

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

A Special Called Budget Hearing was held by the Spalding County Board of Commissioners in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, June 6, 2011 beginning at 5:00 o'clock p.m. Commission Chairman Eddie Freeman presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Bob Gilreath, Gwen Flowers- Taylor, and Chipper Gardner were in attendance. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Deputy County Manager Virginia Beams and Executive Secretary Ricky L. Clark Jr.

A. Call to Order.

B. Discussion and comments relative to the Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget.

Mr. Wilson noted that there were very few changes during the budget review process by commissioners. The implemented changes recommended by the board consisted of additions in the budget for the Development Authority, unsafe building abatements, and recommendations that the Recycle Center close two days per week.

Chairman Freeman stated that his recommendation would be that the recycle center only close one (1) day a week. He stated that the Recycle Center in fact encountered usage all seven (7) days of the week. Mr. Freeman noted that when there was talk about the City taking over the landfill, he received numerous complaints from citizens not wanting the city's involvement.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the cost the County is currently paying to have the recycle center open seven (7) days a week, is far more than the county can handle in this economy. She stated that the amount of money the county is spending to operate the recycle center currently, could in fact be forwarded to other projects in the county. Her recommendation was to discontinue dumping at the landfill on the weekend and resume on Monday.

Commissioner Freeman echoed Commissioner Flowers-Taylor that the cost its costing the County to maintain the landfill is just not feasible in this economy.

Commissioner Gardner stated that he doesn't want to see the center closed completely, but he was in agreement that the center be closed two (2) days a week.

Commissioner Ray also stated that he was in agreement for the recycle center to be closed for two days a week.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor received received clarification from Mr. Wilson about the funding for the Development Authority. Mr. Wilson informed Mrs. Flowers-Taylor that because of current projects that are being implemented by the Development Authority, it is important to help succumb expenses.

Mr. Wilson also noted that the Development Authority had no received funding from the County in three (3) years. Mrs. Flowers-Taylor Final concern was for the unsafe building abatements. Mrs. Flowers-Taylor stated that the current amendments in the budget would allow us to get rid of more unsafe building abatements.

Commissioner Freeman noted that his reasoning for amending the budget concerning abatements, was that the previous budget didn't allow but for only 5 houses.

Carrie Zieger, Director, Flint Regional Library, was present to ask the board to reconsider funding for the library. With current budget cuts from the state, the library would not be fully functional due to lack of staff and resources.

Chairman Freeman, Commissioner Flowers-Taylor, & Commissioner Ray all echoed that the library's impact on the community is very important and has always been a needed facility.

James Brooks, 148 Tomochichi Rd, stated that he has concerns as to why the County is funding the City \$200,000.00 for landfill. Mr. Brooks stated that the only items that were being dumped were building materials, and the like. Mr. Books also had concern as to why the County was not funding the library.

C. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned, on motion and second by Commissioners Gardner and Ray, at 5:53 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

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