



**After Agenda
Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting
December 4, 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, December 4, 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, County Zoning Attorney, Newton Galloway, Community Development Director, Charles Reese 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. The Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. Bill Bond from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

1. Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3, to lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3, led the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Recognize winners of the Spalding Brite Holiday Essay contest.

Travease Bowie Event Specialist for Spalding County Leisure Services thanked the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for allowing them to present. Due to the unforeseen severe weather forecast for November 21st, they were unable to have the annual Spalding Brite: Lite The Nite family event that kicks off the holiday lights drive thru in City Park that lasts until December 31st.

Traditionally, the Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services announce and present the award certificates and monetary prizes to the winners of the annual Holiday Essay Contest at the Spalding Brite: Lite The Nite event. Spalding Brite's Holiday Essay Contest was started 8 years ago by former commissioner Raymond Ray to showcase creative writing with a focus on literary skills. This contest was previously only open to Griffin Spalding County students in 4th and 5th grade. This year, it was expanded to include 2nd and 3rd grade students as well.

Ms. Bowie reported that this year the County received the most entries ever for this contest. Participants are asked to write a 250-word essay on a photograph of their choosing. Some photos that were chosen were personal and others were pictures chosen by teachers to encourage their students to participate in a fun and engaging manner. Staff was overwhelmed with how many entries were received this year and hope that those students and more participate next year.

Ms. Bowie then introduced the Griffin-Spalding County youth winners.

2nd Grade: **Rhyleigh Noble**

3rd Grade: **Calya Mays**

4th Grade: **Bella Chay**

5th Grade: **Bassey Onukak**

Ms. Bowie also presented award certificates to Ms. Shannon Barkley and Ms. Hamm on behalf of Atkinson Elementary School. Atkinson was the elementary school that had the most students who submitted essays for the contest.

2. Presentation from Council of State Court Judges Director Bob Bray regarding the urgent staffing needs of the Spalding County State Court.

Mr. Bob Bray, Director of the Council of State Court Judges, gave a comprehensive overview of the increase in workload that has been experienced by the Spalding County State Court and the need to add at a minimum one more judge as well as support staff for the judge.

3. Presentation by Judge Josh Thacker and Alexander Hope on the proposed 5-year plan for renovations of the existing Courthouse to provide the ability for continued courthouse operations for 4 to 5 additional years.

Judge Thacker and Alexander Hope proposed changes that could be made to the current courthouse to better accommodate the business of the courts that occupy the building, increase security and accommodate a better work flow for the court system.

4. Consider request from the Spalding County Fire Department to recognize the 2023 CERT Graduates.

Fire Chief Glenn Polk introduced the 2023 CERT Graduating Class to the Board.

5. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners would like to Recognize and Congratulate:

- Fire Chief and EMS Director Glenn Polk for being named Emergency Director of the Year by the Emergency Management Association of Georgia and
- Fire Chief Mike Byrd for being named Fire Chief of the Year by the Georgia Fire Chief Association.

Both have been recognized for their outstanding leadership and selfless dedication. Their contributions have made Spalding County a safer and more resilient community in which to live, and their exceptional leadership has inspired others to strive for excellence in their own communities.

Chairman Davis then congratulated Fire Chief and EMS Director, Glenn Polk and Fire Chief Mike Byrd for their accomplishments and recognition on the State level.

6. Consider recognition of Director of Parks, Public Grounds, and Public Work TJ Imberger for receiving the 2023 GRPA Distinguished Professional of the Year Award.

T.J. Imberger was recognized for receiving the 2023 GRPA Distinguished Professional of the Year Award.

7. Consider recognition of Fairmont Community Center staff for winning the GRPA District 4 Programming Event for their Summer Camp Career Week.

The Fairmont Community Center staff were recognized for winning the GRPA District 4 Programming Event for their Summer Camp Career Week.

8. Shanesa Ashford would like to introduce herself to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Ashford is the Archway Professional for Spalding County.

Ms. Ashford introduced herself to the Board of Commissioners at the Archway Professional currently assisting Spalding County.

9. The Spalding County Board of Assessors has requested time to speak to the Board of Commissioners.

Johnie McDaniel, Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Assessors, gave an overview of the Tax Assessors office and how the assessment on property is determined.

V. ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to enter a Zoning Public Hearing at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

1. Consider the approval of the streetlight district for Greyson Parc.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that no one signed up to speak.

2. **Application 23-12S:** Logan Donnelly, Owner- 111 King Richard Drive (Approximately 1.12 acres located in land lot 61 of the 3rd land district). The applicant is requesting to be able to use his property as a short-term rental. This property is currently zoned R-2 Single Family District.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that no one had signed up to speak on this application.

Ms. JoAnn Cobb stated that she got in late, and she would like to speak.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to allow Ms. JoAnn Cobb to speak on this application. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. JoAnn Cobb, 100 Robinhood Circle, Griffin, spoke against the application.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to close the Zoning Public Hearing at 8:13 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor exited the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Conduct a Public Hearing on the 2023 CIE with the revisions as requested by Three Rivers Regional Commission.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to open a Public Hearing on the 2023 CIE Revisions at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote (Flowers-Taylor was absent from the vote).

Dr. Ledbetter stated that no one had signed up to speak during the public Hearing.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

VII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session, Regular Meeting and Executive Session on November 6, 2023.

Motion/second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session, Regular Meeting and Executive Session on November 6, 2023. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to amend the agenda vote on the Grason Park Streetlight District and to vote on Application 23-12S rezoning request to have short-term rentals. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

1. Consider approval of a streetlight district for Greyson Park.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the request for a streetlight district for Greyson Park. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor returned to the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

2. Consider approval of Application 23-12S: Logan Donnelly, Owner- 111 King Richard Drive (Approximately 1.12 acres located in land lot 61 of the 3rd land district). The applicant is requesting to be able to use his property as a short-term rental. This property is currently zoned R-2 Single Family District.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to deny the request in Application 23-12S: Logan Donnelly, Owner- 111 King Richard Drive (Approximately 1.12 acres located in land lot 61 of the 3rd land district). The applicant is requesting to be able to use his property as a short-term rental and that the Homeowner's Association for this subdivision review and revise their covenants and enforce them. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

Spoke regarding the Spalding County Animal Shelter.
Julia Maloney, 916 Hamilton Boulevard, Griffin, Georgia.
Allison Burley, 2785 Hwy 81 W, Hampton, Georgia.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval nunc pro tunc of a Joint Proclamation with the City of Griffin recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Spalding County.
2. Consider approval nunc pro tunc of a Proclamation recognizing Small Business Saturday in Spalding County, Georgia.
3. Consider approval of the New 2024 Alcohol License for Retail Sale of Liquor for the below:

- A1 Liquor, 1650B N Hill Street, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations.
4. Consider approval of the 2023 New Alcohol License for Sale of Beer & Wine for the following:
 - Family Dollar #32213, 1642 N Hill Street, Griffin, GA 30223. No Violations. (Applicant wanted to process this year)

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

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider request from Judge Josh Tacker, Judge Rita Cavanaugh, and Director Marty Matthews for the Board of Commissioners to approve a service agreement for Spalding County Sentence Enforcement to provide defendant supervision services to the Spalding County Magistrate Court.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a service agreement with Spalding County Sentence Enforcement to provide defendant supervision services to the Spalding County Magistrate Court. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approval of the 2024 Meeting Schedules for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedules for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors for the expiring terms of Dick Morrow and Thomas Brad Wideman. The new appointments are for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to table this item until the January meeting when these appointments can be considered with the other appointments scheduled for the first of the year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Consider acceptance of a Minor Plat on Teamon Road for a Fire Station.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to accept a Minor Plat on Teamon Road for location of a future fire station. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. Consider request from the Spalding County Board of Elections & Voter Registration to update the Board on the 2024 Elections and Voter Registration Status and make a request.

No Action Taken on the request.

6. Consider request by the Justice Elected Officials as presented by Judge Josh Thacker and Alexander Hope to approve, fund, and implement emergency plans to remodel the existing Courthouse build to accommodate the judges and staff who work in the location for 3-5 more years.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the preliminary plans for remodeling the existing Courthouse with no future funding obligations. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7. Consider approval of a Resolution reflecting the revisions to the 2023 CIE as suggested by Three Rivers Regional Commission.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a Resolution reflecting the revisions as suggested by Three Rivers Regional Commission to the CIE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8. Consider request from the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority (SCWSFA) to seek ARPA funding that has been earmarked for Water and Wastewater projects.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to direct the County Manager to release ARPA funding that has been earmarked for Water and Wastewater Projects to the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority to work toward providing sewerage services on AKB/Hwy 16. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Consider on first reading an ordinance prohibiting overnight parking in parks.

Approve on first reading an ordinance prohibiting overnight parking in Spalding County Parks. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. Consider approval of Wright Brothers, Inc. as the vendor for the lowest bid received on the replacement chiller unit for the Spalding County Courthouse. Bids were received from prospective vendors with Wright Brothers, Inc. being recommended by staff.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve Wright Brothers, Inc. as the vendor for the lowest bid received on the replacement chiller unit for the Spalding County Courthouse. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Substantial completion of the Spalding County Aquatic Center is expected on December 16th, 2023.
- ✓ TSPLOST – 100% of the resurfacing for Year 2 has been completed.
- ✓ Congratulations to the 2023 graduates of the Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program.
- ✓ There are no animals remaining in the old animal shelter.
- ✓ Thank you to the Community Development team for their work in preparing the update for the DCA on the CIE.
- ✓ Spalding County should be proud of the people we have working in our departments. Congratulations on a job well done to State Fire Chief of the Year – Chief Mike Byrd, State EMA Director of the Year, Chief Glenn Polk and GRPA Distinguished Professional of the Year, T.J. Imberger.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson

- Everyone is working hard on the Christmas Parade, and she is looking forward to participating in the event.
- Congratulations to Chief Byrd, Chief Polk and T.J. on their achievements and the recognition they deserve.

Ryan Bowlden – No Comment.

Gwen-Flowers-Taylor

- Would like to revisit the discussion on what the Board of Commissioners' relationship is with Department Heads. She does not like the vibe that they are getting. She doesn't want to violate any ethical restrictions, but everyone needs to better understand these limits. We need to talk about this so that we are confident we, both the Board and the employees, are all on the same page.

- She would like to discuss having Teamon Road, which connects SR155 to 19-41 and feels to the list of roads for consideration as a state Spur.
- Fulton County graduated another group of inmate trainers that have been placed with pets from the animal shelter and they have the opportunity to train those pets. She doesn't know how they select the animals or inmates, but with Spalding County having so many animals in the shelter long term, if they have the opportunity for someone to work with them one-on-one it could help in getting them into a new home. She would love to talk with the Warden to see if that is something that we can do.
- We used to be able to request inmate construction teams from the State. We have a number of projects, the one that Judge Thacker wants to do and the one that the Board of Elections wants to do. Maybe if we can get an inmate construction detail back into the County, we won't have to depend strictly on our internal maintenance department to complete these projects.

James Dutton

- Congratulations to all those who were honored this evening. The kids were awesome.
- He stated that he drove by the Aquatic Center today and it looked fantastic.
- Regarding the AKB overlay, this area has been industrial since the 70's and yet most of those parcels of land are in CUVA and that is not industrial or commercial and maybe there is a way to look at this. There may need to be some rezoning. Once sewer is available, we will have a boom out there.
- He advised that a second State Court Judge is necessary. There are 26,000 cases and we are expecting one judge to handle that workload?
- The thru trucks problem is continuing, and it is expanding. He gave an example of trucks that were on East College Street today. They didn't have a load on them, but they knew how to go through the neighborhood to get to the industrial park.
- Thank you to Sheriff Dix for cracking down on the truckers traveling on roads they are not supposed to be on. We have a fantastic Sheriff, and we are extremely fortunate to have Sheriff Dix.
- We are so lucky to have a District Attorney like Marie Broder who does a fantastic job.
- Combine that with the best EMS Director in the State, the Best Fire Chief in the State, that's not just my opinion, that is the State's opinion.
- The best Parks and Public Works Director in the State.

Clay Davis

- Good job on the fire department being proactive and bringing the inmates into a fire station so that the fire station could stay open.
- The Spalding Brite lights at City Park are great and he encouraged everyone who hasn't visited the Park to go out there and enjoy the lights.
- We have the honor of hosting the International Kiwanis President come to our Kiwanis location.
- We will have an Archway Retreat in February.
- There is a letter from FAA to GDOT asking the status of funding for the Griffin Spalding Airport. They are trying to get a meeting together to talk about where the funding will come from. At this time the County nor the City can fund this project.
- He has spoke with the electrical transmission people regarding moving the lines for the new airport and he advised them not to go forward with that because we are not going to pay for it.
- He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Stephanie Windham

- Stated that Mr. McDaniel, the Chairman of the Board of Assessors has three year left on his term. The two terms up for reappointment for six-year terms, somehow those terms are no longer staggered, and they are supposed to be. She looked at the law and we can adjust that by Resolution. She has suggested making one of the two terms up for appointment a four-year term and the other remaining a 6-year term and that would adjust the terms moving forward.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.