



Agenda
Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting
October 2, 2023
6:00 PM
Room 108, Annex Building
119 E. Solomon Street
Griffin, GA 30223

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building located at 119 E. Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Ryan Bowlden, Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, and James Dutton 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)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Davis.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

1. Pastor Zachery Holmes with Grace Paradise Fellowship Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Conduct the third and final Public Hearing on the Notice of Possible Millage Rate Increase for FY 2024.

Dr. Ledbetter presented an overview of the FY2023 budget and Tax Levy with a request to the Board to approve a tax levy of 16.088.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to move Item #1: Proposal and approval of millage rate for FY2023 currently under New Business up to Item #2 under Public Hearing. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to open a public hearing on the Notice of Possible Millage Rate increase for FY2023 at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spoke against a Millage Rate Increase:

Ken Cook, 670 Patterson Road, Griffin, GA.
Lanny Hook, 148 McKinley Drive, Griffin, GA.
Gary Peters, 442 Tallulah Drive, Griffin, GA.
Brithi Beard, 525 6th Street, Griffin, GA.
Tyler Beard, 525 6th Street, Griffin, GA.
Michael Middlebrooks, 1108 Maple Drive, Griffin, GA.
Brent Drake, 2084 Steele Road, Griffin, GA.
Ken Smith, 935 Campground Road, Griffin, GA.
Adam Smith, 965 Campground Road, Griffin, GA.
Steve Stevenson, 134 Little Gem Court, Griffin, GA.
Bruce Ledbetter, 240 Roberts Street, Griffin, GA
Mark Kirkland, 4630 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA.
Sandi Daniel-Jackson, 53 Mobley Road, Griffin, GA.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to close the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Proposal and approval of a millage rate for FY2023.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve a millage rate of 16.088 for FY2023. Motion rescinded by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor and second withdrawn by Commissioner Johnson.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve a millage rate of 15.588 for FY2023. Motion carried by a 3-2 vote (Flowers-Taylor/Johnson).

V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Consider a Proclamation nunc pro tunc honoring Thomas B. Gardner as the Griffin Exchange Club Man of the Year for 2022.

Motion/second by Dutton/Johnson to approve nunc pro tunc a Proclamation honoring Thomas B. Gardner as the Griffin Exchange Club Man of the Year for 2022. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Consider request from the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. to proclaim Saturday, November 4, 2023 as Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame Day in Spalding County Georgia.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a request from the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. to proclaim Saturday, November 4, 2023, as Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame Day in Spalding County, Georgia. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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 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 for more than three minutes or more than once unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

No one signed up to speak during Citizens Comments.

VII. 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 Bowlden/Dutton 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.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Davis stated that he would read the items on the Consent Agenda for consideration, and the Board can vote on these items as a whole or should there be a need to discuss any of the items individually, the Board will vote on the items to be approved and then discuss the items in question prior to a vote on the remaining items.

1. Approve Budget Amendments for prior year Encumbrances.
2. Final Budget Amendments for FY23

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

Moved to Item #2 under the Public Hearing for consideration.

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to declare surplus, weapons that have been forfeited to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office via court order, and weapons that currently are property of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office that have become obsolete, or are irreparable, and have those weapons properly disposed of through trade to a licensed Federal Firearms Dealer.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve the request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to declare surplus, weapons that have been forfeited to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office via court order, and weapons that currently are property of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office that have become obsolete, or are irreparable, and have those weapons properly disposed of through trade to a licensed Federal Firearms Dealer. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Consider approval for County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, to write a letter to the DOAA requesting that our appeal move forward to Arbitration on issues of determining sales ratio for Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, writing a letter to the DOAA requesting that our appeal move forward to Arbitration on issues of determining sales ratio for Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Consider support of a Resolution urging the Governor and the General Assembly to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens in the State of Georgia.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Resolution urging the Governor and the General Assembly to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens in the State of Georgia. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Lift from the table and 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 Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to lift from the table and 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 carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Griffin for the Executive Director position at the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ TSPLOST resurfacing projects are going well, all but three of the roads scheduled to be resurfaced for this year are complete.
- ✓ The full depth reclamation at the Carver Road Fire Station parking lot area is underway and will be more than just a gravel drive from this point forward.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson –

- Asked for confirmation on the millage rate adopted – 15.588.
- This has been the toughest budget year for all of us and we will have to live with what the Board has decided but she feels there is a possibility that we may have been hurt more than we have been helped by this decision.

Ryan Bowlden –

- He appreciates staff meeting with the Insurance representatives regarding the current drug program. He received a phone call, and it doesn't appear that anything has changed as far as his personal situation. He is going on two months without a prescription. He is going to continue trying until he gets it. It seems like they are singling out the diabetes medicines to target.
- We must stay on the Tax Assessors office. They have evaluated a lot of homes and haven't gotten to other ones. So, it appears that the homeowners that have been re-evaluated are kind of taking the brunt of the increase for those who haven't been re-evaluated and that is not fair. He feels that that should have frozen the reappraisals until all of the properties had been re-evaluated and then implemented the re-evaluation for everyone at the same time.
- He asked that everyone pray for those involved in the shooting this weekend and everyone's families. Pray for the first responders and anyone who witnessed it. He then asked that the Board of Education suspend the game between Griffin High and Spalding High. He's not asking them to suspend the football program, just to stop this game. This is 5 years in a row something has happened after that game. Please think about stopping this game.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor –

- She is very disappointed with the decision this evening. She feels that the employees lost out on this, but as a Board member she always tries to operate on whatever the majority rules. Even though it wasn't the millage rate she would have liked, she will do everything that she can to make sure that it works.
- She feels we need to look at places that we can cut, but it needs to be a structured process. We need to be cognizant of any long-term effects.
- She didn't realize there was no recreation centers on Commissioner Bowlden's side of town so she better understands why his district would have a problem with Parks and Recreation. Even with that, she does know that during COVID, our parks were

one of the few places that people could actually go and be outside. Whatever we do in the future, we need to make sure that we are providing the same recreational outlets for people in every sector of Spalding County.

- She thanked Dr. Ledbetter for all the work he did on the millage rate.

James Dutton –

- We need the high-end industrial growth in this County. We had a crowd of people here this evening who say the tax burden is on me and they are right it is not fair. He would encourage those same people to come in when we have warehousing and industrial wanting to come in. If you don't want the tax burden to stay on you, like we don't. We want to encourage this kind of growth within the County.
- We are going to have to find a way to cut something out of everyone's budget. If you pay somebody what they are worth they are going to work longer, harder, and more efficiently. We may need to look at cutting some of the total number of positions to allow for raising the pay.
- Until we increase the industrial base, we are going to keep finding ourselves in this situation every year.
- We are going to have to look at the fines and fees being charged in the Spalding County court system. There are very few places in the State that have fines as low as Spalding County.
- We need to look at the rentals for pavilions and other items available to the public through the Parks System.
- He loves the idea of a Forensic Audit. We need to be able to show how transparent we are. Having someone come in and show that we are hiding nothing and show line by line exactly where we are at. He is in favor of our doing this and he feels it would go a long way if the other governments, the School Board and the City of Griffin would do the same.

Clay Davis –

- Thanked the Board for coming to a decision this evening and thanked Commissioner Dutton for coming up with a number that would work for the majority.
- Dr. Ledbetter will be bringing us decisions to be made that are going to be hard for us.
- We will continue to do work sessions every month and he asked the Board to think through what the workshop topics need to be. The next workshop is scheduled at the beginning of next month.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.