

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, June 7, 2010, beginning at 6:20 p.m. with Commissioner Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presiding and Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Eddie L. Freeman, and Bob Gilreath present. David Phillips arrived toward the end of the meeting. 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.

Motion/second by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman to amend agenda to include a presentation of a \$20,000 check to Main St. Program for work on the pocket park at 6th and Solomon St. They also requested to add an item to be first on the agenda under New Business requesting the Board to approve a contract for an Assistant Solicitor for State Court. Both items were approved to be added and carried by a vote of 3-1. Gilreath voted against.

II. INVOCATION – Led by Pastor Mamie Harris

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG – Led by Commissioner Eddie Freeman

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Chairman Eddie Goss presented a \$20,000 check to Kira Harris-Braggs, Da'ood Amin, and Marcia Collins from the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board for work on the pocket park.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Consider approval of the financial statements for the ten months ending April 30, 2010.

Mr. Whalen stated SPLOST collections for the month of April fell \$27,000 from the March collections. March was \$707,000 and April was \$680,000.

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

VI. CITIZENS COMMENT

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 re-address 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.

Ms. Betty Taylor – 419 Airport Rd.

Ms. Taylor stated she has been in Griffin for 55 years. She along with others worked very hard on the SPLOST for the senior citizens. She understands the SPLOST was for \$500,000. She asked where the money is for the senior citizen center. Mr. Goss told her the money was in a special fund. Ms. Taylor stated they had not given the Board permission to spend \$129,000 for a site study. She and many other seniors would like Carver Rd. to be the location. It's a safer place to get in and out of traffic wise. She believes the senior citizens should be considered. She also likes this location because it is close to the police and fire stations. She reminded the Board they too will be seniors one day.

Ms. Billie Brown – 421 Moose Lodge Rd.

Ms. Brown stated it has been five years and they are still waiting. They anticipated seeing a brand new building on Carver Rd. That did not happen. It has been proposed that the old Cook's building be renovated into the senior center. She further commented there has been so much money spent on consultations and studies. She asked, "How much more are you going to spend in consultations and studies in order to find out this is a good place to go?" She is and has been for many years, an active member in the senior center. She stated that Jo Ellis has done an outstanding job of providing programs for the seniors. She asked the Board to "do something positive for our seniors." She asked them to put it high on their priority list. She says their current meeting place can hardly hold all the people. She pleaded with the Board to please not forget the seniors.

Mr. Gilreath stated he has been on the Board for a year and a half and he has come to the conclusion the senior center has been a political football from day one. He said there have been more studies than Washington has had in the last six months and it has cost some of the SPLOST money that was designated to build a senior center. He further stated that he felt like Carver Road would be an ideal place, however as he understands it, there is too much rock under the ground. It would be very costly to build at this location. Mr. Gilreath further stated that his efforts to get the seniors their new center built will be never ending.

VIII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of Minutes of the following: Corrected Regular Monthly Meeting of May 3, 2010, Extraordinary Session of May 17, 2010 and Zoning Public Hearing of May 27, 2010.

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

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests a discussion on setting policy for citizens using county property for events.

Ms. Martin provided the Board with a draft and explained this is a document that was put together from one that Parks and Recreation uses. There are currently no prices listed. She is looking for input from the Board. Ms. Martin felt like it would be nice if there was one document to use county wide for any county property whether it's a building or a piece of land. This draft is just a starting point.

Ms. Flowers-Taylor stated prices are what she is looking for. Mr. Fortune commented that you can calculate the reasonable commercial value of using something. Ms. Flowers-Taylor stated the county needs to also look at the use of electricity, water, etc. for these events.

Mr. Fortune further stated the county needs to make a decision as to which locations they are willing to rent. Will it be any county property or only certain places? It was agreed Ms. Martin and Mr. Fortune will continue working on the policy.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the State Court Assistant Solicitor.

Mr. Fortune stated Mr. Jason Thompson has been coming over from Peachtree City for the last three or four years helping to manage the overload of State Court. Mr. Thompson has done a fine job and Mr. Fortune recommends the Board execute the contract.

Mr. Fortune stated either party can get out of the contract with 60 days notice. Ms. Flowers-Taylor questioned the fact this is a multi-year contract. She asked why we would not just renew every year. Mr. Fortune stated it can be done that way if the Board wishes.

Motion/second to approve contract with change of renewing annually by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman and carried by a vote of 4-0.

2. Consider cancelling July 5th 2010 Board of Commissioners meeting due to holiday.

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

3. Consider approval of first reading of an Ordinance amending the fiscal year 2010 Budget for Spalding County.

Mr. Whalen explained this is primarily on the expenditure side. Expenditures rose \$1,400.00 for the Recreation Department for the Movies in the Park Program; the Parks increase of \$14,000 is for funds that came from Caterpillar for a new Pavilion which is planned for Dundee Lake Park; and the Special Operations increase is insurance proceeds coming from an accident that the Special Operations unit had about two months ago.

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

4. Consider approving notice of Spalding County's Intent to Participate in the 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Regional Grant Application which will be prepared and filed by Fire Chief Robert Singletary of the Warner Robins Fire Department on behalf of all fire departments in Area 4 GA.

Mr. Whalen stated this request is coming from Chief West of the Spalding County Fire Department. This grant will provide a water purification system for the fire department. After three years, the county will own it free and clear. No county funds will be going into this purchase.

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

5. Consider approving \$600.00 from the Contingency Fund for 60 children to swim in the Griffin City Pool.

Ms. Flowers-Taylor stated that last year the City had to go in and make changes to the pool drain system so there were added expenses. They were charging \$2.00 per child to swim. She stated the more we find things for children to do, the less trouble we find them getting into. She has already received calls this year from people who want to use the pool but can't afford it.

Motion/second by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Gilreath to approve \$1,200 as cost is \$600 each for June and July and carried by a vote of 4-0.

6. Consider approval of contract with Johnson Controls to run from 7/1/10 to 6/30/11. This is a gap coverage contract while RFP's are being considered. Contract can be cancelled at any time.

Mr. Fortune recommended tabling this item. He has requested revisions to the contract. He further stated there will be RFP's going out and being advertised at some point in the future.

Motion/second to table by Commissioners Freeman/Gilreath as recommended by Mr. Fortune and carried by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Phillips arrived at this point.

7. Consider approval of Animal Restraint Districts in the following areas: Rawls Rd. from Rover Zetella to Williamson Rd. in its entirety; Bethany Rd. in its entirety; Sandy Lane to Mocking Bird Lane; and Vaughn Rd. from four-way stop to Hwy. 92 West.

Mr. Freeman stated both he and Animal Control have had numerous calls from these areas. There was an incident with a pit bull in one of these areas.

Mr. Gilreath asked if there are enough people at Animal Control to cover all the places that have to be covered. Mr. Freeman stated some time down the road this may have to be looked at. Ms. Flowers-Taylor commented she hopes that once these areas become animal restraint districts, people will do what they are supposed to do because it is the law. Mr. Freeman stated that Animal Control is doing a good job.

Motion/second to approve by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman and carried by a vote of 5-0.

8. Consider approval of Three Rivers Regional Commission's FY2011 Urban Transportation Planning Contract with Spalding County. Contract funds an urban transportation planner who coordinates transportation projects for Spalding County and the City of Griffin with the appropriate state, federal, and metropolitan planning agencies for our area.

Mr. Whalen stated this is a contract for Anthony Dukes. Mr. Freeman commented that Mr. Dukes has been with the county for about three or four years. He is our transportation planner and did a lot of work on our comprehensive transportation plan. Mr. Freeman stated he would like to see Mr. Dukes working out of the annex building eventually rather than contracted out with Three Rivers. He recommended approving the contract and stated Mr. Dukes has done a tremendous job.

Ms. Flowers-Taylor asked if this contract was for his salary or if it includes all the Three Rivers activities. Mr. Freeman stated it is for his salary and benefits.

Motion/second by Commissioners Flowers-Taylor/Freeman to approve and carried by a vote of 5-0.

XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

The Board needs to appoint someone to the Hospital Authority Board to replace Jean Clark.

Reported on April SPLOST figures which were \$680,740.64.

The pocket park is coming along.

There will be a presentation of the Brookings Institute Study of the new Passenger Rail on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at the Welcome Center. This event begins at 7:00 p.m.

July 4th parade begins at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Commissioners have requested a work session to discuss county manager applications.

There will be a meeting with Bill Gay, Virginia Martin, Jinna Garrison and Tim Whalen and a representative from UGA to discuss staffing assessment needs.

There will be a Three Rivers Regional Workshop on June 9th from 10:00 – 2:00 to discuss Human Services Transportation Plans.

There will be a “Stop the Violence” rally on June 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Rising Star Baptist Church. Parks and Recreation will be providing a stage for this event.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Freeman – No comments

Flowers-Taylor

She is very interested in making decision with regards to County Manager position.

Plans for Senior Center is very much on her mind. She is sensitive to the needs of seniors.

Just completed ACCG Training that was very productive.

Wants citizens to know she is not going to vote for raising property taxes.

Phillips

He has only received three or four complaints from county recently. Everything seems to be going well. Randy King was very helpful to a citizen and should be commended for his efforts. He asked that a letter go into his file stating so. He apologized for being late to meeting.

Gilreath

He has noticed in his travels through the county that house numbers are not displayed correctly. There is an ordinance that states the correct way. This needs to be corrected for emergency personnel.

Some of our state laws are changing. Drivers of pick-up trucks must wear seat belts now; If you under 18 years of age, you cannot text or use cell phones while driving.

DOT is working on a bridge on W. McIntosh.

He is planning to meet with Kevin Barkley of the Keep Griffin-Spalding Beautiful Board. He would like to use hotel/motel tax dollars to make this county look beautiful.

Also reiterated Mr. Whalen’s comments about finding a Hospital Authority Board Member to replace Jean Clark.

He is glad to see the movies back.

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners have been contributing to a City of Griffin Department and he wants to see this stop. He is referring to the Main Street Board. He states the City should be funding this.

Wants to see a workshop on land conservation (limits on acreage); would like to see people who are appointed to boards sworn in to these boards.

Goss

Asked the Hospital Authority replacement request be on the next BOC agenda.

Asked the minute books be checked to see when monies for senior center studies were approved.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION - None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second by Commissioners Freeman/Gilreath to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. and carried by a vote of 5-0.