

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, July 18, 2022
6:00 PM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session on Monday, July 18th, 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 and Gwen Flowers-Taylor were present for the meeting. Commissioner Ryan Bowlden was absent from 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

Pastor Ronald K. Adams of Arcadia Missionary Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

Chairman Davis then stated that he would like to amend the agenda to include an item number 12(a) under New Business to lift from the table a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission on a task order form to perform an engineering study of locations and determine the cost of possible pickleball court expansion.

Motion/Second by Davis/Johnson to amend the agenda to include this item. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Consider presentation of Courthouse portrait for recognition of Tim Crane's retirement from the Public Works Department after 27 years of service.

Dr. Ledbetter asked that this item be moved to the August 1st agenda so that we can recognize Mr. Crane in person.

2. Consider a Proclamation recognizing the Lewis and Mary Stinson Family Reunion scheduled for July 29-31, 2022.

Dr. Ledbetter then read the Proclamation and members of the Lewis and Mary Stinson Family were present to receive the Proclamation.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to accept the proclamation as read and declare July 30th, 2022 as Lewis and Mary Stinson Family Reunion Day in Spalding County. Motion

carried unanimously by all.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the twelve months ended June 30, 2022.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director stated that these are unaudited financial statements and we will continue posting transactions into fiscal 2022 through the end of this month. So, the amount of revenues over expenditures that you see on this report will change.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to accept the financial statements for the twelve months ended June 30, 2022 as presented. 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.

Carol Jones, 1611 Pinebrook Drive, Griffin, Georgia spoke about Animal Control and the Marshall's position.

Brenda Anthony, 117 Sunset Strip, Griffin, Georgia was concerned about the cars parking in the right-of-way on her road. She advised that when the crews come out to scrape the roads they can't get to her house because of the cars parking on the side of the road and blocking the right-of-way.

Lynn Lowery, 1607 Oakview Drive, Griffin, Georgia represented the Spalding County Pickleball Association and spoke regarding the need for expanding the number of courts for that facility.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on June 20, 2022, and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting and Zoning Public Hearing on June 23, 2022.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the

minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on June 20, 2022 and the Spalding County Special Called Meeting and Zoning Public Hearing on June 23, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA -

1. Consider on second and final reading an amendment to the Spalding County Code of Ordinances, Division I - Laws of Local Application, Part II - Governing Administration - Chapter 12 - Code of Ethics; repealing conflicting ordinances and parts thereof; and, restating the code as modified by this Ordinance.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, stated this is a second reading. We have made a couple of corrections. At Section 2-12002 we added in definitions that conflicts of interest are defined as set out in Chapter 12(a). In section 12(a) she has added the language which states “the covered official, employee, contract employee or independent contractor...” to cover all the categories discussed in the workshop and also added that to Section 2-12004(a) in comparable services.

Commissioner Dutton expressed his concern over the conflict of interest language as it remains unclear as to whether an individual can hold a position on a board, commission or committee and work for or contract with the County to provide services.

There was much discussion surrounding the Conflict of Interest wording. Ms. Windham stated that she had reviewed the video of the work session and had made the changes according to what the Board had requested during the work session.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve on second and final reading an amendment to the Spalding County Code of Ordinances, Division I – Laws of Local Application, Part II – Governing Administration – Chapter 12 – Code of Ethics; repealing conflicting ordinances and parts thereof; and, restating the code as modified by this Ordinance. Motion failed due to tied vote 2-2 (Davis/Dutton).

Additional discussion surrounding the Conflict of Interest section then occurred and it was determined that for the most part, the Ordinance could be approved with the Conflict of Interest, Section 12(a) being excluded for more work to be done.

Motion/Second by Davis/Dutton to approve on second and final reading the first half of an amendment to the Spalding County Code of Ordinances, Division I - Laws of Local Application, Part II - Governing Administration - Chapter 12 - Code of Ethics; repealing conflicting ordinances and parts thereof; and, restating the code as modified by this Ordinance with Chapter 12(a) being removed from consideration at this time. Motion

carried 3-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

IX. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Consider acceptance of a Resolution recognizing Juneteenth as a Holiday for Spalding County Employees and providing an additional day of discretionary pay for those employees for the 2022 Juneteenth holiday.

Dr. Ledbetter then read the Resolution which will add an additional holiday for all of the employees as well as provide a floating holiday for this year that can be used by the employee at any time before December 31, 2022.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a Resolution recognizing Juneteenth as a Holiday for Spalding County Employees and providing an additional day of discretionary pay for those employees for the 2022 Juneteenth holiday. Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Consider request for amplification from Iris Hernandez to host a birthday party at 2160 Rocky Creek Road, Hampton, Georgia on August 13, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that this request has been reviewed by staff and staff's recommendation is approval of the request.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the request for amplification from Iris Hernandez to host a birthday party at 2160 Rocky Creek Road, Hampton, Georgia on August 13, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request for amplification from Jeanette Steen for a wedding to be held at the Meadowlark 1939 Event Center located at 2613 Newnan Road, Griffin, Georgia on July 30, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that this request has been reviewed by staff and staff's recommendation is approval of the request.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request for amplification from Jeanette Steen for a wedding to be held at the Meadowlark 1939 Event Center located at 2613 Newnan Road, Griffin, Georgia on July 30, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider request from the Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to allow the Spalding County Pickleball Association to file for and obtain an permit to serve alcohol during the APP Pickleball Tour scheduled for September 7th - 11th, 2022.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that this is the second year in a row that the Pickleball

Association has requested an alcohol permit to serve alcohol during the APP Pickleball Tour. The request has been reviewed and approved by the Parks and Leisure Services Commission and staff is requesting approval and that a letter be issued to the State of Georgia for a alcohol permit for this event.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve a request from the Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to allow the Spalding County Pickleball Association to file for and obtain an permit to serve alcohol during the APP Pickleball Tour scheduled for September 7th - 11th, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Shawn Fleet with Heath & Lineback, would like to update the Board of Commissioners on the SR155 redirecting project from Downtown Griffin.

Mr. Fleet updated the Board on the work that has been done by his company in rerouting SR155. He explained that there were three possible routes reviewed, but the one that is being considered is rerouting SR155 down McDonough Road to SR16 to bypass Downtown Griffin. He also presented an anticipated timeline for the project.

5. The Blue Cypress team will update the Board on the Comprehensive Plan and request permission to move the plan forward with a transmittal letter to Three Rivers Regional Commission.

Ms. Paige Hatley with Hatley and Associates reviewed both the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Element, the work that has been done and the need to have both items transmitted for approval. However, she did stated that the meeting this evening should have included a Public Hearing on both items.

Kellie Littlefield, Community Development Director, advised that the ads had been placed for public hearings on both the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Element, it simply had not been placed on the Agenda.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is not comfortable with proceeding with approval of transmitting these items without a Public Hearing taking place and since it was not placed on the Agenda, she would be more comfortable with it being rescheduled and heard at a different time so that the public will have the opportunity to comment.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that with the constraints of advertising, the earliest we could have a public hearing would be August 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to postpone the transmittal of the Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Element until a Public Hearing on these items can be advertised and place on an agenda for August 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Hatley and Associates team will update the Board on the Capital Improvements Element to prepare for transmittal of the plan.

Item to be heard on August 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

7. Consider a Resolution naming Shondrell Sinkfield as the Open Records Officer for Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Resolution naming Shondrell Sinkfield as the Open Records Officer for Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider appointment of a 2023 ACCG Legislative Coordinator to represent Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to nominate Clay Davis as the 2023 ACCG Legislative Coordinator to represent Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider request from Three Rivers Regional Commission Council on Aging to renew the contract for services to Spalding County residents.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that this is the annual renewal of the Three Rivers Council on Aging contract for services to Spalding County residents and staff is recommending approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve a request from Three Rivers Regional Commission Council on Aging to renew the contract for services to Spalding County residents. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider request from the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office to renew the contract for Indigent Defense Services for the Spalding County Superior Court.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that this is the renewal of our annual contract with the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office to serve as indigent defense for Superior Court cases and staff is recommending that we move forward with approval of this contract.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the request from the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office to renew the contract for Indigent Defense Services for the Spalding County Superior Court. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider request from Community Development to enter into a contract with CivicPlus for their CivicGov software for Permitting, Planning, Licensing, Code Enforcement and Fire Life Safety Inspection.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that staff has reviewed a number of software platforms and staff has requested approval of this software. The money is budgeted and

we are asking that you approve this request.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then ask the cost for the contract.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that it is \$74,000 for the first year to cover transition costs from the current software to the new software and training for staff on the new software. The second year of the contract will be significantly lower.

Ms. Windham stated that her only issue with this is that it references a Master Services Agreement in the brochure and the link is broken and you can't get to the Master Services Agreement. She advised that she has no problem with this being approved subject to her review of the Master Services Agreement.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she just wants to know the numbers because \$74,000 is a lot of money.

Dr. Ledbetter then stated that \$74,000 is for the first year, the second year it will go down to \$42,000.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if this is a multiple year contract?

Dr. Ledbetter advised that it is a year-to-year contract. Just as it is with the other Civic contracts that we currently have in the County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she just wants to make sure that this is an easy to use program for our citizens.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the request from Community Development to enter into a contract with CivicPlus for their CivicGov software for Permitting, Planning, Licensing, Code Enforcement and Fire Life Safety Inspection pending legal review of the Master Services Agreement. Motion carried unanimously by all.

12. Consider recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to approve the Motorcoach policy with wage increase for drivers.

Kelly Carmichael, Leisure Services Supervisor, reviewed the proposed Motorcoach Policy. They are anticipating the motorcoach should be here in August and we will need a little time to wrap the motorcoach and label it. Looking forward to it's arrival. In the meantime we are working on a motorcoach policy. The prior policy was \$3.00 per mile for users. With fuel costs increasing we want to make sure that we are not operating in a deficit and that the individuals who utilize this vehicle pay for the usage of the vehicle. The policy includes a calculation to be done for each trip which will include the mileage and the number of days involved. In doing this we realized that the pay rate for our drivers is at \$16.80 per hour. We only have one driver who also has his own business, so as his business is picking up he is less available for our needs. We have had the job posted for a number of months with no response from applicants who have motorcoach experience. We have a new motorcoach coming and limited availability of the current

driver to meet our needs.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that they had done a check within the community and they had learned that drivers make \$22-32.00 an hour. We have precious cargo they will be transporting in that bus and she feels we need to pay people what they would be making otherwise. That is why we can't get any drivers. If you can go drive somewhere else for \$30/hour why would you drive for us at \$16.00? The biggest problem we currently have for the bus is not having anybody to drive it.

Ms. Carmichael stated that not only is this person driving a new motorcoach, this individual is more than just a motorcoach operator. They are an employee of Spalding County so that increases their level of responsibility on these trips.

Ms. Carmichael then advised that the fee structure also includes a maintenance fee of \$250/day to recoup what has been budgeted for maintenance.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the Motorcoach policy as presented by the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that we do have funding available in the Commissioner Contingency Fund to make up the difference on salaries for the bus drivers.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that the Contingency Fund this year is divided among the four districts and everyone would need to agree to share in this before it is spread over the four districts.

Chairman Davis stated that we are going to have to figure out the funding and the only way we can do it will be out of the Commissioners Contingency and we will need to see what needs to be done to be able to do this.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that there is a Commissioner who is not here this evening and she feels they need to wait to respond to this until all of the Commissioners are present.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to table until the next meeting the increase in pay for drivers of the motorcoach to give staff the opportunity to research the current rates for drivers and make a recommendation. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- 12(a). Lift from the table and consider a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission for a Task Order Form to perform an engineering study of locations and determine the cost of possible pickleball court expansion.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to lift from the table and consider a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission for a Task Order Form to perform an engineering study of locations and determine the cost of possible pickleball court expansion. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Chairman Davis stated that Mr. Lowry has laid everything out for us in his statement during Public Comments. The number of times we have had ESPN in Spalding County can be counted on one hand. He thinks the return on investment is pretty powerful and people learning about Griffin and Spalding County by coming here is also very powerful.

Motion/Second by Davis/Flowers-Taylor to approve the engineering study.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that there are a number of projects that were on the 2016 SPLOST that have not been completed and cost for most of them has gone up 3-400% over what we anticipated. For some people \$27,000 doesn't look like a lot, but when you don't know how you are going to finish four major projects without asking for additional SPLOST money, she just can't do it. She thinks this a great idea, but it isn't something that we can do at this point. She would like to see them try to locate some additional funding, but pickleball is not in our master plan. Clearly, it is a big issue, but her suggestion is that it be placed in the Comprehensive Work Plan like the CIE and if there is an opportunity for funding through Impact Fees then we may be able to look at a match. The data presented this evening, she's not sure that isn't something that GSBTA couldn't do. At this time, she simply can't support it.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that she had never thought about the GSBTA as a potential funding partner for this, because it seems to be a project that would be eligible for this funding. We do have SPOST Projects that have not been completed and she feels that our focus should be on those projects at this time.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he had just looked at the other Golden Ticket locations: Grand Rapids, Michigan has 15 courts, none covered. New York City's in Flushing has their tennis center which also hosts the US Open. Whereas he would love to compete with the site of the US Open, he doesn't feel that anyone expects us to do so. Mesa, Arizona does 41 pickleball courts and a 2,000 seat champion's court. He would like to look at building a Champion's Court for the big rounds. Cincinnati has 18 courts with none covered. We have 18 with 4 covered.

Commissioner Dutton then looked at attendance numbers and right now, registered for the tournament we will be hosting in September we have 699 players. The Chicago Open has 287. Alabama has 145. Sacramento has 136. New Jersey has 576. Philadelphia has 316.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he doesn't see a bigger venue than what we have. He does feel that we need to continue to grow it and he does feel we may want to look at a Championship Court to add to it. He likes that idea. Again, we turned down soccer two years ago for \$25,000 to drill wells

so their grass would stop burning. This is \$27,000 just for a study. He simply doesn't feel we are there for the funding.

Motion failed 1-3 (Dutton/Flowers-Taylor/Johnson).

13. Consider on first reading an amendment to a Resolution amending the Code of Ordinances of Spalding County, Division I - Laws of Local Application, Part II - Governing Administration - Chapter 2 - Elections; Section 2.1 - Board Established; districts.

Dr. Ledbetter stated this is an ordinance where last month we added a new Section P. At that time the Board asked staff to go clean up all of the language preceding the new Section P and that is what the County Attorney has done.

Motion/Second to approve on first first reading an amendment to a Resolution amending the Code of Ordinances of Spalding County, Division I - Laws of Local Application, Part II - Governing Administration - Chapter 2 - Elections; Section 2.1 - Board Established; districts. Motion carried unanimously by all.

14. Directing Staff 45-days to work with the City of Griffin staff toward the completion of SDS and LOST Renegotiation with frequent updates to the Board.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the recommendation is that the Board direct the staff to go work with the City for the next 45 days.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to direct Staff 45-days to work with the City of Griffin staff toward the completion of SDS and LOST Renegotiation with frequent updates to the Board. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- **LOST Renegotiation & Service Delivery Strategy** - Thank you to the City of Griffin, the City of Sunny Side, and the City of Orchard Hill for attending the meeting Friday to discuss our Local Option Sales Tax Distribution Allocation. We have lots of work in front of us before the December 30, 2022 deadline. As you know, the County and the cities are required to renegotiate our distribution allocation within two (2) years of the census and when we agree to our allocation distribution, we must submit our request for our new certificate before the December deadline. Additionally, our work to complete our Service Delivery Strategy is intertwined within our renegotiation. We have lots of work to complete within the next few months and I am thankful to our cities for supporting these efforts.
- **T-SPLOST** - The initial crew was not our scheduled crew assigned by our contractor. We received a crew that was moving from one job to another. Our assigned crew will arrive later this week. Next on the schedule is West Ellis. The contractor will move through our county in a logical sequence to reduce the

distance of moves. After West Ellis, we expect the contractor to move to Rover Zetella or Bicycle. We are working with CW Matthews to share with the community their locations so we can all plan our travel accordingly.

- **988 Hotline** - People experiencing a mental health crisis have a new way to reach out for help in the U.S. Starting this past Saturday. They can simply call or text 9-8-8. For more information, please visit the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by visiting their online site.
- **Mock Disaster Training Event** - Spalding County Emergency Management, Spalding County Fire Department, Spalding County Sheriff's Office, City of Griffin Police Department, City of Griffin Fire Rescue, and WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital will conduct a mock disaster next Wednesday at their Carver Road Fire Station. Please note, traffic in and around this area may be higher than normal and there will be significant emergency vehicle traffic, to include helicopters in the area. This exercise will appear real, and you may hear loud noises and sirens in the area along with smoke and fire.
- **Back to School Open House**
- **COVID-19 has caused our Senior Center to return to masks and social distancing**
- **Comfort Stations** - Spalding County and Spalding County Homeland Security will be providing comfort stations that will be used to assist with heat relief for residents in our community for the month of August. Fairmont Community Center and the City Park Community Center will be the comfort station locations. The stations will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3pm until 9pm and Saturdays from 10am until 5pm.
- **Beat the Heat** - Join us, as we kick off our "Beat the Heat" Back-to-School event with our partners Hammond Services and Spalding County Fire Department beginning July 22nd, 2022. Be sure to bring your favorite swimsuit and towel, as you enjoy the steady and cool stream of water from a firetruck hose, refreshments, and games!

This week, the fun-filled event will take place at Fire Station 1 located at 600 Carver Rd. Please bring your family and friends. We will rotate around the county for the following three weeks. Please watch our social media sites for locations and times. Also note, we will not hold these events if there is inclement weather.

- **Fox City Event** – Community Development participated with the Leisure Services staff during the summer program. The children who participated helped us to understand what they would like to see in Spalding County. What they would like to be when they grow up in Spalding County. In short, they want safer neighborhoods, street lights, wider sidewalks, parks, pools and trails. The Community Development team also asked what else they would like and they indicated they would like water parks, splash pads, playgrounds and walking trails. His take away from this exercise is he needs to do a better job

sharing with the community about the 27 parks we have in Spalding County comprised by 325 acres of active parks and 419 acres of passive parks.

- **Aquatic Center Groundbreaking** - The groundbreaking for the Aquatic Center will be tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. off of Rehoboth Road, we invite everyone in the community to come out.

XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER – N/A.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson – Asked who is handling Code Enforcement and what is the status of the citations that have been written. Dr. Ledbetter stated that Ms. Carmeletta Brent is working Code Enforcement and we are pursuing the citations. He has had conversations with Judge Cavanaugh.

She then stated that she hopes that the Pickleball Association will continue to search for funding. The funding can come from other places since we currently have other SPLOST projects that we are trying to complete. Hopefully they understand that.

She loves the idea of the Community Development group working with leisure services and the children in the summer program. She feels that splash pads are something that have been discussed and when funding becomes available it is something that we need to do. She would like to make that a reality for the children. We need splash pads in the City.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – Stated that one of the things that was mentioned by the kids who attended the Fox City exercise was that the kids want things to do in their neighborhood. It is eye opening to see that what the kids are expressing is the same ideas that the parents want.

She is proud of the Fire Department in their work toward creating the cooling centers. Most people can make it up until about 1:00 p.m. without an air conditioner, but between 1:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. it is blistering hot and she doesn't know if people can walk to these locations, but if there was a choice to walk or sit in the heat, she would walk. We may save some lives because babies and the elderly are subject to dehydration and this weather is conducive to heat stroke and other problems.

She drove down Amelia Road last week, they have done a very nice job on the road. There was no dust coming up from the road bed. The only concern that she had was the ditches on the side of the road were not very deep, so somebody needs to go out and open the ditches up so that the water will be able to run freely and not settle up underneath the roadway and cause problems. She is looking forward to seeing how this holds up.

Animal Shelter – she cannot tell you how good it makes her feel to see how well they are advertising our Animal Shelter. In order to be a no kill shelter, you cannot euthanize more than 10% of the total population and we have been under that for at least three years. We are trying to make sure that this is a family shelter and it makes her feel good when she sees families with children or even single adults coming in and taking home a pet. The Animal Shelter staff is doing an awesome job.

At the behavioral health meeting she attended last week they talked about the 988 rollout. It is the same as 911 except for this is for mental health. She wants everyone to understand that when you call this number they are going to understand that there is a mental health crisis going on somewhere. We are hoping by doing this it will stop a lot of accidental deaths or reduce the number of criminal acts that are done because someone is having a bad mental health day. She feels it is very important for us to recognize that mental illness is that, an illness. It is not a moral delima. If you had cancer you would go to the doctor to have it addressed. So, if you have mental health issues, you need to go to a doctor and get it fixed.

James Dutton – He wants to echo what Commissioner Flowers-Taylor said about mental health. People come into his office a lot of the time with an untreated mental health issue that has landed them in his office. Many of them state that they don't want to be on medication. If your body is low on something and needs something in order for you to function, then you need to go to the doctor and take the medication. God has blessed science with the ability to help us with this and there is no shame in doing the same thing for mental health reasons and we need to remove that signal.

Regarding the Animal Shelter, he got to be the lucky one at the time that the Association of Physicians of Indian Decent came in and donated \$3,000 toward the spay and neuter initiative. It has been noticed in the community how well the Animal Shelter has been functioning over the last few months, the transition from before to now. In fact, that day there was a State official there who had glowing praise for our Animal Shelter. She has watched the change over the last few months and she now uses the Spalding County Animal Shelter as the example of how other animal shelters in the State should be. To be used as a statewide example is huge.

He feels that going to GSBTA would be a great source for pickleball and he will mention that to them and he asked Commissioner Johnson to also mention it to them.

We have had the conversation regarding splash pads and we have gotten estimates from Paragon regarding splash pads but that was prior to the rise in costs for building materials. The costs at that time were high if we needed to build one from scratch, but if we could attach it to a location that already has some of the amenities like bathrooms the cost would be less. There are are ways to do this.

People have been asking about when West Ellis is getting repaired. As we hear about roads getting repaired, let us know about them.

He stated he felt the 4th of July parade was a huge success and we did have a great parade and he is looking forward to the Christmas parade followed by the MLK parade and the Juneteenth parade next year.

Dr. Ledbetter then shared that there would be a Public Hearing on July 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Southside Baptist Church located at 1332 Zebulon Road, Griffin, Georgia to discuss the relocation of two existing transmission lines which conflict with the construction and operation on the planned airport

Clay Davis – There will be a workshop before the Planning and Zoning Meeting on Thursday, July 28th. The workshop is scheduled for 4:00 p.m.

The semi-annual elected official Archway Retreat is scheduled for August 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the UGA Extension Office. They will be updating the elected officials on what is going on with Archway in our community.

He then stated that he feels the pressure of inflation on our citizens and he is planning on leading the fight to reduced the milage rate this year. You are going to see him start to push this as we go along. It is going to happen in a few months. For the last two years we have had the same mileage rate and he plans to lead the fight to reduce the mileage rate this year.

On a personal note, we have had the County Manager for 11 months and he could not be more pleased with his performance and he knows how lucky we are that he has continued to stay with us and he hopes that he will continue to stay with us in the future.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***