

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday May 18, 2015
6:00 PM
Meeting Room 108, Courthouse Annex**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Courthouse Annex, on Monday, May 18, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Bart Miller, Raymond Ray and Donald F. Hawbaker were present. Commissioner Flowers Taylor was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County manager, Eric Mosley, County Attorney, Jim Fortune and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

I. **OPENING (CALL TO ORDER** by _Rita Johnson

II. **INVOCATION** led by Rita Johnson

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

IV. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Consider approval of Proclamation nunc pro tunc honoring the Griffin Exchange Club's "2014 Man of the Year" the Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve nunc pro tunc the Proclamation honoring the Griffin Exchange Club's 2014 Man of the Year to Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider Proclamation designating June 7-13 as Cloth Diaper Awareness Week in Spalding County.

Chairperson Johnson stated that since no one was present to receive the proclamation the Board would honor the request to designate June 7-13 as Cloth Diaper Awareness Week.

Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to designate June 7-13 as Cloth Diaper Awareness Week in Spalding County. Vote carried 3-1 (Ray).

3. Spalding County has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 14th consecutive year. Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, has been honored as the individual responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller acknowledging the work that went into preparing the award-winning CAFR and congratulating Jinna Garrison, Administrative Service Director and her staff for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 14th consecutive year. Motion carried unanimously by all.

V. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2015.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2015. Motion carried unanimously by all.

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.

No citizens signed up to comment.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA –None

IX. OLD BUSINESS –None

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider issuance of an Amplification Permit submitted by Oak Hill Baptist Church to host a "Freedom Fest" event with fireworks at 100 Lakeside Road, Williamson, GA on Sunday, June 28th, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that the application has been reviewed by the Community Development and the Sheriff's Department and staff recommends approval of the permit.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to issue an Amplification Permit submitted by Oak Hill Baptist Church to host a "Freedom Fest" event with fireworks at 100 Lakeside Road, Williamson, GA on Sunday, June 28th, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider issuance of an Amplification Permit submitted by Thomas Pyle, Sr. for a Wedding to be held at 18029 Wildwood Road, Griffin, GA on Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson advised that the applicant is expecting 50-75 guests, they are hosting the wedding reception and will have amplified music. The application has been reviewed by Community Development and the Sheriff's Department and staff recommends approval of the permit.

Motion/Second by Miller/Ray an Amplification Permit submitted by Thomas Pyle, Sr., for a Wedding to be held at 18029 Wildwood Road, Griffin, GA on Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of first reading an Ordinance to increase the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax in Spalding County from 3% to 5% effective July 1, 2015.

Jim Fortune, County Attorney, advised that the County's bill got sidetracked in the Senate and did not get passed during the last session of the Senate. Therefore, we cannot increase to 8% until we get legislative approval next year. The ordinance before the Board for consideration will raise the Hotel/Motel tax from the current 3% to 5% which can be done by Ordinance alone without enactment of any special legislation. This is the first reading of the Ordinance, a second reading will follow and it will become effect on July 1.

Motion/Second by Miller/Hawbaker to approve on first reading an Ordinance to increase the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax in Spalding County from 3% to 5% effective July 1, 2015. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider request from the KIA group for \$6,500.00 to be allocated from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

Mr. Wilson advised that there is approximately \$10,000 available in the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund should the Board agree to appropriate money to this group. He then introduced John Carlisle from the Honor Our KIA group to make a presentation.

Mr. John Carlisle stated that the request has nothing to do with the upcoming ceremony or anything that the Group has done to date. The bronze plaques are in hand and ready to be placed in their respective locations, the QR codes are ready, the documentary is not ready, but it will be ready by the end of this week. This request is for funding that will build on the foundation that has been established. The piece they don't have is the funds to advertise what the group has been able to accomplish to date.

Mr. Carlisle stated that all of the funding to date has gone to produce the product, there is no funding available to advertise what has been done to Honor Our KIA in Spalding County. This is a unique concept that they feel will bring tourism into the County, but at this time they need to get the word out beyond Spalding County as to what has been done. This request will be used for:

- Advertising in newspapers. Locally we have been fortunate enough to obtain free space with the area newspapers and radio stations, this will allow us to branch out into the surrounding areas.
- They have a documentary, a professional scrip writer and Southern Crescent has worked on the documentary for free; however, there are archival images of period aircraft and other items that are needed to fully project the story they are trying to tell and to polish the documentary for release to the public. They have the team of people in place to finish this documentary, everyone is ready to start on fine tuning and producing a professional documentary.
- Brochures to distribute around the State to tourist destinations such as Visitor Centers and the Chambers of Commerce.
- Promotion on Facebook, and other social media sites.

Mr. Carlisle advised the request is for seed money to promote a presence around the State and he feels it is a perfect use for Hotel/Motel Tax funds which are intended to promote tourism and they are requesting \$6,500 to help this project to grow throughout the State.

Commissioner Miller asked if we could put a link on the County website and the County Facebook page to the Honor Our KIA website and Facebook page.

Mr. Wilson advised that we can link it to our Facebook page and we can also place a link on our web page. Mr. Wilson asked if Mr. Carlisle would be asking the City of Griffin for funding from their Hotel/Motel tax fund.

Mr. Carlisle stated that would be asking the City for funding as well.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve \$5,000 to the Honor Our KIA committee as long as we are provided with an itemized budget as to how the money will be spent. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ June 2nd at noon is the cut-off for the receipt of SPLOST Projects to be presented at the June 9th Work Session. He wanted to remind everyone that if you plan on submitting a project, you must do so by noon on June 2nd.
- ✓ Friends of Spalding County Library will be putting books into locations where people need them the most. Pilot project at Five Loaves and Two Fish Food Pantry will be Wednesday, May 20th, at 1 p.m. at the Food Pantry to celebrate this project. Commissioners are invited to attend.
- ✓ Zoning Public Hearing is scheduled for May 28th at 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ Spalding County Employee Appreciation Day will be Saturday, June 13th, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Dundee Lake Park. This is provided by private donations and grants, there are no taxpayer dollars expended for this function.
- ✓ Change of Assessment notices and a letter of explanation were mailed out Friday, May 15th, and the last day to appeal will be June 29th.
- ✓ Monday, May 25th is Memorial Day, all County offices will be closed on that date. Memorial Day service is 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park.
- ✓ Mandatory Spay and Neuter Ordinance Public Hearing is scheduled for June 4th at 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ ACCG will be holding their 2015 Regional Meeting at Southern Crescent Technical College on June 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Three credit hours in ACCG's Continuing Education Program will be awarded for attending the 2015 Summer Regional Meeting.
- ✓ The Griffin/Spalding Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a "Business After Hours" at the Coca Cola Bottling Company Building - Monkey's Uncle will be providing the food on Tuesday, May 19th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ Archway Partnership Community-wide Listening Sessions to be held June 2, 2015 at Spalding High School from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and at Orrs Elementary from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tomorrow the executive committee of the Archways Partnership will be interviewing candidates for the Archway Partnership Professional who will be embedded into the community.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hawbaker – Wanted to acknowledge that for the first time the Senior Games included the fastest growing sport in America, Pickle Ball, and the competition was held at Sun City.

He also stated that he was glad to see that Code Enforcement was at the Woodruff Collection Center on Saturday and handed out citations to non-county residents who sought to take advantage of our free collection centers. Hopefully, this will send a message and reduce this type of behavior in the future.

Commissioner Ray – No Comments.

Commissioner Miller – No Comments.

Chairperson Johnson – Stated that she felt we had a good meeting with the City governments today.

She further advised that as of today, the recommended budget included no changes to the recycling centers, they will remain as they are.

Mr. Wilson advised that the recommended budget included no change to the recycling centers, they will remain as they are, but we will be pursuing an educational opportunity with our citizens for co-mingling and we will be stepping up our activities with code enforcement. Mr. Wilson advised that the Recycling Centers are for residential, household garbage only for our residents. If you own a small business and you pick up garbage for others, for a fee, you cannot take it to our recycling centers. We do believe that we have this activity going on as well and we will be looking at addressing that matter in the future.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Commissioners were gracious enough to go along with the recommended budget which included no changes to recycling whatsoever other than education regarding the co-mingling and helping with recycling which, in turn, will help keep our costs down.

Mr. Wilson advised that the budget first reading is on June 15th and he doesn't anticipate any changes between now and then. The Budget public hearing is June 1st at 6:00 p.m. during our Regular Meeting and the second reading for the Budget Ordinance will be June 25th at 5:45 p.m.

Commission Hawbaker stated that it is important, since we heard it more than once during the Public Hearings regarding the Recycle Centers held on April 11 and April 14, to clarify for the record some inaccuracies that were brought up at those two meetings. He stated that although he feels the statements were made with the best of intentions and in good faith; nevertheless, it was inaccurate for some of the speakers to contend:

- #1. That garbage collection was somehow to be supported by a 5 cent tax on beer or alcohol.

- #2. Another resident stated that the Collection Centers were part of the Fire District Fund and funded by the Fire District Tax.

These items have been researched by staff and it was found historically to not ever have been the case. So to prevent those misconceptions being continued to be perpetuated, he wanted to note that the collection centers are funded out of the General Fund and will continue to be cost free for residents of the County who take advantage of them. These centers were never funded through the Fire District Fund nor by taxes on alcohol.

Mr. Wilson stated that not only had staff researched the written records regarding these matters, he had talked with former County Administrator, Wayne Johnson, who was here in 1979 and also long time Probate Judge Dewitt Simonton, both of whom are knowledgeable and who lived in the County at the time the various container sites were established. They confirmed what we found in the written records that:

- a. Nothing was tied to the Alcoholic Beverage Tax regarding any type garbage disposal whatsoever, because at that time we just had open dumpsters at various locations throughout the County; and,
- b. When we established the Fire District, the Fire District Tax is for fire protection only with a mileage rate cap of 5 mils and it goes into detail the uses of those funds.

It just happened that when the Commissioners, in the late 1970's, looked at doing away with the unsightly dumpsters positioned all over the County a suggestion was made to locate compactors at the five fire stations, because the stations were also scattered throughout the county. That is when we went to the first consolidated disposal system and put in the first compactors at the Fire Departments that the Fire Department personnel, at that time, were in charge of running. Yes as part of their job duties, at that time, was to run the compactors, because effectively they were open 24/7, 365 days a year. People could come out there at any time, day or night, and dump almost anything into that compactor.

Mr. Wilson further advised that when the 1996 SPLOST passed, it paid for the equipment, the additions of fences, buildings, concrete pads and things of that nature and from that point forward the General Fund has paid for all maintenance, operations and the staffing of the Recycling Centers.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***