

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

A Special Called Meeting was held by the Spalding County Board of Commissioners in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, July 16, 2007 beginning at 11:00 o'clock a.m. Commission Chairman Eddie Freeman presided, and Commissioners Edward Goss, Jr. and Johnie McDaniel were present initially with Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor arriving late. Absent was Commissioner David Phillips. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr. and Executive Secretary Teresa Watson.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Freeman noted the order of business for this Public Hearing.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

1. To receive public comment on proposed property tax increase.

Motion to open Public Hearing to receive public comment on proposed property tax increase was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Goss, and carried by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Wilson noted the tax increase of ½ mill would have amounted to a \$19 average increase on a home valued at \$100,000. However, the slight tax millage reduction by the School Board offset part of the increase, so an average increase on a \$100,000 home can be expected to amount to approximately \$18.62. He noted there would be another public hearing tonight during the Extraordinary Session of the Board of Commissioners at 6 p.m., and a third at 5:30 p.m. on July 26, 2007, with final setting of the tax levy to follow at 5:45 p.m. on July 26.

Mr. L.C. Wrenn, 2155 Rehoboth Church Road, Griffin, Georgia

The questions he posed to the Board was whether or not this increase was dictated by the state or was due to employees raises, insurance, etc., and whether it would be an annual increase. It seemed to him as though with the anticipated growth in Spalding County, particularly with Sun City, perhaps a tax increase would not be necessary.

Chairman Freeman assured Mr. Wrenn it would not be an annual thing but rather was reviewed each budget cycle. The Board has approved a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 3% for employees, but many other costs have increased significantly, stated Mr. Wilson. This proposed tax increase is primarily due to increased operating expenditures of the county.

Ms. Frances Wrenn, 2155 Rehoboth Church Road, Griffin, Georgia

Ms. Wrenn stated that she knew costs go up, but she noted that people on a fixed income only get 1.5% in a cost of living adjustment if they are lucky. Medical bills have increased greatly, as well, and she doesn't feel everyone could have everything they would like. Some can't sell their properties, and with everything continuing to go up, she wondered if the objective was to push everyone off their property.

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor arrived.

Commissioner McDaniel assured Mrs. Wrenn that no one on this Board was trying to push anyone off their property. With a revaluation taking place over the next two years, the County will ensure there is equalization across the Board and that everyone is paying their fair share. Many folks, particularly commercial classifications, have property that is greatly undervalued, which will change as a result of this process and make for a more level playing field.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to adjourn Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Goss, and motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McDaniel moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Goss, and motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

County Clerk

Chairman

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