

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2014
6:00 PM
119 E. Solomon St., Meeting Room 108

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Courthouse Annex, Monday, November 3, 2014, beginning at 6:09 p.m. with Chairman Samuel Gardner presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Jim Fortune, County Attorney and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

I. **OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** led by Chairman Samuel Gardner.

II. **INVOCATION** – led by Chairman Samuel Gardner.

III. **PLEDGE TO FLAG** – led by Commissioner Raymond Ray.

IV. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Consider Proclamation declaring November 21-27, 2014 as Farm-City Week.

Mr. Charles Rucks, 29 Newnan Road, stated that on behalf of the Spalding County Farm Bureau he wished to express their thanks for the county's recognition of Farm-City week.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the Proclamation declaring November 21-27, 2014 as Farm-City Week in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. John Carlisle to present an overview of the "Honor our KIA" program to erect memorial plaques to honor the men and women killed in their service to our country.

John Carlisle, 595 Camp Road, Griffin, GA stated that Griffin and Spalding County has a strong heritage of honoring our veterans, both living and dead and it is hoped that this project will build on that heritage to further honor those who have given their lives in defense of this country.

Recently we had a ceremony honoring Marine Lieutenant James Reese who was killed in action in Vietnam. As a result of this ceremony we have received an overwhelming response to continue in our efforts to do the same for other men and women who have served from this community and out of that one ceremony the project has grown.

Mr. Carlisle then presented the four phases planned for the project and the steps to be taken during each phase. Part I of this process will involve bronze

plaques being displayed on prominent buildings throughout the city recognizing these individuals. Part II involves pulling together an oral history of the individuals honored from friends and family to memorialize who they were and how they lived. This part of the project the group has partnered with Southern Crescent Technical College who will video and edit these tributes. Mr. Carlisle also stated that Gordon State College will be doing the research involved in finding the families and friends who can tell us the stories of the lives of these men and women, this portion will focus on not how these individuals died, but how they lived.

Mr. Carlisle stated that plan is to bring Phase I and II of this together on an annual basis with a weekend of activities to coincide with our National Memorial Day observation.

Mr. Carlisle stated that the purpose of his presentation this evening is to make sure that they are in compliance with all of the codes, regulations and rules to make sure we conform to these items so that we can put these plaques on County buildings downtown. We want to make sure that we are not in violation of any rules or regulations. The second part of the reason he is here this evening is to receive the moral support and the endorsement of the board for this project.

V. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and topic in which they will speak on. Speakers must direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics and relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting.

Charles Rucks, 29 Newnan Road, Brooks, GA expressed his concern over the Spalding County Fire department not having a brush truck to handle brush fires. Mr. Rucks stated that the county need a brush truck so they can better handle brush fires on farms and on the side of the roads. He stated that this is something that would be of great benefit to the fire department and to the citizens of the county.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the October 20, 2014 Extraordinary Session and the October 23, 2014 Zoning Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to approve the Minutes for the October 20, 2014 Extraordinary Session and the October 23, 2014 Zoning Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA - None.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None.

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider request from Honor our KIA Committee to permit placement of memorial plaques on County facilities to honor the men and women killed in action in service to this country.

William Wilson, County Manager, stated that the plaques proposed would confirm to the requirements as outlined in the County Naming Policy. The KIA committee will pay for the plaques, there is no cost to the county. The placement of the plaques will be recommended to the board for approval prior to any plaque being displayed

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the request from Honor our KIA Committee to permit placement of memorial plaques on County facilities to honor the men and women killed in action in service to this country.

Commissioner Ray advised that the committee is hoping to put up approximately 12 plaques per year. These plaques would be in bronze as the sample shown here tonight. The plaques will contain the name of the soldier, their rank and the branch in which they served, the service emblem and their birth date and death date.

Mr. Carlisle added that the plaques would all be erected at the same time in during a celebration where all of the family and friends who have been involved in the oral history part will be invited back so they can be present, the hope is to have in coincide annually with the Memorial Day Celebration in Spalding County.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children for a letter of support from the City and County to partner with the Collaborative for HUD Second Round Promise Zone Designation.

Joseph Walker, the Executive Director with the Spalding County Collaborative Authority, stated that they are asking for a letter of support from the County Commissioners and he will be meeting with the City Commissioners at their next meeting. We are wanted to submit a request to HUD to have Spalding County given a Promise Zone Designation. This is an effort to revitalize high poverty communities across the country by creating jobs, increasing economic activity and improving educational opportunities and reducing crime by leveraging private capital and assisting local leaders in advocating the federal program. Mr. Walker stated that this designation would give the county preferential treatment in the grading of grant applications.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the request

from the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children for a letter of support from the City and County to partner with the Collaborative for HUD Second Round Promise Zone Designation. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider acceptance of Victims of Crime Act Grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for FY 2015.

Mr. Wilson stated that the board approved filing for this grant earlier this year, this is the acceptance of the grant. The grant is in the amount of \$36,729 with a local match of \$9,183 the match has been budgeted in the FY2015 budget.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to accept the Victims of Crime Act Grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for FY 2015. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approving the use of non- water inflatables from licensed and insured providers be permitted with pavilion rentals with a \$50 fee for half day and \$75 for whole day and the use of Personal Trainers with approved background checks and current fitness certificates at \$75 per month at County parks.

Mr. Wilson stated that this had been presented at the last Park and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting and had been approved by that committee. This is something that Henry County, Clayton County and other surrounding counties have been doing for several years. The committee stated that as long as the inflatables are non-water inflatables installed by licensed and insured companies they would be allowed.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approving the use of non- water inflatables from licensed and insured providers be permitted with pavilion rentals with a \$50 fee for half day and \$75 for whole day and the use of Personal Trainers with approved background checks and current fitness certificates at \$75 per month at County parks.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she didn't understand the fee schedule of \$50 for half a day and \$75 for a whole day for the use of inflatables at the park. She further stated that she didn't feel it was right to charge people for the use of the park.

Mr. Wilson stated that Personnel Trainers are actually conducting business in the parks and this would provide for some control over who is doing business in our parks and insures that the people have background checks and current fitness certificates if they are going to do business in the park.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed concerns regarding the Personal Trainer aspect of the request. Consensus of the board is to withdraw the motion and to table the Personal Trainer portion of the request until the meeting on December 1st, 2014 to get answers either for the Parks and Recreation Advisory board or someone from Parks and Recreation on this item.

Commissioner Ray withdrew his motion and Commissioner Flowers-Taylor withdrew her second.

Motion by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for the use of non-water inflatables from licensed and insured providers to be permitted with pavilion rentals with a \$50 fee for half day and \$75 for whole day. Motion carried 3-2 (Ray/Gardner).

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to table the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to require that Personal Trainers who use the county parks as a place of business submit to background checks and supply current fitness certificates and pay \$75 per month for the use of park facilities to be revisited at the meeting on December 1st, 2014. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider approval on first reading an Ordinance amending the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance to provide for receipt of lease purchase proceeds.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approval on first reading an Ordinance amending the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance to provide for receipt of lease purchase proceeds. Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider appointment of a County Legislative Coordinator to represent Spalding County in the 2015 District Meetings.

Mr. Wilson advised that ACCG requests that we appoint a legislative point of contact or legislative coordinator. For the past several years Commissioner Ray has volunteered as Spalding County's legislative coordinator.

Commissioner Ray stated that he had been acting in this capacity for the last four years and would volunteer to continue if it is the wish of the board.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to appoint Raymond Ray to be the Spalding County Legislative Coordinator for FY 2015. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider on first reading an Ordinance amending the Spalding County Code of Ordinances Division II, Part XII - Animals, Chapter 1 - Animal Control, Section 12-1006 - Maximum number of dogs and cats allowed without a kennel license.

Jim Fortune, County Attorney, advised that the changes to this ordinance will expands the groups exempt from this restriction to include rescue groups.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to consider on first reading an Ordinance amending the Spalding County Code of Ordinances Division II, Part XII - Animals, Chapter 1 - Animal Control, Section 12-1006 - Maximum number of dogs and cats allowed

without a kennel license. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Commissioner Miller would like to discuss the recent adoption of a County Ordinance designating Vaughn Road as a No Thru Truck Route.

Commissioner Miller stated that he had asked for a definition of “Thru Trucks” and had not received a satisfactory answer.

Mr. Fortune advised that if the destination of a truck is on Vaughn Road, if there is a delivery or a pick up then there is a reason for the truck to be on the road. If the trucks are utilizing Vaughn Road as a short cut from Highway 16 to Highway 92, then they are considered a “Thru Truck”.

Commissioner Miller stated that although Vaughn Road is in terrible shape, he would like to have the “No Thru Truck” designation removed and the signs taken down. He stated that he has gotten a lot of complaints about this designation and would like to have it removed.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked why the designation for “No Thru Trucks” was placed on this road.

Mr. Wilson advised that earlier this year we had requests to make Vaughn Road a “No Thru Trucks” road due to the condition of the road and the fact that the patches on the road would no hold due to the heavy trucks that were travelling on the road. A request was sent to the Sheriff’s Department and to the Public Works Department and both departments agreed with the “No Thru Truck” designation for the road.

Consensus of the board is to turn the matter over to the GSATC (Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee) for review and recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

9. Commissioner Miller proposes to purchase tablets for the Board of Assessors from the Commissioner's Contingency Fund for use during their meetings.

Commissioner Miller stated that during the last meeting of the Board of Aessors that there were stacks of paper that had to be navigated for every issue before the board. He stated that he felt if they each had a tablet to access the information from, the meeting would run much smoother. Commissioner Miller wanted to request 3 tables for the Board of Assessors and 5 tables for the Planning and Zoning Board be purchased from the Commissioners Contingency Fund.

Consensus of the board was to table the request to allow an opportunity to explore Novus Agenda as an option for these boards. This would provide them with the same information that the Board of Commissioners have available to them and would assist should the tablets be purchased. Also it will give staff an opportunity to determine if the tablets would have other uses to assist the individuals in their day to day activities.

10. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests additional funding from the Commissioners Contingency Fund for demolition of substandard housing.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that at the Budget Hearing in July she had requested that additional funding for substandard housing abatement be allocated from the Commissioners Contingency Fund.

Chairman Gardner stated that we should use the allotted \$10,000 designated in the FY2015 Budget for building abatement prior to taking funds out of the contingency and once the \$10,000 is exhausted then look a pulling the funds from the Commissioners Contingency Fund.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would wait until we can talk with Mr. Jacobs about abatements and how far he felt the \$10,000 would go.

11. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests to revisit the Substandard Housing Ordinance drafted earlier this year. This item was moved to the Zoning Public Meeting, Item #5. See minutes of November 3, 2014 Zoning Public Hearing.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- **Smithsonian Exhibit** – We have received a letter from the Georgia Humanities Council thanking us for our application. They said that they have received numerous applications from communities throughout the State of Georgia and are currently reviewing them for their evaluation committee. They hope to have final host site selections by Christmas and all applicants can expect to receive a letter regarding their request by January 8th.
- **Ms. Jewel Walker-Harps** sent a thank-you email for the work on the buildings at the old Fairmont High School.
- **Festival of Lights** – The Spalding County Parks and Recreation will be hosting the Annual Festival of Lights on Tuesday, November 25th, at Airport Road Park.
- **Early Voting** – As of the close of business last Friday, over 7,000 voted early representing 19% of the registered voters.
- **The ACCG Fall District 4 Meeting** will be held on Monday, November 10th, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Barnstormer’s Grill and Candler Museum. The Pike County Board of Commissioners have asked for our support and attendance so we will have a good turnout in support of our district.
- **Cell Tower Audit Notices** – The property owners of the cell towers in the county have received notices from the Tax Assessors office of an audit is to be conducted only with the cellphone service provider.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Miller wanted to express his thanks for the good job done by Public Works out on Vaughn School Road in blocking the entrance to the reservoir. He stated that he feels they have fixed the problem and will keep people from tearing up the side of the road.

Commissioner Miller asked for an update on the Caldwell/Andrews Road truck problem.

Commissioner Miller also asked for an update on Good Samaritans and their programs at the county parks.

Mr. Wilson advised that Good Samaritans have pulled out of both City Park and Fairmont Park effective last week. We are currently trying to get in touch with Mr. Ramos. As soon as we get a report, we will let you know.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked for an update on the City of Griffin and the Park and Rec Advisory Board about the portable restrooms, their usage and covering the costs for their usage. We haven't heard anything back and it has been about six weeks since we asked for them to get together and come back to us with a recommendation.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor also asked the status of being able to split the large room at the Senior Center so that it can accommodate smaller groups as a venue. She stated that she had talked with a lady who stated that the Republican Party had been refused use of the room because a ZUMBA class was being held in the room at the time they were wanting to rent the room. She stated that she was proud that the Senior Center has been able to contribute so much toward their expenses, but she feels we need to readdress how we are utilizing this room. She asked if there is a way to split that room.

Mr. Wilson advised that as part of the Value Engineering of the room for the Senior Center was taking out the wall divider that had been originally planned for the room. He stated that he believes ZUMBA takes up that entire room. Mr. Wilson also advised that there is a Conference Room available for rental at the Senior Center as well he asked if they were made aware of that room's availability.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she didn't know if they had been advised of that room's availability. She was simply relaying what had been told to her. She stated that if people need a smaller space then they need to be made aware that there is a Conference room if it is available.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would make sure that the Conference Room is made available should the larger banquet room not be available for a function.

Commissioner Flower-Taylor stated that she had the opportunity to see how the Old Food Depot Building was being utilized. She stated that as soon as you walk in the door there is a strong chemical smell. She further stated that some of the building had been arranged for storage very nicely where the items are shelved and labeled, but there was also a lot of surplus folding chairs and excess furniture and equipment in the building that possibly will never be used.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that the chemicals be moved from the front of the building and placed in a well ventilated part of the building, if there is one and that an inventory be done on the furniture and chairs and if they are not going to be used that they be either donated or sold off as excess inventory.

Commissioner Johnson wanted to get a follow up from Bonnie Pfrogner on the intergovernmental retreat. One of the things the group committed to was to have a quarterly meeting and she would like to know if we are going to, indeed, have the quarterly meeting.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would contact Ms. Bonnie because the facilitator was supposed to give us a recap of everything that was agreed to during that session.

Commissioner Ray wanted to remind everyone that tomorrow is the 4th and it is the day to go out in vote and have your voice heard. He asked that I you haven't done that to please do so tomorrow.

Commissioner Gardner had no comment.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

County Manager requests an Executive Session for discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4).

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to enter into an Executive Session for discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4). Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to end the Executive Session for discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4). Motion carried unanimously by all.

Commissioner Ray asked to amend the agenda to include under new business to add the item to add Friday December 26, 2014 as a holiday for the Spalding County employees.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to amend the agenda to include under new business to add the item to add Friday, December 26, 2014 as a holiday for the Spalding County employees. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve Friday, December 26, 2014 as a holiday for Spalding County employees. Motion carried 4-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.