

**After
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2017
6:00 PM
One Griffin Center, Solomon Street Entrance
W. Elmer George Municipal Hall**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in the W. Elmer George Municipal Hall, One Griffin Center, Solomon Street Entrance on Monday, August 7, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Bart Miller presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson and Donald Hawbaker were present. Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson Jr., Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley, County Attorney, Jim Fortune and Executive Secretary, Kathy Gibson to record the minutes.

- I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Chairman Bart Miller.
- II. INVOCATION** led by Commissioner Rita Johnson.
- III. PLEDGE TO FLAG** led by Commissioner Raymond Ray.
- IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**
 1. Representatives from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank to present Grant Award for Intersection #3 Improvement Project.

Mr. Wilson stated our local legislative delegation and representatives from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank are here to make a presentation.

Kirk Fjelstul is the Strategic Programs Administrator for the State Road and Tollway Authority. Mr. Fjelstul operates the infrastructure bank for SRTA called the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank or GTIB. He stated that it gives him great pleasure to come and celebrate a grant award to Spalding County that was issued by the SRTA Board.

Mr. Fjelstul stated that the grant award is for North Hill Street and East McIntosh Road intersection improvements. He wanted to make sure that he thanked the Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the County's staff, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Martin, who put together a great application. Once the application was complete, they did a wonderful job of getting together additional details and talking through the project finances and schedule. He then thanked Senator Harbin, Representative Knight and Representative Mathiak for their support of the GTIB program.

Mr. Fjelstul stated that the GTIB program is appropriated annually by the General Assembly. Currently we have approximately \$13 million appropriated to us annually and this year in the amended budget an additional \$10 million giving us \$23 million for 2017. The GTIB program started in 2010 and we have awarded in competitive grants and loans

approximately \$105 million.

Mr. Fjelstul stated that this program looks for three things: Transportation projects that are going to improve congestion mobility, projects that are going to enhance economic development and projects that have strong safety components built into them. We are looking for projects that can be completed quickly and in the case of Spalding County this project has strong community support, both in terms of the planning efforts and “skin in the game.” Spalding County contributed substantial SPLOST funds to this project and we like to see a lot of community involvement in these programs.

Mr. Fjelstul stated that this year they received 42 applications and granted 22 awards. There is a lot of competition involved. They received requests for more than \$50 million in grant and loan funds and we ultimately awarded approximately \$23.6 million. Spalding County should be proud of the work you have done.

The project itself is the North Hill and McIntosh Road Intersection improvement. It was a strong candidate to us as it had multiple planning efforts that were involved in what is the redevelopment corridor of the County and it includes realignment of McIntosh Road and Hill Street which makes it a good safety project. The plans also call for economic redevelopment of that intersection as well. Additionally, there was a local commitment of SPLOST funds to the project. He then presented Spalding County with a check in the amount of \$915,251.00.

2. Sheriff Darrell Dix to recognize two officers who have retired from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office and thank them for their service and contribution to our Community.

Sheriff Dix stated he has the honor of recognizing two recent retirees, but on the other side of that equation we have lost two law enforcement officers with over 25 years' experience each from our agency.

Sheriff Dix stated that Deputy Julie Gates is leaving the Sheriff's Office and is going to work for Southern Crescent Technical College as an instructor. When she first approached him to discuss her plans, it was heart breaking but he stated that he is excited that she is having this opportunity. She spent a lot of time in the field and was the only crime scene investigator, which meant she was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. She has a wealth of knowledge and he is keeping her telephone number just in case he needs to call her. He then presented Ms. Gates with a plaque for her years of service and dedication to the Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Gates thanked Sheriff Dix and said it was a hard decision. Ms. Gates stated that she had enjoyed what she has done both working in CSI and her duties at the jail. As a Crime Scene Investigator she has learned a lot and thanked the Sheriff for his support.

Sheriff Dix then introduced Deputy Mike Haygood. Mike has been at the Sheriff's Office forever. Mike, to a lot of people in this community, has been more than just a Deputy Sheriff, leader and a supervisor. Mike has been a friend. He has observed Mike's interaction with people in the hardest of times and the most difficult of times, and he always has the ability to calm people down and get people back in their right frame of mind. Mike has been a personal friend for nearly 30 years and many have grown to love him and depend on him. Mike is moving on after 25 years of service at the Sheriff's Office and he wanted to thank him for everything he has meant to the Sheriff's Office and everything that he has meant to this Community.

Mr. Haygood stated that over the past 25 years he has made a lot of dear friends and he has been through a lot and seen a lot. Overall it has been a good experience. He stated that when he was a supervisor he always took care of his people. He added that years ago he had a superior tell him that if you take care of your people, they will take care of you and it has worked out well for him.

V. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and topic in which they will speak on. Speakers must direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics and relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the 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.

Kelvin Chute, 118 Houston Street, Barnesville, Georgia, stated that he is currently the Fire Chief for the City of Barnesville and had previously worked for 16 years for Spalding County. He stated that when he started with the City of Barnesville there was a need for extrication equipment. If there was an entrapment situation they would have to call the County to assist and would have to wait for them to arrive with the equipment.

In networking with the Spalding County Fire Department, he learned that the County had some extrication equipment they intended to surplus. Through the efforts of Deputy Chief Clark and the generosity of the Board of Commissioners, the City of Barnesville was able to obtain this equipment. Chief Chute stated that he is here this evening on behalf of the City of Barnesville Mayor, City Council and the citizens to thank Spalding County for two sets of extrication equipment that was surplus and transferred to the City of Barnesville.

Selina Williams, 107 Kathryn Road, Griffin, Georgia stated that she was here this evening to request that the County consider changing the county ordinance with regard to loud music. She stated that her daughter has severe epilepsy and the music in her neighborhood is excessive. She stated they had gone to court regarding

the matter and it had been dismissed due to the ordinance not being specific in addressing this issue. She asked that the County review the ordinance to mirror the state ordinance to accommodate sensitivity to noise for those with health issues.

Mr. Wilson advised that Ms. Williams spoke with him before the meeting tonight, and they have spoken on several occasions and the Sheriff's Office has been to her residence many times. He advised that he would speak with Chief Magistrate Cavanaugh and explore further the details of that case and see if we can come up with a solution to the problem.

VII. MINUTES –

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on July 17, 2017, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on July 17, 2017, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session on July 17, 2017 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public hearing on July 27, 2017.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on July 17, 2017, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on July 17, 2017, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session on July 17, 2017 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public hearing on July 27, 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval on second reading Application #17-05Z: David W. Morrison and Kimberly L. Morrison, Owners - 207 Cecil Jackson Road (3 acres located in Land Lot 229 of the 3rd Land District) - requesting a rezoning from AR-1, Agricultural and Residential and R-2, Single Family Residential, to AR-1, Agricultural and Residential.

Mr. Wilson stated that at the Zoning Public Hearing on July 27, 2017 the Board approved this application on first reading, this is the second and final reading.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve on second reading Application #17-05Z: David W. Morrison and Kimberly L. Morrison, Owners - 207 Cecil Jackson Road (3 acres located in Land Lot 229 of the 3rd Land District) - requesting a rezoning from AR-1, Agricultural and Residential and R-2, Single Family Residential, to AR-1, Agricultural and Residential. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS -

X. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Consider approval of an Agreement with the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank for the GTIB Grant to assist with funding improvements for Intersection #3.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a \$1.6 million intersection improvement project for Intersection #3 of the LCI study that was done on North Hill Street. This is the Agreement with the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank for which the County to received funding discussed earlier in this meeting.

We are currently working on Intersection #2 which is a 50/50 split collaboration with the City of Griffin. Intersection #2 was financed with 2008 SPLOST funding. Intersection #3 will be funded by the 2016 SPLOST and this grant. This is an excellent project which will complete the LCI study for the North Hill Street corridor.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve an Agreement with the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank for the GTIB Grant to assist with funding improvements for Intersection #3. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to declare surplus K-9 Bella.

Sheriff Dix stated that K-9 Bella is a tracking dog, a blood hound, who has been operational since 2011. Sgt. Josh Pitts is Bella's handler. Bella has started to develop some health issues that are not going to get any better. Sgt. Pitts has taken responsibility for the care and feeding of Bella personally and the vet bills have not been an expense to the County. He then asked Sgt. Pitts to advise some of the things that Bella has done during her career with Spalding County.

Sgt. Pitts stated Bella was gifted to the Sheriff's Department by the Georgia Department of Corrections in 2011. Sgt. Pitts, along with the Georgia Department of Corrections, trained her, so he has been her handler since she was 6 weeks old. Bella has tracked down some "bad guys" and she has found numerous missing children. Her most recent find was in August of last year, a 3 year old was kidnapped and she tracked the bad guy down with the child a mile and a half to two miles away, in the rain, about 24 hours after the abduction. Bella has jumped in and out of a Tahoe for six years, every day, and it has taken a toll on her. He would appreciate her being able to spend the rest of her days chasing a tennis balls instead of the bad guys.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to declare K-9 Bella as surplus and transfer her to Sgt. Josh Pitts as caretaker. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of a new 2017 Alcohol Beverage License for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for Sat Kaival Enterprises, LLC dba A-1 Food Mart located at 1650 N. Hill Street, Griffin, GA.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a new license for a new business. It is a grocery store at the intersection of East McIntosh and North Hill Street and that has been closed for several years. They do meet all of the requirements for the

license and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve a 2017 Alcohol Beverage License for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for Sat Kaival Enterprises, LLC dba A-1 Food Mart located at 1650 N. Hill Street, Griffin, GA. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider request of the Humane Society of Griffin Spalding County, Inc. for a letter stating that Spalding County has no objection to the State granting a one-day alcohol license for the Humane Society's Annual Chili Cook-Off to be held on Saturday, October 28th, 2017 at "The Pavilion" from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County does not issue one day permits. The Human Society comes to us annually with this request, as the State requires us to sign off for the State to issue that one day permit for a fund raising event. This is their annual event and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve the request of the Humane Society of Griffin Spalding County, Inc. for a letter stating that Spalding County has no objection to the State granting a one-day alcohol license for the Humane Society's Annual Chili Cook-Off to be held on Saturday, October 28th, 2017 at "The Pavilion" from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of final plat for Sun City Peachtree Subdivision - Pod 38B.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the final plat for Pod 38B and they have met all of the requirements. This is a two stage process, we accept the plat first and then the right-of-way deed. Staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to approve the final plat for Sun City Peachtree Subdivision - Pod 38B. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider acceptance of Right-of-Way Deed for Pod 38B (Sun City Peachtree).

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the actual Right-Of-Way deed for the street itself. The Public Works Department and Community Development Department have reviewed this and recommend acceptance of the Right-Of-Way deed.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to approve the Right-of-Way Deed for Pod 38B (Sun City Peachtree). Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Set a date for a Public Hearing to establish a street lighting district for Sun City

Peachtree - Pod 38B.

Mr. Wilson stated that each time the Board accepts a new plat and a new Right-Of-Way deed, there is a new street light district created for those areas. Pulte Homes has petitioned the County for a street light district. They own all of the lots in the Pod. We generally have the Public Hearing for the street light district at the subsequent meeting which will be August 21st. We request permission to advertise and hold that meeting during the August 21st meeting.

Motion/Second Hawbaker/Ray to hold a Public Hearing to establish a street lighting district for Sun City Peachtree – Pod 38B on August 21st, 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider approval of Addendum to the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) Program Memorandum of Understanding for FY 2018.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a request from the Human Resources Department. Spalding County is required by the State to do this. It is \$300 per year for us to run anyone who is an applicant for public benefits through the SAVE Program. This item has been budgeted and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve an Addendum to the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) Program Memorandum of Understanding for FY 2018. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider approval of Allen-Smith Consulting to administer the FY2018 CDBG Grant and Paragon Consulting to provide the Engineering Services for the FY2018 CDGB grant for the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority Dundee Mill Village Sewer Project.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority would like to pursue a 2018 CDBG grant. We sent out requests for proposals for both Grant Administration and Engineering services. We received a single proposal back from Allen Smith Consulting for Grant Administration. We received four proposals back for Engineering Services and we are recommending that Paragon Consulting do the engineering for this project. Any of the grant matches or other costs required will be paid by the Water Authority. The Grants can only be issued to the County, so the County will act as the “pass through” for the Water Authority.

The Water Authority currently has Plant #1 located behind the old Dundee Mills Headquarters that currently services 7 houses. This project could

provide sewer to approximately 40 houses and it is believed the income levels and other requirements of the grant could be met as well. This is at the request of the Water Authority. It has been bid out and these two entities are recommended for these services.

Commissioner Flowers –Taylor joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m. during discussion of this item.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve Allen-Smith Consulting to administer the FY2018 CDBG Grant and Paragon Consulting to provide the Engineering Services for the FY2018 CDGB grant for the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority Dundee Mill Village Sewer Project. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider resolution authorizing execution of contract with the Cities of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunny Side for a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is Phase I of the TSPLOST. Tonight the County Commissioners are set to approve the contract with the cities of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunny Side. Tomorrow night the City of Griffin will approve it on their Agenda.

The next item is a call for the election. Once Orchard Hill, Sunny Side and the City of Griffin sign the contract. Thursday, the Board of Elections will hold a Special Called Meeting agreeing to call for the election that the Board will be authorizing tonight under the next item of business.

Mr. Wilson stated that this contract has all of the projects that the Board has agreed to and include the distribution between the City and County. Both the City and the County will be issuing bonds should this referendum pass in November. This resolution outlines the intergovernmental agreement between the four entities.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to approve a resolution authorizing execution of contract with the Cities of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunny Side for a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider resolution authorizing the Board of Elections to call an election to approve the imposition of a Transportation Sales and Use Tax and for other

purposes.

Mr. Wilson stated that once the Board adopted the Resolution calling for the election along with the intergovernmental agreement, this resolution asks the Board of Elections to ratify the action and to call for an election on November 7th. The BOE has to physically wait until the City of Griffin, Orchard Hill and Sunny Side approve the contract that you just approved. That will happen Tuesday and Wednesday and the BOE will meet on Thursday.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Johnson to approve a resolution authorizing the Board of Elections to call an election to approve the imposition of a Transportation Sales and Use Tax and for other purposes. Motion carried unanimously by all.

12. Consider approval of contract with the City of Orchard Hill to conduct City elections.

Mr. Wilson stated that a number of years ago, we signed a contract with the City of Griffin to conduct municipal elections for the City of Griffin. The City of Orchard Hill came to the Board of Elections earlier this year and asked if we would consider and get them some pricing on handling their elections. Since that time the City of Sunny Side has also requested this service, so we are working with them as well, but we do not have a contract with them.

Mr. Wilson advised that we took the contract with the City of Griffin and modified it for the City of Orchard Hill. The County Attorney has reviewed the document in form and Marcia Ridley, our Board of Elections Supervisor has provided all of the documentation and costs and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve a contract with the City of Orchard Hill to conduct City elections. Motion carried unanimously by all.

13. Consider request from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission to consult with the City of Griffin regarding the possibility of making Blanton Avenue a dead end street at its intersection with Third Street and A Z Kelsey Avenue.

Mr. Wilson advised that a request from Zack Holmes, Chairman of the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission requested this action. He stated that he would defer to Commissioner Flowers-Taylor because she is a member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and

was very involved with this request.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor added that there should also be a letter from CEO of the Griffin Housing Authority, Bob Dull, also asking that this street be made a dead end. Since the Heritage Park renovation is starting to happen at Fairmont we have found the amount of traffic on Blanton Avenue, from Blanton and Haskle Ward down to Blanton and Kelsey is very fast. Once the fence is down and the ball field is turned into a green space and possibly a playground area, we feel it is important that cars are not driving from one side of the part to the other at high rates of speed.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that members of the Advisory Commission had spoken with the Police Chief who advised that the only problem he could foresee with the City would be emergency response vehicles, but it shouldn't be a problem as most of the emergency response vehicles would be coming from the North Hill Street or South Hill Street sides to get to that area.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the issue for us is safety as we are expanding a park. The park will go from Fairmont at Kentucky Avenue all the way over to Fairmont at Heritage Park and Jefferson Street so we feel this is important due to the continuity of the Park, for the safety of the people using the Park and it may also allow for additional parking. Parking is not the issue at this time, slowing the traffic down and decreasing the traffic is the concern.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the Park and Rec Advisory Board would like the Board of Commissioners to send a request to the City of Griffin requesting that the street either be made a one-way street or that it be made into a dead end beginning at AC Kelsey and Blanton Avenue at 3rd Street.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve a request from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission to consult with the City of Griffin regarding the possibility of making Blanton Avenue a dead end street at its intersection with Third Street and A Z Kelsey Avenue.

Commissioner Ray asked if the request is for a one-way or a dead end.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that the request is for a dead end.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

14. Consider cancellation of the September 4, 2017 Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting due to the observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is our Labor Day Holiday and is also the Regular Meeting date. Staff recommends cancellation of the meeting. He added that we can have a Special Called Meeting if needed.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to cancel the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting scheduled for September 4, 2017 due to the observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- Mr. Wilson advised that the cookies that the Board had at their seats when they arrived were provided by the Senior Center celebrating 2 years of service of the Meals on Wheels and Senior Meals program. You will notice on the back of each of the cookies there is a note from a Meals on Wheels client. So make sure to read the back of the card. We are celebrating two years of this great program.
- Everyone is invited to a reception for Kenda Woodard next Thursday, August 17th, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Welcome Center. Sponsored by Main Street and GSBTA.
- He wanted to let everyone know that Norfolk Southern has completed the maintenance at the railroad tracks at Green Valley and in front of the State Patrol Post. He has been over them several times going both North and South and they are much smoother than they were before.
- Last Friday, we met with representatives from Headley Construction and today their Substantial Completion Letter and their Punch List for the Pickleball facility was presented by Mr. Buffington with Paragon Consulting.
- Commissioner Flowers-Taylor had asked about the Housing Study. Chad Jacobs met with Toussaint Kirk and the consultant last week. They are almost finished with the 9,000+ parcels they reviewed. As you may recall, we have an Archway Retreat on August 23rd and that was one of the goals for that retreat. He stated that he believes the plan is to present the report it to the City Commission on the 25th. We will have it presented to our Board as well. But there may be some preliminary information presented at the Archway Retreat on the 23rd.
- The Archway Follow-up Retreat will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on August 23rd at the Senior Center. If you can arrive 3:15-3:30 we're going to have folks there who are working on our Comprehensive Plan. They are going to have maps and be available to answer any questions. We had planned to present at the Archway Retreat, but there were too many agenda items to include that presentation.
- We are announcing tonight that we have reorganized and combined Parks, Public Grounds and Public Works. Effective tomorrow, T.J. Imberger will be the new

Parks, Public Grounds and Public Works Director. Mr. Crane who has served as Interim Public Works Director will move back to his old position of Assistant Public Works Director. There will be some restructuring at Public Works over the next 6-9 months. This was announced to the Parks & Public Grounds employees at a meeting last Friday at 9:00 a.m. and then at a separate meeting for Public Works at 2:00 p.m. on Friday. This will also be announced tomorrow morning at the staff meeting and a press release is forthcoming.

- Fairmont- Heritage Park Projects:
 - At Fairmont they are now working on the HVAC, our play structures are ordered and in stock, our site amenities are in stock. Our architectural work is complete on the press box remodel and the building permit was issued last week.
 - Architectural plans are currently being drawn for the remodel, pavilion expansion and neighborhood restrooms.
 - The new volleyball court is waiting for sand.
 - The perimeter fence is complete.
 - The first phase of the sidewalk back to the center is complete.
 - New dumpster pad is complete.
 - Phase I of security lighting at Fairmont is complete.
 - Gym floor bid is in the process of being issued.
 - The pavilions to be installed are in stock.

- Heritage Park
 - Asbestos removal is complete
 - Lead abatement is 50% complete
 - Architectural drawings to start after completion of Fairmont drawings are completed.

 - Large tree removal for sidewalks completed.
 - Interior fence removal completed.
 - Play structures in stock.
 - Pavilions in stock.
 - Civil Engineering site location meeting was last week, on August 1st, and the site amenities are in stock.

We have been meeting with the City of Griffin to locate two new crosswalks and we are planning a display site for stream reconstruction teaching area with the City for storm water in that area as well.

Since we have now completed the Pickleball Facility, the State Construction Crew will be moving to Fairmont-Heritage Park so you will be seeing many more changes coming in the future at Heritage Park.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked about the estimated completion date for the roundabout.

Mr. Wilson stated that the roundabout will probably be completed for traffic before the bridge, but we are still looking at early September.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Donald Hawbaker:

- Wanted to say congratulations and thank you for the vote for moving forward with the TSPLOST. He stated he is glad that we are bonding approximately 80 miles of resurfacing because the citizens will immediately see the effects of their vote. He hopes that the residents of the County will educate themselves on the benefits of the SPLOST and make an informed vote.
- This weekend there will be the second full scale Pickleball Tournament at the new facility. They had planned to cut off registrations at 150 participants, but they had such an enthusiastic response the current registrants are north of 150 and he is not quite sure what the count is at this time. This event is a locally sponsored event and is called the Doc Holiday Shootout and even some who are coming from close by are planning to book motels and plan to explore the Griffin area and visit the Doc Holiday Saloon.
- Congratulations to the retiring Spalding County Sheriff's Deputies and he thanked them for their service.

Commissioner Raymond Ray:

- Wanted to extend his personal thank you to the Norfolk Southern Railroad for the construction on the railroad crossings. It has been a long time coming, but you can go across them now without hitting your head on the roof of your vehicle.
- Thank you to the staff for their work on the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Grant. If you had not done all of the work that was done we would not have \$915 + thousand dollars to help us with our road infrastructure.
- We will be looking at the noise ordinance sometime within the next 30-45 days to try and address issues brought up by Ms. Williams earlier tonight.
- Ladies and gentlemen please remember that on Wednesday school opens. Kids are not looking for cars, we need to be careful and look for them. If you would, just slow down when you are around the schools and be mindful of them walking or riding bikes up and down the roads.

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor:

- She would like to see some evidence, as in the posting of signs regarding the SPLOST projects that are being worked on be identified within the County. She said she hasn't seen anything in the Fairmont Area saying upcoming project is

being paid for with SPLOST dollars. She feels it is really important for people to know that. These are SPLOST dollars being spent on the road and bridge projects. That this recreation project is funded by SPLOST money. We need to be doing a better job letting citizens know that SPLOST made these projects possible. Let's try to get some signs out pretty quickly.

- She had spoken with William and T.J. earlier this month about the company that does our job evaluations. According to William they have a proprietary software where they enter the data in their system and provides the evaluations requested. In this time of information technology, it should not take six months to get a response regarding a job description. She feels it is taking entirely too long to get job descriptions.

When she hears it is going to take 6-9 months to get the restructuring of the Parks, Public Grounds and Public Works completed, she is totally not okay with that because we knew this was the plan. She feels we need to look at that, she doesn't feel that just because we are government we should go as slow as we can. We have promised better morale, we have promised the citizens better service out of Public Works and we have promised ourselves more productivity.

- She feels that the issues with the sub-standard housing is a big deal. We have such an issue with it both in the City and the County. They have gotten about 40% of the mill down below her house in East Griffin, so hopefully they will continue with that.
- She also asks that everyone be mindful of the kids starting back to school this week. Just know that they are out there and we need to be looking for them.

Commissioner Rita Johnson:

- She offered a big congratulations to the two officers who have retired. 17 years and 25 years says a whole lot about those two individuals and a whole lot about the department and the new leadership as well.
- Very excited about the grant we received from GTIB for infrastructure. It is very exciting times as we continuously work to move this County forward. This will be a large addition to Spalding County.
- Today marks three months until the vote on the TSPLOST, so there is work to be done. We need to be mindful of that.
- She is going to try to make the Archway Retreat. In the meantime, she and William will get with Kristen Miller to get a refresher out to the group on what was agreed to in February so that we can assess the progress.

Mr. Wilson advised that he has the report on the goals and objectives and he will email it to all the Commissioners.

Chairman Bart Miller:

- He would also like to thank the two officers who have retired. He has known Mike for some time and he has had individual contact with them and he thinks both of

them have done a great job and have been of great service to this community.

- The grant from the Infrastructure Bank is going to be a great help to the citizens of Spalding County. He was not aware that those types of funding opportunities were available through the State.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had left one item out of his report. We will be setting the mileage rate this month. The Board of Education is a recommending authority, they must actually vote to recommend a mileage rate to the County Commissioners and only the County Commissioners can levy the tax. The law requires they meet before us. The School Board only has one meeting in August, it was August 1st. Law requires the levy be delivered to the state on or before September 1st.

He is pleased to announce that the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for the second year in a row will be reducing the mileage rate. We will be reducing it from 15.66 to 15.36 mills. On an average \$100,000 house with homestead exemption the taxes will decrease approximately \$11.40. It is the second year in a row that we have done this and we will be setting the rate on the 21st or 24th. He is pushing the School Board to try to have their meeting before those times so that we can get the Tax Commissioner everything that she needs to go to Atlanta to get the tax digest approved for a November 15th due date. We will be lowering the General Fund mileage rate from 15.66 to 15.36 mills.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked if the school would be doing a rollback rate.

Mr. Wilson advised that the School would be recommending a rollback rate, we are keeping the same rate on the Fire District and he was not sure about the City of Griffin.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***