

## MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, November 26, 2012, beginning at 12:00 noon with Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners Bob Gilreath, Raymond Ray, Samuel Gardner and Eddie Freeman were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Attorney Jim Fortune and County Clerk, Ex-Officio Ricky L. Clark Jr. to record the minutes.

### I. Call to Order

Invocation- led by Commissioner Gardner  
Pledge to the flag- led by Commissioner Ray

At this point Chairman Flowers-Taylor opened the floor for citizen comments and read the following disclosure statement:

***Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and topic in which they will speak on. Speakers must direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics and relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the***

***audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting.***

**Bart Miller- 3259 Williamson Road Griffin, Georgia-** Mr. Miller advised that he was speaking on behalf of taxpayers in regards to the proposed increase of the millage rate. Mr. Miller stated that he does not understand why a public hearing was not held. Furthermore, he noted that Spalding County needs to manage their budget better. For the past couple of years, taxpayers are being forced to cutback expenditures; Spalding County should do the same. Mr. Miller noted that after being a county employee for several years, he has noticed that some employees are getting paid extra for duties within their job description that they don't even perform. In closing, Mr. Miller requested that the Board stop putting more financial burdens on taxpayers.

**Christi Dorton- 1045 North Walkers Mill Road Griffin, Georgia-** Ms. Dorton stated that, to date, Spalding County has one of the highest millage rates in the state. Ms. Dorton would like the Board to start addressing the issue of outstanding taxes. Furthermore, Ms. Dorton stated that routine tax sales would be a great way to recoup any lost revenues.

**Robert Morgan- 19 Johnston Road Orchard Hill, Georgia-** Mr. Morgan agreed with the comments made by Mr. Miller. Additionally, Mr. Morgan stated that there are several people that are living off of a fixed income. If the millage rate is increased, there will be no extra money for taxpayers to make payment. Mr. Morgan stated that a tax increase is not justifiable due to the current state of the economy. Mr. Morgan prompted the board to adjust the budget according to current revenues.

**Joseph Robinson- 108 North Morgan Drive Griffin, Georgia-** Mr. Robinson stated that he is a professional civil engineer and has been unemployed for the past four (4) years. Mr. Robinson noted that everyone in the country has been tightening their belts to make a living. Furthermore, Mr. Robinson noted that the county is acting as if every day is thanksgiving and has failed to cut back. Mr. Robinson advised that Spalding County is a poor community made up of mostly working class citizens. Mr. Robinson prompted the board to cut back taxes as much as possible.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Consider adoption of the 2012 Spalding County Tax Levy.**

Mr. Wilson stated that staff advertised the Five Year history utilizing the rollback rate which would generate the same amount of revenue as in the 2011 Tax Levy. Furthermore, Mr. Wilson stated that after speaking with several board members, he doesn't think the majority wishes to increase the millage rate. Mr. Wilson noted that in the interim, the 2012 Tax Levy causes for the same levy as last year for the General Fund and the Fire District. There has been an accumulation of contribution credits in the amount of \$826,636 in the Defined Benefit Plan and this would offset the deficit due to no property tax increase. Mr. Wilson stated that this would be a onetime use of these credits and would not adversely affect the plan and would allow staff to adequately balance the budget.

Commissioner Gardner questioned if the Board wished to go with the recommendation as provided by staff utilizing the contribution credits in the Defined Benefit Plan, would there be no tax increase. Mr. Wilson replied stating yes. Additionally, Mr. Wilson stated that the Board of Education at their meeting this morning, adopted a millage rate of 19.470.

### **2012 SPALDING COUNTY TAX LEVY**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County, Georgia, and it is hereby resolved by said authority, that there be levied on all property located and situated in said County on the first day of January 2012 whether said property be real, or Minute Book V, Page 76, November 26, 2012

personal, or mixed, the following rates of taxation for the purposes herein named and that the same be collected by the Tax Commissioner of said County at the same time and in the same manner as the tax levied by the State of Georgia, is collected, and when collected that the same shall be deposited by the Tax Commissioner with the treasurer of Spalding County, and that the treasurer's official receipt be taken therefor; to-wit:

1. To pay the expenses of administration of the county government; 1.44 mills or **\$1.44** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
2. To pay principal and interest of any debt of the county and to provide sinking fund therefor; 0.27 mills or **\$0.27** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
4. To build and repair public buildings and bridges; 0.99 mills or **\$0.98** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
5. To pay the expenses of courts, the maintenance and support of inmates and to pay sheriffs and coroners and for litigation; 8.67 mills or **\$8.67** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
6. To build and maintain a system of county roads; 1.14 mills or **\$1.14** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
7. For public health purposes in said county, and for the collection and preservation of records of vital statistics; 0.70 mills or **\$0.70** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
8. To pay county police; **NO LEVY**
9. To support indigent individuals; **NO LEVY**
10. To pay agricultural and home demonstration agents; 0.05 mills or **\$0.05** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
11. To provide for payment of old-age assistance to aged persons in need, and for the payment of assistance to needy blind, and to dependent children and other welfare benefits, all as provided by the constitution and laws of Georgia; 0.03 mills or **\$0.03** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
12. To provide for fire protection for forest lands and for the further conservation of natural resources; 0.01 mills or **\$0.01** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
13. To provide medical or other care, and hospitalization, for the indigent sick people of the County; **NO LEVY**
14. To acquire, improve and maintain airports, public parks, and public libraries; 0.98 mills or **\$0.98** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
15. To provide for worker's compensation and retirement of pension funds for officers and employees; 0.70 mills or **\$0.70** per \$1,000.00 or taxable property.
16. To provide reasonable reserves for public improvements as may be fixed by law; **NO LEVY**
17. To pay pensions and other benefits and costs under a teacher retirement system or systems; **NO LEVY**
19. To provide for ambulance services within the county; **NO LEVY**

20. To provide for financial assistance to county or joint county and municipal development authorities for the purpose of developing trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities; .04 mills or **\$.04** per \$1,000 of taxable property.
25. To provide services and systems for fire protection for Fire Protection District "A"; 4.17 mills or **\$4.17** per \$1,000.00 upon the taxable property in such fire district.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that on recommendation of the Board of Education of Griffin-Spalding County School System, the following rates of taxation be likewise levied and collected, and when collected that the same be paid to the Board of Education of said County, as provided by law, to-wit:

3. For education purposes, as provided by the Constitution and laws of Georgia; 18.80 mills or **\$19.47** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this order be spread upon the minutes and that the same be advertised and posted in accordance with Section 48-5-232 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (1982) and the pertinent laws of Georgia.

This the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012.

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Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Chairman

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Samuel "Chipper" Gardner, Vice Chairman

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Eddie L. Freeman, Commissioner

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Raymond Ray, Commissioner

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Bob Gilreath, Commissioner

***Motion/Second by Gardner/Freeman to approve 2012 Spalding County Tax Levy of 15.01 mills in the General Fund, 4.17 mills in the Fire District Fund, 19.47 mills as approved by the Board of Education and to utilize accumulated contribution credits of \$821,636 available in the Defined Benefit Plan. Motion carried by a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Gilreath opposing.***

- B. Consider approval of a Resolution regarding annexation of the following property owned by American Mills, Inc. into the City of Griffin:  
424 Searcy Avenue; 0.91 +/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.02.008

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF GRIFFIN ANNEXING PROPERTY  
ON SEARCY AVENUE**

WHEREAS, the City of Griffin is in the process of annexing certain real property owned by the City, located on Searcy Avenue at Harlow Avenue, together with a small vacant lot on Searcy Avenue owned by American Mills, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this rezoning is to assist the Griffin Spalding County Development Authority in attracting a new industry; and

WHEREAS, when annexed the lot behind the building and the parking lot will be zoned PID; and

WHEREAS, the County, having reviewed the request and zoning petition, finds that it would be in the best interest of the citizens of Spalding County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County does hereby resolve that it has no bona fide land use objection to the proposed zoning of the property by the City and furthermore, that no County owned facilities are rendered unserviceable to the County by virtue of said annexation.

The County affirms that it has no objection to the annexation and approves same.

The tracts of real property affected are as follows:

1. 424 Searcy Avenue; 0.91+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.02.008
2. 310 Searcy Avenue; 0.48+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.001
3. 312 Searcy Avenue; 0.45+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.002
4. 316 Searcy Avenue; 0.33+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.003
5. 320 Searcy Avenue; 2.64+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.005
6. 933 Harlow Avenue; 0.34+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.007A

BE IT SO RESOLVED this 26 day of NOVEMBER, 2012.

SPALDING COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Chairman

Mr. Wilson advised that this request for annexation is being made by the property owner, American Mills. Additionally, Mr. Wilson noted that this annexation request would not adversely affect the county and there are no facilities located on this property. Mr. Wilson stated that this annexation request is for an economic development project of the Development Authority.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Freeman to approve Resolution regarding annexation of the aforementioned property owned by American Mills into the City of Griffin. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

C. Consider approval of a Resolution regarding annexation of the following properties owned by the City of Griffin:

- 310 Searcy Avenue; 0.48+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.001
- 312 Searcy Avenue; 0.45+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.002
- 316 Searcy Avenue; 0.33+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.003
- 320 Searcy Avenue; 2.64+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.005
- 933 Harlow Avenue; 0.34+/- acres; Lot/Block: 126.01.007A

Mr. Wilson stated that currently the properties listed above are owned by the City of Griffin so there is no tax revenue being generated. Mr. Wilson also stated that at current, the parcels are being used for cemetery property.

Commissioner Gilreath questioned the total amount of taxes that will be lost for this annexation. Mr. Wilson advised that since this property is already owned by the City of Griffin, the County will still receive tax revenue in the General Fund but would lose roughly \$18.00 in Fire District Tax.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor questioned if the properties have been graded. Mr. Wilson noted that all properties are vacant. Kenny Smith, Griffin City Manager stated that there is one house but it is not one of those parcels being annexed. Mr. Smith advised that the City is currently in the process of acquiring this particular property but there are missing heirs.

***Motion/Second by Freeman/Ray to approve Resolution regarding annexation of the aforementioned property owned by the City of Griffin. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Chairman Flowers-Taylor made the following statement: "I wish to thank the citizens who came in to voice their concerns." Generally, I am not for having a meeting in the middle of the day because the average tax payer is at work. I felt very certain that there would not be a tax increase. I agree with much that everyone said because I have to watch my own finances due to the economic status. I understand that we promised to do a better job of making sure we can account for every penny. I would love to see a decrease in taxes. Rest assured that if there was ever a thought of raising taxes, the meeting would be held at a time that everyone could attend."

**III. Adjournment**

***Motion/Second by Gardner/Freeman to adjourn at 12:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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