalding County Animal Shelter: Correcting the soil problem at the site and providing the internal layout changes at a total cost of approximately \$42,000. Motion carried unanimously by all.

29. Consider recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Advisory Commission to phase in community room rentals as well as Senior Center Banquet Hall rentals (without kitchen).

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that this was the recommendation of the Park and Leisure Advisory Commission from their November meeting; however, the number has changed currently regarding the positivity rates on COVID 19 nationwide, so we may not be ready to take this step.

After discussion it was determined that the buildings should phase in the services as requested by the Parks and Leisure Advisory Commission adhering to the health and safety requirements of the State of Georgia.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Advisory Commission to phase in community room rentals as well as Senior Center Banquet Hall rentals (without kitchen) with staff adhering to health and safety requirements set by the State of Georgia.

Motion carried 3-1 (Johnson).

30. Consider request from the Griffin-Spalding County School System to meet with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the fees being charged to the Board of Education for collection and remittance of property tax.

After discussion of the request the Board elected to plan to meet with the Board of Education during the upcoming Archway Retreat and not schedule a special meeting for this request.

31. Establish a date for the 2021 Planning Retreat.

Mr. Wilson advised that the available dates for the 2021 Retreat are February 12th or February 19th, 2020 and it will be held in the large room at the Senior Center to allow for social distancing.

The Board elected to hold the 2021 Planning Retreat on Friday, February 19th at the Senior Center.

XIV. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ 2016 SPLOST Revenues for November 2020 were \$916,717.77, November is 6.63% over the same period last year, were are 13.9% above estimated collections and the average monthly collections \$797,401.48.
- ✓ As discussed earlier in the meeting, by Executive Order from the Office of the Governor, Commissioner Donald Hawbaker has been suspended as a Commissioner.
- ✓ This Saturday, January 9th, Emergency Personnel, Law Enforcement, E-911, EMS etc. will be able to take the first does of the vaccine and we are having “marginal” participation. Mr. Wilson advised that he had asked the HR Attorney and learned that we can require employees to be vaccinated should the Board choose to do that, especially our Emergency Personnel.

Mr. Wilson then asked the Board to make a determination. Technically, we can require it, but it is up to the Board.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if instead of punishing people if there could be some type of incentive for the people who choose to get the vaccine. What can we offer them? Can we offer time off? Can we offer something? She would rather look for someway to encourage people to get the shot. Traditionally, we give people a half a day off if they give blood.

Mr. Wilson advised that the next meeting is February 1st, let’s see what happens with the ones who do receive the vaccine. Once they receive the vaccine and there are no side effects, more people will be willing to get the vaccine.

- ✓ Staff will query the County Manager's List Serve to see what other counties or doing and will come back to the Board with recommendations at the next meeting.
- ✓ Demolition is underway on the approved blighted properties: 179 Poplar Street is down and the lot has been grassed. Public Works will be working on 151 and 152 Peachtree this week. There are 14 that we are demolishing and the last location will be the old Diversion Center on Justice Boulevard. We are recycling anything that we can from these properties to offset the costs.
- ✓ Jessica O'Connor at the City of Griffin advised that Kenny Smith the City Manager is still out with COVID. Customer Service at the City is shut down and they are currently only offering the drive thru. They are going to be discussing the possibility of going back to A & B shifts. The County will be looking at that as well, we haven't been hit as hard as they have, but we do currently have cases in a couple of Departments. We do have some cases in this building and we do have some in the Courthouse, in Public Works and a couple of other Departments.
- ✓ Mr. Wilson will contact everyone regarding a joint meeting between the School Board, the City, the County and the Land Bank Authority to talk about a Resolution creating a 5th member of the Land Bank Authority and the changes. At this time, he doesn't know if he can get everyone together and asked how the Board felt about a ZOOM meeting instead of an in-person meeting. Mr. Wilson stated that he would try to set up a ZOOM meeting.

XV. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- The next COVID testing will be tomorrow from 9-11 a.m.
- The Fire Department and EMA planning sessions will begin soon for the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The Fire Department is also working on schedules to host partner agencies such as GEMA, GIP Stick, etc.
- The EMS Council meeting will be on January 12th.

XVI. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Ryan Bowlden stated he would like to thank the voters of his District for voting him into this position and he looks forward to serving. He asked the Board to take it easy on him, while he is learning. He is a fast learner and should catch on quick.

Rita Johnson welcomed Commissioner Bowlden. We are happy to have you and are looking forward to working with you. You have some big shoes to fill for Commissioner Miller.

She then asked Mr. Wilson if the retreat on February 19th would be a Public Meeting?

Mr. Wilson advised that it would be a Public Meeting.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she has some folks that are interested in discussing sewerage service and they want to come and listen in to the discussion.

Mr. Wilson stated that historically we do not allow Public Comment, but anyone is welcome to attend.

Commissioner Johnson stated that if that item is a topic, they want to come and listen.

She then asked about a M.L.K Parade? She thinks that we should.

Mr. Wilson stated that historically the Chamber of Commerce and a group that includes Melanie West who used to work here are responsible for that parade.

Commissioner Johnson stated she wants to make sure that the Aquatic Center subject stays on the forefront. Hoping to make some decisions soon. She had a chance to visit with T.J. not long ago and they shared some ideas that could be promising, but we still are waiting to hear back from the City of Griffin. She is hoping to finalize the area very soon and put that last SPLOST project to rest.

James Dutton welcomed Commissioner Bowlden. He looks forward to working with Commissioner Bowden and will be happy to get a 5th Commissioner back on the Board.

Earlier he talked about doing some fund raisers for the veterans and veterans court, anybody who has any ideas there and wants to get involved. He would like to help in any way that he can coordinating and putting groups together. There are a lot of folks who want to get involved and he feels we can make a big impact.

Alternative Courts are the future, getting people out of the pipeline from criminalizing the activities they engage to prison. Instead, saying who do we change your life and get you on the right track, whether you are a veteran, or you have a mental health issue. We have some avenues for mental health, we have avenues for veterans, for addiction issues, but there is still no alternative court for juvenile court. We have folks who really want to make that happen and he also would like to make that happen. The adult Alternative Courts save of millions of dollars a year, to say nothing of literally saving these peoples' lives and how much more could we save economically, if we diverted a juvenile from going down that path.

Commissioner Dutton then advised that there is a group out of Henry County that wants to donate \$1 million toward an Aquatic Center to be named in their granddaughter's memory. That could assist in the issues we have been having with regard to the Aquatic Center, we only have so much and if we added a million dollars to the budget that would be a big help. He then asked the Board if they would be okay with him talking to those folks and bringing them to Mr. Wilson to seriously get the conversation going.

Consensus of the Board is to learn the background and would like to get more details regarding this possibly.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated if there is going to be an opportunity for Corporate sponsorship of this project, now is the time to be asking for it. She stated that she would love to Commissioner Dutton to pursue that possibility and to work with Mr. Wilson and Michelle Irizarry to see what can be done to make contact and set up a meeting.

The last thing he wanted to say is tomorrow is the 5th, Go Vote the two biggest constitutional duties we have are to be on juries and to vote. Being a part of a representative republic requires you to put in an effort. It is a very small effort Go Vote.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor reiterated what Commissioner Dutton said, “Go Vote” tomorrow. Hopefully, this will be the last time for the next few weeks.

Asked everyone to keep people who are ill and people who may contract COVID in your prayers. You need to take care of yourself and you need to be responsible for your own and your family’s health.

Regarding Christmas and Spalding Brite, she was a little disappointed. She knows that the plan was to add to the display for three years; however, she hopes that the funding can be found to complete it next year and not have to take three years to complete this display.

Commissioner Dutton asked that the County partner with groups who would like to donate to the display. He knows of a number of law offices that would like to sponsor a display and have acknowledgement of a donation.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor feels the whole idea and the concept is wonderful, she feels we were just a little under dressed this year. It is not a criticism she would just like to go ahead with the fully implemented display next year.

XVII. CLOSED SESSION

County Attorney requests an Executive Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6).

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enter an Executive Session at 8:10 a.m. for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6). Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/second by Dutton Johnson to close the Executive Session at 8:41 a.m. for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6). Motion carried unanimously by all.

XVIII.ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.