

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration was held at the County Courthouse Annex, 109 East Solomon Street at 6:00 p.m. on July 11, 2023. Attending were Chair Ben Johnson, presiding; James Newland; Roy McClain; and Dexter Wimbish. Absent was Jim O'Brien. Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Invocation/Moment of Silence - Invocation was given by Roy McClain.

Pledge to the Flag - Pledge was led by Dexter Wimbish.

Citizen Comment

Chairman Johnson read the guidelines for Citizen Comment, as noted on the agenda.

Signed to speak on their desire to see paper ballots employed in the voting process as a better means of accuracy and transparency were the following:

Kim Brooks
Linda Gilbert
Maybelle Hodges
Amanda Prettyman
Michele Knight
Brittany Cobb
Ed Palmer
Maria Roland
Marion Rowland
James R. Dutton

Adoption of the Agenda

Four amendments to the agenda need to be added under New Business: 1) Consider Annexation by the City of Griffin changing the affected property from P-10 to P-5 and from Combo 354 to Combo 357 and vote to update the Spalding County precinct and combo maps to reflect the change, 2) Consider proposal from Griffin First United Methodist Church for the rental of said property for the conducting of Elections on Election Day, 3) Reset the hearing date for the challenge by Chuck Clark, and 4) Request by Roy McClain to consider that the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration conduct elections only on systems that can be publicly verified and that will garner public trust in its accuracy. Motion to adopt the agenda as amended by Mr. Newland/Mr. McClain carried unanimously at 4-0.

Minutes

Motion/second to approve Minutes of the 06-13-23 Regular Meeting by Members Newland/Wimbish carried unanimously at 4-0.

Report of Elections Supervisor

Ms. Slaughter presented her monthly report, which included a GARVIS update, Voter Registration update, confirmation notices, precinct cards, precinct health checks, scanning of 2020 and 2022 Election records, the IGA with City of Griffin for elections, and a synopsis of the recent State Elections Board meeting attended by Ms. Slaughter. Some discussion followed.

New Business

1. Consider Annexation by the City of Griffin changing the affected property from P-10 to P-5 and from Combo 354 to Combo 357 and vote to update the Spalding County precinct and combo maps to reflect the change.

Motion to approve by Members Newland/Wimbish carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

2. Consider proposal from Griffin First United Methodist Church for the rental of said property for the conducting of Elections on Election Day.

This agreement is good for 2023 and 2024. Ms. Windham said even though this concept is new to us, she felt as though we will be likely to see more of this type of occurrence.

Motion/second by Members Newland/Wimbish to accept carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

3. Reset the hearing date for the challenge by Chuck Clark.

After some discussion, it was determined that the Board could do 5:00 or 5:30 pm, prior to the regular August meeting for this item.

4. Request by Roy McClain to consider that the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration conduct elections only on systems that can be publicly verified and that will garner public trust in its accuracy.

Motion/second by Roy McClain/Ben Johnson to approve consideration of this item for purposes of discussion carried.

After much discussion, Mr. Newland moved to table such consideration until next month's regular meeting or a special called meeting so as to allow for a more transparent period of advertisement for the item on the agenda. Mr. Wimbish seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 3-1 with Roy McClain opposing. Most felt that to consider it tonight, even though it probably would pass muster, would give the wrong perception and optics. Mr. McClain said dates and deadlines are about to be impacted, though, and Ms. Windham a legal interpretation of such an action. Mr. Newland felt as though we should just provide more public notice given properly and timely. Ms. Slaughter will explore the earliest date for a special called meeting and email all.

Board Member Comments

Roy McClain	None
Dexter Wimbish	None
James Newland	Philosophically, he was in agreement with Roy McClain's motion but was concerned with appearances. The right way is so community as a whole can be notified.
Jim O'Brien	Absent
Ben Johnson	None

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. by Members Newland/Wimbish carried unanimously at 4-0.

Ben Johnson, Chair, Presiding

Teresa A. Watson, Recording Secretary