



**After Agenda**  
**Board of Commissioners – Extraordinary Session**  
**September 18, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building**  
**119 E. Solomon Street**  
**Griffin, GA 30223**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held an Extraordinary Session on Monday, September 18, 2023, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and James Dutton 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)**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Davis.

Chairman Davis advised that there must be three meetings on the tax levy, the meeting at 10:00 a.m. was not held due to lack of a quorum; therefore, another meeting will need to be scheduled before a vote can be taken on the matter. That meeting will be set and at that time the vote will be taken regarding the tax levy, there will be no vote this evening.

Chairman Davis then stated that the meeting this evening will be separated into two very important sessions: first we will begin an Extraordinary Session then at 6:30 p.m. we will recess the Extraordinary Session and open a Public Hearing for the millage rate. After the public hearing concludes, we will reconvene our Extraordinary Session and continue with county business as is listed on the Extraordinary Session agenda.

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

**II. INVOCATION**

1. Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor, District #1, delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

1. 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 #6 under the Consent Agenda for consideration and approval of an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Griffin for the Executive Director position at the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

#### IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. A Public Hearing on the 2024 Notification to Increase Taxes has been advertised for this evening to begin at 6:30 p.m. We will stop this meeting at 6:30 p.m. to hold that Public Hearing. We will then resume the Extraordinary Session following the conclusion of the Public Hearing.
2. Conduct a public hearing to consider the abandonment of a portion of Fincher Road.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to open a public hearing at 6:09 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

No one signed up to speak on this topic.

***Motion/Second by Dutton Flowers-Taylor to close the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

3. Proposal and approval of a millage rate for FY 2024.

*Item not heard as advised by Chairman Davis at the beginning of the meeting.*

#### V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Presentation of Financials Statements for August 2023.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to accept the Financial Statements for period ending August 31, 2023. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

#### VI. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation of 30-year award to Jill Crews.

Presentation made by Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, for completion of 30 years of service to Jill Crews.

2. Consider request for a Proclamation expressing the County's appreciation for the assistance with technical support on documentation and compliance requirements, including environmental compliance, historic preservation issues and strategic approaches to Section 404 and 406 of the FEMA mitigation grants after the January 2023 Tornadoes.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a proclamation expressing the County's appreciation for the assistance with technical support on documentation and compliance requirements including environmental compliance, historic preservation issues and strategic approaches to Section 404 and 406 of the FEMA mitigation grants after the January 2023 tornado events. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

3. Presentation the Spalding County Fire Department dashboard by Fire Chief Byrd.

Chief Byrd began his presentation on the Spalding County Fire Department dashboard; however, he had to postpone completion of his presentation to break for the public hearing on the millage rate.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to recess the Extraordinary Session at 6:32 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to open a public hearing to discuss a possible increase in the millage rate at 6:33 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to close the Public Hearing at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to resume the Extraordinary Session at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

Chief Byrd completed his presentation of the Spalding County Fire Department dashboard and completed his presentation.

4. Consider request from the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration to Proclaim Tuesday, September 19, 2023, as National Voters Registration Day in Spalding County, Georgia.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a proclamation to proclaim Tuesday, September 19, 2023, as National Voters Registration Day in Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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 Member or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Members 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 (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the members 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 (3) minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

No one signed up to speak during Citizen Comments.

## VIII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and Executive Session on August 21, 2023, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on August 24, 2023, and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on September 5, 2023.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session and Executive Session on August 21, 2023, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on August 24, 2023, and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on September 5, 2023. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider the approval of the 2024 Alcohol License Renewal for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for the following:
  - Atheeq Mohammed - A1 Food Mart, located at 1650 N Hill Street, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
  - Akber Jiwani - 362 Express, located at 1600 Williamson Road, Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
  - Yasmin Jiwani - Food Station, located at 1779 Zebulon Road, Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
  - Yasmin Jiwani - JV's Corner, located at 1700 Zebulon Road, Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
  - Richard Corbin - Huckaby's, located at 7652 Hwy 16 West, Griffin, Ga 30223. No Violations.
  - Phillip Beckler - Ingles, located at 1735 Zebulon Road, Griffin GA 30224. No Violations. Suryakant Patel - Petro South, located at 1639 N Hill Street, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
  - Shahnaz Bhaidani - Super Food, located at 2529 Old Atlanta Rd, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
  - Umang Patel - Copeland Grocery, located at 1578 High Falls Rd, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
2. Consider the approval of the 2024 Alcohol License Renewal for Package Store (beer, wine & liquor) for the following:
  - Atulkumar Patel-Carver Bottle Shop, 1557 Williamson Road, Suite D, Griffin, GA 30224
3. Consider the approval of the 2024 Alcohol License Renewal for Wholesale Dealer (Beer, Wine & Liquor):

- Terry Briggs, Santeri, located at 413A O'Dell Industrial Way, Griffin, GA 30224. No Violations.
- 4. Consider approval of the FY'2023 County Budget for funding to be expended at the discretion of the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board of Directors in the amount of \$35,654.00.
- 5. Consider the approval of the revised plats for Greyson Parc phases 2A, 2B & 2C. The plats were revised to show the addresses given by the Tax Assessors Office
- 6. Consider approval of an Interlocal Cooperation agreement with the City of Griffin for the Executive Director position at the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve items 1, 2, 3, and 5 on the Consent Agenda. Motion approved by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to table item 4 on the consent agenda until more information can be received from the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Item #5 was tabled by the Board until the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to allow more time for review of the documents.***

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Consider selecting an Aquatic Center management company.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to table the appointment of a management company until the millage rate is established. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider approval of an Amplification Permit for a Quinceanera Party at 1202 Kilgore Road, Griffin, Georgia on September 30, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the request for an Amplification Permit for a Quinceanera Party at 1202 Kilgore Road, Griffin, GA on September 30, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

2. Consider a Resolution for the Spalding County Sheriff's Department declaring official intent to reimburse ACCG for the funding to secure vehicles while waiting for a loan closing.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Resolution for the Spalding County Sheriff's Department declaring official intent to reimburse ACCG for funding to secure vehicles while waiting on a loan closing. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

3. Consider request from the Spalding County Public Works Department to review and consider support of GDOT installation of Reduced Conflict U-Turns (RCUT) at the following intersections on 19/41:
  - Crestwood Drive, no new U-turn median breaks proposed.
  - Laprade Road, no new U-turn median breaks proposed.
  - Glenwood Drive, one new U-turn median break proposed ~0.25 miles to the north.
  - Manley Road, one new U-turn median break proposed ~0.15 miles to the south.
  - Minter Road, one new U-turn median break proposed ~0.15 miles to the south
  - SR 3/US 41 @ Moreland Road

This request will also include support for signal upgrades at the following intersections on 19/41:

- Vineyard
- Birdie Road
- School Road
- Malier Road

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor Johnson to approve a Letter of Support to GDOT for installation of Reduced Conflict U-Turn with a request that the design include a low profile for emergency vehicle access. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

4. Consider request for out of state use of Spalding County Motor Coach.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request for out-of-state use of the Spalding County Motor Coach. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

5. Consider MOU for Year 3 Building Opportunities for Out of School Time Grant (BOOST) Afterschool Program.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve an MOU for Year 3 Building Opportunities for Out of School Time Grant (BOOST) Afterschool Program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

6. Consider renewal of a contract for FY'24 with the Georgia Public Defender's Council for Indigent Defense Services provided by the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office in Spalding County for the Spalding County Superior Court.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to renew the contract for FY/24 with the Georgia Public Defender's Council for Indigent Defense Services provided by the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office in Spalding County for the Spalding County Superior Court. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

7. Consider request from Georgia Power to obtain an easement at Ambucs Park on High Falls Road.

***Motion/second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a request from Georgia-Power to obtain an easement at Ambucs Park on High Falls Road. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

Dr. Ledbetter then asked that the agenda be amended to include an Item #8 under New Business to discuss an Indirect Cost Study by Turnipseed Engineers.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to amend the agenda to include an Item #8 under New Business to discuss an Indirect Cost Study by Turnipseed Engineers. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

8. Discuss Indirect Cost Study performed by Turnipseed Engineers.

Turnipseed Engineers presented the indirect cost study. The commissioners agreed to defer a decision on this matter to allow gathering of more data to compare to include private leases in One Griffin Center owned by the City of Griffin.

## **XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

Dr. Ledbetter stated he had no additional comments this evening.

## **XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Rita Johnson**

Thanked everyone for coming out this evening and letting the Board know how they feel about the millage rate increase being considered. She then assured everyone that the Board is listening, and their concerns are being heard.

### **Gwen Flowers-Taylor**

Had no comments this evening.

### **James Dutton**

It is clear there is a lot of confusion out there. Someone who spoke this evening accused us of buying timber. There is clearly a lot of confusion on what the County does and what the County doesn't do. We would love more specific feedback. There are those

who wanted us to make more cuts to the budget, but they are not specifying where they feel these cuts should be made. We need to get more specific feedback.

We are not the School Board, we have no control over what the School Board does.

We are not the Tax Assessors Office, we constitutionally have no control whatsoever over the Tax Assessors Office. We have no control over the values of the property going up or the values going down.

People are wanting to know why we are building the Aquatic Center. We are mandated by law to build the Aquatic Center because it was voted on by the people of Spalding County as part of the SPLOST and now the County has its list of things that it must by law build.

The Budget we put forward earlier this year is not extravagant. It calls for one new person and that one new position is to train someone to take the place of a retiring long-time employee who is leaving. Next year's budget will have a net decrease there. He then stated that he wanted to assure everyone that the budget has been cut to the bare minimum. We've looked at every Department's budget; we have reviewed every single line item. We would love for people to come and help us figure this out.

### **Clay Davis**

Thanked Public Works for the resurfacing done on North Hill Street. He has a number of phone calls from people in his district saying it is long overdue and it is absolutely amazing.

God speed to Commissioner Bowlden as he tries to recover.

We will probably have a work session before the next Public Hearing to discuss the millage rate. He apologized to those who came to speak this morning and assured everyone that this matter will be heard again and voted on at the next public hearing.

### **Kathy Gibson**

The citizens this evening kept referencing the TSPLOST for projects like the Aquatic Center. That was a SPLOST project. It is important that everyone knows that the TSPLOST is for road projects and had nothing to do with the SPLOST projects.

Chairman Davis then said he would like for the Board to find some way to respond to statements that are made during Citizen Comment and Public Hearings that simply are not right. It is important that we respond so that individuals don't leave the meeting believing what was said was fact because there was no correction.

## **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Consider request to conduct an Executive Session for consultation with County Attorney or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A.



§ 50-14-2(1) and discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6).

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enter into an Executive session at 9:28 p.m. to conduct an Executive Session for Consultation with County Attorney or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6) at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second to close the Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-taylor/Dutton to approve the non-dated version settlement of the EEOC complaint by Jeffrey Bradford in the amount of \$18,500.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***