



**After Agenda
Board of Commissioners - Extraordinary
Session January 22, 2024
6:00 PM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building
119 E. Solomon Street
Griffin, GA 30223**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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 Deputy County Clerk, Kathy Gibson to record the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay W. Davis.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

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

Commissioner James Dutton delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

Commissioner Rita Johnson led the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Flowers-Taylor to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session for: Consultation with the 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 for in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1) and discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4). Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Presentation of Financial Statement for month ending December 31, 2023.

Erica Dye, Director of Accounting and Finance presented an overview of the current income and expenditures for Spalding County. Ms. Dye then advised she would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the financials.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to accept the Financial Statement for the month ending December 31, 2023, as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

VI. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Dr. Irving T. Clark, President of Spalding County Technical College would like to bring the Board up to date on what is happening at the College.

Dr. Clark updated the Board of Commissioners their Strategic Plan for the next four years, Enrollment Data for Fall 2023, their effort to meet High Demand Industry Sector requirements, Apprenticeship programs they currently have available, the Talent Strong Initiative and their Capital Outlay plan.

2. Newton Galloway, Spalding County Zoning Attorney, will update the Board of Commissioners on the transfer of the City of Sunny Side to Spalding County.

Mr. Galloway couldn't make the meeting. Stephanie Windham, Spalding County Attorney, presented the update to the Board of Commissioners on the transfer of the City of Sunny Side to Spalding County.

Ms. Windham advised that in compliance with House Bill 542, all the physical assets and property owned by the City of Sunny Side have been transferred to Spalding County. All business licensing has been transferred to Spalding County and there is currently a moratorium on development and zoning for this area. Most of the funds held by the City of Sunny Side have been transferred to Spalding County pending completion of the audit currently under way. Once the Audit is complete, the remaining funds will be transferred to Spalding County.

Upon completion of all items in compliance with House Bill 542, the City of Sunny Side will be redesignated in signage to read the "Historic City of Sunny Side."

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.

Stephanie Windham, 100 South Hill Street, Suite 600, Griffin, GA. Spoke regarding statements that were made in the January 8th meeting that simply were not true. She wanted to make sure that the record reflected the facts surrounding the RFP that was issued in 2023 regarding attorney services for Spalding County.

VIII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the minutes of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meetings on December 4, 2023. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider request from the Correctional Institution to enter into a contract with Southern Crescent Technical College to provide GED testing services through its Pearson VUE Testing Center for persons at the Participating Facility.

Carl Humphrey, Warden at the Correctional institution, advised that this is a renewal of the contract with Southern Crescent Technical College to provide GED testing services through its Pearson VUE Testing Center.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve a request from the Correctional Institution to enter into a contract with Southern Crescent Technical College to provide GED testing services through its Pearson VUE Testing Center for persons at the Participating Facility. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Review the recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to refuse the offer to accept the property at the old Springs Sewer Plant.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that the motion be tabled until the February meeting.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to table the recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to refuse the offer to accept the property at the old Springs Sewer Plant. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Consider request from Spalding County State Court Judge, Josh Thacker and Director Martha Matthews to add a FY24 fully-funded Administrative position.

State Court Judge, Josh Thacker, advised that the Probation Services Department will soon be taking on Magistrate and Superior Court Probation Services and there is a serious need for additional staff. He is requesting one administrative position in this fiscal year to assist in the transition. Then they will request additional administrative positions in the new budget year. Judge Thacker requested that the funding for the position be moved from Department 2300 to 3450 to cover the added position through June 30, 2024.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to transfer funding from Department 2300 to Department 3450 to cover the addition of one full time administrative person to assist the Probation Office the transfer to make funding for the position budget natural through June 30, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Consider approval of a Resolution designating the Detention Center Courtroom located at 401 Justice Boulevard, Griffin, Georgia as an alternate court facility.

The purpose of this request is for conducting non-jury court proceedings for all Spalding County Courts, including but not limited to the Superior Court, State Court, Probate Court, Magistrate Court, Juvenile Court, and any accountability courts which may exist now and in the future. The designation shall continue unless and until revoked by this Board.

Judge Thacker advised that at some point in the past this court room was designated by the County; however, they have been unable to locate when that occurred. Therefore, they are requesting that the Detention Center Courtroom located at 401 Justice Boulevard, Griffin, Georgia be designated as an alternate court facility for conducting non-jury court proceedings.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a Resolution designating the Detention Center Courtroom located at 401 Justice Boulevard, Griffin, Georgia as an alternate court facility for conducting non-jury court proceedings in Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. Consider approval of an IGA between Spalding County and the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority to utilize inmate work details for services and on public works projects.

Warden Humphrey stated that this contract is the same contract that has been approved for other governmental entities who use inmate work details. The Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority has requested the use of inmate work details to assist in their work within the County.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve an IGA with the Spalding County Water Authority to provide inmate work details for

services and public works projects. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Consider appointment to the Atlanta Regional Commission to succeed Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to table this appointment until the February meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- Advised that Spalding County is at a 2 out of 4 risks for excessive rainfall within the next few days, it is estimated to be 2.5 to 5 inches.
- Thanked the Board of Commissioners for the great retreat. Staff worked diligently to provide the material and we are thankful for your guidance to move our community forward. The material discussed will support our budget work for Fiscal Year 2025.
- The pools at the Aquatic Center are now filled and the management company will begin training on the systems to operate the facility within the next week.
- Director Imberger is working with Paragon to bid for the next phase of the TSPLOST resurfacing. The RFP is scheduled for distribution by this time next week.
- Spalding County issued an RFP for our Financial Software package with a close date of February 23rd. The RFP required those responding with bids to include a software module with a readily accessible dashboard available for sharing our financial position with our community through graphs and charts. Our intent is to be transparent without financial position.
- Staff will issue the RFP for the Master Parks Plan by the end of January.
- The Board of Commissioners will receive the draft RFP for legal services by the end of this week for your review and comments.
- Comcast and Georgia EMC are currently working in the Sun City Peachtree area installing internet. They are legally working within the rights-of-way installing fiber.
- The ACCG Annual Conference is scheduled for April 25-28, 2024, at the Savannah Convention Center. If you plan to attend, please let us know. We will properly notice the event and make accommodations for the training and travel.

XI. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson

- She thanked Erica Dye for her informative financial update, it was very thorough, and we need that at least once a month at our meetings.
- She appreciated the presentation by Dr. Clark on Southern Crescent Technical College.
- She is looking forward to the Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner in February.
- She was impressed by the facilitators during the retreat, the location was beautiful, and she feels that good progress was made on the work to be done.
- Thanked Sheriff Dix for attending the retreat. Thank you for everything you are doing for us and the citizens of this County.

James Dutton

- Stated he is excited to see the RFP's moving forward.
- The initial steps have been implemented to increase local fees in Spalding County.

- He is also excited to hear the Aquatic Center is getting close to being opened. Both he and his children are looking forward to utilizing this facility.
- The Board is currently accepting input on the next budget cycle. We encourage everyone to participate so that you understand the many facets of this complicated process. We welcome your input.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – No Comment.

Ryan Bowlden

- After the retreat this weekend he feels we are headed in the right direction on transparency.
- He was excited to have Ms. Dye review the budget items in the way she did this evening, showing where are at.
- He is excited about getting monthly updates.
- He would like to see the website updated.
- A letter was received from DNR and a boat ramp has been approved off of SR16 and will be paid for by our IMPACT Fees.
- He then asked if there was any update on when the upgrades at the reservoir would be completed?

Dr. Ledbetter advised that we are working with the City and as soon as there is an update we pass it along and place it on the website so everyone can see.

Clay Davis

- He thanked Sheriff Dix for taking the time to come to the Retreat and talk with the Board and make sure we got everything back on track.
- Thanked the Board for those who have taken the initiative and began to implement the items we agreed to already.
- Thanked Commissioner Flowers-Taylor for her efforts in the area of Mental Health. She has been working behind the scenes, getting the right people involved.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Conduct an Executive Session for: Consultation with the 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 for in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1) and discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4). Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Flowers-Taylor to enter into an Executive Session Consultation with the 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 for in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1) and discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4). Motion carried by a unanimous vote at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Dutton exited the Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. and left the meeting.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to close the Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.