

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, February 21, 2022
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, February 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, James Dutton, Ryan Bowlden and Gwen Flowers-Taylor were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and County Clerk, Kathy Gibson 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

Bishop Bryan Styler with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

Motion/second by Dutton/Johnson to amend the agenda to include a new item #2 under Presentations and Proclamations for a member of the Elections Board to make a request of the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Miller Edwards of Mauldin & Jenkins LLC to present the FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Mr. Edwards advised that the County has approximately \$200 million in assets, but of that \$200 million about \$64 million is in cash and investments. So, not all \$200 million is cash and investments, a lot of it is hard assets, infrastructure and those types of things. When you look at the primary unit, the County has approximately \$45 million in cash and investments and total assets of approximately \$146 million and you have liabilities of approximately \$56 million. When you take everything into account it gives the County an equity position of \$90 million, which is a good place to be and it is a liquid \$90 million.

Regarding the General Government which includes the General Fund, SPLOST funds and anything else under the immediate umbrella, the County took in approximately \$71 million and you spent approximately \$71 million. In the middle of all this he pointed out that the County took in approximately \$3.7 million in Federal Grant money this year with a large part of that being the CARES money. Because of the size of the grant funds

that came in and because of how large the CARES money was, we had to do a special audit for CARES to make sure everything was done correctly, and he is happy to report that everything is good and the County has a clean report there.

Mr. Edwards then stated that over the years he has always had some kind of findings or management points that the County had to deal with. This year there are no problems with the audit, this is a first he is happy to report that they found nothing as a breakdown in controls that needed to be discussed with you. What that says to him is not only has the Board of Commissioners done a fine job, but also your elected officials. They have all taken the advice provided in the past and worked on the issues.

Mr. Edwards then stated that they audit about 65 counties, it is really unusual to have a county government with all the different department and all of the elected officials working together to come in and say the audit is clean. We have no recommendations.

2. Consider request from the Board of Elections for funding for to find a company to create an "Elevator Speech" for the Board of Elections.

Roy McClain, Secretary of the Board of Elections stated he was requested by the Board to be here this evening to request funding to pay for a person to develop a timeline which will be put into an "Elevator Speech" to answer many of the questions our citizen have regarding the election process in Spalding County. Many citizens come to us and say they have heard a number of things regarding the last few elections and we need factual information put out. We are asking if the County could assist in this effort and we were told that is not something the County is able to do. We were told that we need to hire a firm to do this. This is a single request for a specific project that would provide a time line to answer factual questions and provide factual information about some of the things that have occurred during the election process. They feel approximately \$10,000 will cover this project. Other Boards of Elections have had to do this because there is just so much misinformation that needs to be addressed. We have no official organ in which to answer these types of inquiries to get the truth out.

Chairman Davis then clarified that what the Board of Elections is looking to do is put an RFP out to see what the cost of these services would be?

Mr. McClain stated that is correct, once we have the results of the RFP, we would have the knowledge to come back to the Board of Commissioners with a request for funding this project.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if this was something that the Board had requested in their annual budget?

Mr. McClain advised that this problem didn't come up prior to the budgeting process, it is something we can plan for in the future. This is something that needs to be done now but will be out of budget.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked for a list of other Counties that have done this type of Public Relations project and she would also like to know what percentage of their budget was expended on these types of Public Relations initiatives. This will give the Board a better idea of what you are proposing the budget for this project would be compared to the entire budget for the department.

Commissioner Johnson stated she would like to have an example of what the "Elevator Speech" would look like as well. You are saying that you are trying to get out the right information to questions people are asking, so she would like to see what an "Elevator Speech" would look like.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked Dr. Ledbetter to pull together the information he feels will assist the Board in understanding exactly what this group is requesting and why.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the seven months ended January 31, 2022.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the financial statements for the seven months ended January 31, 2022. 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.

Cindy Sanders, 206 Park Street, Griffin, GA, this is in the Highland Mills Village. Ms. Sanders is having a problem with Animal Control not being responsive when she makes a call regarding two dogs roaming her neighborhood. She advised that she called several months ago and whomever she talked with said someone would come out and no one ever came out. Now the female dog has had a litter of puppies and they are living under a porch at a home in the neighborhood, she called Animal Control and again was told someone would come out, but no one has been out. She is very frustrated with the lack of response she has receive from Animal Control.

Chairman Davis then asked Dr. Ledbetter to investigate this complaint.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on February 7, 2022.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the Minutes of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on February 7, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider extension of the Spalding County Contract with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC as the official County Auditors.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that Mauldin & Jenkins has performed the audit for Spalding County for a number of years and staff is recommending that we extend their contract for 2022 in the amount of \$66,000.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to extend the Spalding County Contract with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC as the official County Auditors.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that in the time she has been on the Board she can't remember ever appointing Mauldin & Jenkins as the County Auditor. She agrees they do an excellent job for the County, but she is wondering if their appointment shouldn't be considered by the Board at the first meeting every year like the County Attorneys who are appointed every year? She then rescinded her second.

Chairman Davis then asked Commissioner Dutton if he wanted to rescind his motion or simply change it to FY2023.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to extend the Spalding County Contract with through FY2023 with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC as the official County Auditors. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from Margaret Saunders to have amplification on Sunday, March 20, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for a wedding to be held at Meadowlark Event Center located at 2613 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the Sheriff's Office and Community Development have approved the request. Community Development advised that the property is zoned for an event center, and they do have a current business license as an event center. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the request from Margaret Saunders to have amplification on Sunday, March 20, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for a wedding to be held at Meadowlark Event Center located at 2613 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA.

3. Consider request from Hannah Mead to have amplification on Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for a wedding to be held at Meadowlark Event Center located at 2613 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the Sheriff's Office and Community Development have approved the request. Community Development advised that the property is zoned for an event center, and they do have a current business license as an event center. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request from Hannah Mead to have amplification on Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for a wedding to be held at Meadowlark Event Center located at 2613 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA.

4. Consider request from the Spalding County Fire Department to transfer a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria and a 2004 Ford Explorer to the Leisure Services Department.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the request from the Spalding County Fire Department to transfer a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria and a 2004 Ford Explorer to the Leisure Services Department. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider request from the Public Works department for a Purchase Order for an equipment purchase from John Deere.

Dr. Ledbetter reminded the Board that this was discussed at the retreat in early January and the Board agreed to move forward with purchase of equipment.

T.J. Imberger, Director of Public Works and Public Grounds stated that on June 16th the leases on our larger pieces of equipment will expire and they will be coming to get that equipment. These items have been leased from Caterpillar and are pieces of equipment like a motor grader, our mini x's and our skid steers. So these items essentially won't be ours in June of this year. He is bringing this to the Board today because the supply chain is backed up as you all know, and the new equipment still may not get here in time, but we are going to do everything we can.

Mr. Imberger then presented his proposal from John Deere to replace the equipment currently being leased with John Deere equipment and he advised that the new equipment when leased will come in at \$286.86 less per month for the next five years.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve a request from the Public Works department for a Purchase Order for an equipment purchase from John Deere. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider a Resolution to be presented as part of an application for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that T.J. Imberger, Mary Stacey with S&ME and Randy King are here this evening to support any questions you may have.

T.J. Imberger advised that last year the Georgia Legislation changed the rules on the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund and to the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Reimbursement Application. Essentially what changed is now we can get reimbursed for the cost of monitoring a closed landfill without it being a hazardous waste site. So, we now qualify for that reimbursement. What we have before you this evening is a pre-work task order form in the amount of \$5,500 from S&ME who currently monitors the landfill. There is also a model resolution so that we can move forward with our application to the State. This is a reimbursement. It is not a grant and we will be eligible for up to \$2 million. The first application will be for all of the historical information we can find on the maintenance of this landfill. Then we can move forward up to a limit of \$2 million.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a Resolution as part of an application for reimbursement from the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund.

Mr. Imberger advised this is reimbursement for monies the County has already spent or will spend in the future up to \$2 million.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked what the \$5,500 is for?

Mr. Imberger advised it is the cost for the consultants to do the application for us. They are trained consultants, and they do this throughout the State. We want to do it right the first time. They will have to go back and find the information and complete the application.

Mary Stacey, Consultant with S&ME stated that she has been the consultant of record for the Yamacraw Landfill since 2010. This is a reimbursement for monies that the County has already spent. She added that according to their records, the County has already spent with just S&ME \$875,000. \$500,000 of that can be paid in a lump sum from the reimbursement program and then the rest will be paid in 50% increments. There are invoices that were paid by the County since the exposure in 1993 and those invoices are also eligible for reimbursement if we can locate them.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. RS&H has requested time to update the Board on the Spalding County Transit Master Plan.

Rachel Hatcher, 29 E. 63rd Street, Savannah, GA, with RS&H, gave a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on the Spalding County Transit Master Plan. They have been working with the County for 5 months now to try to understand what the needs are for transportation and transit services today. She then reviewed traffic trends in Spalding County and what would be considered Rural Vs. Urban trips within the County. Ms. Hatcher also explained the resources available for transportation to Spalding County.

X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Comp Plan – We will provide our schedule and we are asking for community participation in this effort. We will have our Kick-Off Meeting in Orchard Hill on Monday, March 14th and the Kick-Off Meeting in Sunny Side is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th. Our Steering Committee members are being identified and our consultants are leading us toward completing the program by October 31st in support of our Georgia Department of Community Affairs deadline.
- ✓ Aquatic Center – We have issued the Land Disturbance Permit and Paragon has completed the RFP. Our plan is to upload the RFP to the Georgia Procurement Registry of competitive bidding in the near future.
- ✓ SDS is progressing well.
- ✓ RFP's for sidewalk and resurfacing work, thanks to the adopted TSPLOST, is well underway. Our plans are to open the bids for the work the first part of April.
- ✓ Kudos to DeAndre Smith and Amy Storey for our Spalding County 2021 Annual Report. It is at the printers and ready to upload to the Spalding County.com website.
- ✓ Also, he extended Kudos to Deandre Smith and Amy Storey for the launch of Spalding County TV. If you have not subscribed, he asks everyone to do so.
- ✓ Thank you to Sheriff Darrell Dix for the Spalding County Sheriff's Office App. If you've not signed up, it's a great communication tool.

- ✓ The County Marshall will join our team full-time in the morning. Thanks to Sheriff Dix for helping us to find a way to bring our code enforcement in existence.
- ✓ Our Community Development Director will also start tomorrow.
- ✓ We held an Appreciation Lunch and training for our Boards, Commissions, Committees and Authorities earlier today. Everyone who attended stated it was a great learning experience. We hope to hold this event every year and that the folks who attended this year will tell the other people on their respective Boards, Commissions, Committees and Authorities about their experiences.
- ✓ There is a lot going on in Spalding County.

XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER – None.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson - Great report on Spalding County Finances from the auditors. She thanked Stephanie Windham for the training session this afternoon. We had a great presentation this evening on transportation, and she is looking forward to the final report.

Ryan Bowlden – He was wondering whatever happened to the \$1,000 the governor had allocated for first responders.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – The workshop earlier today was very informative, and we need to make sure that our department heads are updating the Boards. The urban transportation plan and rural transportation plan funding was not included in the TSPLOST and we need to find that funding. She asked that during the RFP process for the Aquatic Center that we make that building as green as possible. This is going into an area that is known throughout the state for it's green initiatives and we need to make sure that this building follows along those lines.

James Dutton – Transit Master Plans, Downtown Council, Bike Lanes and walking areas are all in the future plans for Spalding County. He was able to participate with the Fire Department in a house burn and he was honored to do so. He also though the training today was informative and beneficial, and he would like to explore the possibility of a Board Member of the Month Recognition. The Public Defender's Council are going to appoint a new Public Defender and still needs someone from Spalding County on that Council. Dr. Ledbetter will call Steve Rapson and other County Managers to see what we need to do to get this member on this council.

Clay Davis – Thanked staff for the Bulk Item Disposal Day at the Griffin Transfer Station. Staff and Ms. Windham did a great job on the lunch and learn today. The Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast was a big success. Congratulations to William Wilson on his appointment as General Griffin and to Bonnie Pfrogner who received the Golden Eagle Award. We want to thank the Sheriff for his work on bringing a Marshall to Spalding County and we want to welcome the new Community Development Director. We look forward to working with both of these individuals.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***