After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2015
6:00 PM
Meeting Room 108, Courthouse Annex

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, June 1, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Bart Miller, Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Donald F. Hawbaker were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., County Attorney, Jim Fortune and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) by Chairman Rita Johnson.

II. INVOCATION led by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG led by Commissioner Bart Miller.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS – None.

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.

Richard Oglesby, 30 First Street, East Griffin, stated that he was concerned that by not approving a Gang Reduction and Prevention Unit in the budget the County may be sending the wrong message to the gangs in Spalding County and asked that the Board reconsider their decision regarding a Gang Reduction and Prevention Unit..

Alan McCollum, 2831 Williamson Road, Williamson spoke regarding the Board approving funds for a non-profit. He is concerned that by providing funds for one non-profit will open the door to other agencies. He stated that there are other avenues of fund raising available and those avenues should be explored and that taxpayer money should not be used to fund non-profit organization projects.

Donald Driver, 534 Moore Street and Johnny Johnson, 1307 Crossings Place signed up to speak and Mr. Johnson gave Mr. Driver his three minutes to speak regarding the Recreation Department and South Atlanta Youth Association. Mr. Driver expressed his concerns over the program being offered by the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department this year and stated he felt that they had duplicated the program as outlined by SAYA.

Jennifer Douglas, 1823 Rover Zetella Road, Williamson stated that she would like for the Board to reconsider their position on the barking dog ordinance and asked that she received some type of response regarding a decision.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the May 18, 2015 Extraordinary Session of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

   Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2015 Extraordinary Session of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA -

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

   Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None.

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Conduct Public Hearing on Proposed FY2016 Budget:

   Motion/Second to open the Public Hearing on the Proposed FY2016 Budget by Miller/Ray. Motion carried unanimously by all.

   (a) Discussion and comments relative to the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

   No citizen came forward to speak.

   Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed FY2016 Budget Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests consideration of changes to the proposed FY 2016 Budget with regards to refuse collection and disposal.

   Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the Board had conducted two Public Hearings regarding the Recycling Centers and that what she had heard from the

hearings was that the residents wouldn't mind paying a minimal fee in order to continue to have this service. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked that the Board look at a possible cost sharing where the citizens would be required to pay a minimal fee for a sticker of some type and those funds be placed in a Capital Improvement fund a capital fund to replace equipment for the recycle centers and education of the citizens on the benefits of co-mingling.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the Recycling Centers are a service to the community and the service should be held to the same standard as other services provided to the citizens. If we are expecting cost sharing from the Senior Center then we should have cost sharing from the other services. She suggested $25 to $30 range annual fee to those who use the recycling centers too.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated he would never vote to go to curbside garbage pick-up which was Option #1. He stated that from the Public Hearing the citizens indicated they were willing to pay something to keep the recycling centers open. He stated based on the responses from the citizens who attended the Public Hearings he would estimate 80% of the residents are willing to pay something top keep the recycling centers open and operating. He stated that $25-$30 would be reasonable. He then asked what it would cost to set up a process to implement this charge.

Mr. Wilson stated that this was not included in the Budget for this year, it is something that could be investigated and a recommendation on how to implement the charges considered for next year's budget.

Commissioner Miller stated that there needs to be a system set up on how to collect the fee. He stated that folks who aren't willing to pay the fee are going to be dumping on the side of the road. He doesn't agree with putting anything on the taxpayers of Spalding County. Establish a fund through the SPLOST for funding replacement of the equipment at the recycling centers.

Commissioner Ray stated he would rather have a concrete plan to present to the public before rolling out any type of program. Identify the requirements and get the cost down to what we need and put a plan into place before implementation.

Consensus is to move forward in FY2016 with no fee for FY2016 and give the staff an opportunity to explore education avenues available for co-mingle recycling and formulate a plan on how a minimal fee to assist in maintaining and running the Recycling Centers can be implemented in an effective and efficient manner.

3. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests reconsideration of funding request approved for KIA Group at the May 18, 2015 meeting.

   Comm. Flowers-Taylor stated that she was concerned that this contribution was opening a Pandora's Box.

Mr. Fortune advised that under the hotel/motel tax statute there are two different functions; one is promoting tourism, conventions and tradeshows which is planning, conducting and participating in programs of information publically designed to attract or advertise tourism, conventions or tradeshows. The second Category is tourism product development which includes the expenditure for development or expansion of physical attractions which are open to the public and improve the destination for visitors' experience, such expenditures may include capital costs and operating expenses. Tourism Product Development includes numerous items, one of them being visitor information in welcome centers and way finding signage.

Mr. Fortune advised that it was his understanding from Mr. Carslile's presentation that the funds being requested are to be used to print informational pamphlets to be distributed to the Visitor Centers and Welcome Centers bordering the State. Additionally, it would be used to fund and upgrade to the Facebook page.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she did see the justification for the expense and didn't have a problem, because it is already done; however, she does feel that this is opening a door to other organizations.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that this money is available for a designated purpose and Honor Our KIA is one of those purposes. These taxes are not paid by Spalding County Residents, they are paid by visitors to Spalding County.

Commissioner Ray advised that at the time the motion was made the funding was contingent on the group presenting a detailed budget. If we don't get a budget, they do not receive the funding.

Commissioner Johnson asked that at the next retreat we discuss the criteria for Proclamations and discussion on use of the hotel/motel tax.

4. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests consideration for funding extended hours at the three Recreation Centers this summer.

   Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is concerned about the gang problem in Spalding County and the fact that there is no access to the community centers by children during the day this summer. She stated that she feels that what can be done as a community is to put a dent in the recruitment process. She is asking for extending hours at AMBUCS, Fairmont and City Park.

   Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that he had a meeting with Chief Heaton at the City of Griffin and he was very encouraged by the prospect of keeping the Parks & Rec facilities open, because he agrees that intervention and education are important factors in deterring recruitment of kids by gangs. He further stated that he would be willing to have an Officer available daily at one of the sites to assist in educating the kids as to the other options available to them.

Motion Flowers-Taylor/Ray to request $2000 per month from the Commissioner contingency fund for the months of June and July to keep the AMBUCS, Fairmont and City Park open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. contingent on the City of Griffin providing $2000 matching funds for the two months. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider acceptance of ROW deed for "The Lakes Parkway" from the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority.

   Mr. Wilson stated that earlier this year we accepted a portion of the right-of-way which did not include the roadway The Lakes Parkway. This is for the entire parkway that goes around the new industrial park. He advised that Otsuka is getting ready to have their grand opening and the Development Authority is ready to deed the right-of-way to the county. We have already for consideration established a speed limit of 35 MPH and they have asked that we prepare an Ordinance for no parking on either side of the road, which we will have prepared at the next meeting.

   Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to accept the right-of-way deed for "The Lakes Parkway" from the Griffin Spalding Development Authority.

   Commissioner Hawbaker asked if we had talked to the Development Authority about a cell tower on the property.

   Mr. Wilson advised that Mr. Windham and Mr. Mosley have met with Mr. Luckie and they have identified a parcel in the Green Valley Industrial Park that is being evaluated to see if it will be feasible for a tower. All indications are this location will be a good location.

   Motion carried unanimously by all.

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

   Mr. Wilson advised that this is something that is required by the State annually, it simply continues the Memorandum of Understanding that we are currently under and requires an annual fee of $300 per year.

   Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider requesting GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) and ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission) reallocate funding designated for replacement of the Jordan Hill Road Bridge over Troublesome Creek to the North Hill Street

Bridge over Cabin Creek.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that this was an issue that has been of concern to the residents of his district for approximately 10 years. Replacement of this bridge at the current time would affect not only prospective purchasers but approximately 1500 residents of Sun City any time they wanted to go north into Henry County it would cause an approximate 7 mile detour for a period of time of approximately 18 months.

Commissioner Hawbaker advised that Paragon and engineers from Arcadis recently performed visual inspections of the Jordan Hill Bridge and based on their evaluation and recommendations it is felt that the bridge has an anticipated life that shouldn't pose a concern to the residents for many years to come. The Jordan Hill Bridge has a weight load limit of 18 tons. The engineers gave us assurance that the bridge's sufficiency rating would not be lowered anytime soon. He stated that based on these findings he feels it is safe to move the funding to the bridge over Cabin Creek Bridge which currently has load limit of 8 tons and not been able to have school busses cross it for more than a decade.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked that the Board make a request to ARC and GDOT for the funding designated for the Jordan Hill Bridge replacement be moved to the Cabin Creek Bridge so that the bridge can be rebuilt at the same time the improvements to the intersection are being made so that we will not have to shut down Hill Street twice.

Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to request that GDOT and ARC reallocate the funding from the Jordan Hill Bridge over Troublesome Creek to the North Hill Street Bridge over Cabin Creek Bridge. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider establishment of and appointments to a Radio Users' Group as agreed to in the Intergovernmental Agreement dated April 15, 2015 with the City of Griffin.

   Mr. Wilson stated that in the intergovernmental agreement we stated that we would set up a Radio Users' Group consisting of two persons appointed by the County, two persons appointed by the City and one person appointed by any other user group served by the system and this would be done before July 1, 2015. Staff recommends Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley and Communication Systems Specialist, Mike Windham represent the County on this committee.

   Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to appoint Eric Mosley and Mike Windham to represent Spalding County for the Radio User's Group as agreed to as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement dated April 15, 2015 with the City of Griffin. Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Consider cancellation of the July 6, 2015 Board of Commissioner's meeting.

   Mr. Wilson stated that the County will observe the July 4th holiday on Friday, July 3rd and historically the first meeting in July has been cancelled due to many people taking vacation during that week.

   Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to cancel the Board of Commissioners Regular meeting on July 6, 2015 with possibility of having a called meeting if necessary. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Spalding County has been chosen as an AmeriCorps State Service Site for the Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps State Grant. The County Extension office had requested a full time position in their budget which had been turned down, but with the grant received from AmeriCorps they will be able to get a full time person and the county will only be responsible for a $2,600 match in funding.

- ✓ Aging Program moving to the Senior Center – Everyone who currently works for the Council on Aging is retiring or leaving at the end of July. Three Rivers approached the County about taking over this program. The advised that Pike County will be doing their own program, Fayette County has already started their own program and Lamar County has already started their own program. They advised that Spalding County is the only one that would not be running their program and Three Rivers would have to contract the service out to a vendor, so they asked if Spalding County would like to run their program. This program offers a congregate meals program as well as the meals on wheels program that is funded through CSBG.

  Effective August 1, if the Board approves, we will be able to merge the Aging Program into our existing Senior Center. We will be able to serve lunch at the Senior Center and those who are 60 and above will technically qualify for a free meal, but donations are requested. At our Senior Center to have to be 50 to join, so if you are between 50 and 60 years of age there will be a charge of $4.00 per meal for a balanced meal.

- ✓ Financial Peace Training using the Dave Ramsey approach will be offered to Spalding County Employees through REC1 on Friday, June 19th from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend will need to sign up by June 15th. BB&T will be sponsoring the Financial Peace Training workshop and there will be no cost to the County.

- ✓ Otsuka Chemical America – Grand Opening, Tuesday, July 14th, 2015

from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she will be attending.

- ✓ Listening Sessions for the Archway program will be tomorrow morning from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Spalding County High School and tomorrow evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Orr's Elementary School.

- ✓ Budget first reading is June 15th, the second reading is on June 25th right before our Zoning Public Hearing that evening.

- ✓ SPLOST presentations are due tomorrow by noon. Special Called Meeting on June 9th at 6:00 p.m. to review the projects.

- ✓ Spay & Neuter Public Hearing he advised that two commissioners would not be at the meeting on Thursday for the meeting at 6:00 p.m. He asked if the Board wanted to have the meeting or if they wanted to postpone the meeting until everyone could be present.

  Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she felt that everyone should be in attendance and she had questions she had posed to Mr. Wilson regarding if the proposed ordinances had been discussed with the City of Griffin and if the local veterinarians had been advised of the ordinances. How will the ordinances be enforced?

  Consensus of the Board is to move this Public Hearing to June 25 at 7:00 p.m. after the Public Zoning Hearing scheduled for that evening

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that he would like to address the lack of respect shown to the Board during Citizens Comment. He stated that he feels that the Board respects everyone who comes to the podium and he feels that a minimum amount of respect should be extended in return. When we have a citizen who accuses us of "pimping out our black children" I am not sorry to ask for the civility that the Citizen Comments call for on the Agenda.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that he would like to attend the Listening Sessions, but he is a little concerned that others might feel stifled in terms of making their thoughts known, but then after what happened tonight that shouldn't be of concern.

He wanted to commend the library on their partnership with the Five Loaves and Two Fish Food Pantry in providing free books at the location for the people to take and enjoy.

He stated that he attended both of the programs held over the Memorial Day weekend. The Honor our KIA program and the Memorial Day program to dedicate the Global War on Terror monument were both excellent.

He stated that Mr. Wilson sent out to the Board a note of thanks commending Brent Foster on hiring Annett Cross and Steve Arnold in Animal Control and they are to be commended for their prompt attention in addressing one of his constituent's problem.

He wanted to congratulate Deputy Chief Glenn Polk on receiving the designation of Fire Officer making him one of 261 Fire Officers with that designation worldwide. This is an impressive accomplishment and deserves our congratulations and acknowledgement.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor thanked the Board for providing an opportunity for the kids in Spalding County to learn about alternatives to street gang life.

She thanked the Board for doing such an awesome job on the Budget. She advised that she does have some questions that she will address to Mr. Wilson before addressing them to the Board. She stated that she is glad there is not going to be a tax increase and she feels that we are going in the right direction.

She wanted to know if the increase from hotel motel tax would be going into a Capital Improvement fund or will it be going into the General Fund. Has it been talked about where those funds would be designated?

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then suggested a small midyear retreat to see where we are tracking toward the goals set out at the retreat in February.

Commissioner Ray stated that as he advised the board on Thursday night and was taken into the notes. His father, Raymond T. Ray, Sr. and a business partner of his, Kenneth Presley, were business partners back in the 1980's and early 1990's and they sold property on land sales contracts. Which means that when you sell a piece of property and once the property is paid for in full they are given title to the property.

Commissioner Ray advised there was a piece of property located at 143 Rivers Road that was sold under a land sales contract that the title was never transferred over to the new owner. His father is now deceased and so is Mr. Presley and that leaves the two widows to handle the situation. This property was sold in January of 1992 and the people who purchased the property paid the taxes on the property until 2011. From 2011 to 2014, they did not pay their taxes. Neither widow wishes to exercise a claim on this piece of property, and they have chosen to let it be sold on the courthouse steps and that sale is scheduled for July 7, 2015.

Commissioner Miller wanted to know where we stand on resurfacing.

Mr. Wilson stated that the bid will be advertised beginning Friday of this week for the next four weeks. Bids are due June 29th and they will be awarded at our July 20th meeting.

Commissioner Miller wanted thank Commissioner Hawbaker for the work he did on getting the funding reallocated to the bridge on Cabin Creek. He stated that he feels this will be a big asset to North Hill Street to get the intersection done and the bridge rebuilt.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked Mr. Wilson to have Public Works to look at bridge on North Second Street Extension. There is some kind of dip right before you get to the bridge going into Griffin.

Commissioner Miller added that on Ellis Road, there is a dip in the bridge after you pass Vaughn Road.

Chairperson Johnson stated that the Archways Executive interviews have been completed and they are about to narrow it down to select someone soon. They are hoping to have someone selected this month.

She reminded everyone that this coming weekend is June Jam and the theme is "For the love of Griffin". She asked everyone come out and show your support.

Mr. Wilson advised June Jam will be in a new location it will be at the park area on Solomon where the previous city hall was located.

Mr. Wilson advised that Employee Appreciation Day is Saturday, June 13th at Dundee lake Park beginning at 11:00 a.m.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION -None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.