

# After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2021  
6:00 PM  
Room 108, Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners James R. Dutton, Rita Johnson and Ryan Bowlden were present for the meeting. Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and Administrative Secretary, Charlie Hearn 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**

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

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to amend the agenda to remove #1 from Section IV under the Appointments. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/ Johnson to amend the agenda to add a joint Proclamation from the Exchange Club Man of the Year for 2020 under Section V as a new #3. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**IV. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Consider appointment of Dr. Steve Ledbetter to the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority for the Spalding County Manager position on the Authority to expire December 31, 2021.

***This item was removed from consideration.***

2. Consider appointment of Dr. Steve Ledbetter to the GSATC (Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee) to fill the seat vacated by William P. Wilson, Jr. upon his retirement from Spalding County. The appointment will expire on December 31, 2021.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to appoint Dr. Steve Ledbetter to the GSATC (Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee) to fill the seat vacated by William P. Wilson, Jr. upon his retirement from Spalding County. The appointment will expire on December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Consider request from the Spalding County Public Works Department to recognize Kenneth Wilkerson as the 2020 APWA Georgia Public Works Employee of the Year.

T.J. Imberger, Director of Spalding County Public Works, then recognized Mr. Wilkerson as the 2020 APWA Georgia Public Works Employee of the Year. He then presented Mr. Wilson with his plaque from the APWA along with a check in the amount of \$250.00.

2. Consider presentation of Service Award for recognition of 25 Years of Service to Kelly Carmichael, Supervisor of Parks & Leisure Services.

Dr. Ledbetter then stated it was his privilege to present Kelly Carmichael her 25 year service award for completion of many years of outstanding service to Spalding County.

Ms. Carmichael stated that every time she has asked to speak to an organization, civic club or church group she always tells them how proud she is to work for Spalding County. She has had the privilege of working with the absolute best in the State and Nation. Professionals like Mr. Wilkerson and T.J. Imberger, she has never given a thought to going anywhere else. She loves this community and although she is not from here, she has been adopted into this community and she hopes that this example will tell our young people how important it is to invest their lives into doing important work that impacts lives, changes families, builds community and opportunities are now for these young people. There are a number of positions where they can get a “foot in the door.” There has not always been these opportunities to get a “foot in the door.” So the time is now for young people to get into professions that build a life.

3. Consider approval of a Joint Proclamation naming the Exchange Club Man of the Year for 2020.

Dr. Ledbetter then read the Joint Proclamation for the 2020 Exchange Club Man of the Year.

## Joint Proclamation

By the City of Griffin and Spalding County  
Honoring

The Exchange Club “Man of the Year” for 2020  
Oliver Quimby Melton, III, EdD

**WHEREAS**, Quimby Melton, III was born in Griffin, Georgia on December 9, 1950 to Quimby, Jr. and May Melton. He holds degrees from Valdosta State University, Columbus State University and Nova Southwestern University; and

**WHEREAS**, Quimby has been married for 49 years to his wife, Louisa, and they have a son, daughter-in-law and four grandsons. He is a lifelong member of Griffin First United Methodist Church where Mr. Melton has served on various committees including the Board of Trustees, Nominations Committee, Pastor/Staff-Parish Committee, Finance Committee and

Church Council Leadership Team. He is also a long-standing member of the Men's Bible class as well as a regular teacher and greeter and a member of the Methodist Men; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Melton and his wife owned several newspapers in the middle Georgia area including the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, the *Fayette County News* and the *Monroe County Reporter*. He was also publisher and part owner of the *Griffin Daily News*; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his career in journalism, Mr. Melton was an educator in the Griffin-Spalding County School System, holding the positions of teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal of Griffin High School. He was also the Founding Principal of A.Z. Kelsey High School. He always took a special interest in those students who needed more, whether it was more time, advice, parental involvement, clothes, food – he was always available for the students.

**WHEREAS,** Quimby has served on the boards of the Gordon College Foundation and the Griffin Technical School Foundation. He is also the registrar of the Ferst Readers Foundation of Spalding County. He is a member of the Griffin-Spalding County Educator Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Bain Proctor Volunteer of Spalding County Award; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon retirement, Mr. Melton was asked to help establish and chaired the "Honor Our Killed in Action" Project to recognize our community service persons who died while serving their country. Quimby worked for three years researching a total of 157 men and women from Spalding County, and he wrote a personal biography on each person; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2017 he followed the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's opening of a cold case in the murder of a young African American, Timothy Coggins. He followed the investigation which ended in the conviction of murder for a Griffin man and a plea of guilty from another. Mr. Melton wrote a book about the investigation to show that justice can be served even after 30 years.

**WHEREAS,  
NOW**

**THEREFORE,** Be it proclaimed that we, the Boards of Commissioners of Spalding County and the City of Griffin, do hereby jointly and proudly recognize and pay tribute to Oliver Quimby Melton, III for the many decades of accomplishments and contributions he has made to our citizenry. We, the Boards of Commissioners for Spalding County and the City of Griffin, have hereunto set our hands on this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, for

Griffin Exchange Club Man of the Year for 2020

Oliver Quimby Melton, III, EdD



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Clay Davis, III, Chairperson

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Douglas S. Hollberg, Mayor

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Steve Ledbetter, County Manager

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Jessica W. O'Connor, City Manager

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the Joint Proclamation naming Oliver Quimbly Melton, III as the Griffin Exchange Club Man of the Year for 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**VI. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.**

**VII. CITIZEN COMMENT**

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

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the Commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that no one has signed up to speak this evening.

**VIII. MINUTES -**

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing on September 16, 2021, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on September 20, 2021, and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on September 23, 2021.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing on September 16, 2021, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on September 20, 2021 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on September 23, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**IX. OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**X. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider request from Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services to contract with Mom's Meals to service clients in rural Spalding County that our current Meals on Wheels service cannot get to on a regular basis.

Kelly Carmichael advised that the reason this item is being brought before the Board is because as they are working with the Meals on Wheels program and learning that there are some clients that live on the outskirts of our community

who would like to continue with the Meals on Wheels Program, but with less contact. We have been surveying our clients to see how often they want or need service and that is direct contact and we discovered there is a group of individuals who do not want daily meal delivery, they enjoy less frequent visits to their home.

To sustain this program, we rely heavily on a volunteer base, we rely on funding and we rely on vehicles that are ready to go when we are ready to deliver meals. We have been challenged in two areas: One, with our volunteer base. Due to COVID, many volunteers have not come back into service; and Two, we have relied on hand me down vehicles from other departments for our meals service.

Staff is always looking at ways to operate more effectively and more efficiently and sustainably. So, we have learned of a program called Mom's Meals. They are nationally known and have been around since 1999. They are fully endorsed by Three Rivers AAA. They serve meals that are refrigerated, it is like a home cooked meal, freshly refrigerated and delivered in a meal box. Much like what we did when we did the 2-week meal boxes. There are fresh items in the box, there are ready to heat and serve meals that are good for 14 days and they are asking for an opportunity to pilot this to see if it will enable us to meet the needs of our clients and also keep our nutrition program coordinator from having to deliver meals herself.

The Meals on Wheels program is a very large program in this community and it is taxing with a lot of data entry. So, we need our coordinator to be in the office rather than in a car delivering meals. This solves many concerns for this program and we would like to do a pilot of maybe 8-10 people who would like less contact and maybe live in the further outskirts of the community.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve a contract with contract with Mom's Meals to service clients in rural Spalding County that our current Meals on Wheels service cannot get to on a regular basis. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider acceptance of the annual Fire Service Contract with the City of Orchard Hill.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that last month we brought the check from the City of Orchard Hill for the full payment of their annual Fire District Services. This is the contract to make sure the Board is agreeing with the contract for the money they are paying for their Fire Services Contract.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to accept the annual Fire Services Contract with the City of Orchard Hill. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider request from Fire Chief Byrd to participate in the Safe Kids Worldwide Coalition program.

Fire Chief Byrd stated that the Spalding County Fire Department would like to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Kids Worldwide to assume the lead role for a Safe Kids Coalition with Spalding County. Previously this had been held by WellStar, but they are unable to renew that commitment. So, they reached out to the Fire Department to see if we would be interested in it.

Fire Chief Byrd then advised that the number one killer of children every year is

accidents. Safe Kids was found in 1988 to try to reduce those statistics. The MOU does require an identified staff person who can devote a minimum of 20 hours a week towards these activities. We have a Fire Safety Educator on staff 40 hours a week which would already exceed any requirement for this MOU and he would like to rebuild this coalition as it has diminished with COVID. His goal is to make this one of the lead agencies in the State of Georgia. He has had experience with this organization while working at the City of Morrow. Morrow Fire Department was the lead agency for Clayton County and through those relationships along with what Spalding County is already doing and we can build on it a make it even better.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the request from the Spalding County Fire Department to enter into an MOU with the Safe Kids Worldwide Coalition. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider request from the Community Development Department to conduct the Annual Review of the CIE and CWP and execute the Resolution for submission.

Debbie Bell, Community Development Director, stated that each year the County conducts an annual review of the CIE and CWP and sends the update to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Capital Improvement Element (CIE) and Community Work Plan (CWP) both of which are part of the 5-year plan “to-do” list and are a component of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Ledbetter advised that the opportunity this year is a little different as we are preparing for our Comprehensive Plan as we move forward and as Ms. Bell indicated, that RFP is out for bid so we will take the next 12 months to reiterate all of the plans and goals that we are looking to accomplish over the next 10 years. This is an inherited document with a very short timeline to return it back to DCA. This requirement is that we have everything back in DCA’s hands before the end of the month.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the Annual Review of the CIE and CWP and execute the Resolution for submission. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider the approval of the following alcohol license renewals for the Retail Sale of Beer and Wine:

Chairman Davis advised that all of the applications will be read at one time and voted on unless someone sees ones that they want to discuss.

- Umang C. Patel-JSKR Corporation dba Copeland Grocery, located at 1578 High Falls Rd., Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
- Akber Jiwani-362 Enterprises, Inc. dba 362 Express, located at 1600 Williamson Rd., Griffin, Ga 30224. No Violations.
- Shehnaz Motani-Good Luck Ventures, Inc. dba Aman Food Mart, located at 3970 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
- Shirley Ellis-Circle K Stores, Inc. dba Circle K Store #272331, located at 3420 Jackson Rd., Griffin, Ga 30223. No Violations.
- Kacey Stone-Kacey Korner, LLC dba Coles Corner, located at 7051 Newnan Rd. Brooks, GA 30205. Zoning Violation-Operating without a business license

02/09/21-Fine of \$735.00. Disposition Date 04/14/21. No Violations.

- Yasmin Jiwani-Aizah-V, Inc. dba Food Station, located at 1779 Zebulon Rd. Griffin, Ga 30224. No Violations.
- Shukat Sadruddin- Shehzad Inc. dba Prince Food Mart, located at 3425 Jackson Rd. Griffin, Ga 30223. No Violations.
- Pravinbhai Patel-Jay Vasudev, Inc. dba Expressway Food Mart, located at 2903 N Expressway Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
- Richard Corbin-Huckaby's, located at 7652 Newnan Rd. Brooks, GA 30205. No Violations.
- Yasmin Jiwani-Yasmin J Enterprises, Inc. dba JV's Corner, located at 1700 Zebulon Rd. Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
- Phillip Beckler-Ingles Markets, Inc. dba Ingles Markets #457, located at 1735 Zebulon Rd. Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
- Surykant M. Patel-Petro Griffin, LLC, located at 1639 N. Hill St. Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
- Shahnaz Bhaidani-Jiwani Business, LLC dba Super Food, located at 2529 Old Atlanta Rd. Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.

***Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to approve the 2022 Alcohol License renewals for the Retail Sale of Beer and Wine as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider approval of the following 2022 Alcohol License Renewals for the Retail Sale of Beer:

- Patrick Yakam-Monoprix Food Mart, located at 390 Airport Rd., Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
- Waseem A. Khan-Sam N Ash, Inc. dba S&M Grocery, located at 3244 Fayetteville Rd., Griffin, Ga 30223. No Violations.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to approve 2022 Alcohol License renewals for the Retail Sale of Beer. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider approval of the following 2022 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sales Beer, Wine and Liquor:

- Atulkumar Patel-Carver's Liquor Square, Inc. dba Carver Bottle Shop, located at 1557 D Williamson Rd., Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
- Karim Dodhia-Modern Group, LLC dba HUB, located at 7770 Newnan Rd. Suite A and B, Brooks, Ga 30205. No Violations.
- Sotetra Kong-Kong Enterprise, Inc. dba The Liquor Gate, located at 1740 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.

***Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to approve the 2022 Alcohol License Renewals for Retail Sales beer, Wine and Liquor as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

8. Consider the approval of the following 2022 Alcohol License Renewals for Consumption on Premises:

XI. George Crosby-Loyal Order of the Moose dba Griffin Lodge #1503, located at 1435 Zebulon Rd., Griffin, GA 30223.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the 2022 Alcohol License Renewals for Consumption on Premises. Motion carries unanimously by all.***

9. Consider request from the Spalding County Sheriff's office to declare surplus, weapons, that have been forfeited to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office via court order, and weapons and weapon related items that are currently property of the Spalding County Sherriff's Office that have become obsolete, or are irreparable, and have those items properly disposed of through trade to a licensed Federal Firearms Dealer in exchange for store credit only. The weapons will be available for viewing by licensed dealers and bids will be accepted for the entire lot. This is the same process as all previous requests of this nature.

***Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to approve the request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to declare surplus weapons that have been forfeited to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office via court order, and weapons and weapon related items that are currently property of the Spalding County Sherriff's Office that have become obsolete, or are irreparable, and have those items properly disposed of through trade to a licensed Federal Firearms Dealer in exchange for store credit only. The weapons will be available for viewing by licensed dealers and bids will be accepted for the entire lot. This is the same process as all previous requests of this nature. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

10. Consider request from Spectrum Southeast LLC. to establish service inside Spalding County.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that Spectrum Southeast LLC has submitted their request for us to set a Franchise Fee for that service inside of Spalding County. This is in line with all of the other franchise fees that the County has already established, it is a 5% franchise fee. They are waiting on this document at the Secretary of State's office to start assessing fees against Spectrum. It is staff's recommendation that the Board move this forward.

***Motion/Second by Ryan/Johnson to approve a request from Spectrum Southeast LLC.to establish service inside Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

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

- ✓ Last week, the Department of Community Affairs sent an email to Spalding County indicating that we have been awarded the 2021 Community Development Block Grant for a sewer improvement project, in the amount of \$750,000 for Spalding County.
- ✓ Kelly Carmichael and T.J. Imberger shared that this past week it appears that the local taxes brought in from the APP is \$81,986. There was approximately \$1.7 million that came into the County per the formula issues by the State of Georgia.

- ✓ Hometown Holiday Greetings, which is an opportunity for entities within our County to create a larger than life holiday greeting card to display at City Park for the Christmas Lights. It is a 4'X8' piece of plywood that a business, a club, an organization, a church or a family can purchase for \$50.00, they take it home and place their greeting on it, they bring it back and our staff will put it out for display over the Christmas Holidays.
- ✓ We have received a majority of the Christmas decorations that had been ordered. We still have one or two items that are currently on hold offshore on one of the ships and we are working very hard to understand how we are going to get those items in by Christmas.

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

## **XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Commissioner Rita Johnson**

- Asked for clarity on the Hometown Holiday Greetings so that she could pass it along. Is this something where you create your own or do you choose from the ones shown on the flyer?

Dr. Ledbetter advised that you create your own. We are encouraging that the clubs, businesses, churches or families actually create their own greeting and place it on the board then bring the board back to be displayed.

- The CDBG Grant is the second grant to continue the sewer installation in the mill village.
- Congratulations to the Pickleball Association for the awesome tournament and the money that they were able to generate in the rain.

### **Commissioner Ryan Bowlden**

- Thanked T.J. Imberger for his work on a problem he has had on Crabtree. He has had multiple complaints. He knows that the side of the roadways needs cutting, but he is also aware that they are trying.
- He went to the Sheriff's charity golf tournament and he wanted to thank the Sheriff for giving back to the community. He further stated that was one of the most organized charity events he has been to in a while.

### **Commissioner James Dutton**

- He is excited for all of the good things that have happened this year. In general, 2020 was a disaster in so many ways. He is so glad to see us getting everything restarted and coming back to some form of normalcy.
- He has called T.J. several times over the last two weeks on constituent issues and he always responds with "let me see how I can get that done." He cannot commend he and his staff enough.

- Stated that his experience with the Fire Department participating in a training exercise was exciting and the skill of the fireman around him at no point did he not feel totally safe in that burning Connex container. It was amazing and he wanted to thank them for letting him come out and participate.

#### **Chairman Clay Davis**

- Yesterday he had approximately 10 people email him regarding shots fired in a local community and he was able to reach out and find out what was going on and get the answer back out to people so they could feel comfortable. He wanted to thank the Sheriff's Office for that responsiveness.
- We have two more meetings this week, the BOC Tax Levy on Wednesday and the Archway that morning at UGA at 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Reminder, we are inside of 30 days and having our next election. It is coming up quickly.
- Wanted to make a comment regarding the County Manager becoming a "Rainman." Congratulations to you and what you are doing for our County to help us get better.

#### **XIV. CLOSED SESSION**

Consider request from County Manager Steve Ledbetter to go into Executive Session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4).

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4). Motion carried unanimously by all at 6:51 p.m.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to close the Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously by all at 7:13 p.m.***

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***