

MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, May 16, 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, Chad Jacobs, Community Development Director, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham 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.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requested the agenda be amended to include under new business an item for DSP2.

Motion/second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to amend the agenda under New Business to add an item to consider request from DSP2. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Steve Coté, Senior Planner with RS&H to present to the Board of Commissioners their findings and recommendations for the Griffin-Spalding Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2016 Update.

Mr. Coté then gave a presentation to the Board on the City/County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The CTP program is actually administered by the Atlanta Regional Commission, this is the second CTP that has been done by Griffin and Spalding County. The County's first plan was completed in 2008 and the City's was completed in 2011. This is a joint City/County Plan which pulls these two plans together. These plans are to be updated every 5 to 7 years and it utilizes federal funding administered through ARC.

The goals of the CTP are to assist in development of local transportation projects consistent with the community's vision. To support state planning requirements and to establish relationships between regional goals and local goals and plans.

The main objective of the CTP is to establish a prioritized list of transportation projects to support regional and community visions. There is a 5-10 year list which is referred to as the fiscally constrained plan and a 20-30 year longer range list which is not constrained. A large part of this project is to make sure there is public support and local "buy in" for the program. The purpose of the CTP is to leverage the great things that have been done already through regional facilities, services and programs and establish consistency with existing local plans. They are currently in the process of preparing their draft plan documents.

This process started back in March 2015, they have met on a monthly basis and worked closely with their Project Management Team which consisted of City of Griffin staff, Spalding County staff and ARC staff. Additionally RS&H members have reported to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee (GSATC) meetings that occur bi-monthly. There have been two public meetings held one in December, 2015 and one in April, 2016. An Airport Workshop held in September 2015 and two Bike/Ped Greenway Meetings were held one in September 2015 and one in March 2016. Additionally, there has been a project website (www.griffinspaldingtransportation.com) that has been up and running during the project to keep the public updated on the scope and the progress of the project.

Mr. Coté then gave the Board an overview of the Preliminary Recommendations for the roadways and intersections which included recently completed and projects currently underway in the City of Griffin and Spalding County. He then covered the proposed Prioritized Roadway and Intersection Projects for both the City of Griffin and Spalding County and presented a Draft of Preliminary Projects Costs.

Mr. Coté then presented Bridge needs for the City and the County which included a Bridge ID, Description, Status, Sufficiency Rating and Owner and explained the ratings for the bridges and covered the Bridge Priority rankings for the bridges.

Mr. Coté then covered the Pedestrian Facilities Existing Conditions and Needs. This evaluation took into consideration existing sidewalks, previously recommended and programmed projects, crash data along with school and park locations. Input was provided by staff, elected officials and the general public. Prioritization Criteria for this part of the project included safety concerns, school connections, “gaps” in current sidewalks, major routes and concentrated land uses. Mr. Coté stated that Griffin and Spalding County currently have approximately 65 miles of sidewalks, the CPT is recommending 13.4 additional miles of sidewalks as a top priority and an additional 32.1 miles of sidewalks categorized as “Other Needed Sidewalks.”

Mr. Coté then addressed Bikeways, Trails and Greenways potential opportunities which included past studies, previously recommended and programmed projects, school and park locations, the availability of public easements such as power and sewer lines. They again received input from staff, the Griffin Environmental Council and public meetings to draft this portion of the plan.

Bikeways usually fall into three categories: shared lanes, buffered lanes and side paths. Greenways commonly are outside of the roadway right-of-way, can be linear parks on a strip of undeveloped land and can utilize existing easements and can be used for passive recreation, trails and environmental protection. Trails are commonly used for non-motorized transportation, they can be either paved or unpaved and provide minimal conflict points with motor vehicles.

Mr. Coté then presented the project proposal for potential Bikeways and Greenways in the City of Griffin and Spalding County. They also proposed a low-cost, high visibility project which would include paving existing trails at the Lakes of Green Valley and connecting those trails to the downtown Griffin LCI project. He then reviewed the economic benefits of trails and greenways and gave examples of the Silver Comet Trail, the Atlanta Beltline and the Carrollton Greenbelt.

Mr. Coté then advised that the final CTP activities would include complete CTP documentation and adoption by the commission.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor questioned the tier system used in the bridge listing as the Hill Street/Cabin Creek Road Bridge is listed in Tier 4 and the bridge has not been available to school bus traffic for years and it is located close to schools.

Commissioner Ray stated that the Hill Street Bridge is posted, there is 8,500 vehicle traffic count per day and it is functionally obsolete, buses cannot cross over on the bridge and it is close in proximity to two schools and he also felt that it should be moved further up on the list.

Mr. Coté assured the Board that they would move the bridge up in the rankings, they had noted on their list that it was in the “pipeline” for replacement.

Chairperson Johnson mentioned the Fairmont area was mentioned as part of the CTP recommendations and asked what affect the CTP recommendation would have on that project and if any consideration had been given to the Aquatic Center even through the location of that Center had not been decided.

Mr. Coté stated that they had picked that part of the SPLOST funding to tie into the CTP projects for trails. He advised that the CTP is a flexible document that can be tweaked if necessary and the Aquatic Center would be an amenity that would be served well being near a trail.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked Mr. Coté to provide, in a few words, how this plan is different from the one that was approved in 2008 what would be different.

Mr. Coté advised that there is a list of projects incorporated into the proposed CTP from past plans. This plan has prioritized the projects based on the projected costs for the project. It is their hope to bring to light what projects the City and the County can afford to do as well as the projects that can be planned for in the future. It is their intention by prioritizing they can meet the critical needs of the community first.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that the proposed CTP plan is a blend of the City of Griffin and Spalding County plans as a joint collaborative and realistic approach to the projects.

II. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2016.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, was present to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the financial statements.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if the County is on track with revenue collections as we have only two more months before year end.

Ms. Garrison advised that the County is on track with collections. She further advised that at the next meeting she should have some year-end budget amendments that will correct some of the line items that may “look a little off”, like the Capital Outlay. We do have some leases that we will be collecting the lease proceeds and she will be doing the budget amendments to correct those items.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to approve the financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2016. Motion carried unanimously by all.

III. 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.

Kerri Gebler, 646 McArthur Drive, Griffin, ACCAB member, spoke in favor of the trailer that the Griffin Kennel Club is wanting to donate to Spalding County and ask that the Board vote to accept the Animal Control Emergency Trailer that is on the Agenda for this evening.

IV. MINUTES -

Consider approval of minutes for the May 2, 2016 Spalding County Regular Meeting and the May 2, 2016 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller approval of minutes for the May 2, 2016 Spalding County Regular Meeting and the May 2, 2016 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously by all.

V. CONSENT AGENDA- None.

VI. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS-

1. Conduct a Public Hearing on Zoning Application #16-05S: Denny Powell Lusk and Gregory Lee Lusk, Owners - 129 Covington Road (3.02 acres

located in Land Lot 42 of the 3rd Land District) - requesting a Special Exception to allow a manufactured home for certified medical hardship in the AR- 1 District.

Chad Jacobs, Community Development Director, stated the request before the Board is to place a manufactured home on the property in addition to the existing home utilizing the medical hardship special exception criteria. The applicant and his wife require assistance and the assistance will be given by his daughter and her husband. This is a temporary request which means that at the time the hardship is no longer a factor, the manufactured home will have to be removed within 30 days. He further advised that the Community Development Department does monitor these types of special exceptions and a medical request from the doctor, Dr. Robert Hall, verifying the hardship and the need for the assistance will be required on an annual basis for the manufactured home to remain on the property.

Staff does recommend approval of the Special Exception Request, for the following reasons:

- The request will not be detrimental to the use or development of adjacent properties or the neighborhood.
- It will not adversely affect the health or safety of the residents, there should be no depreciating effects to neighboring properties.
- The requested use is temporary and the manufactured home will be removed within 30 days once the need ceases to exist.

Mr. Jacobs stated that at their April meeting the Board of Appeals did vote 4-1 to recommend approval of the request. Additionally, the Board approved a variance for the request due to the shape of the property to accommodate the manufactured home.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to open a Public Hearing for discussion of Zoning Application #16-05S: Denny Powell Lusk and George Lee Lusk, Owners – 129 Covington Road (3.02 acres located in Land Lot 42 of the 3rd Land District) – requesting a Special Exception to allow for a manufactured home for certified medical hardship in the AR-1 District. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Greg Lusk, 129 Covington Road, asked the County to do this as his wife is a cancer patient who has had 14 surgeries. He is in desperate need of assistance and his daughter and her husband have volunteered to work with them. He stated that his daughter is a stay at home mother and will be able to assist him in looking out for his wife. He wanted thank Chad Jacobs and Cindy McDaniel for all of the work they have done to get this request before the Board.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the letter says that Mr. Lusk cannot be alone because of his medical condition. The request states that Mr. Lusk is asking for assistance for himself. The letter states that Mr. Lusk cannot live alone because of his medical condition, it doesn't reference that his wife has any medical problem. She feels that there needs to be medical clarification that both individuals in the household need help.

Mr. Jacobs stated that when Mr. Lusk submitted the requested he indicated the need for himself at that time in addition to his wife and that is why the letter came from his physician.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that the attendant physician is required to provide an annual physician statement and in the future it should address both Mr. and Mrs. Lusks medical needs to qualify for this Special Exception.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider of Zoning Application #16-05S: Denny Powell Lusk and Gregory Lee Lusk, Owners - 129 Covington Road (3.02 acres located in Land Lot 42 of the 3rd Land District) - requesting a Special Exception to allow a manufactured home for certified medical hardship in the AR- 1 District.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to approve Zoning Application #16-05S: Denny Powell Lusk and George Lee Lusk, Owners – 129 Covington Road (3.02 acres located in Land Lot 42 of the 3rd Land District) – requesting a Special Exception to allow for a manufactured home for certified medical hardship in the AR-1 District. Motion carried 3-2 (Flowers-Taylor/Ray).

3. Consider approval of the following amplification permits as requested by Chris Smith of the Griffin Moose Lodge for various outdoor events to be held on the following dates at the Griffin Moose Lodge located at 1435 Zebulon Road.
 - May 30, 2016 Memorial Day Family Pool Event from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - June 11, 2016 Annual Pool Luau from 7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
 - July 4, 2016 4th of July Pool Event from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - Sept. 5, 2016 Labor Day Pool Event from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson advised that this request has been reviewed by Community Development and the Sheriff's Department and staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor with the exception of the June 11, 2016 event to end at 11:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of an amplification permit from Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Inc. to host a Block Party and Outreach at Wolf Creek Townhomes located at 1945 Zebulon Road on June 4, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson stated that this request has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Community Development Department and Sheriff's Department. He reminded everyone that the roads in the Wolf Creek Townhome community are private roads and they are not asking to block off any public roadways.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve an amplification permit from Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Inc. to host a Block Party and Outreach at the Wolf Creek Townhomes located at 1945 Zebulon Road on June 4, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval the Griffin-Spalding 2016 Comprehensive Transportation Plan update.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the plan that was presented to the Board earlier this evening and it was requested by the Board that the priority of the bridges be revised to reflect the three bridges that are "in the pipeline" be moved to the top of the list. He further stated that the City of Griffin has reviewed the plan and have also made a couple of changes on their bridge priority list.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Griffin-Spalding 2016 Comprehensive Transportation Plan with the bridge portion to be revise to reflect the Spalding County priorities as discussed earlier in the meeting. Motion

carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider approval of a Resolution to the Georgia Department of Transportation supporting the replacement of Jordan Hill Road Bridge over Troublesome Creek in North Griffin, Georgia.

Mr. Wilson stated that for many years the County has tried to work with Pulte Homes, Sun City and other entities in an attempt to work out a time when this bridge could be closed to facilitate the reconstruction of the bridge without a detour. It is to the point where we could possibly lose the funding we have in place if we do not act. We will supply the right of way for the bridge and there will be an off-site detour as requested by GDOT.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that we have tried to be good neighbors with Pulte and have asked them to open a second entrance to Sun City which is in the master plan for the subdivision. We cannot afford to lose the \$1M that is currently available to replace this bridge. GDOT is going to take it from here and we are going to have to accommodate what needs to be done.

**RESOLUTION
THE SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORTS THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR THE JORDAN HILL
BRIDGE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Spalding County Board of Commissioners support the LGPA Agreement signed with the Georgia Department of Transportation dated March 7, 2005 to replace the Jordan Hill Road Bridge at Troublesome Creek in North Griffin, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Spalding County Board of Commissioners strongly support the Georgia Department of Transportation in their efforts to go forward with this project and finish the engineering; and

WHEREAS, Spalding County Board of Commissioners understands the need and will support the proposed off-site detour for this location as shown in the existing plans; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Spalding County Board of Commissioners are committed to the replacement of the Jordan Hill Bridge at Troublesome Creek and will commit to work diligently with the Georgia Department of Transportation in completing this project

This the 16th day of May, 2016.

Rita C. Johnson, Chairperson
Spalding County Board of Commissioners

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve a Resolution to the Georgia Department of Transportation supporting the replacement of the Jordan Hill Road Bridge over Troublesome Creek in North Griffin, Georgia. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider approval the Memorandum of Understanding between the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, the City of Griffin, the Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of UGA to be a participant in the Spalding County Archway Partnership.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is our annual commitment to Archway, it has been budgeted and staff is recommending approval. He further stated that he feels Archway is a great program and we are really making progress.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Spalding County Archway Partnership**

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (this “**Agreement**”) is made and entered into as of July 1, 2016 by and among the Spalding County Board of Commissioners (the “**County**”), the City of Griffin (the “**City**”), and the Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education (the “**Board of Education**”), and together with the County, the City, and the Board of Education, the “**Spalding County Partners**”), and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of the University of Georgia (for purposes of this Agreement referred to herein as the “**UGA Archway Partnership**”), and the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach (the “**OVPPSO**,” and together with the UGA Archway Partnership, the “**UGA Partners**”).

Each of the Community Partners and UGA Partners stated above is considered to be a Participant (collectively, the “**Participants**”) in the Spalding County Archway Partnership (“**Spalding County Archway Partnership**”).

WHEREAS, the Participants agree to cooperate in the development, implementation, and continuation of the Spalding County Archway Partnership focusing on community and economic development issues for Spalding County; and

WHEREAS, the Participants agree to the creation or continuation of the Spalding County Archway Partnership Executive Committee (the “**Executive Committee**”) to offer the Community Partners appropriate representation and influence into the strategic planning and management of the Spalding County Archway Partnership.

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree as follows:

SECTION I

The UGA Partners shall:

1. Agree to facilitate the work of the Executive Committee in support of the overall goals of the Spalding County Archway Partnership.
2. Subject to Section III, Paragraph 7 herein, a UGA faculty member (the “**Archway Professional**”) will dedicate time as needed to the project and will work directly with the Spalding County Archway Partnership’s Executive Committee.
3. Establish minimum qualifications and determine the total salary to be paid to the Archway Professional, and agree to perform periodic evaluations of the Archway Professional in accordance with UGA human resources rules and regulations as any other UGA employee.
4. Have the right to terminate or transfer the Archway Professional for any reason at any time. In either such case, the UGA Partners agree that they will seek to replace the Archway Professional in accordance with the qualifications and salary guidelines described in Section 1, Paragraph 3 herein and subject to

Section III, Paragraph 7 herein.

5. Provide the Archway Professional with access to office equipment, supplies, publications, or other educational materials necessary to the performance of the position's duties.
6. Keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed under this agreement including all support documents. The UGA Partners agree to retain such records for a period of three years unless an audit has begun and not been completed or if the audit findings have not been resolved at the end of the three year period. In such cases, the records shall be retained until the audit is complete or until the resolution of the audit findings. The UGA Archway Partnership also agrees to retain all records relating to payments made under this agreement until the expiration of three years after final payment.
7. Report to the Executive Committee at regular intervals on the nature of the Spalding County Archway Partnership and progress being made.

SECTION II

The Spalding County Partners shall:

1. Agree to recognize the UGA Partners as their institutional partners and provide appropriate recognition of the collaborative working relationship on all appropriate and relevant publications, materials and web sites.
2. Agree to cooperate with the UGA Partners in the implementation and administration of educational opportunities for the students of the University of Georgia.
3. Agree, when possible, to make available internship opportunities to the students of the University of Georgia and other University System of Georgia institutions in conjunction with community- identified needs and the terms of this Agreement.
4. Agree, when possible, to make available research opportunities to the faculty of the University of Georgia and other University System of Georgia institutions in conjunction with community- identified needs and the terms of this Agreement.
5. Agree to make available to the UGA Partners any research or study findings and results that may be realized as a result of this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, all research or study findings and results from research conducted by faculty of the UGA Partners shall remain the property of the UGA Partners.

SECTION III

The Participants Mutually Agree:

1. The OVPPSO will contribute to the UGA Archway Partnership as needed in order to support the activities of the Archway Professional and the UGA Archway Partnership; however, this paragraph shall not be read or construed so as to create any cost share on the part of UGA or any of the UGA Partners.
2. The Spalding County Partners will pay to the UGA Archway Partnership a total FIXED FEE of \$60,000 for the period beginning on July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 (the "**FY2017 Community Fee**").

3. The Spalding County Partners are committed to funding the FY2017 Community Fee as follows:

Spalding County Board of Commissioners	\$20,000
City of Griffin	\$20,000
Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education	\$20,000

4. The UGA Archway Partnership shall send an invoice to each of the Spalding County Partners for such Spalding County Partner's respective amount shown above. The full amount of all such invoices shall be due 30 days after the effective date of this agreement. Invoices will be sent to the following:

Spalding County Board of
Commissioners Attn: Rita
Johnson, Chairwoman
P.O. Box 1087 Griffin, GA 30224

City of Griffin
Attn: Mayor Dick Morrow 100 S. Hill St.
Griffin, GA 30224

Griffin-Spalding County
Board of Education Attn:
James "Pete" Graham,
Chairman
216 S. 6th St.
Griffin, GA 30224

5. Expenditures and budgetary allocations for the FY2017 Community Fee will be based on history and may vary depending on community needs. The Archway Partnership is authorized to transfer funds between various expenditure and budgetary categories and accounts without specific and separate approval by any of the Spalding County Partners. The expenditures and budgetary allocations for the FY2017 Community Fee are estimated to be as follows:

Project Costs	60%
Personal Services	20%
Travel and Operating Costs	10%
UGA Administrative Fee	10%

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the date first described above.

Spalding County Board of Commissioners

Date

City of Griffin

Date

Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education

Date

Archway Partnership, University of Georgia

Date

Vice President for Public Service and Outreach,
University of Georgia

Date

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, the City of Griffin, the Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of UGA to be a participate in the Spalding County Archway Partnership. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. 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.

Mr. Wilson advised that at this time the hotel/motel taxes provides for a minimum penalty if not paid on time. The Alcohol and Beverage tax previously provided for the same minimal penalty, but the County chose to raise the penalty and it has had a significant impact on the on time payment of taxes. This ordinance is recommending a penalty equal to 50% of the taxes for late payment of hotel/motel taxes.

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

9. Consider request of the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board to apply for a grant from the Canine Support and Relief Fund, AKC Pet Disaster Relief for an AKC Pet Disaster Relief unit.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the unit that was mention during Public Comments. ACCAB and staff have recommended acceptance of this Pet Disaster Relief Unit.

Motion/Second by RR/Miller to approve the request of the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board to apply for a grant from the Canine Support and Relief Fund, AKC Pet Disaster Relief for an AKC Pet Disaster Relief Unit. Motion carried unanimously by all.

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

Mr. Wilson stated that this is part of the local legislation that was submitted again this year, it was approved by the legislature and has been signed by the Governor. We have received the signed legislation.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve on first reading an ordinance to establish a Hotel/Motel Excise Tax in the amount of 8% with an effective date of July 1, 2016. Motion carried 4-1 (Ray).

11. Consider request from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to consider preparing soccer practice fields on Carver Road and send a request to Union Baptist Church to consider allowing usage of their walking trail area for soccer practices.

Mr. Wilson asked Commissioner Flowers-Taylor to address this request since she is on the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the suggestion to find more soccer practice fields on Carver Road is an attempt to reduce the amount of wear and tear on the fields at Wyomia Tyus Park. Having additional practice fields would allow Park and Rec the opportunity to rotate the

current practice fields.

T.J. Imberger, Superintendent of Parks and Public Grounds, presented list of potential locations for practice fields and provided quotes on four potential practice fields which would be smaller than the regular field. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor suggested that the two portable restrooms be located at the practice fields during the times that teams would be practicing. Mr. Imberger advised that a restroom could be constructed at the Lake Side Pavilion for approximately \$30,000.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that by providing more practice fields, children will not have to practice so late into the evenings some of these children are having to start practice as late as 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Miller asked if anyone had asked 1888 mills about the property located on the corner of Airport Road and Everee Inn Road that is flat parcel of land and would be perfect location for soccer practice fields.

Mr. Wilson advised that he had not thought about that location, but he would contact them to see if they would entertain the idea of the practice fields being at that location.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that one of the reasons we put the soccer lights on the SPLOST was so that the fields could be lighted in the winter months for the teams to practice on those fields.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the sport of soccer is growing exponentially every year. They are experiencing growth of 75 to 100 children per year. The fields that we have are being utilized on a rotating basis but due to the number of children having to use the fields, the fields are not having enough time to recuperate and eventually the children will be playing in mud holes because the number of teams practicing and playing on the fields do not allow the grass time to recover.

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to table request from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to consider preparing soccer practice fields on Carver Road and send a request to Union Baptist Church to consider allowing usage of their walking trail area for soccer practices until we can get more information and give staff an opportunity to recommend additional fields and recommend where the funding for these fields will come from. Motion carried unanimously by all.

12. Consider request from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to consider lowering the Park @ 6th rental rate to align with the rest of the County's pavilion rental rates.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that we built the Park @ 6th to draw people into the downtown area, but when you draw people downtown for events and you don't give them a place to go to the bathroom that is an issue. We originally wanted a stand-alone restroom at that location, which didn't happen.

If you rent a Pavilion at Wyomia Tyus Park for a day it can be rented for \$100 and you have a covered Pavilion that seats a minimum of 50 people, you have two restrooms available, you have the lake and you have a play area.

These amenities are not available at the Park @6th. There is no shade, no water fountain, and no bathroom facilities unless you pay extra for the portable bathrooms. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor feels we are not getting the use out of the park and the way the park is currently be utilized. The park simply is not getting the usage we had hoped for when it was built. She would like for the rental for this location to be more in line with what is charged for other locations and that we provide restroom facilities. If restroom facilities are not provided then the rental for the facility should be more in line for what we charge at Ambucs Park.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that during the week if someone wants to utilize the park they should be able to do that because it is a public park up until dark on weekdays and on the weekend lease it by reservation. She stated that she feels the park is not being utilized to its fullest potential. What we are currently doing, has not worked in terms of generating usage and we are not getting a return on the investment we have in the park.

Mr. Wilson stated the Park @ 6th was intended to be a Venue for events such as movies, concerts and more organized activities and it has been rented for functions. The other parks are built to accommodate the public for birthday parties and family functions. The Park @ 6th was not designed for every day public use.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that may have been the initial purpose, but it is sitting there not being utilized and we need to provide the same services and amenities that are available at our other locations if we want people to utilize the park.

Commissioner Ray stated he is in favor of what has been recommended by Parks and Public Grounds for a private event \$100 for a half day \$200 for a full day, \$100 portable restroom rental (rentable up to 6 months in advance). So the rental would be \$200 for a half day and \$300 for a full day to include the portable restroom rental.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to accept the rate structure recommended for the Park @ 6th as identified by T.J. Imberger of Spalding County Parks and Grounds, private events \$100 half day \$200 full day and \$100 portable restroom rental (rentable up to 6 months in advance) product and services cannot be sold. Commercial and concert use \$350 per event \$100 portable restroom set up.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if the public could use the park up until dark.

Mr. Wilson stated that it is a public park and open to the public just as any other park if it is not reserved for a special function.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

13. Consider request from (Discovering Soldiers Potential) DSP2.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated in March there was a request from the Spalding County Collaborative to rent the Old Jail. It was intended for DSP2 to be able to utilize that facility as well. Both the collaborative and DSP2 would occupy the building. DSP2 would be there to work with veterans, in Spalding County and the surrounding region. The services provided by DSP2 are above and beyond what the VA office provides: transportation, housing, the ability to take advantage of education benefits available to veterans or even medical benefits if needed. The marriage did not work out and the collaborative requested to terminate their lease in less than a month.

We have five board members here tonight from DSP2 asking that DSP2 be to be allowed to rent the building under the same terms as provided to the Collaborative. They are under the umbrella of the collaborative, they are collaborative members.

Pastor Valimont addressed the Board and asked that this be something considered by the Board. He advised the Governor's office has approved almost \$400,000 for this initiative. Additionally, they have received private grants. Griffin First Assembly would volunteer as the local entity though which this project could run. We have an opportunity to make a difference and to make a big change throughout the Country for our veterans.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked if the request is to lease the Old Jail to DSP2 under the same terms that it was leased to the Collaborative. She stated that as members of the Collaborative, DSP2 will fall under their

umbrella and therefore should be given the same consideration as the Collaborative.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County leased the building to the Collaborative for \$1.00 a year because they are an Authority and essentially they are another governmental entity and that is how we were able to provide the rent at a reduced rate.

Stephane Windham, County Attorney, advised that the Authority status does not extend to other members or partners of the Collaborative. DSP2 would not be considered an Authority that we could rent to at the reduced rate, it would have to be market rent.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that we presently rent to the Spalding County Sports Hall of Fame and they do not qualify as an Authority or any type of governmental entity. They are not a governmental entity they are there for historical purposes and to bring in business to the community.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor feels that DSP2 is committed to what they are going to do. A precedent has been set with the Sports Hall of Fame. When we look at the good that this organization will do in reducing the number of homeless veterans in Spalding County, what it will do in terms of helping veterans to reduce the number of people who rely on the food pantry, the HOPE Health clinic and the soup kitchens for survival. The resources are available and can be paid for by the government for these individuals because most will have benefits.

Ms. Windham stated that she didn't know what the rent for the Sports Hall of Fame would be and it is possible to give concessions and rent abatement for things like work done on the premises, but a value has to be assessed to the work that is performed so that you are considered to be renting at market rate.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Sports Hall of Fame came to us through the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and their rental on that location is \$1.00 per month.

Ms. Windham advised that whatever the Board decides to do should not be based on the fact that this organization is a collaborative partner because if you do that, then you are opening the County up to every organization that partners with the collaborative.

Mr. Wilson advised that the lease with the Collaborative was drawn in such a way as to allow them to sublet to DSP2. The Collaborative/DSP2 would be responsible for all of the utilities and the security system on the building.

Reverend Valimont stated that they are going to have some meetings with the Collaborative and that he would like to have the opportunity to work things out with the Collaborative. They (DSP2) do have a meeting with the Collaborative set for Thursday morning of this week.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to table action on this request to allow DSP2 the opportunity to work things out with the Collaborative. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- We had 138 people vote during early voting on Saturday. That brings the total for early voters to 1640. Early voting continues, Friday, May 20th is the last day.
- 31,279 change of assessment notices were mailed out. There were 1,807 values that decreased. 3,054 values that increased and 26,518 where the value remained the same.
- You have been provided with a preliminary design for the Pickleball facility.

This came through the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and has been approved by the Senior Membership of the Spalding County Pickleball Association. Everyone likes the design and we are requesting the Board's permission to move forward with design specifications. We believe that we can contract out 100% of the project and have the facility available by the requested date in order to host a major tournament in 2017.

Additionally we will need to acquire approximately 1.5 to 2 acres of land from the school system and a survey has been authorized. We had talked about acquiring this parcel when we purchased Wyomia Tyus Park and we thought we had acquired this parcel, but we had not. We have talked with administration at the school board and they were under the same impression. He has authorized a survey of the additional property. The property will be acquired at no cost.

Ms. Windham advised that the Board could approve pending a written statement from the School System that they will transfer the property to the County.

Consensus of the Board was to move forward with this project.

IX. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Donald Hawbaker

- He hopes that everyone will vote in the May 24th primary. He would like to see a turnout of 50% or higher.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor

- Stated she is also concerned regarding voter turnout.
- The third Street, below Spalding Street on the road that runs parallel to Searcy, it goes from the railroad crossing back down to High Falls Road, there is not a single spot in that road that is not broken. It is in terrible shape and she would like Public Works to look at this road.
- From the McIntosh and Hill Street intersection to the culvert at the bottom about three feet from the shoulder is in very rough shape. Please ask Public Works to look at that also.
- She wanted to thank the Board for being willing to look at the situation with rental at the Park @ 6th. We are all really wanting to do the same thing.

Raymond Ray

- Thanked everyone for agreeing on the Archway program, it is moving us forward and is going to be of great benefit to our community.

Bart Miller

- No comments

Rita Johnson

- Stated that Archway is making a lot of good progress. She provided the Board with an update on the projects currently underway.
- She also wanted to encourage everyone to come out on vote on May 24th.

X. 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/Hawbaker to enter into closed session to discuss future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4) at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn closed session at 8: 26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

/s/ _____
Rita C. Johnson, Chairperson

/s/ _____
William P. Wilson, Jr., Clerk