

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, December 21, 2020
6:00 PM
Room 108, Annex Building**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, December 21, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Commissioner James Dutton attended via ZOOM and Commissioner Donald Hawbaker was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, Rachel Conort, Citizen Engagement Specialist, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham via ZOOM, County Zoning Attorney, Newton Galloway 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

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3, delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Jason Ritter, Georgia Emergency Management Association Area 4 Field Coordinator to make a presentation.

Mr. Ritter stated the reason for his being here this evening on behalf of Governor Brian Kemp and Director Stallings of the Emergency Management Agency advised that he was here this evening to make a presentation to Deputy Chief Glenn Polk. Mr. Ritter stated he is here this evening to present Deputy Chief Polk with his Professional Certified Emergency Management Certificate.

Mr. Ritter then advised that the Professional CEM is the highest level of certification within the GEMA Certified Emergency Management Program. Since the beginning of the program in the late 1990's there have been 105 Emergency Managers, statewide, to reach this level. Spalding County can take pride in the level of professionalism and preparedness that Deputy Chief Polk has shown to this County.

Mr. Ritter then stated that on behalf of Governor Kemp and Director Stallings, he is here this evening to present this Professional Certified Emergency Management Certificate to Deputy Chief Glenn Polk.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then read a statement prepared by the Board of Commissioners. A commendation for Deputy Chief Polk a copy of which will be placed in his personnel file:

Deputy Chief Glenn Polk, Director
Spalding County Homeland Security

Re: Commendation

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic.

On March 2, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Georgia and is still an ongoing pandemic. Chief Glenn Polk serves as Director of Spalding County Homeland Security immediately began implementation of the County Pandemic Plan.

In the months that followed, the cases increased steadily not only in Georgia but also in Spalding County.

Chief Polk's efforts during this tragic event have been of great service to the citizens of Spalding County. He has worked tirelessly to ensure all emergency responders have had protective equipment to keep them safe while responding on the front line combatting this pandemic. As a result, even when there was a national shortage, no emergency agency in Spalding County ran out of this vital protection.

Chief Polk has also coordinated numerous State and National resources to assist Spalding County medical facilities with their needs. These efforts included supplying ventilators to WellStar Hospital and deployment of National Guard Decontamination resources to two local long-term care facilities.

Chief Polk worked with Community Health to set up weekly COVID-19 testing at the Spalding County Fire Department Administration offices. He personally would arrive at 6:00 a.m. on each day of the testing to set up. He also facilitated two other test sites that were deemed as "hot spots" by Georgia Department of Public Health.

Additionally, Chief Polk has worked tirelessly to ensure our community has remained informed. He sent daily emails with the most up-to-date information. He also would give briefings at the weekly community partners' meetings. These communications have greatly reduced concerns and fears that could have been exaggerated by the misinformation that was being spread.

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Citizens of Spalding County would like to issue this letter of commendation to Chief Glenn Polk. His passion as a steward of community service has made us proud. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Citizens of Spalding County.

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Chairperson

Deputy Chief Polk then stated that he loves what he does and if he is not with his family he would just as soon be at work. He enjoys his job and enjoys helping people to have a better day. It is an honor to do what he does and he thanked everyone for recognizing what their Department does.

2. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners would like to make three special presentations.

Mr. Wilson stated that they had just did the first presentation for Deputy Chief Polk.

The second one is to Mr. Sonny Foster who is retiring as the County Coroner after 20 years of service. Mr. Wilson stated that he first met Mr. Foster when he was sworn in, in 2000 and since that time he has hit the floor running. The first thing he did was acquire an office upstairs, the next thing he did was ask Mr. Wilson for a budget. Over the years, we have had a great relationship and in the 20 years he has been with the County he has done a fantastic job. Mr. Foster is very detail oriented and we have gotten many compliments from folks around the Country about Mr. Foster and how he is a true and caring person who loves his job and makes sure that everyone is dealt with properly and respectfully.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that as a nurse she has seen Mr. Foster's involvement with the families as they are going through their grieving process and she is very grateful to have known him. He taught her a lot and she is grateful for that.

Mr. Foster then stated he has been honored to have served this County for this length of time. He appreciates the people that have given me the opportunity and voted him in for 5 terms. He feels they have made a difference. He has always said that he wanted to treat people like he would want to be treated. There is good in everybody. He thanked the people in the County for having the confidence in him to be in the position for this long. He then thanked the Deputies that have worked with him over the years, they have been a big part of his office. He is proud of the new Coroner who has worked hard during his time with Mr. Foster and he is very proud of him and what he has accomplished to date and he feels that he will make the County proud in the future.

Mr. Foster then thanked the Commissioners for their support of his office and he has never worked with anyone better than William Wilson in budgeting and getting what is needed for his office. For 20 years they have worked together and never had a cross word.

Mr. Foster then stated that this is the first time in 70 years he hasn't had a job and he is looking forward to finding out what to do. He stated that this office

doesn't have a secretary and he could not have done this job without the help of his wife, Marilyn. She has done everything in the office that needed to be done.

Mr. Foster then thanked everyone for their help and support and then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then advised that the next presentation would be made to our outgoing commissioner, Commissioner Bart Miller. Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then added that Commissioner Miller was here when she got here and he has learned how to be a Commissioner and he is one of the most fair, caring and loving Commissioners that he has had the pleasure of knowing since she has been here. She then added that the Board wanted to present Commissioner Miller with a token of their affection and love for him, a portrait of the Spalding County Courthouse.

Commissioner Miller stated that he would like to thank everyone in the Fourth District for letting him serve two terms. It has been an experience, he thought he could make some changes, but one person cannot make the change, it takes all five commissioners to make a change. He stated that he appreciates the support he received. He also thanked Mr. Wilson for his help and Kathy Gibson who is an asset to anyone who serves on the Board. He then stated that he still is not a politician, but he has had a great relationship with the Fire Department, the Sheriff's Office and sometimes with Mr. Wilson. Commissioner Miller stated that it has been an experience, but he has had enough.

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

Ms. Brownlee had requested that the update be moved to the next agenda.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the five months ended November 30, 2020 and the four months ended October 31, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the financial statements for the five months ended November 30, 2020 and the four months ended October 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct your remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairman has the right to limit your comments in the interest of disposing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are

expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Bill Bryant, 282 N. Rover Road, asked that the Board complete the unfinished business against Full Blown Firearms and that they take swift and definitive action.

Howard Johnson, 22342 N. Expressway, asked that the Board look into the rezoning of this property and his ability to sell trucks from this location. He is questioning the truck designation for the property.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on November 16, 2020, Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called meeting and Executive Session on December 16, 2020.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on November 16, 2020, Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called meeting and Executive Session on December 16, 2020.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked Mr. Wilson to get Mr. Johnson to a person that he will need to speak to about the issue he brought before the Board this evening.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Consider approval of the 2021 Alcohol License for the following:
 - George Crosby-Griffin Moose Lodge #1503, located at 1435 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30223.
 - Douglas Byron Cook-Sun City Peachtree Golf Club, located at 250 Del Webb Blvd., Griffin, GA 30223

Mr. Wilson advised that both of these businesses meet the criteria for approval and can be voted on individually or together.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to approve 2021 Alcohol License for George Crosby-Griffin Moose Lodge #1503 and Douglas Byron Cook-Sun City Peachtree Golf Club. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of an amplification permit request from Outreach Ministries, Inc. to hold outdoor Church Services at their property located at 2025 North Hill Street during the month of December 2020.

Mr. Wilson advised that no departments have any problems with this request.

It was originally on the December 7th agenda, so we have allowed them to continue during the month of December.

Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to approve an amplification permit request from Outreach Ministries, Inc. to hold outdoor Church Services at their property located at 2025 North Hill Street during the month of December 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of final plat for Orchard on Ellis major subdivision located off W. Ellis Road.

Mr. Wilson stated that all criteria has been met for approval of the final plat.

Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to approve a final plat for Orchard on Ellis a major subdivision located off West Ellis Road.

Commissioner Dutton then asked what the area was zoned as? R-2?

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Luke if he knew what the zoning is for the subdivision.

Mr. Luke stated he believed the subdivision is AR-1 conditional.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of contract with RS&H, Inc. for the Spalding County Transit Master Plan.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County issued RFQ's for this contract and received a number of bids and RS&H is being recommended for the Spalding County Transit Master Plan. ARC funding is \$155,000 with \$38,970 in local funding.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the contract with RS&H for the Spalding County Transit Master Plan. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider proposal from Charles Abbott Associates, Inc, (CAA) to provide Spalding County with Code Enforcement Services.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County has been without Code Enforcement Officers for a couple of months now. We have had a very hard time recruiting for this position because they are certified Sheriff's Deputies. The Board seems to be moving more toward a minimum housing, trash, substandard housing and grass cutting type code enforcement rather than in the past it has been more Sheriff's oriented such as Speeding and No Thru Trucks and things that require police powers.

Mr. Wilson stated that staff asked three companies to provide us a quote for Code Enforcement services, contracting it out like we do our building inspections in the Community Development Department. One of the companies do not operate in this area, one provided us with a rate, but they have no supervision in this area

and the third was Charles Abbott and Associates who currently works for the City of Griffin and Spalding County. Since they have come to work for Spalding County we have had many more inspections, they have caught more violations and they have helped us with minimum housing code and minimum building standards and staff is recommending that we try a contract thru June 30, 2021 for two contracted Code Enforcement Officers that will be supervised by Brett Hanes. This will be all inclusive, their vehicles, their equipment and everything they will need is supplied by Charles Abbott and Associates and the County will only have to supply a desk.

Mr. Hanes is here this evening to answer any questions you may have. I gave you the numbers \$15,600 per month for both officers. The current budget is \$12,759 for two officers. He is recommending that we try this for at least the remainder of this fiscal year and see how it works out.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that we have insisted in the past that our Code Enforcement Officers be Post Certified and she doesn't understand what they were doing that required them to have the Post Certification, that we don't need to have done now.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Code Enforcement Officers have been essentially the same as Sheriff's Deputies. If the Sheriff needed assistance and if the Code Enforcement Officers heard an Emergency Call, they could first respond with the Sheriff's Office because they were Post Certified. That means they have arrest powers. These Code Enforcement Officers would not. They would be more like the City of Griffin and only do housing, buildings, grass cutting and clean up the County versus responding to Sheriff's Office calls. The Spalding County Code Enforcement Officers ran radar and they did No Thru Trucks as well.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if Code Enforcement was really a running radar type of job, or is that what we made it into? Don't we still have a problem with No Thru Trucks?

Mr. Wilson stated that prior to Sheriff Dix, previous administrations did little if any radar enforcement. Sheriff Dix came in and all of his employees utilize radar. No Thru Trucks is not as high a priority for the Sheriff's Office because they are so lean on having people out in the County. So, No Thru Trucks is what Code Enforcement did. Mr. Wilson stated that when the job description was written the No Thru Trucks was what the Commissioners were more concerned with than now.

Sheriff Dix stated that he thinks that what has happened is that the focus has gotten off of Code Enforcement and gotten more into Traffic Enforcement and Traffic Stops. They got away from doing what their specific job was and became more like Deputy Sheriffs and what we are trying to do now is to get back into Code Enforcement because that is their job. When you have them with radar in their cars and they are running radar and they are writing traffic citations which had nothing to do with Code Enforcement. He feels that the focus of this is to get these individuals back to Code Enforcement.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then expressed her concern that the City of Griffin may say the County is doing the same thing as they are doing and the citizens

inside the City are being taxed twice for the service.

Mr. Wilson stated that the concern for Service Deliver Strategy is they have a higher level of service and their code is more intense than ours. The Ordinances in the County tend to be a little less rigid than the City. Just like Animal Control, they have a Leash Law, the County has a Restraint District. Leash Law is a higher level of service, but that would be for SDS negotiations later on. He then added that what may happen, since the City of Griffin does not have Code Enforcement right now either, they have no officers and they have been unable to recruit. They may also want to contract with Charles Abbott Associates because when Mr. Wilson mentioned it to Mr. Smith, he stated that he didn't know that Charles Abbott even offered that service.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the proposal from Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. (CAA) to provide Spalding County Code Enforcement Services. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider authorizing payment for legal services from Dexter Wimbish to the Board of Elections on November 3, 2020.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she had spoke with the Chairman of the Board of Elections who asked that we tabled this to the next meeting as the Invoice has the wrong date on it. It lists November 3, 2020 and the date of service should have been November 4, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to table Item #6 authorizing payment of legal services from Dexter Wimbish to the Board of Elections. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval of the 2021 Notice of Meeting Schedule for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wilson stated that we publish this list in January of every year, as you will note the January 18, July 5 and September 6th are holidays. We publish this so everyone will know at the beginning of the year what the meeting dates are.

Commissioner Dutton asked that we go ahead and not include the Holidays that we know the Board will cancel at a later date anyway?

Mr. Wilson stated that staff requests that the Board formally cancel the following meeting dates: January 18th, July 5th, September 6th and December 20th. So, you can make the motion and approve those cancellation dates.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the 2021 Notice of Meeting schedule with the Board formally cancelling the following meeting dates: the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on January 18, the fourth of July Holiday on July 5th, the Labor Day Holiday on September 6th and cancelling the Christmas week meeting scheduled for December 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider approval of 2021 Notice of Zoning Public Hearing Dates for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wilson stated it is the same thing with this notice, these meetings are the 4th Thursday of each month with the following exceptions: November 25th which is Thanksgiving and December 23rd which is the day before Christmas Eve. Staff recommends moving those meetings to November 15th and December 6th meetings respectively.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the 2021 Notice of Zoning Public Hearing dates for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider approval on first 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.

Ms. Windham stated that this has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney and we have also made some changes in accordance with the model that was recently set out by ACCG. The proposed Resolution has also been approved by T.J. Imberger and Deborah Bell.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked what the specific changes were in House Bill 897.

Ms. Windham stated that the Notification Process had not been changed since 2015 and now the County Governing Authorities are allowed to pass an Ordinance relating to the policy and it specifies what can and cannot be included in the Ordinance. It mainly involves transportation of timber throughout the state to make the process more safe and streamlined.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve on first reading of 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.

X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Spalding County Public Works conducted a Snow Day Safety Session on November 10th and what they did was run through everything that we do, so when it snows, we will be ready for the snow. Elizabeth Warren, our insurance consultant who reports on things that we do, gave us glowing marks for our classes and the scenarios that we went through for Snow Day.
- ✓ New Housing – There were 234 building permits through November for a

total average square footage of 3,096. He is hoping for more in December; however he doesn't think we will make the 281 that we had last year.

- ✓ SPLOST collections for the month of October were \$1,027,950.50 bringing the average up from an estimated \$700,000 to \$795,243.09.
- ✓ Earthwork and Concrete at the Animal Shelter site, everything that the Board authorized to be done up to \$100,000 we were able to complete for \$30,142.50. Construction is underway, the slab is being poured. All of the piping is in and we are going up with the Animal Shelter.
- ✓ Mr. Wilson stated that he wanted to commend Rachel Conort for the Library SPLOST Technology update. We have had both videos and press releases as part of this initiative.
- ✓ He then stated the he would miss the way Commissioner Miller expresses his caring at each County Commission Meeting, but we are going to keep up with you and expect you to come and visit us.

XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- The one employee that graduated from the Fire Academy is currently completing his on-boarding training and will be placed on a shift in January.
- Bill Wilson, who is a firefighter will be retiring after 35 years of service on January 3, 2021.
- The Spalding County Pickleball Association donated \$500 toward Smoke Alarms for those in need.
- 1888 Mills donated towels for the Fire Department to use for cleaning.
- The Fire Department has been working in the Community ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Hobby Lobby and all of the shifts and Admin Staff sponsored a child through DFCS for the Christmas Season.
- EMA participated in the District 4 DPH Exercise for COVID Vaccine distribution on 12/14. On Saturday they assisted Spalding DPH with their POD event for COVID Vaccinations for the Phase 1, Tier 1A category which is mainly healthcare workers and they continue to assist DPH with COVID testing, the next COVID testing event is on 12/29/2020.
- EMA also did a virtual weather workshop with the National Weather Service for the upcoming weather season.
- Congratulations to Deputy Chief Glenn Polk for his Professional Certified Manager with GEMA and was recognized this evening.
- Commissioner Miller, we are all going to miss you.

The County Manager requests that the Board amend the Agenda to consider two moratoriums. One of these on the acceptance of an application of a permit of construction of a barn as a residential dwelling, commonly known as a Barndominim. And the second, a moratorium on properties located in Spalding County along road frontage on US 19/41 pending an enactment of an Overlay District.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to amend the agenda to include consideration of to resolutions relating to moratoriums. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider approval of a Resolution to enact a moratorium on the acceptance of an application for permits for construction of a Barn as a residential dwelling within Spalding County.

Mr. Wilson advised these can be very nice, or they can look like a “butler building” and we need to develop some regulations to control these aesthetically. Generally, these types of structures are on large tracts, where someone want’s a large dwelling that is metal, but they can put facades on it to make it very aesthetically pleasing.

Mr. Galloway stated that Community Development has received a number of requests for these type dwellings and they are a hybrid of an active barn and intended permanent dwelling. We are not taking an action that would restrict somebody’s right to develop these if they choose, but we are looking at how to define it and to apply appropriate construction criteria and codes to it as a dwelling for that portion that is a dwelling. In the short run, what Ms. Bell has asked is for a brief moratorium to allow staff to add this use into the UDO and to provide the necessary requirements for it to be constructed in compliance with our codes. The residential dwelling to comply with our aesthetic material requirements and then make certain they are consistent with the Zoning District. By in large these requests are coming in in AR zones on large tracts, nobody is saying that you shouldn’t have a Barndominium or be able to use a barn looking structure as a residence, but simply to develop criteria for them.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enact a moratorium on the acceptance of an application for permits for construction of a barn as residential dwelling within Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider approval of a Resolution to extend a moratorium on development on properties located within Spalding County with road frontage along United States Highway 19/41 pending enactment of a development overlay district.

Mr. Galloway stated that this is another issue we have had come up recently. We have always dealt with 19/41 because of it’s age it has had unique circumstances with existing developments dating back many years. Things have been on 19/41 since it was first 4-laned, as one of the first 4-laned roads in the State. But, Ms. Bell has received a number of inquiries, that have not made it to the point of permitting or rezoning, regarding uses that continue being problematic on 19/41.

In discussion with Ms. Bell and Mr. Wilson, we are presenting you with a moratorium to stop permitting and rezoning and other developments that are on properties that are adjacent to the right-of-way of 19/41 on both sides

from the northern boundary of the City of Griffin City Limits to the Henry County Line and during this period of time we will attempt to develop an appropriate overlay district and criteria for those road frontage properties seeking to improve what they look like, how they are maintained and what uses would prospectively be permitted on the properties that are not yet developed. The hope would be that we could put criteria in that would over time allow improvements to the way 19/41 looks as an entry corridor to the County and to the City.

This process is going to be difficult and if we are successful in getting an overlay put together the impact of it will take years, but this will get it started.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if the businesses currently along 19/41 will be grandfathered in?

Mr. Galloway stated they would have limited ability to come back and impose restrictions on what is there. Particularly as to the land use, but as those change over time, we will be able to come in and apply different regulations to them.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve a Resolution to extend a moratorium on development on properties located within Spalding County with road frontage along United States Highway 19/41 pending enactment of a development overlay district. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – Stated this has been an experience. When he first started, he thought he would be here for four years then he would be at home, but he was so intrigued by the people on the Board, that he just had to do it one more time. This has been a great experience. He does want the Commissioners to know one thing, even though he is not going to be here, when it comes time to do the Budget, he will be here to make sure that the Board does not raise people's property taxes. There are enough houses that have been built in the last year and there should be enough money to fund the County without raising property taxes for a while. He has enjoyed his time on the Commission. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rita Johnson – Stated it has been a tremendous pleasure working with Commissioner Miller. When they first met, Commissioner Miller didn't like her, because he felt she was all about the business. But it took them to drive together to Athens for Commissioners' Training and they have been friends since that time. You have been the best Commissioner and she feels that the District 4 constituents knew what they were doing when they asked you to run for office and you have represented them well. It has been a tremendous pleasure working with you and we will continue to keep in touch.

She thanked Mr. Johnson for coming to the meeting this evening. She hopes that something works out for him and his situation with the trucks. She will be talking with the Planning Commission on this. She feels there may have been a breakdown in communication on this as to the definition of trucks, so she is hoping the process will work itself out.

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Polk, in Spalding County we have the best of the best. Our staff is the best and we are blessed to be recognized for having someone of his caliber.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

James Dutton – Thanked Commissioner Miller for his years of dedication. We appreciate all you have done. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – She is ditto for everything that everybody has said. She told Commissioner Miller that she loved him and is going to miss him and she will look forward to seeing him back up here.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

County Zoning 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).

Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to enter into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to close the Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor accept the terms of the consent order and authorize counsel to make changes in conjunction with opposing counsel. Motion carried 3-1 (Miller).

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.