



**After Agenda  
Board of Commissioners - Special Called Meeting  
October 19, 2023  
4:00 PM  
Room 108, Annex Building**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building, beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Ryan Bowlden, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and James Dutton were present for the meeting. County Attorney, Stephanie Windham attended the meeting via ZOOM. Also present was County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter to record the minutes. County Clerk, Kathy Gibson was absent from the meeting.**

**I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Davis.

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

**II. INVOCATION**

1. Commissioner James Dutton, District #2 to deliver the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

**IV. AGENDA ITEMS**

**V. 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).

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor 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) at 4:09 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to close the Executive session at 4:56 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

Commissioner Johnson stated that MeAeyko Saunders, Spalding County Human Resource Director, was placed on Administrative Leave with pay pending her termination. Ms. Saunders filed a grievance under Article 9 requesting to be reinstated as “I have done nothing wrong.”

Commissioner Johnson then read the grievance dated September 29, 2023:

“Steve Ledbetter with the assistance of Attorney, Windham has requested my resignation due to “not being a good fit.” I requested a meeting today, September 29, 2023, and again was bombarded with this issue. Steve REFUSED to tell me why he randomly made up this “good fit” lie. He stated, I told him on Monday about my level of trust based on blind siding me on Friday of last week.

I am humbly requesting to be reinstated to my role as I have DONE NOTHING WRONG and was the ONLY one that called his inconsistency.”

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Board of Commissioners denies her grievance on the basis that the County Manager was correct in his decision to terminate Ms. Saunders. The Board of Commissioners support Dr. Ledbetter’s decision.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to deny the grievance filed by Ms. Saunders and to support Dr. Ledbetter’s termination of her employment. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***