



After Agenda
Board of Commissioners - Work Session
November 6, 2023
9:00 AM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Monday, November 6, 2023, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building located at 119 E. Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia beginning at 9:04 a.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson and Gwen Flowers-Taylor were present for the meeting. Commissioners Ryan Bowlden and James Dutton were 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.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor of District #1.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Rita Johnson of District #3.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discuss the updated Indirect Cost Allocation prepared by Turnipseed Engineers.

Dr. Ledbetter gave an overview of the rental research project conducted by Turnipseed Engineers. The purpose of the rental research project was to establish a rental rate for the old Tax Assessors Office which is to be renovated and then occupied by the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if the rental rate determined was specific to the Administration Building in Downtown Griffin or if it would be applied should the County lease out other locations that are owned by the County.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that this is a rate that is competitive with the other offices and buildings being rented in the Downtown Griffin area and that should the County decide to rent out other properties owned by the County, the same procedure would be used and research would be done to determine the appropriate rental rate for that location.

The Board asked that the rate of County Inmates that will be utilized by the Water Authority be added to the recommended rental rate and that an IGA between the Water Authority and Spalding County be drafted for signature.

2. Conduct a discussion regarding storm water requirements in Spalding County and the Resolution to be approved on second reading this evening on the Spalding County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the proposed Resolution was approved on first reading at the October 16th Extraordinary Session and the purpose of the Resolution is to bring our Ordinance into compliance with the State of Georgia EPD. Our ordinance is currently out of compliance and has been for approximately two years.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked for a copy of the current Ordinance and the proposed changes so that she could review. Staff will provide Commissioner Flowers-Taylor with a copy of the current ordinance and the Resolution with the proposed changes.

3. Discuss if the Board wants to cancel the Extraordinary Sessions for November 20, 2023, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, and December 18, 2023, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that these two meetings are traditionally cancelled due to the holidays and holiday travel by both the Board of Commissioners and staff.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern over cancelling the November 20th meeting as we may need that meeting to complete pending business for the county. She stated that she would like to hear from the entire Board to see how many people will be out of town on these two dates to make the determination.

4. Discuss a quote for services from Heath & Lineback to complete the SR155 relocation project.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that he had contacted the City of Griffin regarding the additional costs for Phase I of this project. Chairman Davis also has contacted Mayor Hollberg regarding the additional costs. We are awaiting a definitive response from the City of Griffin before committing to any additional costs.

5. Review and discuss a request from the City of Griffin to change the name of Cabin Creek Drive to Haskell Ward Drive beginning at North 6th Street and ending at the current Haskell Ward Drive.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the County had been notified that the City of Griffin wishes to change the name of Cabin Creek Drive to Haskell Ward Drive beginning at North 5th Street and ending at the current Haskell Ward Drive.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor wondered why the request didn't include the two other blocks along that street and wanted to know why the City was notifying the County as the location is within the City Limits.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that anyone who owns property along that stretch of road was being notified and that is why the City was notifying Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Flowers Taylor/Johnson to allow a discussion on the Opioid Settlement fund and to discuss Employment Background checks. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, handed out the directives on how the funds from the Opioid Settlement could be used.

Erica Dye, Director of Accounting and Finance, stated that the Opioid Settlement Fund has received \$173,000 so far and that only \$8,000 has been used to purchase Narcan for the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is concerned about the number of citizens in Spalding County who have mental health issues that are not being properly serviced. Many of these individuals do not have transportation to get to appointments and she would like to see something done to either make treatment available more locally or provide transportation to the facilities.

Chairman Davis stated that the Board would schedule a meeting to address Mental Health issues in Spalding County and possible ways to help with transportation and other matters of concern. He also stated that he would contact Pinewood and arrange for a tour of that facility.

Ms. Windham stated that \$173,000 is not enough to make a significant dent in the Mental Health problem in Spalding County and the Board needs to concentrate on where the money can stretch the farthest to benefit the largest number of recipients.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor also advised that she like to have a more thorough Background Check be conducted on the individuals that we hire into Management and Director positions for Spalding County. She feels that if a more thorough background check had been done on some of the more recent candidates, we may not have experienced the problems that arose.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.