

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, July 19, 2021
6:00 PM
Room 108, Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held an Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, July 19, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson Gwen Flowers-Taylor, James Dutton and Ryan Bowlden were present for the meeting. Also, present were Interim County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, 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 Patricia Cameron of the Corner of the Lord 918 Church delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

Commissioner Rita Johnson then asked that the Agenda be amended to remove the Closed Session at the end of the meeting and to include an additional item under New Business.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to remove the Closed Session at the end of the meeting and include a new item (Item 18) under New Business to consider the purchase of property. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the twelve months ended June 30, 2021.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the financial statements for the twelve months ended June 30, 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.

Peter Cabrel, 1260 Hillview Road, Hampton, GA talked about Code Enforcement in the County and the need to address property that has been allowed to become overgrown.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Executive Session at 2:00 P.M., the Special Called Meeting and Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. and the Extraordinary Session on June 21, 2021, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Zoning Public Hearing on June 24, 2021 and the Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Executive Session on June 28, 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Executive Session at 2:00 P.M., the Special Called Meeting and Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. and the Extraordinary Session on June 21, 2021, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Zoning Public Hearing on June 24, 2021 and the Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Executive Session on June 28, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Lift from the table and consider a contract with Flo Analytics for a redistricting project for the County Commissioner and School Board Districts.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to move consideration of this contract to the 1st meeting in August and to not lift from the table. Motion carried 4-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

Ms. Irizarry was asked to research and see if there are other companies who provide these services and provide a list to the Board.

IX. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider request from the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board to appoint two members for their board whose terms expired on June 30th, 2021. Mr. Francis Phillips and Ms. Janice Bogan are the current members on this Board and have expressed their desire to remain on the Board for another term. The appointment will be for 5 year term to ending June 30, 2026.

Chairman Davis advised that the individuals who are currently serving on the Board have expressed their interest to remain on the Board. He then stated that the Board can either reappoint these individuals, or if the individuals currently serving do not receive a majority vote there are nominees who have placed their names in the appointment book for consideration and will be presented in the order their names were placed in the book.

Chairman Davis then advised that both Ms. Phillips and Ms. Bogan have expressed their desire to remain on this Board and both individuals have completed the nomination form and it has been signed by the Commissioner of their District.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Francis Phillips to the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board for a 5-year term ending June 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to reappoint Janice Bogan to the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board for a 5-year term ending June 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of contract with the Georgia Public Defender's Council, the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office and the County of Spalding to provide Circuit Public Defender Services in Spalding County for FY 2022.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a contract with the Georgia Public Defender's Council, the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office and the County of Spalding to provide Circuit Public Defender Services in Spalding County for FY 2022.

Commissioner Dutton then commended this group on the work they do for Spalding County on a very limited budget.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of the 2022 contract for the Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging with changes as recommended by County Attorney.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the 2022 contract for the Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging with changes as recommended by County Attorney.

County Attorney, Stephanie Windham advised there were no substantive changes to be made to the contract, there were some blanks that needed to be filled in. Those items have been completed and the contract is ready for signature.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of a Master Professional Services Agreement with Croy Engineering, LLC for the Spalding County Transportation Plan (CTP).

Ms. Windham advised that the contract had been reviewed by both she and Paragon and the requested changes are reflected in the contract and it is ready for signature.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a Master Professional Services Agreement with Croy Engineering, LLC for the Spalding County Transportation Plan (CTP).

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked staff to research to see if there wasn't some discussion on the City of Griffin sharing the costs for this Plan and in the future that a discussion with any cities involved in a contract of this type that has an effect on the entire County including the Cities have cost sharing considered.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of the contract for Interim County Manager.

Chairman Davis advised that the Board had named Michelle Irizarry as Interim County Manager at the last meeting and this will simply finalize her contract for this position.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the contract for Interim County Manager. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Animal Shelter Construction - Change Order # 6

Ms. Irizarry advised that this Change Order will run electrical power to the back gate of the shelter so that the Animal Control officers can enter through the entrance on the back side of the building. The total for this change order is \$3,579.80.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve Change Order #6 for the Animal Shelter. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Ms. Windham advised that this request is on behalf of the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority. There are approximately \$13,500 available to the airport through the CARES Act II and this will free up their ability to collect those funds. This will be placed on the City of Griffin's next Agenda for approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider approval of the NORESKO Phase 2 Audit Agreement and the Strategic Sourcing Work Order.

Ms. Windham advised that she has reviewed this agreement and has sent it back to Noresko for changes. Once the changes have been made the Agreement should be ready for signature.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the NORESKO Phase 2 Audit Agreement and the Strategic Sourcing Work Order when changes have been made and approved by the County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider request from the Spalding County Pickleball Association to file for and obtain a permit to serve alcohol during the APP Pickleball Tour scheduled for September 15-19, 2021.

Spalding County Pickleball Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization. As such they can file through the State of Georgia for a temporary Alcohol License. In order to do this, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners have to issue a letter to the State advising that we are aware they are requesting this license and stated that we do not have a problem with the State issuing this temporary license.

The Spalding County Pickleball Association has requested a letter for a temporary alcohol license to allow them to sell alcohol during the upcoming APP Pickleball Tour scheduled for September 15-19, 2021. The State will only issue a

three (3) day license and a letter will be issued by Spalding County and signed by Chairman Davis allowing this temporary license.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to allow the Spalding County Pickleball Association to file for and obtain a permit to serve alcohol during the APP Pickleball Tour scheduled for September 15-19, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider request from Pickleball Association to fund additional lighting at the Pickleball Facility.

Ms. Irizarry advised that the Pickleball Association had made this request from the Board a few months ago. At that time, the Board asked that the Association go out and raise money for the lighting. At this time, the Spalding County Pickleball Association has raised \$35,000 and they have a commitment of \$10,000 additional funding if the County agrees to purchase the lights. This represents a total of \$45,000 toward the \$110,000 it will cost to have these lights installed.

T.J. Imberger, Director of Parks and Public Grounds, advised that Musco could start installing the lights as early as tomorrow if the Board approves this purchase. This would prevent having to rent lighting for the APP Pickleball Tour and he is confident that the lights will be complete by the time the tour arrives in Spalding County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that since the Association had taken the initiative to raise \$35,000 and they have gotten a commitment from the GSBTA for an additional \$10,000, she feels the Board should approve the lighting and suggested that the \$65,000 could come out of the Commissioners Contingency fund in the General Fund for 2022 and not have any affect on the budget that was just passed and implemented on July 1, 2021.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she has no problem with this as long as all of the Associations are given the same consideration when they make a request for funding.

Commissioner Dutton added that he would like to look at this a step 1 of the puzzle to improve the parks.

Commissioner Bowlden stated that he is worried that giving this money is going to set a precedent and he doesn't want to do that. He agrees with Commissioner Johnson that we should look at ways to get the money back.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the request from the Spalding County Pickleball Association to fund the lighting of additional courts at the Pickleball Facility and that the project be funded out of the Commissioners Contingency in the General Fund. Motion carried 4-1 (Bowlden).

11. Consider approval of request from Parks and Leisure Services for the Purchase of Portable Restroom Pump Trailer as the COVID pandemic has put a tremendous stress on our portable restroom program.

Mr. Imberger advised that due to the COVID pandemic, a strain has been placed on the Portable Restrooms as one has been needed to provide restroom facilities at the courthouse for an extra courtroom that was created from the Jury Holding Room and there were no restroom facilities available on that level of the courthouse and the smaller unit is parked inside the lower level of the

courthouse. Additionally, the portable restrooms have been utilized during COVID testing and vaccinations. This equipment is needed to properly clean and maintain these units. Mr. Imberger presented the Board with a current estimate of the cost for the unit and advised that it would qualify for COVID funding.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request from Parks and Leisure Services for the Purchase of Portable Restroom Pump Trailer as the COVID pandemic has put a tremendous stress on our portable restroom program and to utilize funding from the CARES or ARP Funding to purchase this equipment. Motion carried unanimously by all.

12. Consider a Resolution to amend the 2017 Spalding County Comprehensive Plan. Community Development is recommending a minor amendment.

Debbie Bell, Community Development Director, stated that this proposed minor amendment would change the description of Suburban Neighborhood that currently exists in the areas surrounding the City Limits of the City of Griffin, by removing duplexes and multi-family dwellings from the description. This would provide for new development to be detached single family housing. We are not changing any zoning. What we are doing is strengthening our ability to object to any future rezoning and annexation proposals from the City of Griffin.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve a Resolution to amend the 2017 Spalding County Comprehensive Plan. Community Development is recommending a minor amendment.

Ms. Bell then stated that this is a minor amendment to put on the Comprehensive Plan that doesn't require full review by DCA. We are getting ready to initiate the process for a full Comprehensive Plan Review. She advised that she will send this to Three Rivers Regional Commission and they will send it to DCA, but after talking with Three Rivers' it is her understanding that it will not require a full review by DCA. We can address other more detailed concerns in the next couple of months when we start the full review.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

13. Consider approval of the final plat for MKDA Way.

Ms. Irizarry stated that this request is coming from the Development Authority and Mitsui and Ms. Bell can address any additional questions.

Ms. Bell stated that Mitsui would like for their address to be 100 MKDA Way. In order to create that address, we had to create an MKDA Way. This is a final plat for them to dedicate a short section of right-of-way and call it MKDA Way. That can be formally submitted to the Tax Assessors Office and the Post Office and complete the addressing process for Mitsui.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the final plat for MKDA Way. Motion carried unanimously by all.

14. Consider approval of the Final Plat for Sun City Peachtree Pod 13.

Motion/second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the Final Plat for Sun City Peachtree Pod 13.

Ms. Irizarry advised that the departments have reviewed and approved the construction and asphalt toping performance bond and road maintenance bond

have been provided. Staff recommends approval.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

15. Consider approval of a contract with the candidate chosen to fill the position of County Manager for Spalding County.

Chairman Davis stated that this is, from his perspective, the single biggest thing for Spalding County in the last 20 years.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the contract with the candidate chosen to fill the position of County Manager for Spalding County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated for the record that she was of the understanding that the Board was going to wait on some additional information before making the announcement.

Motion carried 4-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

Chairman Davis then introduced Dr. Steve Ledbetter as the new County Manager for Spalding County.

Dr. Ledbetter thanked the Board for being named the County Manger for Spalding County. It is great to be here. He went to school at North Clayton High School and he attended many games played here in Spalding County. This is home and it feels like home, it is a privilege to be here and to have the opportunity to serve this community and he is looking forward to it. He thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in him and stated that he looks forward to getting started.

Chairman Davis then advised that Dr. Ledbetter's first day will be August 16, 2021. We do expect to see him beginning tomorrow, so if you see him, welcome him and share your views on things with him. On August 27th, the County will host public opportunity to meet Dr. Ledbetter at the Senior Center. This has been a long process of finding the right person to take William Wilson's position after being with us for 26 years. He went on to say that in 2021, we will have changed the Superintendent of Schools, the City Manager and now the County Manager.

16. Discuss the status of the Citizen Engagement Specialist position.

Ms. Irizarry advised that right now we are struggling with Social Media posts, Content Management and Citizen Engagement. We have received 13 applications for the current job description. She feels this is something the Board should review because there seems to be some misinformation on what is expected of this position compared to the job description. If you would like for staff to move forward with this position, she and Miles Neville, Human Resource Director, have gone through the applications and selected those who have the qualifications according to the job description, but right now we are falling behind on the progress that had been made with the Social Media and Content that our previous Citizen Engagement Specialist had made. Staff is looking for direction.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the problem for the prior Citizen Engagement Specialist was they didn't have any autonomy and they had to get every single thing approved before they could go forward. The other thing that was shared is that she came here with absolutely no content creation or management skills. It was not in the job description. We were asking her to do

a lot more than that and content creation is huge, it is another whole job. If we can find someone who has content creation capabilities and they have the civic engagement piece, we can rest assured that if we can afford to hire them we are just going to be a stop for them, because they are simply building their resume until they can move somewhere else. We know that we need both a Media Content person and a Civic Engagement Person.

Commissioner Dutton stated that his law firm has content creation, social media and marketing for his law firm that he contracts out. He contracts with a firm that is really good at it and they are significantly cheaper than hiring a marketing person. Have we thought about that avenue? Instead of hiring a one-stop individual, to hire a firm that could provide the service.

Commissioner Johnson added that we have two locations right here in Spalding County; Southern Crescent Technical College and the University of Georgia that may be able to help us with this. She feels it might be a good idea to post at these two locations and see what we can get.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she feels the first step is to decide which direction we want to go in. Do we want to go with Civic Engagement or Media Creation and then see what that looks like. She knows we are struggling and we need to do something in the interim, but we need to have a job description and a pay grade has to be established for the position.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he feels we need to have somebody on site or to have a firm. If we are going to have someone to not only do all the media, but to generate content, but to go meetings, share what happens at the meetings and go to all the events in the County, that is a fulltime job. That said, the cost of hiring one person and having that individual's expertise versus the costs of hiring a firm and having a teams expertise, he feels we will get more expertise for less in total costs when it comes to total costs.

Chairman Davis then asked Ms. Irizarry to find a contractor that can do something immediately and ask them to look at the job description we currently have and assist us in writing a description that will give us what we are looking for. We need to look hard a firm to do this in the short-term then look at what we need to do on a long-term basis.

17. Consider recommendation by Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to review and increase the rate of pay of Leisure Services Part Time Staff.

Ms. Irizarry stated that at the July 8, 2021, the Parks and Leisure Advisory Commission made the following action "to move forward to the Board of Commissioners to increase the rate of pay for Leisure Services part-time staff."

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that over the past several years when the County has done across the board increases/pay raises. We have not done anything for our part-time people. She talked with several of the people who drove for Meals on Wheels, who delivered meals uninterrupted throughout the 15 months of COVID that they make \$8.00 an hour. These people were put in harms way and we didn't recognize them when handing out atta-boys during COVID. There was also an announcement in the paper that the City had raised the minimum wage to \$13 an hour. During the discussion, it was also pointed out that the City increased the Law Enforcement pay and she wants to try to head off the possibility of people leaving for a few dollars as has happened in the past.

Chairman Davis then stated there are 17 people involved in the part-time discussion. When you take it across Spalding County and the part-time people the number increases to 50 people which is \$85,000/year to increase the salary of all of the part-time people across the board. He can't see doing it for 17 out of the 50, if we are going to do this we are going to do it for the entire County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that we are also going to address the issue for the First Responders, the City of Griffin had an ad in the paper today advertising a huge increase in pay and this is something we need to be discussing as well.

Sheriff Dix stated that the recent increase in salary by the City of Griffin is not the only problem, in his agency alone you, there is one field training officer that has been working for Spalding County for 15 years, this means he spends 12 weeks training an officer after he gets out of the academy, once that officer gets signed off on, he is making the exact same thing that a 15-year employee is making. This goes across the agency. This is a perfect example of where this officer sees the ad from the City of Griffin, he can go to that agency, complete their training program and start out \$6,000 a year more. A great work environment, standing up for your people and everything doesn't pay your bills, doesn't put food on your table and let you provide for your family. We are very thankful for what the Board has done regarding the pay to date, but because of the way we had to do the pay increase Countywide the issue came up with compression and you are starting to see more and more City and County governments branching out and saying that we have got to pay these people differently. There are agencies all around us doing the same thing which I putting us right in the position that you are talking about.

Chairman Davis asked that before the end of August we need to make the decision to do this. We need to make the decision to do this and it will involve a change to the budget. Chairman Davis asked Ms. Irizarry to work on this.

Ms. Irizarry then asked for direction from the Board as to what they are specifically looking to be included.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated if we address the problem for the Sheriff's Office what it would look like. What's it going to look like if we are talking about just the part-time employees. Are we talking about E-911? What it looks like if they are in, and what it looks like if they are out.

18. Consider approval of an Agreement to Purchase 98 +/- acres located at 350 Parham Road, known as the Yamacraw Landfill in the amount of \$280,000.

Ms. Windham advised that the earnest money will be in the amount of \$1,500 and the seller has agreed to sign this contract on Thursday morning, July 22nd.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the purchase of property located at 350 Parham Road, also known as the Yamacraw Landfill in the amount of \$280,000.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if the Ms. Windham to review for the public why we are purchasing the property.

Ms. Windham stated that the Yamacraw Landfill is under a plan from EPD and Spalding County has to maintain that property in perpetuity because it was a landfill and therefore it is must more cost effective for us to purchase this property for \$280,000 instead of continuing to pay rent at \$18,000 annually.

Chairman Davis stated that we are looking at an opportunity to do some things with the property, we are restricted as to what can be done on the property, but we can develop recreational areas for disc golf and things like that where people can participate and leave. First and foremost, this is a good financial decision for the County then continuing to rent the property.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. REPORT OF INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

- We have learned that ESPN will be streaming the APP Pickleball Tour live.
- SPLOST collections for May 2021 were \$1,095,596.50 which brings the total collections for the 61 months to \$50,893,462.22. We are 19.19% above estimated collections with an average collection of \$834,319 per month.
- Spalding County is celebrating the 2021 USSSA Baseball World Series Champions which was the Spalding 10U Navy Allstars. On Thursday, July 22nd from 6-6:30 p.m. the team will make their way from the Wyomia Tyus Park to the Griffin-Spalding Sports Hall of Fame. The Sheriff's Department will be leading the parade with an Ice Cream Social to follow for the players, their families and the Board is invited to attend.
- Tomorrow at 10 a.m. she will be meeting with Jessica O'Connor regarding SDS. This will be the first meeting set up with both Boards to get something set up in September regarding SDS.
- There is a Land Bank vacancy after the resignation of Brett Hanes from the Land Bank.
- She and T.J. Imberger visited with the County Manager for Butts County regarding the Jenkinsburg Bridge and splitting the cost for repair which is \$175,000. He is discussing this with his Board and she will update the Commissioners as she hears something.

XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson – She wanted to welcome Troop 2 of the Boy Scouts and recognized those in attendance. Congratulations to Mr. Ledbetter, we are glad to have you here in Spalding County, she reminded him that he has big shoes to fill.

Ryan Bowlden – Welcomed Mr. Ledbetter, he then thanked him for his service as a past law enforcement officer. He then addressed the pay for employees, especially law enforcement, but he is going to make a plea to these employees. Don't chase the money, because when you catch up to it it's not going to be what you think it is. You've got people here who are going to take care of you. Just bear with us, we are going to make it work.

He then stated that he would like to get an update on the store they are building on the corner of SR16 and Rover-Zetella, they wanted to know why construction has stopped.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Welcomed Mr. Ledbetter and his wife to Spalding County and asked that he please know that her “no” vote was not a reflection of Mr. Ledbetter, but a reflection on the process. She added that she wanted him to know that we are here to work as a team and we are here to create an atmosphere of openness, honesty and fairness and that is what she is challenging him to make a success here.

She thanked Mr. Cabrel for his comments regarding Code Enforcement, she is sick of the house that is two doors up from Hammond Services on McIntosh, it is in bad shape and we need to do something. It is located on a main thoroughfare. We need a comprehensive plan that is consistent and that someone can come behind you and follow-up. This is frustrating for her and she knows it is frustrating for other citizens in the County.

She is glad to hear everyone talking about the pay issue, but if we really value our people, we need to figure out ways to show them that we appreciate them.

James Dutton – Wanted to thank the Boy Scouts for attending the meeting this evening. He encouraged them to stick with getting their Eagle Scout Award. He received his Eagle Scout Award and it is worth it, any job interview he has ever had has noted the fact that he was an Eagle Scout. As you get closer to 16, it is harder and harder to focus on this goal, but it is worth it.

He is very excited about Dr. Ledbetter coming to the County, we have high expectations, high hopes for the future of Spalding County. He also wanted to give a big shout out to the Interim County Manager, we put a heavy weight around your shoulders in the meantime and you are doing a fantastic job with it. He thinks the two will work great together and Spalding County will be better for having the two of you.

He asked to table the analytics agreement, he would like to continue to look at other companies who can provide this service.

Additionally, we talked about Pickleball and the lighting and he brought up the idea of a more comprehensive tweaks to some of the parks by adding some Splash pads, we talked about adding wells for the baseball and the soccer. This could be some low hanging fruit that could maximize and turn all of our parks into national examples like the pickleball courts are.

The generic “raise the bar,” we have high expectations for Dr. Ledbetter to come in and look at the building codes to see where we can maximize and make sur that Spalding is building, but is building the right way.

We have a U10 USSSA World Series Champion who will be getting a parade from Wyomia Tyus all the way down 16 to the Spalding County Hall of Fame. That is awesome.

We didn't have an Independence Day parade and that is a shame. It is ridiculous that Spalding County didn't have an Independence Day parade when all around us the day was celebrated by other communities. Spalding County deserves better, we deserve to have the same celebrations that other people are having. He wants to make sure that the parades come back and happen like they did when he was growing up in Spalding County.

Clay Davis – He reminded the Board the August 19-20 is the intergovernmental retreat for the City, County and School Board. We will be going to Macon to work on Community wide problems across the Board.

He then thanked T.J. Imberger and his Department for providing projects to the University of Georgia students that will save the County money. The UGA students will take a project that the County needs to be done, they will do all of the engineering and drawings that need to be done. We submitted four projects and it will save the County a lot of money. They do it as project work toward graduation.

He then welcomed Dr. Ledbetter and his wife. He thanked the Interim County Manager for her work. Mr. Wilson was gone and the County Clerk was gone for a period of time and she had to do 3 peoples job on the first week she was responsible for doing it. Well done.

He then thanked the Board for the work done to get Dr. Ledbetter here. It was the Board talking with each other and listening to everybody's views and truly taking stock in what everybody said. The diversity of thought on the Board was great and he appreciates everyone's ability to do this.

From the County's perspective we have three major focus areas for moving forward in 2021:

Roads - we are working on a TSPLOST and if you want the roads to improve. We have 535 miles of roads and this year we are going to be able to resurface 6 miles at that rate it will take a long time to resurface these roads. Next year with the TSPLOST we will be able to do 20 miles and after 5 years we should be able to budget to get these roads resurfaced. There has been no money in the last 10 years in the County budget for resurfacing roads.

Broadband – we are looking at a number of ways to bring broadband into the County. Initially we thought there was only one-way and now we have discovered some other ways to do this and our in coming County Manager is aware of this and over the next two to three years we will solve access to broadband across the County.

Code Enforcement – Part of cleaning this County up is the hard work that has got to be done by us, we have to change the culture of it's okay to throw stuff out on the side of our road. That is an individual choice and we have to do this. Code Enforcement is the backside of that. Individually we have got to change the way the think about and how do we do that. We are paying \$16,600 every month to have Code Enforcement do the job. We are flooding the Courts with citations for people who aren't doing the job.

These three areas we believe will improve the County drastically. So, as you see us getting involved, if you have ideas and want to get involved as well, please let us know.

He asked Ms. Irizarry to make an update on Code Enforcement part of her comments at the first meeting every month.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

The Agenda was amended at the beginning of the meeting to remove the Closed Session.

Chairman Davis requests an Executive Session to discuss or deliberate 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); and to discuss the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4).

David Graves, 439 Beacon Court, asked to speak out-of-order for a few minutes and the Board agreed to let him speak. Mr. Graves stated that he knows that the County has to set priorities, but for his money he doesn't feel there is any more important priority than our first responders and when the Board is considering this in the future he would ask that they keep this in mind.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.