

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 6, 2016
6:00 PM
Meeting Room 108, Courthouse Annex
119 E. Solomon Street**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, June 6, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Bart Miller, Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Donald Hawbaker were present. 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 Chairperson Rita Johnson.
- II. INVOCATION** led by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker.
- III. PLEDGE TO FLAG** led by Commissioner Raymond Ray.
- IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**
 1. Consider approval of Proclamation Nunc Pro Tunc honoring the Griffin Exchange Club's "2015 Man of the Year" Mr. John "Steve" Crouch, Sr.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve the Proclamation Nunc Pro Tunc honoring the Griffin Exchange Club's "2015 Man of the Year" Mr. John "Steve" Crouch, Sr. Motion carried unanimously by all.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that this Proclamation was presented to Mr. Crouch at the Man of the Year luncheon at Southern Crescent Technical College two weeks ago.

- I. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** - None.
- II. 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.

No one signed up to speak.

III. MINUTES -

Consider approval of minutes for the May 16, 2016 Spalding County Extraordinary Session and the May 16, 2016 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the minutes for the May 16, 2016 Spalding County Extraordinary Session and the May 16, 2016 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA-

1. Consider approval on second reading an ordinance establishing a Hotel/Motel Excise Tax in the amount of 8% with an effective date of July 1, 2016.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-2 (Ray/Miller).

V. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Conduct Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2017 Budget.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to open the Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2017 Budget. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Budget was presented in May and the Board of Commissioners held their workshop on the budget and made a few changes. Those changes have been implemented. It is a balanced budget which does include a tax decrease in both the General Fund and the Fire District Fund as requested by the Board of Commissioners.

The budgets are balanced and the priorities include phase two of our four phase implementation to address the pay compression problem and we increased the pension benefit from a 1% match to a 2%. In addition, due to the SPLOST funds we were able to pay off the long term debt that the County had, which should result in a .9 mil decrease in taxes for those residents living in the unincorporated Spalding County.

The budget does anticipate a 2% net digest increase; however, we do not get the digest figures until September so we will await the figures from the Tax Assessors and Tax Commissioner's Office. We are currently in the appeals process for the 2016 Digest.

Mr. Wilson then opened the floor to the public if there was anyone who would like to address the budget.

Natalie Marshall, 522 South 6th Street, Griffin, Georgia. Ms. Marshall is the Executive Director of the Flint River Public Library System headquartered in Griffin, Georgia. The Library has been at this location since 1974 serving not only Griffin, but the six county region that we are a part of. She thanked the Board for including the Library for technology and materials money in the SPLOST which will have a huge impact on the library.

Ms. Marshall advised that there is a potential for the Library to receive a 50% match in funding from the Georgia Public Library Service and the Board of Regents to redo the bathrooms upstairs in the Library. This is a great opportunity to have work done on a County facility at a discounted cost. She projected the cost of the project to be approximately \$60,000 which would be \$30,000 from the County which would be matched by the State. She did not have the exact figure, but she projected the cost at \$60,000. The bathrooms upstairs are original to the building and were installed in the 1970's. The upstairs bathroom is not ADA compliant there is no room for a wheel chair to turn around and there is no accommodation for a baby changer upstairs.

Ms. Marshall stated that if there is any way that the Board could arrange for funding in the Budget she would love to be able to take advantage of the 50% match for this capital project and improve the facilities upstairs at the Library.

Mr. Wilson advised he would work with Ms. Marshall to try and take advantage of this 50% grant.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to close the Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2017 Budget. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from Brian W. Lasseter for refund of a portion of his 2015 property taxes attributable to Department of Veterans Affairs designation of 100% VA Disability.

Jim Fortune, County Attorney, advised that Colonel Lasseter is requesting that he be refunded a portion of his 2015 Property Taxes. He has provided a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs which states that he is 100% disabled. However, in 2015 the legislation that would give 100% homestead exemption to a disabled veteran was changed. Prior to that time the law read that "if you are 100% disabled or if you have lost a limb." In 2015, there was an error made by the legislature which has now been fixed which change the law to read you had to be 100% disabled and lost a limb.

Mr. Fortune advised that Colonel Lasseter received his letter around April 8th, 2016 and immediately notified the Tax Commissioner of the exemption. The cut off is March 31st, so he missed the cut off by 7 or 8 days. The Tax Commissioner cannot issue Colonel Lasseter a refund. However, the Board of

Commissioners can issue a refund and that is why Colonel Lasseter is appealing to the Board to get him his refund.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Tax Commissioner had calculated the refund to be approximately \$2,676.66. The exemption only exempts up to \$70,000 in assessed value and his assessed value is greater than \$70,000.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked what the Department of Revenue had to do with the VA eligibility date.

Mr. Fortune advised that it is a State of Georgia law that grants the homestead exemption. The Department of Revenue determines the necessary grounds to qualify for the total homestead exemption.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she feels it is opening a Pandora's Box. She stated that she is sure there are other veterans who have also received their disability status during a portion of the year and have had to wait until the next year. When you get your letter you are eligible, if you get the letter in April of 2016, then you are not eligible for the deduction in 2015.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to deny the request by Mr. Lasseter for refund of a portion of his 2015 property taxes attributable to Department of Veterans Affairs designation of 100% VA Disability . Motion carried 3-2 (Ray/Miller).

3. The Honor Our KIA group would like to update the Board of Commissioners on the how the funding allocated in FY 2015 has been utilized and to request an allocation from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for FY 2016.

Mr. Quimby Melton reminded the Board that June 6, 1944 was the day that D Day began and many veterans in Spalding County were part of that day. He then thanked the Board for the FY2015 contribution to Honor Our KIA. He stated that they could not have accomplished all that they had this year without the support received from Spalding County and the City of Griffin.

Mr. Melton then stated that in the first year the group was able to honor 20 soldiers. In 2015, there were 76 soldiers honored and they plan to honor another 70-80 soldiers in 2016. Mr. Melton added that at the implementation of this initiative, they had planned on it taking seven years to honor all of the soldiers from Griffin and Spalding County who died serving our Country; however, due to the funding provided by the City of Griffin and Spalding County they are now looking at a three year project and the initiative should end this year.

Mr. Melton then reviewed how the money received by the group had been utilized in 2015 and then presented a proposal for Year 3 of the project. He advised that the total request for this year is \$5,000, but any consideration would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Wilson advised that Spalding County currently has approximately \$41,000 left in the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund should the Board wish to grant the \$5,000.

Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to take \$5,000 from the FY 2016 Hotel/Motel Tax fund for the Honor Our KIA Group.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is proud of the work that has been done by the Honor Our KIA group and when she walks down the street and sees the plaques she is reminded that we do honor our veterans who lost their lives in the service to our Country.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan for County employees.

Mr. Wilson stated that as part of the Health and Wellness Plan the Board has talked about rewarding employees who were able to lose up to 5% of their body weight and/or have a BMI of 25 or less. We have had individuals who met that challenge and the challenge of quitting smoking as well. At this time, we need to setup a health reimbursement arrangement that will put \$500 in an account for each employee who met the requirements, the money will be placed on a card much like the health spending account and the funds can be utilized for health related deductibles. We budgeted \$44,000 to take care of this in the FY 2017 Budget and this is the paperwork that sets the reimbursement plan up and puts the plan into motion.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that \$44,000 is a drop in the bucket to compare with medical claims for people taking hypertension medication, diabetic medication, potential stroke and all of the other things that can happen when the people are overweight and smoking. This is a win for us because this will encourage our employees to become healthier people which will reduce our overall healthcare costs tremendously.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan for Spalding County Employees. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval of Addendum to the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) Program Memorandum of Understanding for FY 2017.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the agreement for 2017 for this program, the cost for the program is \$300 per year. We utilize this program not only for vendors, but we also use it for business licensing because everyone has to be verified.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the Addendum to the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) Program Memorandum of Understanding for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all

6. Consider on first reading Ordinance 2016-005 amending Section 6-1019 by striking subparagraph "d" in its entirety and inserting a new section 6-1019(d) regarding penalties for failure to remit payment on a timely basis of alcoholic beverage taxes.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County had experienced a problem with Hotel/Motel taxes and we implemented a 50% penalty if not paid in time. We

are having a similar problem with some of our Alcoholic Beverage Tax payers. Currently, the penalty is minimal, raising the penalty has helped us in the collection of our Hotel/Motel tax and we believe that implementation of the same penalty will improve collections of the Alcoholic Beverage Tax.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve on first reading Ordinance 2016-005 amending Section 6-1019 by striking subparagraph "d" in its entirety and inserting a new section 6-1019(d) regarding penalties for failure to remit payment on a timely basis of alcoholic beverage taxes. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval of contract with the State of Georgia, Department of Human Resources for Spalding County to provide Janitorial Services for the Department of Family and Children Services Offices located at 411 East Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the annual contract with the Georgia Department of Human Resources to furnish janitorial services to the Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services. Mr. Fortune has reviewed the contract which is a multi-year contract with a fee scheduled that reflects a 5% increase each year for the term of the contract.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that this service be tracked through Facility Dude so that it can be determined what this service actually costs Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve a contract with the State of Georgia, Department of Human Resources for Spalding County to provide Janitorial Services for the Department of Family and Children Services Offices located at 411 East Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider approval of a contract with Three Rivers Regional Commission to coordinate the 2017 Public Transportation Program with the Department of Transportation for Spalding County.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the 5311 Public Transportation Program. It is a multi-county program administered by Three Rivers Regional Commission. Spalding County participates jointly with the City of Griffin and our portion of the contract which is \$6,650 maximum.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to know where Three Rivers stands on their rebranding of this service in order to educate the public that this service is available to all of the citizens in Spalding County. She feels that many residents still do not understand that it is public transportation available to everyone.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve a contract with Three Rivers Regional Commission to coordinate the 2017 Public Transportation Program with the Department of

Transportation for Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider approval of FY 2017 Recreation Fee Schedule as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that initially there was a request to increase the fee for membership at the Senior Center, but the Park and Rec Advisory Committee was concerned by the expressed desire of some of the Commissioner to have the park and recreation amenities start paying more of their up keep.

The main change in this year's fee schedule to is to encourage county employees who do not live in Spalding County to bring their children here to participate in the summer programs. If county employees wish their children to attend the summer programs then the out-of-county fee of \$30.00 will be waived for that program.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the FY 2017 Recreation Fee Schedule as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections for the contracted care and custody of State Offenders at the Correctional Institute in Spalding County for FY 2017.

Mr. Wilson advised that this is Spalding County's annual contract with the Department of Corrections for 384 inmates for 365 days at \$20.00 per day. \$2.8 million is budgeted in the General Fund revenues for this contract.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if the County loses money or makes money as a result of this agreement.

Mr. Wilson stated that if the County had to pay minimum wage for every detail that is handled by the inmates, it would be significantly more than the difference between this contract and what the County pays to house and feed the inmates.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Flowers-Taylor to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections for the contracted care and custody of the State Offenders at the Correctional Institute in Spalding County for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all.

11. Consider approval on first reading an Ordinance amending the FY 2016 Budget Ordinance to provide for establishment of the Senior Nutrition Fund, the Capital Projects 2016 SPLOST Fund, the 2016 SPLOST Debt Service Fund and yearend adjustments.

Mr. Wilson stated that the items listed were not anticipated at the beginning of the fiscal year and these funds had to be set up once the SPLOST passed. This will account for those funds in the system prior to closing the fiscal year.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve on first reading an Ordinance amending the FY 2016 Budget Ordinance to provide for establishment of the Senior Nutrition Fund, the Capital Projects 2016 SPLOST Fund, the 2016 SPLOST Debt Service Fund and yearend adjustments. Motion carried unanimously by all.

12. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association, Inc.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker nominated T.J. Imberger as the Spalding County Employee on the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Committee. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if the Sun City Representative could also be a Commissioner as she would like to serve as the Commissioner on this Committee and she knows that Commissioner Hawbaker is also very interested in being on the committee.

Mr. Fortune stated that according to the By-laws we have to name a commissioner and a Sun City resident. If the resident also happens to be a commissioner he doesn't see a problem.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that he does have an interest in this committee and whether he is a committee member or not, he will be attending the meetings.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to nominate Commissioner Donald Hawbaker as the Sun City Representative on the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Committee. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Rita Johnson/Ray to nominate Commissioner Gwen-Flowers-Taylor as the Spalding County Commissioner on the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Committee. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray requesting that the appointment of a Spalding County resident/business owner be tabled to the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.

13. Consider cancellation of the July 4, 2016 Board of Commissioner's meeting due to observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the cancellation of the July 4, 2016 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting due to the observance of the Independence Day Holiday. Motion carried unanimously by all.

A discussion was then held regarding the Public Zoning Hearing on June 23rd. Consensus was reached to move the Public Zoning Hearing and the Final Reading of the Budget to June 29th if Community Development can get out the notifications

and the applicants involved are available to attend the meeting on that date and time.

VII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- This morning we had 15 young adults from the 4-H Youth in Governance. We toured the building, we let them sit and role play as County Commissioners and review the budget.
- T.J. Imberger has been asked to be a member of the Play Area Advisory panel for the National Recreation and Parks Association. This is for a two year term to begin May 31st of this year.
- Update on 2016 SPLOST Collections - we budgeted over the 72 month period \$700,000 per month, the first month's collection was \$660,355.86 we hope this increases in the upcoming months. As we agreed, the Cities of Sunny Side and Orchard Hill are to receive funding for their SPLOST projects first, then the City of Griffin and Spalding County will split the proceeds thereafter. He stated that he would be reporting every month on the collections for the SPLOST.
- Commissioner Johnson, Mr. Mosley and Mr. Wilson met with representatives of the Griffin Kiwanis Club and they are still interested in the county purchasing or working with them to purchase the fairgrounds property. He stated that he told them that (a) the County does not have the money and (b) the County would have to borrow the money. He further advised that he did not believe the Commissioners would be willing to go back into long term debt at this time, because we just paid ourselves out of debt. He added that he did advise that it might be considered for a future SPLOST project.
- Wendy Law's oldest son, Josh is in the hospital, he is in ICU, and he is in critical condition so please keep Wendy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

VIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Donald Hawbaker- Congratulated Commissioner Miller and Chairperson Johnson on outcome of May 24th election and wished GFT the best of luck in her run off.

On Memorial Day, he attended the Honor Our KIA event at the Griffin Auditorium on Sunday and the Memorial Day commemoration which was outstanding, particularly with the unveiling of the new plaque for the "Lost Soldiers."

He congratulated the Parks and Recreation and the county staff on the employee appreciation day this past Saturday. June Jam was also a great event and very well attended.

He has been attending ACCG Policy Committee meetings for the last few weeks. He advised that they are group discussions that include legislators and lobbyist who review recently enacted legislation. The last two policy meetings are coming up and will be in Morrow, Georgia. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend if they have the time.

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor - The employee and family gathering was awesome, it was very well organized and there was something for everybody to do. We have a beautiful park and we have kept it up very well.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that a lady had called her last week and she has talked with T.J. Imberger about this, there are a lot of people walking their animals in Wyomia Tyus Park. The complaint is regarding animals that are allowed to run loose off of their leashes and people are not cleaning up after their pets. She is recommending that everyone who brings an animal to the park, to make sure they keep them on a leash and that they bring their own bags for picking up and disposing of the pet's waste and she has asked T.J. if it would be possible to provide some "bag stations" at the park.

A member at Union Baptist called to say that the children at Ambucs Park have no planned activities. She stated that there is nothing there to entertain the children. She asked Mr. Wilson to find out why they can't get equipment for the children at Ambucs Park.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor also asked that the Board explore using contingency funds to assist in the matching funds for the upstairs bathroom at the Library. She advised that she has gone to that Library since she was a child and that the upstairs bathroom does need some work.

Commissioner Raymond Ray - Give an "attaboy" to the Public Works crew, he had called them with a problem in his district and they went out immediately, they did a professional job and completed it very quickly and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Commissioner Bart Miller – Also feels that the use of contingency funding would be an excellent idea especially since there are matching funds available to fix the upstairs bathroom at the Library.

Chairperson Rita Johnson stated that she had a great time at the Employee Appreciation Day event and the food was tasty and enjoyable.

Chairperson Johnson also stated that June Jam that evening was awesome too.

Chairperson Johnson wanted to thank the voters of Spalding County for allowing her to continue as Commissioner of District 3 for another four years.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

The County Manager requests a closed session to discuss future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4).

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to enter into closed session at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn closed session at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve the purchase of right-of-way for intersection #2 improvements at the North Hill Street corridor. Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.