

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2022
6:00 PM
Room 108, Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, March 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Acting Chairman James Dutton presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, 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 Acting Chairman James Dutton.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to amend the agenda to include a new item #1 under New Business and to move the other items accordingly to accommodate a Resolution to call for a Special Election to fill the remainder of the term for District #5, December 31, 2022. This election will coincide with the primary elections scheduled for May 24, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners would like to recognize State Court Judge Josh Thacker on completion of five years of service.

Judge Thacker stated he was honored to be here this evening and he just wanted to say, "Thank You." He then stated he feels he is the luckiest judge in the State of Georgia because he is surrounded by a fantastic team, and he is honored to be in this position.

2. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners would like to recognize Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director on completion of twenty-five (25) years of outstanding service.

Dr. Ledbetter stated it is a great privilege to recognize Jinna Garrison this evening for 25-years of outstanding service. Having been in seat for nine months, it is a privilege to work with her and to look back at the historical data that our County has put together financially over the years. It is easy to read, easy to find, she is a wealth of knowledge and it is our pleasure to recognize her this evening.

Ms. Garrison then stated that she can't believe she has been here 25-years, it doesn't feel like it and she has really enjoyed her job. She has enjoyed the people she has worked with, and she enjoyed the 24.5 years that she worked with William Wilson and now she is enjoying the "adventure of working with Dr. Ledbetter."

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

Kathy Ethridge, 11 Charlotte Circle, expressed her concern over a draining ditch that runs in back of her property that she advised is on a county easement and has been maintained for the last 35 years by Spalding County. Now the maintenance is not being done and there is property destruction occurring.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session on February 16, 2022, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session on February 16, 2022, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session/Appreciation Luncheon on February 21, 2022, and Extraordinary Session on February 21, 2022.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to approve the Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session on February 16, 2022, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session on February 16, 2022, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session/Appreciation Luncheon on February 21, 2022, and Extraordinary Session on February 21, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA -

Acting Chairman Dutton advised there are two items on the Consent Agenda this evening. These items have been presented at earlier meetings and direction has been given to staff. Staff has followed the direction of the Board and has returned with documentation that has had to be completed to fulfill the direction for signature. He then asked if the Board would like to approve the Consent Agenda as a whole or if they would prefer to address the items individually.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that she would like to address the items individually as she has a question regarding the first item on the Consent Agenda.

1. Consider approval of Custodial Agreement with U.S. Bank Trust Company as custodian of the County Sinking Fund and Spalding Project Fund for TSPLOST bond funds.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that from the documents she had reviewed it looked like Caroline LaFleur-Loftin had made some changes to the language and she just wanted to make sure that the documents presented this evening included those changes.

Ms. Windham advised that Ms. Loftin has made the changes and the revisions are what the Board will be approving this evening.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve a Custodial Agreement with U.S. Bank Trust Company as custodian of the County Sinking Fund and Spalding Project Fund for TSPLOST bond funds. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services Department to participate in the GCIP Grant for a Museum Digital History Internship.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a request from the Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services Department to participate in the GCIP Grant for a Museum Digital History Internship. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS -

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider Resolution requesting the Board of Elections for Spalding County to call an election of the voters of Spalding County to fill the vacancy for Commission District 5 for the unexpired term of Donald Hawbaker and for other purposes.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Resolution requesting the Board of Elections for Spalding County to call an election of the voters of Spalding County to fill the vacancy for Commission District 5 for the unexpired term of Donald Hawbaker and for other purposes. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Public Works and Public Grounds Department to declare certain vehicles and equipment as surplus so they can be prepared for sale.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that T.J. Imberger, Director of Public Works and Public Grounds is here this evening to provide information regarding this request.

Mr. Imberger advised that they are requesting to begin the process to surplus equipment. We have a large number of pieces of equipment, and we have assigned this task to Supervisor Tim Crane as a Special Project, and you will see us over the next six to eight months as we have well over 100 pieces of equipment. The plan at this time is to inventory each piece of equipment individually and then we will seek to find where we will be able to receive the most money for the items. This will be a combination of on-line auctions, scrap, or sealed bids.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the request from the Spalding County Public Works and Public Grounds Department to declare certain vehicles and equipment as surplus so they can be prepared for sale. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider request from the Holland M. Ware Charitable Foundation (HMWCF) to charge an adoption fee of \$65.00 for the animals they sponsor to be adopted.

Dr. Ledbetter asked Brent Foster, Animal Control Supervisor, to come forward and present for this agenda item and in support of him this evening he introduced the new Spalding County Marshall, Smart Web.

Mr. Foster stated that the Foundation is asking that the animals that we take to Auburn to get spay, neutered, and chipped have the fees raised for adoption to \$65.00. This would allow the shelter to use the money on a sick or injured animal that might come into the shelter.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern over raising the cost of adopting the animals as it would cause a hardship on people wanting to adopt especially the elderly who are on a fixed income and use the animals for companionship.

Commissioner Johnson then asked what the fee for adopting in the surrounding counties would be for the animals. She asked that staff go back and do the research and bring these numbers back to the Board.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she too feels that we need to look around and see what our neighbors are doing before we start increasing our pricing.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to table the request from the Holland M. Ware Charitable Foundation (HMWCF) to charge an adoption fee of \$65.00 for the animals they sponsor to be adopted. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ The Jewkes Law Firm are ready and looking forward to presenting to the Board at the March 21st meeting.
- ✓ The Comprehensive Plan kick-off occurred a few weeks back. Blue Cypress, our consulting firm, is asking that we finalize the list of members on our steering committee. We have also asked them to postpone their update for the Board until March 21st and we will work with each of our commissioners to finalize names for our steering committee members.

- ✓ Dr. Ledbetter and Jinna Garrison attended a bond rating meeting today in support of the TSPLOST bonds. He was encouraged with the feedback from the Moody's representative, and we will have feedback from them on our rating for this issue by March 23rd. Our RFP is out for bids on the resurfacing and sidewalk work approved through the TSPLOST, and staff will bring their recommendation for award of the bids to the BOC in April.
- ✓ The Department of Public Health continues to offer COVID testing, but have reduced this service to one day per week. You can be tested at their office here in Spalding County on Tuesdays at the Health Department.
- ✓ Dr. Ledbetter then introduced the new County Marshal, Smart Web and advised that his duties will include code enforcement, including trucks illegally operating on marked roads or illegally parking in the right-of-way; and, Animal Control oversight.
- ✓ Late last week, the chiller was installed at the CI. Johnson Controls, the contractor, is finalizing the installation and will work to balance the unit over the next week to ensure the system is working properly.
- ✓ T.J. Imberger, Kelly Carmichael and members from the Leisure Services Advisory Commission will travel to Tennessee tomorrow to "kick the tires" on what could be our next Big Blue bus.
- ✓ Working with staff, we continue to work on draft budget material and will begin scheduling time with each of the commissioners within the next few weeks.
- ✓ Our Parks & Leisure services hosted the State Basketball Tournament this past weekend and our Spring Sports are scheduled to begin this weekend.

XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson – Stated that she loved the annual report and hopes that it is being promoted and made available to the public so that they can see what is going on in Spalding County. She was glad to see the City of Griffin and Spalding County share a table at the Chamber of Commerce dinner; it gives the impression that we are working together. Commissioner Johnson then stated that it is election season and she encouraged everyone to go out and vote.

Ryan Bowlden – Welcomed Marshal Web to the county and told him that he has the Board's full support. He then thanked the Sheriff and his staff that attended the meeting at the Brooks Assembly of God Church.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Wanted to thank staff and Leisure Services for the MLK Program held at Fairmont last Friday. She stated the program was amazing and she appreciates the work that Ms. Renee does over there.

She stated that she attended the Chamber event and saw William Wilson installed as General Griffin. She also advised that there has never been a female General Griffin even though there have been females nominated for the honor. She then advised that she would like to see Bonnie Pfrogner considered for this distinguished honor

sometime in the future.

James Dutton – Advised that Bonnie Pfrogner will be receiving the Golden Eagle Award at a Benefit and Dinner to be held at the Kiwanis Club on March 17th.

He then stated that the Jewkes Firm has been doing an outstanding job and he is looking forward to their presentation and the results of their intake and exit forms. He added that he was excited to step up into the Chairman's chair.

He also commented that he had been receiving a lot of calls regarding Animal Control, Code Enforcement and weight limits on roads. He is looking forward to see how the Marshall will address these issues.

He stated that the Citizen Engagement staff is doing a phenomenal job and asked if anyone knew if there would be a 4th of July parade this year?

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

County Manager, Steve Ledbetter, requests an Executive Session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-13(4).

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to go into executive session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-13(4) at 6:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to close the executive session at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to allow the County Attorney to extend the Department of Family and Children's Services contract for an additional 60 days at a lease amount of \$15,000. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.