

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, March 1, 2010, beginning at 6:05 p.m. with Commissioner Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presiding and Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Eddie L. Freeman and Bob Gilreath present. Mr. David Phillips was not present. Also present were Interim County Manager Tim Whalen, Assistant to the Interim County Manager Virginia Martin, County Attorney James R. Fortune, Jr., and Executive Secretary Glinda Robertson.

- I. **OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) – Chairman Edward Goss, Jr.**
- II. **INVOCATION – Led by Rev. Clay Padgett, Pastor of Crown Center Church**
- III. **PLEDGE TO FLAG – Led by Commissioner Eddie Freeman**

Motion/second to amend agenda to include recognition of Ms. Phyllis Doane in appreciation for her service to Spalding County by Commissioners Gilreath/Flowers-Taylor and carried by a vote of 4-0.

IV. **APPOINTMENTS- CALENDAR YEAR 2010:**

Interim County Clerk – Phyllis P. Doane
To replace Phyllis P. Doane and appoint Timothy J. Whalen as Interim County Clerk

Motion/second to approve appointment by Commissioners Freeman/Flowers-Taylor and carried by a vote of 4-0.

Ex-Officio County Clerk – William D. Gay
To replace William D. Gay and appoint Glinda P. Robertson as Ex-Officio County Clerk

Motion/second to approve appointment by Commissioners Freeman/Flowers-Taylor and carried by a vote of 4-0.

V. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION**

- a. Consider approval of a Proclamation declaring Monday, March 1st, 2010 as “Joe Buice Day” in Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia.

Proclamation

“Joe Buice Day”

WHEREAS, Joe Buice was born October 16, 1955 in Barnesville, GA. and has been married to Barbara D. Jones for thirty-six years and is the proud father of four children, Ryan, Mary Beth, Joey and Jonathan; and

WHEREAS, Joe Buice graduated from Lamar County High School and started his law enforcement career with the Spalding County Sheriff’s Department on August 1, 1978. While working at the Sheriff’s Department he was promoted to a Sergeant in the Uniform Patrol Division and was trained in investigative techniques alongside Georgia Bureau of Investigation Agents. He left the Sheriff’s Department on January 16, 1983 to fulfill one of his life’s ambitions of protecting natural resources, and became Game Warden with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, While working as a Game Warden, he oversaw as many as eight counties in Georgia for twenty-two years and ended his career with them as a Field Sergeant supervisor. He served on a Department of Natural Resources Tactical Unit and a Ranger Advisor Board and he was the “Covert” Officer for the Manchester District before the creation of a permanent unit. He was Shift Supervisor during the 1996 Olympics and participated in the Olympic bomb investigation and recovery and has also completed a new radio system for Manchester with 5 repeater sites in operation; and

WHEREAS, Some of his awards include District Ranger of the Year, Investigative Ranger of the Year and outstanding Criminal Justice Major for Academic Achievement and Leadership; and

WHEREAS, After twenty-two years of service to the Department of Natural Resources, Joe Buice was elected as Sheriff of Lamar County. During his four years as Sheriff he faced the challenges of capturing and convicting a hit man who had been hired to kill him and battled corruption in local politics as Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, Joe Buice returned to the Spalding County Sheriff's Department on July 9, 2009, where he continues his service to the public. Even though Deputy Buice was recently shot in the line of duty and is currently recovering. He continues to demonstrate his unwavering commitment to upholding the law and making a difference for the greater good; and

WHEREAS, Joe Buice has been nominated for the television show, "America's Most Wanted" All Star Award for Officer of the Year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County do hereby proclaim Monday, March 1, 2010 as

"JOE BUICE DAY"

in Spalding County in recognition of his professional experience as a Deputy and in honor of his success and accomplishments.

This the 1st day of March 2010.

Edward Goss, Jr., Chairman

Timothy J. Whalen, Interim County Clerk

Motion/second to approve "Joe Buice Day" Proclamation by Commissioners Freeman/Gilreath and carried by a vote of 4-0.

- b. Presentations will be made to Deputies Joe Buice, Brian Fornal, Jeff Eidson, Mike Haygood and Gabriel Kreismanis for their bravery during the shooting on East McIntosh Road, January 29, 2010.

Sheriff Stewart, Major Beam, Major Bishop, and Lt. David Gibson were present to give out awards.

- c. Consider approval of a Proclamation recognizing March 8-14, 2010 as Georgia Census Week in Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia.

Proclamation

"Census Week"

WHEREAS, The week of March 8 through 14, 2010, is hereby declared "Georgia Census Week", and we urge the residents of Spalding County to participate completely in the United States 2010 Census to provide an accurate count of the population of Georgia in the 2010 decennial census and for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section II of the United States Constitution mandates that a census of the United States population be conducted every ten years; and

WHEREAS, The next census is scheduled to be conducted on April 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The data from the census is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to determine redistricting of legislative and other government bodies, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute approximately \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments each year; and

WHEREAS, An accurate count of the population is critical to the fair and equitable distribution of these seats, services, and funds; and

WHEREAS, A Georgia Complete Count Committee has been established to build awareness of the importance and confidentiality of the Census, and actively inspire Georgia residents to participate in the Census, and to work with other

groups to share ideas and best practices to encourage active participation in the Census; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Spalding County Board of Commissioners that the members of this body urge the residents of Spalding County to participate in the 2010 Census, and likewise urge local Complete Count Committees to register on the website and work with the Georgia Complete Count Committee, and furthermore, we do hereby declare that the week of March 8 through 14, 2010, as Georgia's Official Census Week in order to build awareness and support throughout Georgia; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Complete Count Committee.

This, the 1st day of March 2010.

Edward Goss Jr., Chairman Timothy J. Whalen, Interim County Manager

Motion/second to approve Census Proclamation by Commissioners Freeman/Gilreath and carried by a vote of 4-0.

- d. Miller Edwards, from Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, is present to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for June 30, 2009.

Mr. Edwards presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Financial documents were provided for the Commissioners. Spalding County has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eight years in a row. He stated the county has approximately \$127 million in assets and about \$32 million of liabilities. More than half of this is long term in nature. The county has net assets of almost \$94 million. We have an \$11 million dollar fund balance deficit.

Edwards stated that revenues were \$2.8 million below the budget. He said the county came out ahead by reducing expenditures by \$3.5 million. We have 1½ month's worth of fund balance.

The Board of Commissioners administered \$65 million as far as expenses this past year. Our functional expenses cost about \$52.8 million. We took in \$40 million to offset that \$52 million.

Our major funds are the general, fire district, and 2005 and 2008 SPLOST Capital Projects Funds. A single audit of federal grants received revealed no problems.

Mr. Edwards advised that we need someone to oversee the journal entry process. We need checks and balances.

- e. Appreciation and thanks given to Ms. Phyllis Doane for her service to Spalding County as Interim County Clerk.

VI PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – N/A

VII. CITIZENS COMMENT

VIII. 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.

Mr. Charles Bassett at 3333 West Ellis Road
Stated he was at the January meeting to question a zoning of the property at 3328 West Ellis Road, a sandblasting business. He was told at the meeting that he would be notified of the results and as of this date he has still not been contacted with the results. Commissioner Freeman stated he spoke with Chuck Taylor, Community Director last week, and the

information is ready and will be going out in writing to Mr. Bassett this week. Mr. Freeman did not know what that information was at this time.

Mr. Bassett stated he was at the December meeting as well and he heard Ms. Taylor comment about some of the sub-divisions that were a little less than adequate. He asked her to take time and ride out and look at the piece of property that he is questioning. There are a couple of rotten pole barns and a huge mud hole. There is no restroom. It did not even have a port-a-potty until he called the Health Department. This property is not even suited for a septic system. Mr. Bassett thanked the Board for their time and effort.

IX. MINUTES

- a. Consider approval of the minutes of the following: Extraordinary Session of February 15, 2010 and Zoning Public Hearing of February 25, 2010.

Motion/second to approve the above minutes by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman and carried by a vote of 4-0.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consider a second reading of an Ordinance amending the Spalding Code to provide for “No Thru Trucks” on Tomochichi Road from Jackson Road to High Falls Road.

2010-01- TO AMEND STREET USE ORDINANCE, PART VI, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 6-2004. ROUTE OF TRAVEL – THROUGH TRUCKS. NO THRU TRUCKS FOR: TOMOCHICHI ROAD FROM JACKSON ROAD TO HIGH FALLS ROAD.

**SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA
STREET USE ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 2010-01**

**AN ORDINANCE
TO AMEND THE CODE OF SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO PROVIDE FOR NO
THROUGH TRUCKS ON CERTAIN COUNTY ROADS.**

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County, Georgia, as the governing authority of said County, as follows:

Section 1. That the Code of Spalding County, Georgia be amended in Part VI, Chapter 2, Section 6-2004, Item (e), relating to no through trucks on streets, by adding paragraph (58) as follows:

“ (58) Tomochichi Road in its entirety from Jackson Road to High Falls Road.”

Section 2. The within ordinance shall be and become effective immediately upon its adoption by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County, Georgia, present at two meetings, as provided in Section 2-1005 of the Code of Spalding County, Georgia; and upon the erection of signs as required herein by the public works forces of Spalding County, Georgia.

Section 3. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion/second to approve second reading of “No Thru Trucks” Ordinance by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman and carried by a vote of 4-0.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of an Amendment to the CSBG Contract for Council on Aging.

Arona Smith, CSBG Coordinator, from Three Rivers Regional Commission was present to address any questions the Board might have regarding this Amendment. Ms. Smith stated there was an original contract for the Meals on Wheels Program that was submitted to the Board for approval in the amount of \$74,998.90. The major components of the original contract identified a unit cost of \$6.30 which included only the cost of meals. It also identified two separate costs for transportation and salaries for two drivers. In addition, it identified that 34 individuals were eligible to receive home delivered meals

under the Meals on Wheels Program. The Council on Aging determined that the original unit cost for meals should be amended to ensure it was consistent with their overall program goals and objectives. They suggested that the contract be amended to \$73,058. In the amended contract, it shows that there is an amended unit cost of \$10.60. This amended unit cost actually includes the cost of salaries, gas, vehicle usage, and the cost for a meal. It also states that the COA plans to provide home delivered meals to approximately 27 elderly individuals. This number is based on a formula that the COA came up with and is just a minimum amount to determine what the minimum number of eligible clients they can serve on a monthly basis is. They are allowed to go over that number, but they still have to maintain the \$10.60 unit cost. They wanted to have a little more flexibility with the contract.

They also suggested the contract allow for a minimum of one driver. In addition, the COA utilizes volunteers to deliver the meals. The COA felt like one driver supplemented with the volunteers would be sufficient.

Also, a laptop and software was purchased for the COA using CSBG funds. The purpose of the laptop was to install Easy Track software. This software is mandated by the Department of Human Services to administer the CSBG Program. It was recommended they deduct the cost of the actual laptop and the software from their contract since the county actually purchased it, so that's why there is a reduction of about \$1,900 from the original contract. The changes made are very minimal. Meals on Wheels will continue to provide a significant benefit to our community.

Motion/second to approve Amendment to the CSBG Contract by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Gilreath and carried by a vote of 4-0.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider request from Terry Colling, Board of Elections Supervisor, to utilize the office space at 819 Memorial Dr. for all early voting from June through November 2010.

Motion/second to approve request by Commissioners Freeman/Flowers-Taylor and carried by a vote of 4-0.

2. Consider request from Ms. Mate Mundy to accept her letter of resignation from the Keep Griffin-Spalding Beautiful Board.

Motion/second to approve request by Commissioners Freeman/Gilreath and carried by a vote of 4.0.

3. Consider approval of Memorandum Agreement between Spalding County and Development of Veteran's Service for rental space at 883 Memorial Dr.

Mr. Tim Whalen, Interim County Manager stated the Veteran's Service is requesting we sign an agreement with them to lease this office space which is 515 square feet at 883 Memorial Dr. for \$1.00 per year. They are also requesting the County agree to be responsible for all expenses for said premises which would include their utilities. This is a renewal of their last contract.

Mr. Goss asked if this is what their last contract said. Mr. Whalen stated he was of the understanding they were paying \$100.00 per month in their prior contract. He spoke with Mr. Scott Jennings who is the Leasing Manager for State Properties. Mr. Jennings could not provide Mr. Whalen any explanation as to why this contract is changing.

It was agreed by all that more information is needed.

Motion/second to table this item until more information can be obtained by Commissioners Freeman/Gilreath and carried by a vote of 4-0.

4. Consider approval of three out-of-state trips for the Senior Center Travel Club and the Walking for Wellness Club.

Tim Whalen stated the Parks and Recreation Department determine the total cost of the trip and then divide that total by the potential number of people willing to go and pay their share of the trip. The trips are funded by the participants. Trips are scheduled for Orlando, FL, May 4-7, 2010; Chattanooga, TN, May 25-26, 2010; and Etowah, TN, October 26-28, 2010.

Motion/second to approve by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman and carried by a vote of 4-0.

5. Consider appointment of Turner Davis to the Butts, Henry, Lamar & Spalding Development Authority, a one-year term to expire 12/31/2010.

Motion/second to approve appointment by Commissioners Freeman/Flowers-Taylor and carried by a vote of 4-0.

6. Consider approval of a Resolution supporting the 2010 CDBG Grant Application.

Tim Whalen stated this is the grant that was approved at the last meeting for the Water Authority to make improvements at the Highland Mill and run that line to the new Springs facility.

Ms. Flowers-Taylor asked what it means that we commit to include the CDBG Grant under a single audit each year for a value of \$1,000. Mr. Jim Fortune (County Attorney) stated that they expect us to kick in some money every year for an audit. Ms. Virginia Martin (Interim Assistant County Manager) stated she is assuming they want us to include that budgeting process in our annual single audit.

Mr. Gilreath stated we need a little more clarification on this before the Board takes a vote on it. It was agreed by the other Commissioners there was confusion over the value of \$1,000 and what they were trying to say. Mr. Gilreath asked this issue be tabled.

Motion/second to table until more information can be obtained by Commissioners Gilreath/Freeman and carried by a vote of 4-0.

XIII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- Reviewed accomplishments from past retreats. From the 2009 Retreat, there are three items that were completed: 1) sub-standard housing ordinance; 2) commercial zoning ordinance; and 3) the purchase of the senior citizen bus.
- Ms. Virginia Martin advised everyone to contact their legislators regarding HB1203 which would reallocate how utility funds are distributed. If the bill passes, counties will benefit. ACCG is also working on this. Ms. Martin agreed to draft a letter from the Board in support of this bill.

XIV. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Flowers-Taylor

- Has concern over Hudson Road & Wilson Road Intersection. There are at least two “No Thru Trucks” signs that are being ignored. All day there are trucks turning on to this road and tearing it up. Code Enforcement is not ticketing drivers for doing this. This is a hazard for school traffic and needs to be enforced.
- Has been talking to Parks and Recreation about soccer fields being in bad shape and unusable. We need to think outside the box to solve these problems.
- Asked Ms. Martin to get more information about federal monies available from AARA “20,000 Jobs for Georgia” Program. This is a federal stimulus plan that will allow 5,000 Georgians to become employed for up to six months. We need to get this information out to the public.
- Thanked Sheriff’s Department for their services.

Gilreath

- Commented on meeting room changes. There will be more down the road that will be a benefit to the people that visit us.
- Complimented the great job on the renovated building on the corner of Hill and Taylor. Don’t know who the owner is, but he is doing a great job making downtown Griffin look nice.
- Urged everyone to please participate in the Census count. It means a lot to the county. We need 100% accuracy this time.

Goss

- Also concerned with intersection of Hudson Road and Wilson Road intersection. He went to look at the area. It’s in bad shape.

- Also concerned with soccer field issues. We have always had the absolute best soccer fields in the state of Georgia. We have to do something.
- Honored to have Deputy Buice at the meeting tonight. He thanked all the deputies.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – N/A

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 7:45 P.M. by Freeman/Flowers-Taylor and carried by a vote of 4-0.

Chairman

Interim County Clerk

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