

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 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, March 1, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, 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, Administrative Services Director, Jinna Garrison, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) by Chairman Clay Davis.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Pastor Zachery Holmes with Grace Paradise Fellowship Church delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner James R. Dutton, District #2, lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to amend the agenda to include a second topic under Closed Session to include discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action 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.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Paragon Consulting to present Site Plans and cost estimates for possible location of the Aquatics Center Competition Pool and Therapy/Instructional Pool off Cowan Road and at The Lakes at Green Valley.

Brian Upson, Paragon Consulting at the Boards request have reviewed the Cowan Road site and we have come to you with three options for that site. He stated that all the options for the Cowan Road location are significantly higher than the Lakes at Green Valley location due to the utilities there is no water or sewer on the proposed building site on Cowan Road. He then advised there would have to be both a lift station and a pump station installed for the water and sewer for this location. Additionally, a detention pond to accommodate stormwater would have to be built into the site.

Mr. Upson reminded the Board that when you look at the footprint of the building and the parking, the number of parking places, the building size and all

components relating to the building are generic based on the presentation to the Board a few months ago. Those concepts are in place on all of the options being presented this evening. The only difference in the three concepts for Cowan Road is the access to the location. The building costs are the same for any of these locations the cost of the building did not change, so what we are looking at this evening are the differences in the cost of the site locations.

Cowan Road Concept “A” – which would provide singular access into the Center off Highway 92 for a projected price of \$1,514 million. Making this option a total cost of \$8,668,986.

Cowan Road Concept “B” – would provide singular access off Cowan Road utilizing a small access road that currently runs between the Elementary and Middle Schools there would be no access off of Hwy. 92 in this option it would be strictly off Cowan Road for a projected price of \$1.150 million for a total cost of \$8,670,072.

Cowan Road Concept “C” – is a combination of the two access driveways that would provide single road access from Highway 92 and the single road access off Cowan Road for a projected total price of \$1.621 million and total price of \$8,801,592.

Mr. Upson then stated that the Board asked them to look at the site, they did geotechnical testing on the site to make sure there was no buried debris on the site. We did not find any buried debris and as far as they can tell it is a buildable site.

The Lakes at Green Valley has all the utilities available to the lot including water and sewer lines. Additionally, there is a lake that backs up to the proposed Center which was designed to capture stormwater water runoff from the sites so all of the sites on the Lakes can drain into the lakes without having their on detention for a projected price of \$826,985.00 and a total cost of \$7,814,258.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS –

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the seven months ended January 31, 2021.

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

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to accept the financial statements for the seven months ended January 31, 2021. 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.

Stan Wicks, 11A Cain Street, Griffin, Georgia spoke regarding the need for the County to get out and clean up some of the houses on Cain Street. He would like to see the County enforce their ordinances regarding dilapidated houses.

DeAndre White, 226 Ella Circle, Griffin Georgia spoke about Camp Stephens and asked that the Board terminate the agreement with the Historical Society to maintain this property.

Brenda Stoerkel, 304 Cedardale Drive, Griffin was present representing the GATORS Swim team and encouraged the Board of Commissioners consider the Lakes at Green Valley location for the competition swim and therapeutic pools.

Spoke regarding the ethics charges that were dismissed against Commissioner Dutton:

Brandy Byard, 135 Bethany Road
Morgan Eldridge, 1209 Maple Drive
Sharon King, 143 Cumberland Road
Summer Childs, 1959 Williams Mill Road

Pastor Zack Holmes, 357 Moreland Road, Griffin stated that he is on the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and he would like to see the Board make a decision on the location for the pool and move ahead with this SPLOST project.

VII. MINUTES –

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on February 15, 2021.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on February 15, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS –

1. Consider approval of location for the Aquatic Center Competition, Therapy/Instructional Pools.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlen to approve the Lakes at Green Valley as the location for the Aquatic Center Competition, Therapy/Instructional Pools.

Commissioner Dutton stated that when there is not a swim team in the water the pool will be open for families. He feels like it will be built to the specifications of a competition pool. So, when folks are utilizing it for practice or competitions it will be available for swimming.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she has heard more than once the County Manager say that this is an exercise/competition pool meaning that kids can't just come in and play when there is nothing else to do. This aquatic center is not being built exclusively for the Griffin Gators. They are not the only swim team in town, this is going to be a community facility. So, as far as she knows there has been no policy that says this facility is only going to be available when the swim teams aren't practicing. The scheduling for this facility is not going to be based on the swim teams needs, it will be based on the community needs. Just like we work everything else out, we will work that out as well. If, in fact, that is what it is going to be and the kids can ride their bikes out there and play in the water then we need to make that clear, because that is not the way it has been presented in the past.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she wants to make sure that there is an understanding that we will also be looking at the fun pool/splash pad as well as the Aquatic Center and this is to be considered as one project.

Motion carried 3-2 (Johnson/ Flowers-Taylor).

2. Lift from the table and consider appointment of an ACCG Legislative Coordinator for Spalding County and approval of a Resolution transmitting the appointment to ACCG.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flower-Taylor to lift from the table and consider appointment of an ACCG Legislative Coordinator for Spalding County and approval of a Resolution transmitting the appointment to the ACCG. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to appoint Chairman Clay Davis as the ACCG Legislative Coordinator for Spalding County and approval of a Resolution transmitting the appointment to ACCG. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Consider request from Judge Jan Hunt for an additional Part-Time Clerk Position in Probate Court.

Mr. Wilson stated that Judge Hunt has asked for a part-time clerk position for the remainder of FY2021 and will be including the position in her FY2022 budget request. Judge Hunt does have sufficient funds in her budget to handle the request for the remainder of the FY2021 budget year. Judge Hunt has provided back-up documentation regarding the need due to the increase in their workload for weapons carry license increase and the increase in probating wills. Mr. Wilson then stated that if the Board does approve this request, he would ask that you allow her to take the month of March to find someone and authorize part-time work for April, May and June, up to 20 hours per week.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request from Judge Hunt for an additional part-time Clerk Position for Probate Court for a maximum of 20-hours per week for the months of April, May and June 2021.

Commissioner Dutton stated from his personal experience in trying to renew his personal weapons permit, he feels this is something that this department

can use.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she talked with Judge Hunt this afternoon. She did say that her numbers in the terms of license to carry had increased by 600 over the same period in 2019. She also shared with her that a bunch of baby boomers are dying off and are having to have a lot of stuff probated. But what she asked, is does she generate enough money in fees for all the additional work to offset the cost of the additional personal. She isn't sure if it was Judge Hunt's office or when DeWitt Simonton was the judge, but we looked at these things and we looked at the fee schedule. She asked Judge Hunt when was the last time she looked at her fee schedule. She isn't saying that she doesn't need help, but she would like to see if they could adjust their fee schedule to see if they can bring in the money to have another part-time person. 600 additional requests for weapons permits should have generated enough money to justify this additional person.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she doesn't understand because Judge Hunt stated that money doesn't come to them, it goes to the State. So, we fund Probate Court, but all the money they make goes back to the State of Georgia?

Mr. Wilson stated he believes we get \$25 or less per permit and the remainder goes to the State.

Chairman Davis asked Mr. Wilson to get the information on the fee schedule and come back to the Board with the information.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, then stated that she doesn't believe that the Probate Court has to much say in what the Court Fees are. Those fees are set by the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Dutton stated that they are set by the State of Georgia because in some locations they were used as a barrier, much like poll taxes were.

Ms. Windham added that the fees are based on population numbers.

Commissioner Johnson then confirmed there is sufficient funds in the Probate Court's current budget to cover the three months.

Mr. Wilson advised there is sufficient funding to cover this part-time position for the next three months then we can look at the possibility of the additional part-time position for Probate Court during the budget period.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider the approval of a new 2021 Alcohol License-Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for: Kacey Stone-Cole's Corner, located at 7051 Newnan Rd., Brooks, GA 30205.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a new license ownership and they have met all of the qualifications and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve a new 2021 Alcohol License-Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for Kacey Stone-Cole's Corner, located at 7051 Newnan Road, Brooks, GA. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of MOU with the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children Educational Prosperity Initiative, The Griffin Spalding County School System and Spalding County Fire Department to participate in a mentorship program being developed by the 2021 Leadership Griffin-Spalding Class.

Mr. Wilson stated this a 2021 Leadership Class Project, each one of the groups in Leadership 2021 have to have a project and a sustainable project. The group contacted the Collaborative and EPI and got the agreement. It has been reviewed by the County Attorney. We are going to start with the Fire Department and see if we can build momentum. The recommended location for this is Kennedy Road Middle School and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a MOU with the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children Educational Prosperity Initiative, The Griffin Spalding County School System and Spalding County Fire Department to participate in a mentorship program being developed by the 2021 Leadership Griffin-Spalding Class. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of one-time payment of Hazard Pay for Full-Time and Part-Time employees.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had mentioned this at the last meeting. The County has received approximately \$2.2 million in CARES Funding and we have expended approximately \$650,000 on enhancements to offices, PPE, electronic courtrooms, meeting rooms, conference rooms, server updates to allow people to be able to work from home at the Annex, the Sheriff's Office, E-911 Center. Mr. Wilson then advised staff has three options to present:

- \$1,000 for full-time employees/\$500 for part-time employees
- \$1,200 for full-time employees/\$600 for part-time employees
- \$1,500 for full-time employees/\$750 for part-time employees

Staff is recommending the \$1,200 for all full-time employees and \$600 for all part-time employees which will cost with the benefits included \$733,000 for all funds. This would leave approximately \$845,000 for any additional COVID related expenditures, or we can increase our fund balance. Staff recommends the \$1,200/\$600 one-time option.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve a one-time payment of Hazard Pay for \$1,200 for full-time employees and \$600 for part-time employees.

Commissioner Dutton stated that this is a very simple recommendation, the Board of Commissioners are considered part-time employees of the County and he wants to make sure that they are not getting any of this money.

Mr. Wilson then stated that County commissioners are "part-time employees," but will not be included under the one-time Hazard Pay. Also, the part-time employees who have not worked during the pandemic period will not be eligible for this one-time payment.

Commissioner Johnson stated that it is her understanding that the City of Griffin also did a one-time hazard payment to their employees.

Mr. Wilson stated that is correct, the City did this in December 2020.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked what the City's Hazard Payment was to their employees?

Mr. Wilson advised that the City's Hazard Payment was the same as the County is proposing \$1,200 for full-time employees and \$600 for part-time employees.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of contract with Georgia Department of Transportation, the

City of Griffin and the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for the relocation of utilities Phase 1 at the new Griffin- Spalding County Airport.

Mr. Wilson stated that he will ask for assistance from Ms. Windham on this agenda item, but essentially the Airport Authority has met the “hurdles” that were required by GDOT and we now have access to our standard utilization of grants. Like we have done in the past, they are allowing us to use the amount that the Airport Authority has paid to acquire the property for Phase I as the match for this grant and the grant will enable the Airport Authority to move forward with land acquisition as well as relocation of the large utility power poles and underground utilities that are in the layout of the new airport. No cost to the County, no cost to the City and no cost to the Airport Authority because the monies that we have paid over the last five years will be allowed to stand as the match for the grant.

Ms. Windham stated that we finally have grant assurances from GDOT, we were not able to get that prior to the issuance of a “Finding of No Significant Impact” which was finally issued by the FAA in the last few weeks. Drew Whalen, Jim Fortune and Ms. Windham as the respective attorneys for the City, the County and the Airport Authority have reviewed the contract. GDOT has made several changes, at counsel’s request, and has included limiting language as to things to things we did not agree with and we all in a position to recommend approval at this time. The Airport Authority will have it on their agenda next Monday night and it will be on the City’s agenda next Tuesday night. GDOT no longer has signed contracts, so you are approving says it’s a draft, but it is actually in final form and it will be e-signed upon approval by all three bodies.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlen to approve a contract with Georgia Department of Transportation, the City of Griffin and the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for the relocation of utilities Phase I at the new Griffin- Spalding County Airport.

Commissioner Johnson advised that Dr. Peters and Bob Stapleton gave a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce last month and she had asked that they make the presentation to the Board of Commissioners, because they are very excited. It would be nice if we could get them to come in and do the same presentation that they gave at the Chamber meeting last month.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider request from Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission to research the feasibility of drilling a Well at Tyus Park Baseball for field irrigation to be funded by Commissioner Contingency.

Mr. Wilson stated that about this time last year the Park and Rec Advisory Commission, through our member on that Commission, asked the County Commissioners to do the same thing for soccer. We did that, we actually now have water on the soccer field after drilling three wells and we have an agricultural type irrigation system, it is a trolley system. It is not underground irrigation it is above ground and it works great. They want to do the same type set up with baseball on the other side of the park.

Mr. Wilson advised that when the soccer fields and the baseball fields were built at Wyomia Tyus Park, we included underground irrigation; however, after we received a \$150,000 bill one Summer for a 6-week period of time. We decided that potable water was simply too expensive to be watering the fields. Our budget simply could not sustain those numbers.

Mr. Wilson stated that this remedy did work for the soccer fields and if the Board wishes, we can take that same approach with baseball.

Commissioner Dutton asked if the water could be routed through the irrigation system already in place for the baseball fields?

Mr. Wilson stated that those irrigation systems require a higher water capacity than we have been able to “tap into” with the wells we have drilled to date. We actually had to drill three wells for the soccer fields and only two of the three had a capacity of more than 5 gallons a minute.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the irrigation system on the baseball field has not been used in about 15 years, so as soon as some water is introduced, it is going to be leaking everywhere and by the time they dig everything up and fix up the leaks it would just make more sense to dig the well and get another agricultural trolley to service those fields.

Mr. Wilson stated this system would not be utilized on a daily basis it would be available for drought. There is no way we can (a) afford the electricity or (b) the wells could generate enough water. When we were constructing the lake at Wyomia Tyus we had to drill four wells before we hit water and that lake is filled by rainwater, stormwater and the fourth well which is approximately 1600 feet deep and produces less than 20 gallons a minute.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the School System has a well on the Cowan Road property which is higher up and they get hundreds of gallons of water, so we are hoping that since the baseball field is higher up than the soccer fields that we will be able to hit a better producing vein. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that part of the reason Park and Rec are asking for this is that we have put up the soccer lights, we have put the water on the field. People didn't want to come here for tournaments because the grass was brown and that is a work in progress, but we also have this beautiful baseball complex where the grass is brown too. We have the Contingency Fund which we haven't really used this year because of COVID, but she feels it would be a good opportunity to give them a chance annually to water the fields, if we are able to sink a well.

Commissioner Dutton asked if we have tried to put a cistern in there to capture the water once we drill the well?

Mr. Wilson advised that we will have to do a pressurized tank system, because wells can't keep up with the irrigation.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if the motion this evening is to explore the feasibility, not to drill, not the cost of the wells, not the cost of the cistern, not the cost of the agricultural pumps, but to research the feasibility. How much are we going to spend on researching the feasibility?

Mr. Wilson stated that \$25,000 is what the Commission has asked for, but that includes drilling a well to see if there is any water.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the request is for permission to look for water for the baseball complex.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that if they drill a well and there is water then the Commission will come back to the Board for additional funding for the cistern and the agricultural pumps to water the field.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then added that before Pickleball, the baseball complex was the highest economic driver in this community in terms of tournaments and play. That is where the SPLOST was coming from was those tournaments and Park and Rec felt that when the world opens back up those tournaments will return.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the request

from the Park & Rec Advisory Commission to research the possibility of drilling a well at Tyus Park Baseball Complex for field irrigation to be funded by Commissioner Contingency up to \$25,000.

Commissioner Bowlden stated that as the representative from District 4, he can't see wasting money on grass. He knows there is a lot of money spent on landscaping and putting down the sod, but it has been a problem for the last 15 years the fields have been over there and he feels the money could be utilized for other causes such as road striping, a couple weeks ago when the rain came in, you couldn't see the roads. You could stripe a lot of roads with \$40,000.

Chairman Davis then stated that he agrees with Commissioner Bowlden, there are other needs in this community that we could spend this money on that we have been working toward. Code Enforcement, right-of-way, things like that. This is just a prioritization, what do you think long-range we should do? We have been talking about Code Enforcement. Do we want to table this so we can have time to think about it? We have a little bit of time this money doesn't have to be assigned until closer to the budget year end.

Commissioner Bowlden then stated that he feels we need to have at least one mandated code enforcement officer and this money might be able to fund one.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she agrees, we need at least three more code enforcement officers. Not to mention we need a post certified officer that can be accessed should the non-certified code enforcement officers need assistance. She wanted to know why some of the remaining COVID money can't be utilized to get additional Code Enforcement Officers? She feels we shouldn't have to look at \$40-\$50,000 in Contingency when we have access to funding that would allow us to hire 10 code enforcement officers and we could tell Charles Abbott and Associates that we need three more code enforcement officers and then go ahead and hire that full-time post certified Code Enforcement Officer. She feels that is a conversation that we need to have at another time.

Chairman Davis stated that when you talk about splash pads, this is another need that these funds could go toward. His issue is, we have a little bit of money and we need more discussion on where we want to apply it.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor rescinded her motion and Commissioner Johnson rescinded her second.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to table the request from Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee to research the feasibility of drilling a Well at Tyus Park Baseball for field irrigation to be funded by Commissioner Contingency. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor would like to discuss sending a letter to our Local Legislative Delegation concerning the introduction of local legislation without notification to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is concerned that our Local Delegation has introduced local legislation that has not come before this Board as a body. Nor has it gone before the School Board or the City Commissioners. We aren't the citizens of Spalding County, but we are the elected officials of the citizens of Spalding County; therefore, she feels the Board has a right to verbalize what we feel is important for this community. This is not the first year that the delegation has introduced legislation without asking us.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she is upset because this

delegation went outside of a vote that this Board took about this time last year making a decision not to ask them to do anything to change our Board of Elections or anything related to our Board of Elections. This Board, as a majority, voted to do that and here we are again this year with the same legislation along with legislation that will hurt us involving the Tax Assessors Office.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that as a Board if we are not happy with legislation that is being introduced on the State level, then we need to let them know that we are not happy about the legislation without us having some knowledge of it before you introduce it. As a legislator, you can come here any time and have a town hall meeting or come to a meeting here and talk to whomever you want to talk to in the community, but our delegation has chosen to only speak to selected individuals and not to this Board at all. Her suggestion is that we let them know, if legislation has not been vetted by this Board we would like for someone to contact us before they introduce legislation that is going to negatively affect us.

Commissioner Johnson likes the idea moving forward, she doesn't know what good sending a letter now would do, but we do need a working relationship with our legislative delegation.

Chairman Davis stated that he feels we need to contact Chairman Knight, Representative Mathiak and Senator Harbin and ask them toward the end of the year when they are getting ready to go back into the next session to talk to us about any ideas they may have.

Commissioner Dutton then advised that Representative Mathiak regularly comes to meetings. Chairman Knight doesn't, he doesn't remember the last time that he or Senator Harbin came to a meeting, but he would like to invite them. You are right we answer to the voters and they do as well. To say that they have to be answerable to us in order to be answerable to the voters is not true. They are directly answerable to the voters. Additionally, we have the absolute rights as individuals to go and talk with them anytime. When this matter came to them last year it was driven by a member of the Board who was asking them to take action on a problem they weren't even aware of. It wasn't on their radar. Now, their constituents have contacted them and advised they want this done. They are doing State legislation and they are answerable to their voters, he doesn't feel it is the Board's responsibility to write them a letter. By all means call them and let them know your personal feelings, call them and let them know that you have talked with your constituents and relay the information. This is something they are answerable to, not us and as such he doesn't feel that we should be writing a letter about these things.

Mr. Wilson then stated that, before COVID, the Chamber of Commerce would host an Eggs and Issues meeting every January where the legislators came and everyone was invited, it didn't happen this year because of COVID. We can definitely ask them to come here and make a presentation.

Commissioner Flower-Taylor then stated that she remembers Mr. Yates, while he was in office, no matter what he had that he was introducing to the General Assembly, he let us know. He may or may not have agreed with us, but he knew what our opinion was about it. One thing he told us is if the people in the community don't want it, then our delegation doesn't have any business going there. She stated she hears what Commissioner Dutton is saying that any constituent can make a complaint, but to her that is pandering. Because if I pick two or three people that I like and I carry their agenda to the big house in Atlanta, I can forget about everybody else, I'm only concerned about what this little hand

full of people want. Her expectation is that they should want to know what we are doing here in this County and that is not what she is seeing happen. She doesn't want someone making decisions about the people she represents and they don't find out about it until the action has been taken.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that we did vote this evening to approve a legislative liaison to the ACCG and ACCG does as a State focus on these issues. It might undermine our representative if we vote now to do his job for him.

Chairman Davis stated that as the ACCG Legislative Coordinator he will try to work with the legislative delegation to get them to come periodically and talk with us. He would like for this to take place in the November/December time frame before the session starts and if they have ideas they want to talk about it will be our opportunity to have input.

X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ 2021 ACCG-GSIWCF is the County's workmen's compensation carrier and we have been notified that we will be receiving a Subsequent Injury Trust Fund cash return to us in the amount of \$85,952 which we will use to reduce our next year's workers compensation contribution.
- ✓ SPLOST Collections for the month of January 2021, \$932,531.11 which brings our total collections to \$46,722,474.98 for 58 months, the length of the SPLOST is 72 months. Our average collection per month is \$805,559.90.
- ✓ New Home starts for February was 54 with average square footage of 3,156 square foot.
- ✓ We have been notified by GDOT that the bridge on Jenkinsburg Road is in need of repair. This road goes from Spalding County into Butts County and it is a single lane old fashion bridge like was over Sixth Street with the metal girders. GDOT stated we needed repairs and we bid out the repairs. The repairs are about \$175,000 for a single lane bridge. Mr. Wilson contacted the new County Manager at Butts County and asked that they go 50/50 on the repairs since it is on the County Line. He responded that unfortunately with only 111 cars a day crossing the bridge, they couldn't see putting that kind of money into the bridge at this time. Their recommendation would be to close the bridge.

Mr. Wilson stated he was going to talk to Public Works and come back to the Board with a recommendation, but we have, on a couple of bridges where the economics simply weren't there. On the other side, in Butts County, Jenkinsburg Road is dirt. This will not adversely affect the Jenkinsburg Road interchange that we would like to have on I-75 and he feels that once we get that interchange might change their mind.

- ✓ Zoning 101 is scheduled at the Senior Center for March 18th.
- ✓ Our Team Building exercise with Terrance Johnson is scheduled for March 25th from 9 am. – 4 p.m..

- ✓ We still have not set a date for the Planning Retreat with Gordon Maner. Mr. Wilson then stated he has some dates for Mr. Maner. The week of the 5th thru the 8th of April available. He has April 12th, 19th, 22nd, 26th, and 29th. We have a county commission meeting on the 5th.

Chairman Davis stated he could not do the April 5th-8th because he will be out of state and will not be back until April 18th.

April 22nd is the Zoning Public Hearing and we could do it on that day. Consensus of the Board is to have the Planning Retreat on Thursday, April 22nd, starting at 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

- ✓ Mr. Wilson then announced his retirement as Spalding County Manager effective June 29, 2021.

XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- Budget Review with the Board of Commissioners is May 10th-14th.
- Fire Department is in the hiring process and working on backgrounds for seven open positions.
- EMA had a kick-off meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update on February 24th. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24th at the Senior Center.
- The next COVID testing site is tomorrow from 9-11 a.m.
- Vaccination Drive Thru will be on Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- As of February 24th, Spalding County DPH has administered 5,895 COVID vaccine doses.
- The week of March 8th-12th, is Flood Preparedness Week.
- In addition to the four homes that have been demolished: 179 Poplar, 151 Peachtree, 152 Peachtree and 7 Cedar. 37 Bleachery has been permitted for demolition and the Fire Department will be using this location as a training exercise. They are applying for all of the necessary permits.
- Code Enforcement – Since Charles Abbott has been hired, 9 citations have been issued, the first court date is April 14th. There have been 24 Notice of Violation Letters issued. 197 properties have been inspected, of which 143 were open cases.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson asked when the one-time Hazard Pay to employees be?

Mr. Wilson stated that next week is an off week for payroll. He will find out and let the Board know.

She then asked if we have an idea when the Senior Center will reopen. There are a lot of people wanted to know when this will happen.

Mr. Wilson stated that he mentioned to the Water Authority Joint meeting that we may want to schedule the April meeting at the Annex because he felt that the Senior Center may be occupied at that time. He would defer to the Park and Rec Advisory Commission as they had recommended earlier that the Senior Center be opened, but due to the COVID numbers coming back up, they didn't reopen the Center. He then asked Commissioner Flowers-Taylor if that could be placed on the next Park and Rec Advisory Commission agenda for consideration.

She is looking forward to the drawings and recommendations regarding the fun pool and splash pad for the community.

She stated that in 1985 she was a sophomore in High School. She thanked Mr. Wilson for his years of service to Spalding County and for training her when she came on board as a Commissioner. She stated she would miss him and only wants the best for him.

Ryan Bowlden congratulated Mr. Wilson on his announced retirement. It has been an honor to work with him since coming on board. At one time he worked for Spalding County almost 10 years and as an employee he didn't like him much; however, working with you the last few months has changed his mind and his perspective on where Mr. Wilson was coming from.

He then congratulated Sheriff Dix on the recent birth of his grandbaby.

He also wanted to advise that he has received a number of complaints regarding the bathrooms at the Pickleball Courts. There are people going in late a night and using the facilities and showers and leaving personal trash in their wake. He wanted to know if there could be lock it up when they are not being used.

He stated that he has received a number of complaints regarding noise from a new shooting range that has opened up on South McDonough Road. Alpha Dynamics. He was over there on February 20th and the whole time he was there he never heard anything, but they said that people shot all day Saturday and half a day on Sunday this past weekend.

He thanked Brett Hanes with Charles Abbott and Michelle Irizarry for the work done in response to his InSpalding App submissions. Any entries he has made on the app has been taken care of within two days.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor is looking forward to and getting excited about the potential of the new app software that when you enter something in the InSpalding App, once the service is done a survey will be sent to ask about the service. She feels it is really important that we have a customer service relationship with our residents, because we

aren't there when they have face to face contact with our citizens and this will help us to know.

Advised she had received a letter from the Chairperson of the Spalding County Board of Elections and they were requesting that the Spalding County Board of Commissioners apologize to the Elections Supervisor for alleged statements that we made about fraud in the election process in 2020. First of all, I was serving as the Chairperson and I know that this Board never made any official comments about fraud or anything happening at the Elections Office during the 2020 Election so she doesn't feel there is anything for us to apologize for. But what she does know is that as a Board member she heard on the news just like everybody else did that the Secretary of State said that in Spalding County there was no fraud and the only investigation that is currently open is from when Terry Colling was here in 2016. She doesn't want them to think that we are not caring, but we didn't do anything so there is nothing for us as a Board to apologize for.

She then stated that she and Mr. Wilson have been through the trenches together and she wouldn't have done it with anybody else but him. She then stated that what she can tell him about retirement is that if you got a grandbaby on the way, all this stuff here don't matter. As soon as you get a chance to be with that baby, you won't be studying any of this right here. Enjoy it, everybody's retirement looks different, have your retirement. Not Jackie's retirement, not your daughters' retirement, have the one that you want.

James Dutton stated he was going to start where everyone else ended. 35 years, not to make Mr. Wilson super old or himself super young, but he was 3 years old at the time. He is excited to see Mr. Wilson take this next step. Congratulations and thank you for the decades of service to Spalding County.

He stated that he was excited that the location for the competition/therapeutic pool has been agreed to. He knows everyone had to wait a long time on this project, but it is the last one on the list and we had to collect the funding before we could get started.

That being said, it is a great excuse for the Aquatic Center, but not an excuse for Heritage Park, which was before it and yet we still haven't broken ground on the project. This year he wants that project done and he wants it done right. He is excited to see some of the changes that have already been made in that area with the community garden being moved. If you haven't seen the new community garden, you need to go over there, it is fantastic. Folks are already moving all the bulbs from the old garden to the new one.

He wanted to address some of the statements that were made this evening. He stands by his words that he said at the Black Lives Matter rally. On purpose, he left his tail light broken to see what would happen, so that he could better relate to the clients who come into his office and say, "man they pulled me over for following too closely, I didn't hit anybody, they just said I was too close." I get there is this issue and he is working hard to make that different. He wants to be the change that he wants to see in the world. He is glad that the folks took his advice at that rally and have come out and engaged and voiced their opinions. He wishes they had more closely followed the rules but, at least they were here. At least there were folks here engaging. He wants to encourage that.

Additionally, they asked why I would support Marie Broeder? Marie Broeder in a word is an amazing District Attorney. He works with District Attorneys from all over the State and of all of them Marie Broeder, bar none, has the most integrity, has the most experience and has the most desire to do the right thing. Which is a mix of justice and mercy. He has seen her win hearings that during the hearing she realized that she shouldn't be winning this and after the hearing dismissed because she admitted that she shouldn't have won. That is the level of integrity that this person brings to the position. Marie Broeder is the only District Attorney that has ever beaten him at trial and for that and so many more reasons she is the best.

Marie Broeder has a meeting with him this week with community partners to try to work on alternative courts for our Juvenile System so that it's not just a pipeline from the Juvenile System into the prisons. That we actually create pathways for our youth to change their lives.

Additionally, he can't agree more that we have to recognize the history of Griffin, of Georgia, of the United States good and bad. American has been an amazing force for freedom and greatness, but we have some pretty bad skeletons in our closet as well and that is just a fact. But if we dwell just on what was done wrong, then we will never do what is right. If we can say, this is bad let's change it, great. But let's do the actions to change it. He invites the people who were here this evening to come and help him fight the fight, to come and help him find funding for Heritage Park, to come and assist in setting up mentorship programs.

He stated there have been discussions regarding a Citizens Review Board or some sort of police review board. The idea got floated on Social Media and the only two responses he ever saw on that thread was his and Sheriff Dix. Who both immediately said, "we're in, we would love to talk to you about this."

Clay Davis stated that he has an Archway update. We are working with University of Georgia to set up a Joint Strategic Plan with the City, the County and the School System. We gave them conceptual approval and at this point they are selecting the work groups for the five functional areas.

For those who are interested in where we are with the 2015 SPLOST projects and what projects have been funded. This information is now available on the website. It shows the projects that have been completed and you can track the progress on the ones we are currently working on.

He believes the number one thing facing the Country is the pandemic. Right now, we have a supply problem, we have demand, we have a number of people who are frustrated trying to get their shots. He believes in a few months it will be just the opposite, we will have supply available for everyone and he is concerned that we will not have people in this County taking those shots. He believes there are people dying in this County that need those shots, who should have got those shots earlier. If you have loved ones, friends, neighbors, start talking to them now so when the shots are available they are ready to take the shots. Herd immunity happens at 70%, it is very hard to for our county to get to 60-70% on anything we are trying to do. So please use any leadership, any influence that you have to get people to get the vaccine when it is available.

Mr. Wilson then asked if he could add one thing before going into Closed Session, it is about Heritage Park. We accepted bids on Friday for the renovation of the Historic Rosenwald School, we had 3 bidders and the low bid is approximately \$1.48 million. We are going to analyze those bids and the construction contract for the renovation of the Rosenwald School will be on the March 15th agenda.

Chairman Davis then stated that he wanted everyone to understand that the decision on the City of Griffin pool to stay closed has nothing to do with Spalding County. That is a City of Griffin decision, we are just like everyone else in the County. The pool if it is closed is being closed by the City of Griffin. We are upset about it, we are sorry about it, we would like to have a place for the children and the families to go to, but it is not our decision one way or the other.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

County Attorney requests an Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1).

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 Johnson/Dutton to enter an Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and 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 Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to close the Executive Session at 9:19 p.m. to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and 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.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.