

## MINUTES

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, May 2, 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. Mr. Jeffrey Shannon to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners to assist with funding the Disc Golf Course at Dundee Lake Park.

Chairperson Johnson stated that on April 4th, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners approved the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to allow the Griffin Disc Golf Association to begin funding for a disc golf course at Dundee Lake Park. Since that time, one tournament has been hosted that raised two thousand dollars.

Additionally, there has been an individual donation from an avid disc golf player and advocate of the sport, Mr. Jeffrey Shannon. When he learned of the fund raising efforts, he decided to participate by donating \$10,000 in honor of his father, Mr. Donald Carl Shannon. Mr. Jeffrey Shannon has chosen to donate to the Disc Golf Course at Dundee Lake Park as a tribute in memory of his father incorporating the love he has for his father and the love he has for disc golf.

Mr. Jeffrey Shannon presented a check for \$10,000 to the Board of Commissioners and advised that every time he plays disc golf at the new course at Dundee lake Park, he will think of his dad.

2. Recognition of the 2016 Bain Proctor Award for Volunteerism Recipient.

Kelly Leger, Superintendent of Recreation, advised that it is an honor to appear before the Board of Commissioners every year to announce the Bain Proctor Award Recipient. This is an annual award to recognize volunteers who have worked toward developing, sustaining and enhancing facilities and/or programs for Spalding County Citizens.

Bain Proctor epitomized volunteer service in his 23 years as a member of the Spalding County Community. He led by example, volunteering his time and services. He encouraged and organized others in volunteering their talents and time to the betterment of the community. The Bain Proctor Award for Volunteerism recognizes outstanding volunteers in our community and encourages unselfish volunteerism that contributes to the growth, development and strengthening of Spalding County.

This year's recipient, Ms. Christine Napier, has been volunteering with Brightmoor Hospice since June of 2012 and being a hospice volunteer is just one of the many ways that she gives back through volunteering. Ms. Napier is a member First United Methodist Church where she is an active member of the Faith/Guild United Methodist Women, Maddox Bailey Sunday School Class and Young at Heart senior group, serving as treasurer for both her Sunday school class and Young at Heart. She participates in the HELP ministry, which calls and sends cards to church shut-ins, and serves as a Sunday school greeter. She is a member of the Pulaski Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter, John Alden 17th Century past president and presently state credentialing chairman, Major Philip Cook 1812 chapter president, State recording secretary for the 1812 Society, State Governor for the Continental Society, Daughter of the Indian Wars, State corresponding secretary for Robert Daniel Chapter of the Daughter of American Colonists, First vice president of the Robert Fox chapter of the National Daughters of the Union, Treasurer for the Sarah Josepha Buell Hale colony of the New England Women and State First Vice President for the Daughters of the Colonial Wars. She is also an active member of the Spalding County Republican Party, treasurer of the Griffin-Spalding County Republican Women and volunteers at the Governor's mansion every 5th Tuesday and Thursday of the month.

Ms. Napier is a faithful member of the Brightmoor House volunteer team, and is there weekly to help our Bereavement Coordinator Jim O'Brien with hand written sympathy cards to families who have recently lost a loved one. "Miss Christine" is always at meetings and Brightmoor functions, and she can always be counted on, even with her busy schedule.

Miss Christine truly has a volunteer's heart. To quote her son "she does so many things that are often not seen by the public as having great value." Which speaks volumes about her as a volunteer, not only for Brightmoor Hospice, but in all of her volunteer work at the Spalding County Senior Center. Miss Christine is very active, participating in many senior activities, and she never attends a function without bring a car load of ladies with her. She is always taking someone to the doctor, to the grocery or to get medications on a regular basis. She also brings two church members to Sunday school and church every Sunday.

It is with great pleasure we nominate Ms. Christine Napier for the 2016 Brian Proctor Award for Volunteerism as she has a true volunteer's heart and embodies all the true meaning of being a volunteer.

Ms. Napier stated that she was humbled by this award. She moved to Spalding County 17 years ago and she expressed her thanks to for this award.

3. Consider Proclamation celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer and declaring May 5, 2016 as National Day of Prayer in Spalding County, Georgia.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the proclamation designating the declaring May 3, 2016 as National Day of Prayer in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Commissioner Hawbaker read the proclamation and Ms. Nadine Graham was present to accept the proclamation.

Ms. Graham thanked the Board for the Proclamation recognizing May 5th as National Day of Pray and also thanked the County for allowing them to hold the event every year on the veranda of the Spalding County Courthouse.

4. Consider Proclamation "nunc pro tunc" honoring St. Luke Overcoming Church of God who hosted the 78th Missionary and Prayer Band Convention held on April 21-23, 2016.

Chairperson Johnson stated that she and Commissioner Flowers-Taylor attended the event and Commissioner Flowers-Taylor presented the proclamation during the church service.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve the proclamation "nunc pro tunc" honoring St. Luke Overcoming Church of God who hosted the 78<sup>th</sup> Missionary and Prayer Band Convention held on April 21-23, 2016. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

William Wilson, County Manager, announced that the Spalding County Nutrition Program has been recognized by the ACCG and was one of five counties in the State of Georgia to receive an Award of Excellence. A group from Spalding County came to Savannah to accept this award. He then presented Chairperson Johnson with a framed copy of the article that appeared in Georgia Trend magazine announcing the award.

## **II. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the nine months ended March 31, 2016.

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

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve the financial statements for the nine months ended March 31, 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.

No one signed up to speak.

#### **IV. MINUTES -**

Consider approval of minutes for the April 4, 2016 Spalding County Regular Meeting and the April 18, 2016 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Planning Retreat.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Miller approval of minutes for the April 4, 2016 Spalding County Regular Meeting and the April 18, 2016 Spalding County Board of Commissioners Planning Retreat. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA-**

1. Consider on second reading Ordinance 2016-004 amending Part VII, Chapter 1, Section 7-1007(a) to provide for a four way stop at the intersection of Jackson Road and Wallace Road.
2. Consider approval on second reading Ordinance 2016-003 amending Part VII, Chapter 1, Section 7- 1004 to provide for a no parking on Quilly Street from Elm Street to the Griffin City Limit

***Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve on second reading the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS – None.**

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider request for Outside Amplification Permit request from Oak Hill Baptist Church for their "Freedom Fest" Festival event to be held on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson stated that all departments have reviewed the request and staff recommends approval.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve an Outside Amplification Permit request from Oak Hill Baptist Church for their "Freedom Fest" Festival event to be held on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider recommendation from Life Environmental Services, Inc. to award the contract for asbestos abatement at the Old Fairmont School to Southern Environmental Services, Inc. low bid, in the amount of \$56,253.00.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County in conjunction with Life Environmental Services had solicited bids and had received three bids. Southern Environmental Services was the low bid in the amount of \$56,253.00 and Life Environmental has worked with Southern Environmental Services on jobs in the past and has found them to be a dependable and reliable contractor. They do have the appropriate bonding in place and fulfill the requirements as set out in the bid request and staff is recommending the contract be awarded to Southern Environmental Services, Inc. in the amount of \$56,253.00 for this 2015 SPLOST project.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to approve the recommendation from Life Environmental Services, Inc. to award the contract for asbestos abatement at the Old Fairmont School to Southern Environmental Services, Inc.***

***low bid, in the amount of \$56,253.00.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked how close this figure came to the amount that the County had anticipated spending on asbestos abatement.

T.J. Imberger, Spalding County Parks and Public Grounds Superintendent, advised that the 2015 SPLOST estimate was \$100,000 so this contract and the Environmental Services Contracts total about \$76,000 which brings in this portion of the project below what was anticipated for asbestos abatement.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider approval of Master Services Agreement with Civic Plus to provide emergency notification system for Spalding County residents

Mr. Wilson advised that the County had originally signed with First Call and they were doing a great job; however, the company was sold to Code Red and since that time we have had very poor service so staff has looked into other companies that provide this service. We have had demonstrations and quotes from all of the other companies that provide these services. Staff is recommending a Master Services Agreement with Civic Plus. This company offers much more service and much more flexibility than was available through First Call or Code Red. Our contract with First Call/Code Red ended April 30th and this contract would be effective July 1.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor inquired as to the cost of the First Call/Code Red alert system.

Eric Mosley, Assistant County Manager, stated that the contract cost was \$16,500.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that when we contracted with the original service, citizens were required to sign up for the service. How is this service going to be different?

Citizens will be encouraged to sign up for this system as well. Currently we have access to limited alerts for thunderstorm warning, tornado warning and flood warning. The proposed system has a more robust network that will provide numerous opportunities to reach out to the public. Right now we are limited to email, text and voice messaging. The new system is capable of reaching out through social media. Mr. Mosley stated that there is a representative from Civic Plus here to answer any questions and Chief West, Chief Polk and Chief Clark from the Fire Department are also here to answer any specific questions regarding this system. He advised that staff has spent a lot of time reviewing the services available and feel that this service will be the best product for our citizens.

Lisa LaNoue, representative of Civic Plus, advised that this system will do Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts (an older person alert) and the alerts can be broadcast or set up for a targeted area alert.

Commissioner Ray asked if everyone would have to sign up for the service.

Ms. LaNoue stated that they will be able to import the data from the current system into their system for the citizens who have signed up for the service. Additionally, Civic Plus has a widget that

can be placed on the County's website, the City's website, the Library's website, the School's website or any website that citizens access and they can easily sign up for the service through that widget.

Chief West stated that he recommends Civic Plus because it would be a tremendous upgrade to what we currently have with our present service provider.

Mr. Mosley advised that this is not going to be just a County alert system it is going to be available to the City of Griffin, City of Sunny Side and the City of Orchard Hill and local alerts can be sent out in those cities as well.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve a Master Services Agreement with Civic Plus to provide emergency notification system for Spalding County residents in the amount of \$17,500 in the FY17 budget. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider a resolution supporting the replacement of the Jordan Hill Bridge by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Wilson asked that no action be taken on agenda item #4. The resolution has been drafted and sent to GDOT and will need to be approved by GDOT prior to being considered by the Board. It will be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to table the resolution supporting the replacement of the Jordan Hill Bridge by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider recommendation of the Spalding County Fire Department for naming of the new administration building.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to table until the first meeting in June. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider approval of Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Inc. (GSBTA) Intergovernmental Agreement, Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Mr. James Fortune, County Attorney, advised that this is the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City to set up the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association, Inc. to be the designated marketing organization for the disbursement of the Hotel/Motel tax once it increases to 8%. Before you this evening are the Articles of Incorporation, the By Laws and the Intergovernmental Agreement which provides for the funding.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor wanted to know when funding for this group would start. The County currently has funds in the Hotel/Motel tax fund and she wants to know when the funding under this Agreement will begin. Can we proceed with projects with the funds that are available in the fund balance now and start this funding at zero?

Mr. Wilson advised that it is anticipated that the funding will start at zero. When we received the disbursements for July, 5% will go to the GSBTA and 3% will remain with the County and it will be funded from month to month. Most of the funds are designated for UGA, the

Chamber of Commerce, Main Street and currently there is approximately \$50,000 to go toward business and tourism development.

Mr. Fortune advised that if we enter into this agreement and at some point decide that this is not going the way that we anticipated, we can terminate the agreement with a 90 day written notice.

Commissioner Hawbaker expressed reservations regarding the basic set-up of the organization as a majority of the hotel/motel tax would be generated in the County and in the agreement, as currently written, the County does not have majority representation on the Board of Directors for the GSBTA. However, given the stipulation that the County can terminate the agreement with a 90 day notice, he is willing to support the Intergovernmental Agreement.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement, Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws with the City of Griffin to establish the Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Inc. (GSBTA). Motion carried 4-1 (Ray).***

#### **VIII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- Set a date for a workshop on Curbside Pickup. When we discussed this at the retreat, there was a consensus from most of the commissioners to explore curbside again for FY17. FY17 budget review will start on Monday, May 9th. We are proposing everything as it is now, so if we make any changes they would be implemented into the budget at a later time.
- Set a date for a “Ban the Box” workshop with Human Resource Director, Bill Gay and John Lowery, Spalding County Human Resources Attorney. We will ask Mr. Lowery his available dates in June.
- The week of May 1st thru 7th is Correctional Officers Appreciation Week and the week of May 6th thru May 12th is Nurses Appreciation Week. There are activities planned during this time. On May 5th and 6th the CI will be serving the officers and nurses a full breakfast and they have invited the Board to join them.
- Tim Crane, Interim Public Works Director has been named Vice-Chairman to the Georgia Utility Coordinating Committee (GUCC).
- Congratulations to the City of Griffin Fire Department for obtaining the ISO rating of Class 1 and our 911 Center played a large part in the City obtaining this rating.
- Thank you from the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce and Griffin Main Street for support of the GDEcD Tourism Resource Team visit.
- Spalding Senior Games will be held on Wednesday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served around 11:45 a.m. and they hope to conclude the day with an ice cream treat at 1:30 p.m.

- National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 5th, at Noon, on the Spalding County Courthouse Veranda.
- Early Voting started today and will run through Friday, May 20th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration 885 Memorial Drive. Saturday voting will be held on May 14th and will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Proactive code enforcement vs. complaint based code enforcement, he will defer to Commissioner Miller on this matter.

## **IX. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Donald Hawbaker**

- He hopes there is a strong turn-out for voting this time. He doesn't care who you vote for, but he would like to see a large voter turn-out for this County.
- He wanted to congratulate the staff on the Senior Nutrition Award it was great to see everyone come down to Savannah to be recognized. We have a lot to be proud of, there are a lot of good things going on in this County.
- He is very glad to see the proactive code enforcement. It started earlier this year on 19-41 at the County line down to the City limits, it has made a real difference in that corridor.
- If possible he would like to try to find a way to allocate more money in the budget for substandard housing enforcement as well.

### **Gwen Flowers-Taylor**

- Stated that during the Conference in Savannah she had the opportunity to take a trolley tour and the guide stated that the second African Baptist Church is the church in which Dr. King gave his first "I have a dream" speech. Savannah knows how to market their history and she is happy that Spalding County is moving forward in establishing a market for tourism.
- Regarding the trash pick-up, she has had emails from citizens regarding trash pick-up. When she talked with the representative from Republic they are willing to talk with us regarding the percentage of individuals who will require "off the road" pick up. So the possibility can be there without extra costs for people who have a legitimate medical reason, aged or truly infirmed. She feels that this topic is worth exploring again.
- She hasn't seen any evidence of proactive Code Enforcement in her area of the County, but she feels that it cannot get there quick enough. We talked a little about this at the Retreat. We talked about cross training our Animal Control Officers who are out on the roads in the County daily and if they see a yard that is overgrown or furniture that is blocking windows on the porch. These are the things that we need to make them aware is against County Ordinance and need to be reported to Code Enforcement.

### **Raymond Ray**

- Congratulated Ms. Napier on being awarded the Bain Proctor Award for Volunteerism.
- He wanted to thank the Staff at the Senior Center who have done such a great job with the Nutrition Program. Being chosen for a statewide excellence award is an accomplishment and they have done an outstanding job with feeding our senior citizens in house and with the Meals on Wheels program.
- Early voting started today, he wanted to encourage everyone to make their voice be heard.
- He stated that after talking with one of the commissioners after the Retreat on the garbage pick-up. He agrees that this is not the time to be discussing this again so he will be moving his vote to a no regarding this matter.

### **Bart Miller**

- Stated that he has received numerous complaints from individuals on Hwy 92 about the proactive code enforcement in that area. He stated that he voted to implement on a complaint driven basis. He stated that he had probably had 75 telephone calls while everyone was in Savannah. He stated that we need to look at this proactive code enforcement before we implement it countywide.  
  
He stated if we are going to be proactive, we need to address the issues that we have already had complaints about before we go out and start looking for things without a complaint.
- With regard to the recycling centers, he is against it, if we are going to close them down, then we are going to close some other services down that are not required. There is no doubt if we go to a system where we charge for the service that people will start throwing more garbage in the roadways.

Commissioner Ray asked that the matter of proactive enforcement be placed on the next agenda. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she didn't feel that it was something that should take up time during a meeting, maybe a workshop needed to be set up on this matter. Mr. Wilson stated that staff needed direction on how to proceed with the matter. No consensus was reached regarding how to address this issue.

### **Rita Johnson**

- She wanted to thank the Senior Nutrition Program for the work they have done she wanted to congratulate them for their dedication and hard work for this program. It was an honor and a privilege to go to the ACCG Conference and have the group to come up on stage and present them with the award. Congratulations to them on their hard work, their dedication and their commitment to this program.
- While at ACCG she took a course on collaboration which involved working with other boards and their members. She stated that

Spalding County is really working hard to collaborate with the City of Griffin, and the Board of Education trying to collaborate and move the County forward. In listening to members from the other counties represented in the class, we are a lot further ahead than we think we are. We are making an effort to move forward and we are doing a good job in that area.

She stated that she had the opportunity to discuss Archways with the group, how it is benefiting us as a community and how it is going to benefit us in the future.

- She stated that with regard to the code enforcement, it is all for the beautification of our county. We need to take ownership of the ordinances that have been established, it can be done appropriately and it comes with a conversation. We need to have the conversation, but we also need to move forward with the concept.
- Regarding the recycling centers and trash pick-up she would like to explore ways in which we can save money. Not saying that we are going to do anything, but she would like to know what options are available. It is doing our due diligence as county officials to look at every avenue to save the county money.

**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 7:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn closed session at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Rita C. Johnson, Chairperson

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
William P. Wilson, Jr., Clerk