

# After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Extraordinary Session  
Monday, May 16, 2022  
6:00 PM  
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, 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 Chairman Clay Davis.

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

**II. INVOCATION**

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Mark James with Lifesong Church.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Consider approval of a Proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2022 as National Public Works Week in Spalding County.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve a proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2022, as National Public Works Week in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2022.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, advised that she had included in the financials a statement for the Capital Projects TSPLOST Account and next month there will also be a debt service account. We will receive the first payment for the TSPLOST at the end of this month for April, so you will see that reflected in the statements next month.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Chairman Davis then advised that in the next few months we will be putting the 2023 Budget together and there will be public hearings. He encouraged

everyone to be a part of this process.

## 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.

John Pope, 428 Valley Hill Road, Griffin, stated they have a problem on Valley Hill with trees that overhang the road. When it rains the limbs actually hang down to the road. He stated that there are some placed on the road that froze back during the winter and made little mounds in the right of way and they are dangerous for people to drive over and he asked that the County come out and see if something can't be done.

Vickie Hennesy, 201 Seminary Ridge, Griffin, spoke about the Animal Shelter and the good things that are beginning to happen at the Animal Shelter. She stated that Marshal Web is doing a great job and that the new programs being implemented are what the Animal Care and Control Advisory Commission had worked toward during their tenure with Spalding County.

Omeshia Newton and Daniel Bland, 120 Lynn Lane, Griffin, spoke about the Land Bank Authority and the need to make sure that all of the houses sold to citizens by the Authority have a clear title.

## VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of the Minutes of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and Executive Session on April 18, 2022, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session on April 30, 2022, and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on May 2, 2022.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to approve the Minutes of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and Executive Session on April 18, 2022, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session on April 30, 2022 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on***

**May 2, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS –**

1. DeAndre Smith to update the Board of Commissioners on Spalding County YouTube and Social Media posts for the County.

DeAndre Smith, Citizen Engagement Specialist, reviewed the social media outlets available to citizens of Spalding County. Mr. Smith talked about the Spalding County YouTube channel and advised that many of the meetings that are held by the Board of Commissioners, and other Committees and Boards that meet and guide the County are also available on the Spalding YouTube channel for review.

2. Consider Adoption of a logo for the "Our Legacy Museum".

Kelly Carmichael, Supervisor of Leisure Services and Morgan Cantrel, Curator for the Our Legacy Museum presented a number of logos as a group for consideration.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adopt the logos presented for the Our Legacy Museum. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider reappointment of Ricardo McCrary, Director of Spalding County E-911 and John Hamilton, City of Griffin Fire Chief to the Region IV Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to reappoint Ricardo McCrary and John Hamilton to the Region IV Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for a three-year term to expire on June 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider update from Marshal Web regarding the Animal Disaster Relief Trailer housed at the Animal Shelter and Code Enforcement.

Chief Marshal Web then presented an overview of what Code Enforcement has been doing since he came on board. He gave examples of the types of problems they have been faced with and outlined what has been done to take care of the problems. Additionally, he spoke about the Animal Disaster Relief Trailer and advised that an example of a disaster could be where you come upon a place where there is an immediate threat to the animals on the property and this trailer can be utilized to transport those animals to a safe environment. He advised the trailer has been fully stocked and is ready should a disaster occur. Staff is in the process of being trained on how to handle animals should a disaster occur per the agreement with the Kennel Club that provided the trailer for the County.

The Animal Shelter has established a Volunteer Guide and Application for those who wish to volunteer. There are a number of people who are currently volunteering, and they are hoping that more people will come out and volunteer.

Marshal Web then stated that there is a problem at the Animal Shelter in that there was no sprinkler system installed when it was built and that is a requirement of the Department of Agriculture for this type of facility, so this is something that is going to have to be addressed as soon as possible.

Marshal Webb advised that the Animal Shelter has applied for a grant in the amount of \$25,520 to target rural areas where a greater need exists for stray animals. They are currently enforcing the spay/neuter ordinance. If we go out to a location and the animals have not been spayed or neutered, they are writing citations. It seems harsh, but we have to enforce the ordinance in order to reduce the number of animals coming into the Animal Shelter. We are working with all of the rescue groups who are licensed through the State and will come to Spalding County to help us out. He then added that they are looking for every grant they can find to help Spalding County. He then presented a list of all the equipment on the Animal Disaster Relief Trailer for the Board to review.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that with all of the additional work orders that were done on the Animal Shelter, she doesn't know how the sprinkler system was missed.

Commissioner Dutton stated that none of the members of the Board are engineers, we hired engineers who looked at this, who charged us money to make sure the Animal Shelter was built to code. We had a number of work orders where they missed certain items and now that it is built, we are told that they forgot sprinklers. It is very upsetting that someone came in here and said they were professionals at this, and this is incredibly disappointing. They have insurance and we might want to look into that.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is in total agreement with Commissioner Dutton, there needs to be some reckoning for this. The same way there needs to be some reckoning for the Land Bank selling people property without making sure the title is clear. The question is, she doesn't know how it is going to be paid, but we need this immediately because this is a USDA issue. We need to try to plan to see if we can get reimbursed from one of the entities.

The Board then discussed the urgent need for a sprinkler system at the Animal Shelter. Two motions were entered by Commissioner Dutton, and both were rescinded, one motions was seconded by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor and she rescinded her second.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to empower the County Manager to bid out the installation of a sprinkler system for the animal shelter up to \$125,000 subject to the County Attorney checking the original construction and engineering contracts for this project. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Additionally, the Board asked the County Manager to research and see why the sprinkler system was not included as part of the planning process and construction of the Animal Shelter, especially if it is a requirement of the Georgia Department of Agriculture and for the County Attorney to see if we can ask for reimbursement from any of the companies involved for this oversight.

5. Consider request to adopt an amended and restated Resolution for the County Employees 401(a).

Miles Neville, Director of Human Resources, advised that this is a restatement of the 401(a) plan for all employees who are not senior management. No changes to the plan, we are simply required by law to restate it every so often and now is the time.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the amended and restated Resolution for the County Employees 401(a) plan. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners at their Extraordinary Session on June 17, 2019, approved an amendment to the Personnel ordinance that would amend the Personnel Policy to allow: Forfeited exempt offset hours to roll over into a Retirement Exempt Offset Account to be applied toward service time upon retirement. Maximum hours allowed is 2080 hours for employees not assigned to fire protection activities and 2912 for employees assigned to fire protection services. This amendment was approved unanimously by the Board of Commissioners; however, the necessary Amendments were never drafted nor signed.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to process the documentation necessary to amend the Personnel Ordinance to accommodate the changes approved by the Spalding County Board of Commissioners on June 17, 2019, regarding a Retirement Exempt Offset Account. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider request from Georgia Power to acquire a tree trim/clearing easement on Spalding County Property located at 4245 Old Atlanta Road for a Tree Trim/Clearing Distribution Project, the easement will be approximately 200 linear feet in length.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that this is an easement located at 4245 Old Atlanta Road and is an easement of approximately 200 linear feet across the property and they are offering to pay the county \$1,400 upon receipt of the easement to allow them to do the tree trimming in this area. Staff recommendation is that we move forward with and support this request from Georgia Power.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the request from Georgia Power to acquire a tree trim/clearing easement on Spalding County Property located at 4245 Old Atlanta Road for a Tree Trim/Clearing Distribution Project, the easement will be approximately 200 linear feet in length. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

8. Consider request from the Spalding County Public Works Department to declare three vehicles (two trucks and Big Blue) and one piece of equipment as surplus so that it can be sold.

T.J. Imberger, Director Public Works and Public Grounds stated that to update the Board on the surplus stock currently at Public Works. So far they have sold

17 vehicles and 5 pieces of equipment for \$122,881.00 and we have just started. This request is for 3 vehicles and 1 piece of equipment. The request includes the motor coach bus since we have the new one on order and the current bus is being repaired so that it can be sold in a safe condition. The Gradeall is an emergency tree removal piece of equipment that we have had since 1999 has been replaced thanks to the Board of Commissioners and the voters for TSPLOST.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to approve the request from the Spalding County Public Works Department to declare three vehicles (two trucks and Big Blue) and one piece of equipment as surplus so that it can be sold. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

9. Consider request from the Public Works Department to post No Parking signs on Crape Myrtle Drive from Del Webb Blvd to Evergreen Court.

Mr. Imberger advised that Public Works was alerted of a situation by the Homeowners' Association of Sun City, that there is a severe safety issue with participants and viewers of the softball games occurring in Sun City on Saturdays at the softball field. They have 12 softball teams and when the parking lot fills up, then spectators and team members are parking on Crape Myrtle Drive. The problem is that even with single line parking on that street, you cannot get a fire truck down those roads, and they were actually double parking on both sides of the road.

The Homeowners Association tried to handle it themselves by sending staff out to the location and putting cones out and the people who were parking in the area were kicking the cones away and advising the staff at Sun City that it is a public road, and they could park where they want to, thus, having no access for emergency vehicles for three streets: Sweet Gum, Crape Myrtle and Evergreen Court.

Mr. Imberger then stated that about a month ago, there was a person who lives on Crape Myrtle that needed an ambulance and the ambulance could not get to the house. He then advised that Public Works met with Public Safety, Fire and the Sheriff's Office and looked at what could be done. Initially, they thought about doing no parking throughout the whole community, but they agree that this should be implemented step by step, so staff is recommending No Parking for this particular section at this time.

Chairman Davis then advised that the issue is that there is not enough parking at the softball field when everyone is playing and there are people warming up. What happened is once the parking lot for the ball field filled up, they went to the next street over and started parking on the side of the road.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern over "cherry picking" roads to place No Parking signs on and told the Board that we had experienced this in a subdivision years ago and the No Parking signs had just caused more controversy and was not the resolution to the problem.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the placement of No Parking signs on Crape Myrtle Drive from Del Webb Blvd to Evergreen Court as requested by staff. Motion carried 4-1***

***(Flowers-Taylor).***

10. Consider approval of a Change Order for C.W. Matthews to improve and pave the connecting portion of Pineview Road.

Mr. Ledbetter advised that this is a Task Order Form for Paragon to review the unpaved section of road and make recommendations as to what improvements will need to be made to the road along with the cost of improvements and paving to complete the connectivity of this road. The Task Order Form is in the amount of \$188,000 for the review and recommendation. Right now, it is anticipated that paving this portion of the road will run approximately \$1 million.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she would like to see the road paved to improve connectivity and this will get the road project ready so if money becomes available, we will have a project ready. We need to go ahead and do this. If we have the plan, when money becomes available, we will have the plan in place.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Change Order for C.W. Matthews to prepare a plan to improve and pave the connecting portion of Pineview Road. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- ✓ Paragon is working on 3 options for Jackson Road, Jenkinsburg, and Tomochichi. We are told these options will be available later this week.
- ✓ Amelia & Yarborough Mill Road work began last week and the actual chip and seal will begin first thing in the morning. We're being told the work will be complete this week.
- ✓ We have filming going on in the community over the next three weeks:
  - East McIntosh May 16th – May 27th
  - Steele Road @ Birdie Road – May 19th – May 22nd
  - North Walkers Mill Road – May 19th – May 21st
- ✓ Comprehensive Plan – Don't miss out on providing information for our Comp Plan...there's an online survey that you can answer. Please visit the County's website and respond to the survey. It takes about 10 minutes.
- ✓ Welcome to our two Partnership for Inclusive Innovation interns. The PIN program is through Georgia Tech, and I am glad to welcome Colin and Dave. They are here to help us over the summer and they are supporting our work on high speed internet and the wireless mesh system.
- ✓ The Health Department is offering COVID-19 testing on Tuesdays.
- ✓ Welcome to Kellie Littlefield, Spalding County's Community Development Director.

**XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER – None.**

**XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Rita Johnson** – Thanked Dr. Ledbetter for the great hires he has brought into the County. We are excited about all you have done in the short time that you have been County Manager.

Congratulations to TJ and the guys in public works. Thank you for all that you do for those who go un-noticed. She liked the phrase in the Proclamation that said “substantial contribution and beyond.” Thank you for all that you do, we are fortunate to have you and your team.

The Animal Shelter and the Work Orders, there has been enough said on that. We are disappointed but we have to get it taken care of. She doesn't know what we need to do in the future to change that.

She has received a few calls from people concerned about us changing health insurance. The new company that we are looking to bring on, there may need to be a conversation around coverages and whether or not the coverages are going to be anything like we have with the current carrier.

**Ryan Bowlden** – Said he was hoping to see the Sheriff here this evening because he wanted to personally thank him. The Sheriff, his department, the sting units the CID, narcotics and GBI are all taking the uprise in gang violence seriously. He is proud to see our Sheriff's Department in the City to try to combat this uprise in gangs.

He has been getting a lot of calls regarding people receiving voter registration cards. Many of the elderly people don't understand that the reason they are getting the new change of address cards is because of the redistricting that happened. He didn't know if there was something that DeAndre Smith or Ms. Slaughter could put out to clarify why these cards are going out.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – Would like to know how a resident would go about making a complaint regarding the right of way needing to be cut. We used to have Facility Dude app. How do people do that now?

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the InSpalding App is available, and we encourage people to use that.

Chairman Davis stated that the app will ask for your email address so that someone can respond back.

She then asked how far are we into the agreed to time for the Land Bank to be in recess?

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the agreement was that we would not fund through the end of this Fiscal Year, so it is our plan to bring back to you before July the update from the consultant on how to reformulate the Land Bank.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, stated that the Consultant was actually at the last Land Bank meeting, and he indicated that they should be finished and have a report in 60 days.



Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that in that area where the lady was from that spoke earlier this evening there were at least 14 houses in that area that came from Land Bank property. She is concerned that we may have some other titles that weren't clear. She knows they are not currently meeting, but she doesn't feel that this needs to be passed along for someone else to handle. This needs to be handled by the Land Bank.

She has been grateful for Marshal Web and at the same time cannot believe how much junk people have accumulated over the last two years. Clearly, when you go behind a house or a building and there are 7 or 8 cars, the people next door can see this. Marshal Web is very professional, and she appreciates it. There is a lot of work to be done.

She then stated that once she has had an opportunity to go through her neighborhood with Marshal Web, she would like to see about doing a neighborhood clean-up. For the last two years the Goldstein's location has been cleaned up, but for the past two weeks there is so much metal over there now. She is hoping that some of the people who have cars sitting in their yard will take their stuff to the junk yard because they are going to get ticketed for it.

She then thanked Vickie Hennessy for coming in this evening and she is very happy to hear about the potential grant that is for the trap and release program. We have a lot of farmers and people who live on large areas who will be happy to have a cat that is fixed to keep the mice out of their area. This will not only give these animals a place to live but will decrease the population in our shelter.

**James Dutton** - He thinks it is great that there is now an opportunity for volunteers to go and walk dogs and interact with the animals. When we went to the grand opening of the shelter his daughter wanted to take every one of those animal's home.

He then reminded everyone of the Independence Day parade coming up. We need to get all of our groups involved; it is \$20 to participate. It is important to get our people out and to get involved. This is a big deal. He is only going to stop talking about it after it has passed and then he is going to immediately start talking about the Christmas Parade. We really need to be mindful of this and get our various groups and organizations involved.

We keep talking about the wireless internet system deployment, but he simply doesn't know enough about it, and he would like to know more. So, we need to get pricing information, bandwidth information and how we are going to handle service calls. We need to have some type of open house or town hall meetings to let everyone know what is going on.

He appreciates what Marshal Web is doing and he feels there is a long way to go before we can perfect the system, but we are literally inventing the wheel when it comes to creating our Marshal System. That said he feels we can copy and paste best practices from other places, but those need to be codified and the standard operating procedure needs to come before this Board, and there needs to be a set of rules and rules of engagement. If that is the Sheriff's rules that we implement for the Marshal Service, whatever they are.

He receives a lot of calls regarding the new school zone cameras. It has eclipsed the number of calls he gets regarding potholes and that is saying something. In

fact, he spoke with a gentleman today who stated he is going to take every single one of these to a jury. He wants to go and if it costs him a bunch of money that is fine. He has reached out to both the city and the state Prosecutors and asked what the procedure would be to challenge a violation and they advised they have no idea. Currently, nobody knows what is to be done with these violations.

County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, advised that it was her understanding from Sheriff Dix that there are only warnings being issued at this time, there are no citations being issued. Initially, when we were going through the process Patrick Shephard was involved in those meetings, she doesn't know if Judge Thacker was or not. It was her understanding that the civil in the city would be Municipal Court and in the County, she doesn't know if it was determined to be Magistrate Court or if it would be in State Court, but she thought it would be State Court.

Dr. Ledbetter then added that it is his understanding that the Sheriff's Office is not issuing citations on the cameras inside the County, but the City is issuing citations.

**Clay Davis** – Thanked Ms. Hennessey for what she does to energize people to get involved. You pull people in and that kind of leadership is important.

The chip and seal program is a pilot program and we're going to have to see how this goes. Hopefully, this is going to be a good thing for us financially and we're going to be able to take care of things over the long haul, but right now this is a pilot and we're going to have to do a couple of roads and take some time out to see how it works.

We have some unincorporated Spalding sewer issues involving septic tanks that are leaking. We've got to get some emphasis on this. The Board of Health checks this, but they are complaint driven. Someone is going to have to stand up and say we have these problems with septic systems, and they are percolating up. The Chief Marshal encountered a few of them recently.

Saturday, he went down and watched the corn hole tournament, and it was really well done. There were a lot of people having a good time in the second Saturday business event.

We need poll workers. If anyone has the time to do this, we need poll workers badly. This is a few hours of training and for the first time we are experiencing a shortage of poll workers. It's going to impact voting if people don't step forward. These are paid positions. They are long hard days, but he is asking everyone if you have the opportunity, please become a poll worker. Along that same line, if you haven't voted, please vote. He doesn't care which way you vote, take the opportunity to go and vote.

We're not putting any more money into the SPLOST and we need to get those projects wrapped up.

He welcomed Kellie Littlefield to Spalding County and stated that we're excited about her being here.

He also wanted to remind the Board that the Senior Issues meeting is on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center Conference Room. It is an opportunity for the Seniors to come in and say these are our priorities that we want you to look at. We will be there to listen to their concerns.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION** – None.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously by all.***