

# After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 1, 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, February 1, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Rita Johnson and Ryan Bowlden 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**

Pastor Grady Caldwell with New Mercy Baptist Church delivered the invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden, District #4 lead the Pledge to the Flag.

**IV. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee to succeed B. Frank Harris for a one-year term ending 12/31/2021.

William Wilson, County Manager advised that Mr. Harris was not on the January 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda for consideration as it was thought that Mr. Harris was representing the Chamber of Commerce on this Committee; however, after that meeting it was learned that Mr. Harris is the County's second appointment to this Committee.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reappoint B. Frank to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending 12/31/2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Spalding County Correctional Institution Warden Carl Humphrey to recognize Ms. Lola Martinez for 20 years of service and Mr. George Nash for 20 years of Service. Ms. Martinez and Mr. Nash have retired from the Spalding County Correctional Institution and the County would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their years of service.

Warden Humphrey stated that Ms. Martinez and Mr. Nash came to work for the Spalding County CI on the same day, December 24, 2000, and they both retired, after 20 years of service to the County on the same day, December 31, 2020. Ms.

Martinez and Mr. Nash came to the CI from the Diversion Center.

Ms. Martinez has a total of 40 years of service working in Law Enforcement in the State of Georgia, Florida and Indiana. Ms. Martinez plans to retire and spend time with her grandchildren in Florida. Mr. Nash served a total of 22 years of in the United States Army prior to coming to the CI. He stated that he had be honored to have these individuals working at the CI. The staff at the CI appreciates their service to Spalding County. He went on to say they both are dedicated employees and it has been an honor to work with them.

Mr. Humphrey concluded by saying that the County lost two good employees when these two decided to walk out the door and he wishes them both the very best in their retirement.

## **VI. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS –**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2020.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, advised that she is available should the Board have any questions regarding the financial statements.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she had spoke with Ms. Garrison in December about the COVID relief money. The City of Griffin awarded their employees hazard pay for working through COVID. At that time, you advised that the funds would be added to the budget.

Ms. Garrison stated that the funds would be added to this year's budget because we received the first part of it the end of July and the second part the beginning of September. She stated that she is compiling budget amendments to present to the Board for all of the grants that the County has received. Ms. Garrison stated that the funds were spent over the course of two fiscal years, but the State determined that it would go in this fiscal year.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that is something the Board would like to do should the funds be available.

Ms. Garrison stated that staff had to specify what the funds would be used for and the first 15% we received we turned in a reimbursement for Uniform Patrol, salaries, over time. No benefits, just the actual salaries. The second installment the 85% that we received was for fire department salaries. We had to specify in the grant request and the paperwork submitted what it would be used for and we had to give specific people and numbers.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that was money that we had budgeted to spend that got reimbursed and she is wondering if we are able to help our employees by offering these funds once they become available in the budget. We simply need to know when the funding is there so that we can talk about.

Commissioner Johnson then asked if there were any possibility of the County doing another draw on this funding?

Ms. Garrison stated no.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if there was anything in the new stimulus package that Spalding County would be able to draw down on as well?

Ms. Garrison advised that she hasn't seen anything yet. ACCG monitors this and will let us know if any opportunities become available.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to accept the financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **VII. 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.

Spoke in favor of going forward with the ethics charges against Commissioner Dutton:

Dr. Yoshunda Jones, 1689 Summerwood Circle, Griffin.

Spoke against going forward with the ethics charges against Commissioner Dutton:

Bonnie Moret, 1107 E. College Street, Griffin.

Ron Hoffman, 130 Milner Avenue, Griffin.

Mr. Tony Jones, 1739 Honeybee Creek Drive, Griffin spoke regarding infrastructure at Ingles and a possible alternative he would like to discuss regarding the Shoal Creek Sewerage Plant.

## **VIII. MINUTES –**

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and Executive Session on January 4, 2021 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Joint Work Session on January 21, 2021.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and Executive Session on January 4, 2021 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Joint Work Session on January 21, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS –**

1. Lift from the table and consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority.

Reappoint:

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

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

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to lift from the table and consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlen to reappointment 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.***

Commissioner Dutton then stated that as the County's representative to the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority met with these gentlemen and David Luckie and discussed these appointments. All four have done a great job and all four wants to continue on this Board.

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

2. Lift from the table and consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to succeed Sandra Wimbush for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to lift from the table and consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to succeed Sandra Wimbush for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if there was anyone in the Book to consider for this position.

Mr. Wilson advised there is one individual in the book that has been signed, Ebony Kompelien who lives at 195 Steele Road.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the appointment of Ebony Kompelien to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to succeed Sandra Wimbush for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Lift from the table and consider appointment to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors.

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.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to lift from the table and consider to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Mr. Wilson advised that Mr. Middleton and Ninotchka J. Freeman are in the book for consideration. Neither form has been signed by a Commissioner; however, Mr. Middleton has contacted Chairperson Flowers-Taylor.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reappoint Matthew Middleton to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Lift from the table and 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

Commissioner Dutton then asked if these gentlemen wish to continue on the Board?

Mr. Wilson advised that they do want to continue and there was a question at the last meeting regarding residency because we have a nomination form from Ms. Rita Bagwell who would like to serve. He then advised that to be on this Board you are required to be a resident of Spalding County or work in Spalding County. Ms. Bagwell is the Customer Service Manager for the City of Griffin, but she lives in Zebulon.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she did have another individual she would like to have Mr. Stanley Washington considered as a replacement for Ronnie Lowe. Mr. Washington's address is 709 E. McIntosh Road.

***Motion/Second by Bowlden/Flowers-Taylor to lift from the table and consider appointments to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then Advised that we will go down the list and vote on each member. The first three to get a majority of the vote will compose the Board.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reappoint James Campbell to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board for a three-year term to expire on 12/21/2023 . Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Johnson/ - motion failed for lack of a second to reappoint Ronnie Lowe.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reappoint Lewis Patterson to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board for a three-year term to expire 12/31/2023. Motion carried 3-1 (Flowers-Taylor).***

***Motion/Second by Johnson – motion failed for lack of a second to appoint Rita Bagwell.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to appoint Stanley Washington to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board for three-year term to expire on 12/21/2023. Motion carried 3-1 (Johnson).***

5. 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 (Dutton/Bowlden). No action taken.***

#### **X. NEW BUSINESS –**

1. Consider approval of contract with Diversified Correctional Services, LLC to provide auditing services for the Prison Rape Elimination Act program.

Warden Humphrey advised that in 2001, President Bush established a criteria to eliminate rape in prisons. Criteria was sent out in 2003 and it was effective in 2016 that all prisons would have to develop a policy to eliminate instances of rape inside the prisons. We have done that. We are required to be audited every three years, this will be our third audit the first one was in 2016. This is a federal mandate and it is also part of our contract with the Department of Corrections.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked if this was the same company that has done this audit in the past?

Warden Humphrey stated it is the same company that was used for the last audit in 2019.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve a contract with Diversified Correctional Services, LLC to provide auditing services for the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) program in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider approval of purchase of incinerator from the low bidder Bestech Environmental Resources Incorporated in the amount of \$76,350 for the new Animal Shelter.

Mr. Wilson stated that we solicited bids and received three bids and the low bidder was Bestech Environmental Resources Incorporated who came in at \$76,350. This is for the new Animal Shelter it was budgeted for FY 2021 and staff recommends approval.

Commissioner Dutton then asked what the incinerator would be used for?

Mr. Wilson advised that the incinerator is used for the disposal of animals. We dispose of a lot of deer and other animals that are killed on the roadways. As far as the number of pets disposed of, that number is way, way down. If we euthanize any animals, that is how they will be disposed of.

Commissioner Dutton stated that we have become a certified no kill shelter, so other than animals that are too sick or hurt and cannot be returned to a normal life.

Mr. Wilson stated that if they are too sick or hurt, we can euthanize the animal and then incinerate it. Primarily the use will be for roadkill. There are a lot of deer in this community that get hit on the side of the road and left there.

Commissioner Bowlden then asked the age of the current incinerator?

Mr. Wilson stated the one currently in use is 15 years old and we are beginning to have problems with it. This is the second one since we have been using incineration and before that we took them directly to the landfill.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the purchase of incinerator from the low bidder, Bestech Environmental Resources, Incorporated in the amount of \$76,350 for the new Animal Shelter. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider approval of a Subgrant Agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission for an update to the Joint City/County Transportation Plan.

Mr. Wilson stated this is an agreement where the ARC will provide \$250,000 in funding, the City and County will split 50/50 the \$62,500 match. We will issue an RFP for a vendor to come in and update our Joint Comprehensive Transportation Plan. This will be the second time that we have a joint plan and before this, we had two separate plans, one for the City and one for the County. Now we do it jointly as a joint plan and he has received commitment from the City that they will budget 50% of the match in their FY 2022 Budget because that is when it will be conducted. Staff recommends approval.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if this was a Transit Plan or if it was a Feasibility Study for Transportation?

Mr. Wilson advised that this is an update of the plan. We are required by GDOT to update our plan every few years and this an update of the existing plan.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the Subgrant Agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission for an update to the Joint City/County Transportation Plan. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider request from County Attorney to approve a Quit Claim Deed on the property located at 1314 Greenbrier Drive.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, stated that this property should have been conveyed to Mr. Bailey in 1997. He has been paying taxes on it since that

time, but a deed was never signed conveying the property to him. So, we are asking the Board to do that at time.

Commissioner Dutton asked how the County came to own it?

Ms. Windham stated that it was acquired by Spalding County in a Sheriff's Sale and we disposed of it to Mr. Bailey in 1997, but not adequately.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a Quit Claim Deed on the property located at 1314 Greenbrier Drive. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider approval of the 2021 LMIG request.

Mr. Wilson stated that GDOT is providing funding of approximately \$769,000 to the County. It does require a 30% match of approximately \$231,000 which give us \$999,500 available for resurfacing. The estimated cost is \$1,067,500, we believe it will come in under that. The roads on the list are from the study that the Board approved several years ago. We did a study of every road in Spalding County and they were ranked on the condition of each road. This year there is a total of 6.1 miles to be resurfaced for FY 2021. Mr. Wilson stated that we are currently working on the 50 worst roads in Spalding County.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the FY 2021 LMIG with GDOT providing \$768,845.51 to a 30% match with the County which would equal \$230,653.***

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she has made it clear that she is upset that there is not District 1 roads being paved. However, next year if she don't see some road from her district she is going to be very vocal. She is going along with this year because there is a plan.

Mr. Wilson stated that the study and the plan takes politics totally out of the equation.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she totally gets it, but it's hard to imagine that all the bad roads in Spalding County are somewhere other than in District 1.

Mr. Wilson stated he would give the Board a history of the last four years so the Board can see where the roads have been paved since the study was completed.

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

6. Consider Approval of the FY22 Budget Calendar

Mr. Wilson asked that the Board pay particular attention to May 10-13, 2021 as that week the Board is dedicated to budget review in this room.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the FY22 Budget Calendar. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider approval of a Resolution to continue Spalding County's membership in the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition.



Mr. Wilson stated that Spalding County has been a member of this Coalition since its inception. Chairman Flowers-Taylor has been attending their ZOOM meetings. We are a “dues paying” member. The City of Griffin recently approved this Resolution and staff recommends that the Board also approve this Resolution because this will drastically affect the intersection at Arthur K. Bolton and I-75 and we need to be a part of this.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a Resolution to continue Spalding County’s membership in the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

8. Consider approval of a Resolution naming James R. Dutton as Legislative Coordinator representing Spalding County at the ACCG.

***Motion/Second Bowlden/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Resolution naming James R. Dutton as Legislative Coordinator representing Spalding County at the ACCG.***

Commissioner Johnson asked if when the new commissioner comes on board if we should share in the appointments the commissioners currently have? This may be something he would want to do.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated she was thinking about that as well because it might help him get up to speed.

Mr. Wilson stated the Board actually appointed Commissioner Dutton to this at this last meeting. This is just the Resolution the Board can change the appointment.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked Mr. Davis if he would be willing to serve as the Legislative Coordinator representing Spalding County at the ACCG.

Mr. Davis advised he would like to serve as the Legislative Coordinator.

Commissioner. Bowlden then withdrew his motion to approve the Resolution and Chairperson Flowers-Taylor withdrew her second.

***Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to table the Resolution naming James R. Dutton as Legislative Coordinator representing Spalding County at the ACCG. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

9. Discussion of Ethics Complaint filed against Commissioner James Dutton and establish a date and time to review the allegations to determine if there has been a prima facie violation of the Code of Ethics.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she is very disappointed that we have not gotten an Ethics Ordinance together. She doesn’t want to go against anyone’s Ethics Complaint, but there were some things that that the Board wanted to have done so that as a Board we aren’t initially held responsible for making a decision against one of our colleagues.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that she didn’t feel that the draft

ordinance changes provided covered everything we talked about in terms of how the complaint would go to the Ethics Committee and then they would let us know if they were going to go forward with an investigation. She then stated that she wished the Board would table this until we have an Ordinance with a direction. We still have Commissioner Hawbaker's Ethics Complaint that we are holding pending the Ordinance revisions.

Commissioner Johnson asked if we should set a date to formalize the Ordinance instead of sitting a date to hear the Ethics Complaint?

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that if it takes all day to work through this we need to get it right and if we want the initial complaint to go to the Ethics Board first. It should not even come to us until they have decided they are going to go forward. She then stated she hasn't had the opportunity to read the proposed Ordinance amendments completely, but she knows from what she has read it is not there yet.

Ms. Windham then advised that the revised ordinance does recommend that it doesn't come before the Board. There are options as to who it goes to first, whether it be the County Attorney, a County Attorney from a neighboring County or whether it goes straight to the Ethics Review Panel to hear first.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that we need to get it narrowed down to specifics. She wants to be fair to the person who is making the complaint, but she also wants to be fair to the person that the complaint is being filed against. It's not good when you get into the middle of a complaint and the Ethics Ordinance is not clear.

Ms. Windham stated that based on the work session there are options, because we discussed a number of ways to approach the complaint. Based on discussions and the proposals she has submitted to the Board, it would not come to the Board until the end and at that time it would be in the form of a recommendation as to the appropriate action to take.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he agrees we need to overhaul the Ethics Ordinance because there are a bunch of "loopholes" that need to be addressed there. He stated that the current Ethics Complaint was filed under the current rules and any change in the ethics methodology would not affect this complaint. Even if we did change it. You don't get to change the rules while something is pending. If we approved the changes to the Ethics Ordinance, it would affect any ethics complaints moving forward. He feels we owe it to the individuals who made the complaint and to the Ethics Board to set this on the next available date as a Public Hearing and that is why he will motion to set this on the calendar at the next board meeting on February 15, 2021.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to hold a Public Hearing on the Ethics Complaint filed against Commissioner Dutton at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to determine if there has been a prima facie violation of the Spalding County Code of Ethics. Motion failed 2/2 (Johnson/Flowers-Taylor).***

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

- ✓ Total new single family dwellings permits for 2020 were 246. The average square footage was 3,129 square feet and there were zero permits issued in 2020 for homes under 1,500 square feet.
- ✓ 2016 SPLOST Collections for December 2020 were \$1,135,460.89, bringing the total collected to \$45,789,943.87 which is 14.76% above estimated collections and that brings our average collection to \$803,332.35.
- ✓ Heritage Park/Historic Rosenwald Building, there will be a pre-bid conference, it has been advertised, it is designed and out to bid. There is a pre-bid meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>, and bids are due on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, the Commissioners will award a contact at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for completion at the end of the year.
- ✓ He sent everyone the response from the City of Griffin. A letter dated December 16<sup>th</sup> and we can put that on a future agenda for discussion.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked Mr. Wilson if he had the opportunity to speak with Kenny Smith or Jessica O'Connor about the concern she shared regarding the letter not being clear?

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Smith did advise that what she was told is correct. They are still interested in possibly funding through excess SPLOST Collections enhancements to the pool at City Park.

- ✓ Mr. Wilson then stated that we will have a full Board tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. when Clay Davis is sworn in as the interim Commissioner for District 5.
- ✓ The retreat that was originally scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>. He has been in contact with UGA trying to retain a facilitator for a shorter team building meeting for commissioners and staff. As soon as he is able to make those arrangements, he will give everyone a date.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she feels the Board needs some kind of team building because we have two new people and as a Board, we have been very dysfunctional over the past year. It is important to know who each individual is, and where we are coming from and figure out how we can work together. This Board cannot be Republicans and Democrats, it has to be Spalding County Citizens and there is no room for partisanship. That is what she is hoping what we can do. It important for us to know who we are and who we are working with so that we can understand why people make the decisions that they make.

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

- There is an adoption event coming up for the Animal Shelter on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Dog Park for Seniors. While the event is just for Seniors at the Dog Park it is our way of getting out in the community that we haven't been

- able to do because of COVID and other issues, but you can still go to the shelter any day and adopt a new best friend.
- Steel framing is up at the Animal Shelter and we are still selling bricks.
  - Two retirements have been announced in the Fire Department: Brian Clausen after 35 years of service and Tonja Cobb after 25 years of service will both be retiring at the end of this month.
  - This week is Severe Weather Preparedness week and there is a subject each day to review your safety plan.
  - On February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. there will be a Tornado Drill which is in conjunction with the National Weather Service.
  - Preliminary Disaster Course is scheduled from GEMA on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and EMA is encouraging representatives from each department and each municipality to attend so they can review their understanding of the process of damage assessment and how it relates to the emergency management process.
  - Update on COVID: The updated phone number for vaccinations and testing is 762/888-8180. This number has changed, and it is posted on our website.
  - Biweekly COVID tests will resume tomorrow at the Spalding County EMA Administrative Complex with the next date in two weeks on February 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Vaccination drive thru will resume this Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, if you receive your first dose and are suppose to go back on the 5<sup>th</sup> for the second dose all you need is your card and to show up at the same time that you received your first dose.
  - There is a new email for Code Enforcement and it is live the email is [codeenforcement@spaldingcounty.com](mailto:codeenforcement@spaldingcounty.com) the phone number is 770/467-4353. We will be setting up a voicemail that will be directed automatically to this email. Charles Abbott has one Code Enforcement Officer in the field currently and Rachel Connort will be working on how to get the information out on how to report any code violations and we will make sure customer service is A+ with that as well.
  - Budget training began this week. We are working with all of the departments this week to go over the budget better, answer any questions they make have, make sure they know how to fill out the paperwork so that we can have a seamless process.

### **XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Ryan Bowlden** stated he wanted to ask Ms. Irizarry a question. You stated that we have one Code Enforcement officer working with CAA, do you know when we will have another officer to start?

Mr. Wilson advised that that interviewed on Friday and he thinks they may start this week.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked if we are going to have two Code Enforcement Officers or three?

Ms. Irizarry stated that CAA is working to get us three, but the contract is for two officers.

Commissioner Bowlden then stated that this is a trial run, like a six month trial run.

Mr. Wilson advised that the contract will be through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

He realizes these decisions were made before he came on board; however, he agrees with taking the radar and traffic ticketing away from Code Enforcement. They don't need to be pulling over cars, they need to actually do the job that they are intended to do. It is sad when you can pull into a parking lot like at Faith Baptist Church on East McIntosh and look next door at 818 East McIntosh and there is garbage piled up in the yard, they have pulled in trailers. It is a big eyesore. We need to do something swiftly, we have got to come up with a plan because it is beginning to get out of hand.

He added that he knows the bulk bins have been closed, but people are using that as an excuse to dump on the roads and they are using vacant lots as dumping grounds. He stated that he wanted to applaud Public Works for the job they are doing in keeping the roads clean. Many of the people in on the west side of Spalding County, Fairview Road and Sandy Lane it is an on-going complaint and it has been like that for 8-10 years. He wants to see something happen, he is tire of these people having to come up and argue about it.

**Rita Johnson** welcomed District five commissioner appointee Clay Davis. We are glad to have you and as you can see you are going to be much needed.

Shout out to Rachel Conort, I had sent an email regarding a mattress on Moose Lodge Road and quickly someone came and picked it up; however, she also made a suggestion that I re-text the person and ask them to download the Citizen App, which I did. She then asked if more advertising, such as signs, could be placed in the community so the citizens are aware there is an app available. She feels the more people see it, the more they will use it.

Commissioner Johnson stated she would like to see more advertisement regarding the bricks that are being sold for the Animal Shelter. She believes there are a lot of people out there who would purchase a brick. If we can get that out there it will be great.

**James Dutton** stated that first and foremost, we are breaking ground on Heritage Park this year or "heads are going to roll." This is an important project it is important for the community. He's not mad, we have simply put this off to long, we are ready to go, we have gotten the community's feedback. Let's do it.

Mr. Wilson stated that Rosenwald is out for bid.

Regarding the Dog Park, he feels there needs to be some community engagement there. He has had people ask how to donate toys to the Dog Park? How would that work, who would coordinate that sort of effort to get out that is something that we can do? There a number of folks who care about animals and would love to donate toys. Which called for the question of how do we do something like that if people want to?

Commissioner Dutton stated he is excited about the Brick Program as well. It is a way to bring in money for these kind of projects. He then stated that it got him thinking about the lights at City Park during Christmas. Much like Chairperson Flowers-Taylor he was dreadfully underwhelmed when he drove through this year. He understands there is a plan, but when we talked about it early in 2020, before the idea was to move it to City Park and the idea of having local firms sponsor a display and have a sign placed next to it. Again, he can name 15 companies right now who would love to drop

whatever it costs for one of these light displays. Yet, that was never even an option. He feels that is a missed opportunity. We need to start talking about that now, even if we need to partner with Main Street or the Chamber of Commerce to be able to coordinate fundraising. He doesn't know if the County can do sponsorships, but if we can partner with somebody to put on the event, then that person can take the sponsorships. There is a lot of "low hanging" fruit like that for events and presentations that the community wants to get involved in and right now there is no outlet for the community to get involved in. Let's not miss those opportunities again in the future.

He then stated that with regard to Code Enforcement, we have talked a lot about responsibility and measuring satisfaction and results in services provided by the County. Is there a way we could look at the matrix on this, not from the side of those who are ticketed, but is there a way we can look at the numbers to compare when we were doing it in-house versus the new way of doing it? Is there a way to determine if it is working better now that we have privatized it? Is it not doing better and should be bring it back in-house? He agrees with Commissioner Bowlden that it should definitely be the Sheriff who is handling traffic stops and thru truck.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he feels if we can get the InSpalding App, especially if we can target the Senior Center and places like that and really have a step by step instruction on how to upload the app and how easy it is to use, maybe even a link on the Spalding County page to "click here" it will take you to the app and then push install and it will be downloaded to your phone. It would assist some of the seniors who don't understand computers. If there is a way to streamline the process for downloading the app he feels we would get a better response.

Rachel Cornort stated that if you go to the app store on either iPhone or the Android and you type in "Spalding County" it is the first app that will pop up. You can also type in Spalding County Citizen Request App if you want to type in all of that, but if you just type in Spalding County you will see the InSpalding Logo as the first app on the App Store and all you have to do is hit download and we encourage everyone to create a profile so that we can actually keep track of how many complaints have been made and who has responded to those complaints. If you have any questions regarding this please feel free to reach out to Rachel Conort, my phone number is 770/467-4395 and she will walk you through every step.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that a lot of people want to just call; however, if you call it may take a while for us to get back to you, but if you submit the request on the app, someone will get back to you within 24 hours. There is an automatic chain of responsibility and if they don't get back you have documentation of your request. You will have a faster and greater response when you use the app.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** stated that her concern with Code Enforcement, she heard what Commissioner Bowlden was saying that we really need to get people out and get a game plan. However, when you are already 5-6 months behind on Code Enforcement, you pretty much need an army to go out. In retrospect, she would have much rather we did a contract with CAA for 6 Code Enforcement Officers for six months so maybe we could get some of the back log taken care of.

She stated that she rode around with T.J. Imberger to day and was totally disgusted just at the enormous amount of trash that is in peoples' yards. If you have so much trash in your front yard or on the porch that you can't get a stretcher from an EMS vehicle into the house, then you have too much junk. In answer to your comment Commissioner Bowlden, we need to get an army out there. Having two people is not going to make any difference in what we are doing.

She further stated that two years ago when we started talking about the Recycle Center and discontinuing the bulk. It was our understanding as a Board that there would be a significant effort from Parks Services, Public Works and Animal Control to assist in patrolling the roads for trash. If they are driving down the street and they see a mattress on the side of the road they would go into Facility Dude and report the problem. However, when she is driving down the street and she sees Public Works or the Park and Rec people drive by a bunch of junk and they keep riding up and down the street by it, it's obvious to her that they are not doing the thing that they told us they were going to do. It was her understanding that we would have all these other "eyes on the road." Since we have the app, they would be putting a complaint in on the problem. Her question is "How come they are not doing this?" They are obviously not doing it or we would be bombarded with Facility Dude requests that they could follow up on. She totally agrees that we need to get another game plan and there needs to be some accountability, not just for Code Enforcement Officers. Maybe Public Works can't write a ticket, but they can certainly make a report. If we don't do something about this we are never going to get ahead. We do need to start a conversation about doing something different, because what we are doing right now simply isn't working.

She agrees that more advertising is needed regarding the app. Maybe we can put signs up in the parks or even place the InSpalding on the back of our uniform shirts. Whatever it takes for us to get this message out.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she went over to Poplar Street in the Mill Village and this is a street where at least once a week Public Works can take a roll off over there and collect furniture and appliances that people dump on the side of the street. Mr. Imberger took her over there today and they have made two signs that state this area is under surveillance and they have some type of deer camera up there and in a half-mile stretch, literally there is no trash on the road and they have had compliance over the last 90 days. It may be fluke, but if it is working on that street, then we need to try it somewhere else.

She talked with Mr. Washington in her district and the intersection that has just been complete, Intersection #3 is a trash dump. As soon as people come up to the stop sign, before they get there they are throwing stuff out of their windows. She wants us to look at doing something that might work obtaining deer cameras for other locations and making the signs in the sign shop. This is what we need to talk about when we have our workshop, on how we can work on this.

She then stated that someone has dumped a camper across the street from the old Dundee Mill, the one off of Northside Drive when you make the curve there is a camper with something broken off and there is a mattress propped up beside it. They didn't put it on the mill side, they just put it on the other side of the road.

#### **XIV. 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 7:45 p.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 8:11 p.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 accept the recommendation of staff regarding the matter. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***