

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, May 18, 2009, beginning at 6:00 o'clock p.m. with Commission Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presiding and Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Eddie L. Freeman, Bob Gilreath and David Phillips present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr., County Attorney James R. Fortune, Jr. and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) – Chairman Edward Goss, Jr.

II. INVOCATION – Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG – Led by Commissioner David Phillips

Motion to amend agenda by adding under Proclamations: Consideration of Proclamation declaring, nunc pro tunc, that the first week of May shall be Correctional Officers and Nurses Appreciation Week, as well as a Proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month, and McIntosh Trail Community Service Board desires to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners. Finally, as the last item of New Business, shall be added: Consideration of a contract with the firm of Stephen Macke, Advent Ltd., for system administrative duties for the 800 MHz Communications System. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. Consider Proclamation declaring, nunc pro tunc, that the first week of May shall be Correctional Officers and Nurses Appreciation Week.

Proclamation

Correctional Officers and Nurses Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, Correctional Officers and Nurses provide a vital service to the citizens by contributing to the safety of our state institutions and by aiding in offender rehabilitation and health care; and

WHEREAS, Georgia, with over 55,000 incarcerated, leads the world in the percentage of its population in prison and is ranked ninth nationally in population but has the fifth largest prison population; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Department of corrections currently employs over 8,000 correctional officers statewide in state, county, and private institutions; boot camps; transitional centers; detention centers; pre-release centers; and diversion centers; as well as many nurses who are committed to providing quality health care to prisoners with dignity, respect and professional expertise; and

WHEREAS, The Correctional Officers and Nurses who make Georgia's state and county prisons recognized leaders among national penal institutions are an essential yet often overlooked branch of criminal justice, many of whom also serve as members of the nation's military reserves and community relief efforts, such as tornado disasters and fires; and

WHEREAS, Our Correctional Officers and Nurses maintain a high degree of professionalism, ensuring the public's safety by effectively managing offenders, even when there is a risk to personal safety; Correctional employees face many physical, emotional and spiritual challenges; and

WHEREAS, Spalding County citizens appreciate and are grateful for the watchful protection so ably provided by our dedicated correctional professionals.

NOW

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that we, the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County, join our state in hereby issuing this proclamation whereby we recognize the contributions of Georgia's Correctional Officers and Nurses, and we invite every citizen and institution to join us as we honor them. We, the Board of Commissioners do hereby declare that a copy of this proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, reflecting, nunc pro tunc, that the first week of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine shall be Correctional Officers' and Nurses' Week.

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Motion to declare, nunc pro tunc, that the first week of May shall be Correctional Officers and Nurses Appreciation Week, by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

2. Consider Proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month, and McIntosh Trail Community Service Board desires to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Goss read and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Pam McCollum, Executive Director of the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board.

Proclamation 2009 Mental Health Month

WHEREAS, The vision of McIntosh Trail Community Service Board is to promote and support community cultures in which those who have or experience disabilities are visible, valued, participating and contributing members with a mission to offer health, hope and healing by providing quality behavioral health services and community presence, participation and supports; and

WHEREAS, May 2009 has been designated Mental Health Month with a staggering 58 percent of Americans reported struggling in their lives at the end of 2008 representing an increase of more than 22 million over 2007, 22 percent suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder, one in ten American adults suffer from an addictive disease, and developmental disabilities impact over 17 percent of our population; and

WHEREAS, McIntosh Trail Community Service Board is a valued and valuable conduit for providing tools to buffer the effects of stress and help those with issues of mental illness, addictive diseases and developmental disabilities with a wide scope of affordable outpatient, day and residential services which support a culture that encourages individuals with disabilities to be contributing members of the community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to outpatient services, McIntosh Trail Community Service Board also provides an array of community services that include crisis stabilization, housing options, specialized treatment for women and children, employment support, peer support, and a viable geriatric service component; and

WHEREAS, The values to which McIntosh Trail Community Service Board aspires encompass client-centered customized programs; creative use of resources; promotion of interdependence and teamwork; implementation of effective and proven techniques that afford success in functionality and socialization in community environments; compassion in treatment and support; integrity, respect and sincerity while assuming accountability and responsibility for commitments to consumers and the community; all of which combine to ensure that theirs is a program of excellence which models the best of proven attributes yet allows for growth and flexibility as the needs and expectations of consumers change and become more fluid.

NOW

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that we, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, invite our citizens to join us as we hereby declare that, in recognition of the value of these respected mental health care professionals, the month of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine shall be Mental Health Month.

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Motion to proclaim May as Mental Health Awareness Month, and McIntosh Trail Community Service Board desires to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners, by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

Syntel Brown made a brief presentation providing an overview of the Board and its scope of services to a seven-county area. He detailed not only the services offered, but a client demographic summary. Board member, Joy Kelley, was in attendance, as well. Consumers, government funding, donations, etc. combine to fund the provision of services.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of Financial Statements for the Ten Months ended April 30, 2009.

Motion to approve Financial Statements for the Ten Months ended April 30, 2009, by Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

VI. CITIZENS COMMENTS – NO REQUESTS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers must state their names and addresses and direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted 5 minutes to speak on topics pertinent to the Board’s jurisdiction. No speaker will be allowed to readdress the Board without express consent from a Board member. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting.

Zachery Holmes, 357 Moreland Road, Griffin, Georgia

As Chair for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Mr. Holmes said he was directed to communicate to the Board of Commissioners the desires of that Board with regard to seniors. Senior citizens would like to know specifics about the purchase of the proposed bus and construction of the proposed senior citizen center. They are approached almost daily on these matters and do not have pertinent information to provide to this segment of the population.

Joe Harrell, 408 Dogwood Place, Griffin, Georgia

He was pleased when the County started taking care of Camp Stephens. Recently the County took down the Confederate flags that have flown there previously. He felt we should publicize our confederate cemeteries, sites, museums with pertinent artifacts, historical markers, trails, etc. He was proud to bring a Winshape foster home to Spalding County for home for 12 children and he cares for the community.

Sam Stacy, 660 Bieze Street, Griffin, Georgia

He is a citizen first, but also is chaplain of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He supported Mr. Harrell who went to personal expense to raise those flags at Camp Stephens and he feels they should be replaced. He realized he was treading on possibly controversial areas, but he noted the Sons of Confederate Veterans is an organization dedicated to honor history and to pay respect to our ancestors, not to be a controversial entity. Mr. Stacy stated he hopes and prays that his children and grandchildren honor his memory in spite of his faults, and concluded that our ancestors made mistakes, as well. Symbols, such as the Confederate flag, can be used for evil or good.

Mr. Wilson said the County is soliciting senior input on plans for a possible renovation of the senior center at Memorial Drive Plaza. As far as the bus, this is an issue that will be moved up for purchase, with the County possibly reimbursing itself later from sales tax collections.

Commissioner Freeman said he had advocated for Camp Stephens and work on the Scenic Byway which will be an asset to the community, as well. The camp property was donated by the family of Doc Holliday in 1861 for this confederate camp site. He commended Mr. Harrell for all his work with historical sites and particularly for cemeteries.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor understood the concept but of great concern was, that as a Board, we will meet with principals of this public/private partnership for a period of several months only to perhaps have nothing materialize. Then, the County will be back at square one. She suggested the County not again put all its eggs in one basket. This partnership should also not cost seniors for use of the facility.

VIII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of Minutes of the following: May 4, 2009 Regular Monthly Meeting.

Motion to approve Minutes of the following: May 4, 2009 Regular Monthly Meeting, by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA – N/A

X. OLD BUSINESS – N/A

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval, on first reading, Ordinance #2009-04 regarding distance requirements for the sale of alcoholic beverages, specifically related to Village Node zoning districts, to amend Part VI, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1: Article C, Section 6-1058.1(1).

Mr. Wilson advised this was tabled at the last meeting to allow for further study and a visit to some established Village Nodes. Commissioner Freeman detailed their visit to Serenbe in south Fulton County and one in Smyrna. He felt the Village Nodes were a well-planned, innovative concept. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor noted that 75% of the shops were occupied, and she better understood why developers would be restricted by the current distance requirements of alcoholic beverage licensing as provided by our ordinance. The very nature of a village node with everything compact, easily accessible and located within walking distance, made this more feasible. It was noted this does not apply to selling on Sunday.

Motion to approve, on first reading, Ordinance #2009-04 regarding distance requirements for the sale of alcoholic beverages, specifically related to Village Node zoning districts, to amend Part VI, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1: Article C, Section 6-1058.1(1) by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

2. Consider approval, on first reading, an Ordinance amending the FY 2009 Budget Ordinance to provide for year-end adjustments.

Motion to approve, on first reading, an Ordinance amending the FY 2009 Budget Ordinance to provide for year-end adjustments, by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

3. Consider authorizing Chairman to execute Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between McIntosh Trail RDC and the Spalding County Emergency Management Agency for services to update the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan (PDM).

Motion to authorize Chairman to execute Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between McIntosh Trail RDC and the Spalding County Emergency Management Agency for services to update the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan (PDM), by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, carried by a vote of 5-0.

4. Consider approval of Site Access Agreement with Verizon Wireless for Williamson Road Communication Tower.

Motion to approve Site Access Agreement with Verizon Wireless for Williamson Road Communication Tower, by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0. Copy of contract on file.

5. Set a date for a Public Hearing to establish street lighting district for Autumn Ridge Phase III Subdivision.

Motion to approve a date of June 1, at the Regular Monthly Meeting, for a Public Hearing to establish street lighting district for Autumn Ridge Phase III Subdivision, by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

6. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor desires to discuss the following proposals for Parks and Recreation Department programs: 1) Thomaston Mill Village Park Walking Trail/Security Light, 2) Movies in the Park events, and 3) Airport Road Park tree project.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that, toward the end of his last term, Commissioner McDaniel recommended placing the walking trail around the perimeter of the Thomaston Mill Village Park. She concurred that is a good idea. Some drug activity is suspected and this lighting should help in that regard. The cost of \$22,750, worked up previously, might have seen some reduction with the economy.

The second request is for Movies in the Park, a program similar to what Lamar County currently does in an area off their square. At the last showing, there were in excess of 100 residents who were present for this family-oriented activity. One family shared they could not afford to pay to take their family of five out to a movie at a commercial theatre. Here they can bring their lawn chairs, blankets, and sleeping bags. The estimated cost includes some equipment that would be necessary and totals about \$8,500. She felt this "movie under the stars" theme would be a good way to give back to the community.

The final project, a provision of trees for shade at Airport Road Park, approximates \$1,100 for four trees.

All projects could come from the Commissioners' Contingency Fund, and perhaps a partnering effort with the Downtown Council/MainStreet group could be developed.

Mr. Wilson noted with caution that the County has already spent more than it has taken in. While it is true there are budgeted funds left in Contingency, revenues are also greatly down which jeopardizes budgeted funding throughout all departments. MainStreet Downtown has inquired already for a use of this corner with landscaping and park benches, etc., so they need to be apprised of these discussions.

Commissioner Gilreath said the Hospital Authority might provide funding for walking trail since it is health related. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor admitted that was probably an outside chance since the health benefits cannot be quantified or measure for their criteria. Commissioner Phillips noted drug dealers would probably shoot the new lights out for drug activity. Walking trails are not a listed use to utilize impact fees, said Mr. Wilson.

Motion to approve Thomaston Mill Village Walking Trail/Security Lights at \$22,750, by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, carried by a vote of 5-0.

Motion to approve concept of Movies in the Park at \$8,500 with collaborations pursued with MainStreet and Downtown Council, by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, was followed by much discussion. Commissioner Phillips felt this project could be funded with donations by community clubs, fundraisers, auctions, etc. Mr. Wilson spoke with Louis Greene and T.J. Imberger, and he suggested that several cost-cutting measures could be utilized to help with this project. These could be used to begin the event and see how well it was accepted, then if the project is well received and viable, a more expensive projector and setup could be pursued, raising funds for same as described above. Commissioners Flowers-Taylor and Phillips rescinded their motion and second with the provision that Commissioners Phillips and Gilreath would pursue funding. Motion and second by Commissioners Phillips and Freeman to utilize Mr. Wilson's recommendation first and then continue, if feasible, to raise money. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor moved to approve the project with existing equipment, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, and motion carried 5-0.

Motion to approve the Airport Road Park tree project at \$1,100, for the purchase of four, 5" Zelkova trees to be placed at the southwestern end of the walking track area, by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Gilreath, carried by a vote of 5-0.

7. Consider a new contract with Advent, Ltd. for 800 MHz Consultation.

Several issues were raised by County Attorney Fortune that needed correction and/or addressing, i.e. indemnity language, reference to future commerce, compensation plus stipend and health insurance, other compensation for completing special objectives, arbitration, etc. The contract needs a great deal of work and he will talk to Steve Macke with Commissioner Phillips to resolve these issues, but he needed a clearer understanding from the Board as to the objective of the new contract. The purpose in this document tonight is vague and nonspecific. Commissioner Phillips said the current contract with Advent, Ltd. was only for rebanding efforts. Chairman Goss wants Mr. Van Haute to assist Mr. Wilson more and be relieved of the daily burden of 800 MHz. ***Motion and second by Commissioner Phillips and Flowers-Taylor to table until the zoning public hearing on May 28, 2009 carried 5-0.***

XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- Reminder: The County has issued press releases regarding purchase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant from Springs/Global by Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority.
- 8th consecutive year for Excellence Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

- Budget review scheduled for Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, May 29 at 4:30 p.m. each day.
- Memorial Park memorial service on next Monday's holiday.
- Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee meeting will be Wednesday 5-20-09 at 1:30 p.m.
- Confirmed with the Board regarding a Joint Meeting regarding Airport Master Plan Site Selection Study on May 27, 2009 at 5 p.m.
- Louis Greene and Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission want to close soccer fields after the season. Soccer Association has agreed to maintenance over the summer and plans are to proceed.
- The County will be closing for the Memorial Day holiday Monday.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Freeman

He noted he sits on the Airport Advisory Board and requested a presentation as well from LPA. Mr. Wilson noted they will see a briefing on Wednesday evening also. All want to be aware and in the loop on this issue.

Flowers-Taylor

She noted she had received information from Chuck Taylor on stimulus funds of \$23,000,000 that includes some funding for summer job creation for youths 14-24 with wages fully funded. Again, she reiterated she was concerned that the County not be left out in the cold for alternate plans for the senior center should the public/private partnership not materialize within 90-120 days. She was disappointed that as she participated in Relay for Life this past Saturday there was no participation from County employees at all. Perhaps the County can look at incentives to do so next year as many did this year, with a day off or some other incentive if they participated. She thanked the speakers on the Camp Stephens issue, noting she was glad they recognize the ethnic issues, but she could see where there would be problems with the County funding a display of confederate flags.

Phillips

He was pleased about purchase of the wastewater treatment plant from Springs/Global, which could virtually sewer the north side of the County in future years, perhaps even serving the new industrial park at Big Shanty. He attended the Griffin High School ROTC Awards recently and it was a good event. As for Movies in the Park, he wants to see what Mr. Wilson has in mind first and then he will proceed with fundraising. He'll speak with Mr. Macke on clarification of the contract, also, and he apologized for not disseminating this contract prior to the meeting.

Gilreath

The Rehoboth Road School Dedication on Tuesday saw a good crowd and was a great event. It is a most beautiful location for a school. He again asked that Mr. Wilson complete plans to initiate charges to the City for election space provided to them.

Goss

He wanted Mr. Wilson to check on issues with the Mercer building. He asked about the date for the Jesse Bradley retirement reception. He also asked about getting a full refund to Mr. Pusinelly for his variance application since he previously received a variance. He asked what to do with the Highland Mill demolition debris, and Mr. Wilson will pursue that issue.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 8:11 p.m., by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Gilreath, carried by a vote of 5-0.

Chairman

County Clerk

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