

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, April 1, 2013, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson, Samuel Gardner and Bart Miller 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. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) – Chairman, Gwen Flowers-Taylor**
- II. INVOCATION –Dr. Mamie Harris-Smith, Senior Pastor, New Generation Christian Fellowship of Griffin, Georgia.**
- III. PLEDGE TO FLAG - led by Commissioner Raymond Ray**
- IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**
  - 1. Consider Proclamation designating the week of April 14-20 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

**Proclamation**

**A PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE, THE WEEK OF APRIL 14-20,  
2013 AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS  
WEEK”**

**WHEREAS:** The Congress of the United States has established that the second full week of April each year as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; and

**WHEREAS:** when an emergency occurs, the prompt response of law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

**WHEREAS:** the safety of our law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Spalding County Communication Center; and

**WHEREAS:** public safety telecommunicators are the single vital link for our law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics in monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety and appropriate response; and

**WHEREAS:** our Spalding County Public Safety Telecommunicators, under the supervision of Director Trudy McDevitt, have exhibited compassion, empathy, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their duties and have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients;

**NOW, THEREFORE  
BE IT RESOLVED** We, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of April 14-20, 2013 as

**“National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week”**

and join in honoring the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our citizens safe.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the first day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand thirteen.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
William P. Wilson, Jr., County Clerk

***Motion/Second by Gardner/Johnson to approve Proclamation designating the week of April 14-20 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider Proclamation declaring April as “Donate Life Month” in Spalding County.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Gardner to approve declaring April as “Donate Life Month” in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider Proclamation declaring April 2013 as Confederate History & Heritage Month.

## **Proclamation**

### **CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS:** April 2013 marks the third year of the Sesquicentennial of the creation of the Confederate Government and start of the War Between the States. Confederate Memorial Day on April 26<sup>th</sup> is a time when Georgians honor the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served the Confederate States of America. Georgia joined the Confederacy in January 1861 when a convention ratified the ordinance of secession, and Georgia has long cherished her Confederate history and the great leaders who made sacrifices on her behalf; and

**WHEREAS:** Among those who served the Confederacy were many Georgians who worked tirelessly in various roles that were essential to Georgia and the Confederate War effort. One such individual who made a significant contribution to the state’s history was 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant John A. Ingraham; and

**WHEREAS:** The Confederate States Army would find itself evenly matched against the United States Army and with the help of General James Longstreet and his troops from Virginia would turn the tide and became a great Confederate victory. On September 19, 1863, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sgt. John A. Ingram of 2<sup>nd</sup> Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> Confederate Infantry Georgia Volunteers was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Chickamauga. The name Chickamauga is Cherokee for River of Death and over 34,000 casualties and a high number of men gave their lives at this historical battle; and

**WHEREAS:** Unlike many who would die that day far from home, Sgt. Ingraham dies in his own community and was buried by his friends. He holds the distinction of being the only soldier to be buried on the Chickamauga

National Military Park Battlefield. The Battle of Chickamauga, fought September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, is not only the biggest battle ever fought on Georgia soil, but is the second bloodiest engagement during the War between the States; and

**WHEREAS:** It is important that Georgians reflect upon our state's past and honor and respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers and citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED** We, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as

**“Confederate History & Heritage Month”**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the first day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand thirteen.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
William P. Wilson, Jr., County Clerk

***Motion/Second by Ray/Gardner to approve declaring April 2013 as Confederate History & Heritage Month. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**V. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- NONE**

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT**

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 the 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.

**Joe Bailey- 4079 Newnan Road,Griffin, Georgia**

Mr. Bailey noted that he is not for a new airport and does not remember ever taking an official vote on an airport. In response to the information released by Channel 11 News, Mr. Bailey noted that he doesn't even see how the county would fund an airport. Furthermore, Mr. Bailey urged the commission not to go along with the Intergovernmental Agreement as proposed by the City.

**Jewel Walker Harps- 103 McEthel Drive Griffin, Georgia**

Mrs. Walker Harps questioned the Golden Age Program and why they are not being allowed at the new senior center. Mrs. Walker Harps noted that the meals on wheels program prepares and delivers lunch to many homebound seniors. Mrs. Walker-Harps noted that we as a County should never have a first class senior center group and a second senior center group. Mrs. Walker-Harps stated that seniors in this county are all just seniors and should be treated the same.

**Pastor Mamie Harris-Smith- 816 W. Poplar Street Griffin, Georgia-**

In response to the article in the Grip, she noted that she is shocked with the status of our community. Pastor Harris-Smith noted that as she began to pray and ask what we could do, she pulled a map of the County. Pastor Harros-Smith urged the Commission to have someone

in leadership fly over the county and begin praying for poverty and the betterment of our community. Furthermore, Pastor Smith noted that leaders must be sensitive to the needs of every citizen. When this begins to happen, our community will flourish and begin to grow.

## VII. MINUTES –

1. Consider approval of Minutes of the following: March 18, 2013 Extraordinary Session; March 18, 2013 Executive Session; March 28, 2013 Zoning Public Hearing.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Gardner to approve Minutes of the following: March 18, 2013 Extraordinary Session; March 18, 2013 Executive Session; March 28, 2013 Zoning Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## VIII. CONSENT AGENDA –

1. Consider approval, on second reading, Ordinance 2013-03 to amend the Spalding County Code of Ordinances, Part II Government & Administration, Chapter 11 Smoking Policy, by striking said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof, a new Chapter 11 entitled Smoking & Tobacco Use Policy.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she thinks we need to look into the smoking policy further and requested that the item not be approved.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that she has an issue with telling county residents that you can't smoke in parks but we allow county employees to smoke in county vehicles. Additionally, Chairman Flowers-Taylor added that by passing the proposed ordinance, we are putting more emphasis on county employees than residents. Chairman Flowers-Taylor also stated that she doesn't agree with us allowing an employee to drive with one hand and use the other to smoke.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that within the current smoking policy, you cannot smoke at any parks in Spalding County. Mr. Wilson noted that this amendment simply adds tobacco.

Commissioner Ray stated that when the Board looked at a 100% ban of smoking and tobacco, we were affecting law enforcement and fire fighters due to their extended hours. He noted that this was changed because we didn't want to be too harsh to employees. Additionally, Commissioner Ray noted that prohibiting smoking in the park is essential for the health of children.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Gardner to approve, on second reading, Ordinance 2013-03 to amend the Spalding County Code of Ordinances, Part II Government & Administration, Chapter 11 Smoking Policy, by striking said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof, a new Chapter 11 entitled Smoking & Tobacco Use Policy. Motion failed due to a vote of 2-3 with Commissioners Flowers-Taylor, Johnson & Miller opposing.***

## IX. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

## X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of Project Application Plan (PAP) and Resolution to contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) to receive \$119,190 in CSBG grant funds. The CSBG program provides community services to low-income residents of Spalding County. The contract shall have an effective beginning date of October 1, 2013, and shall terminate on September 30, 2014.

Arona Smith, CSBG Grant Administrator stated that this grant includes Home Delivered Meals, After/School Summer School Program, EasyTrak Software & Grant Administration. In response to the request to transfer funding from the Salvation Army's after school program to the County's, Ms. Smith advised that she is ok with the request but there is a lot of federal paperwork involved and would need to be properly tracked. Ms. Smith noted that the process is very stringent which includes maintenance of each client files and there would have to be a staff person designated for this task. Furthermore, Ms. Smith noted that whatever amount is set aside for the staff person, must not be greater than cost allocated for these services.

Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that she is disturbed that the Board requested this information last year but had not received it until now. Chairman Flowers-Taylor also stated that she doesn't understand how the Salvation Army program has decreased tremendously in size but still is requesting the same amount of funding.

Ms. Smith noted that there was an email back in October regarding transferring of funds and Louis Greene, Parks & Recreation Director has stated that he did not want the additional burden.

In response to Chairman Flowers-Taylor, Mr. Wilson noted that Mr. Greene did respond that he didn't want the additional burden. Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that there is already staff that handles the summer program and they could administer the new program.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would prefer that notice be sent to the Salvation Army that the Board is considering cancelling funding for FY' 15 not FY' 14 as this could harm their program. Mr. Wilson also noted that Mr. Greene is willing to give transportation to the Salvation Army to help their program out.

Commissioner Miller questioned if the money within the Salvation Army budget can be used for transportation. Ms. Smith noted that funding can be used for transportation but the money still would be taken from either the Salvation Army Budget or the Meals on Wheels program.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to table approval of Project Application Plan (PAP) and Resolution to contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) to receive \$119,190 in CSBG grant funds. The CSBG program provides community services to low-income residents of Spalding County. The contract shall have an effective beginning date of October 1, 2013, and shall terminate on September 30, 2014.***

***Staff Directive- Set date to hold a workshop with Aronda Smith of Three Rivers Regional Commission to further discuss CSBG Grant.***

2. Consider approval of Safety Discount Verification confirming Spalding County meets the requirements to receive a 7.5% Safety Discount for the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 policy year on the ACCG-GSIWCF workers' compensation insurance premium.

Bill Gay, Human Resources Director noted that as a member of the ACCG's group self-insured workers' compensation fund, Spalding County qualifies for a 7.5% discount by complying with certain requirements. These requirements include the implementation of an accident review committee and a safety committee; both in which are already in place.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve Safety Discount Verification confirming Spalding County meets the requirements to receive a 7.5% Safety Discount for the January 1, 2014- December 31, 2014 policy year on the ACCG-GSIWCF workers' compensation insurance premium. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider appointment to Animal Care and Control Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Christine Greene for a term ending December 31, 2013.

***Motion/Second by Gardner/Miller to appoint Daryl Williams to the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Christine Greene for a term ending December 31, 2013. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider request from Golden Age Club to utilize Big Blue for a trip to New Orleans, LA from June 10-13, 2013.

***Motion/Second by Gardner/Ray to approve request from the Golden Age Club to utilize Big Blue for a trip to New Orleans, LA from June 10-13, 2013. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider request from Makin' Tracks Travel Club to utilize Big Blue for a trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee from June 20-22, 2013.

***Motion/Second by Gardner/Ray to approve request from Makin' Tracks Travel Club to utilize Big Blue for a trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee from June 20-22, 2013. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Chairman Flowers-Taylor requests discussion on the current Spalding County Educational Incentive Program.

***Chairman Flowers-Taylor briefed the Board on the current Educational Incentive Program and recommended that revisions be made to incorporate other training certifications. After substantial discussion amongst commissioners, Staff shall recommend an Educational Committee to research this policy further. Committee shall be composed of a broad cross section of employees and not just upper-level employees. Staff shall make committee member recommendations to the Commission at their April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.***

**XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. Staff has finalized the RFP for Pest Control Services for all County offices. The mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Tomorrow, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. The Animal Care & Control Advisory Board will meet on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 5:15 p.m.
- C. The Joint Work-Session scheduled for the presentation the Griffin Housing Authority will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 in the UGA Student Learning Center Room 104 at 10:00 a.m.
- D. The Spalding County Wellness Committee is hosting a “Spring Into Fitness Day” on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at the Wyomia Tyus Park. There will be plenty of activities for everyone: walking/hiking trail, hula hoop contests, sack races, a bean bag toss, scavenger hunt and fishing. The day of fun will begin at 10:00 a.m. Funding of this event is made possible by ACCG and Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- E. The Georgia Rural Water Association is hosting a 2 Day multijurisdictional disaster preparation and emergency response on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. The training is designed to bring together City and County leaders from all across Georgia. If you plan to attend, please contact Ricky to make reservations.
- F. Parks & Recreation crews have checked the progress of the Fairmont Community Center and have advised that the floor is finished and almost complete with insulation. Mr. Wilson noted that Fairmont is expected to be opened by the end of the month.
- G. There will be a workday at the Fairmont Community Garden on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- H. Over the weekend, staff was made aware of the Silver Sneaker Program. Louis Greene & T.J. Imberger have already signed up and began the application process. The Silver Sneaker Program helps provide funding for walking programs and health programs for seniors. Mr. Wilson noted that we tried this program ten (10) years ago and due to certain regulations we weren’t able to bring it to fruition.
- I. The Spalding County Fire Department will be working with the Griffin-Spalding County School System and their mentor program. Fire Chief Kenny West has volunteers from the Fire Department who would like to work with the mentoring program. This is something that will be done outside of work but is a county encouraged program.

J. The Grand Opening of the Senior Center will be held on April 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

**XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Miller-** None

**Gardner-** After questioning the status of the Jordan Hill Bridge project, Mr. Wilson stated that the project is still moving forward. Additionally, Mr. Wilson added that staff has met with GDOT and are working on the redesign of this project. The Smoak Road bridge will be bid in July; all acquisition is complete. Mr. Wilson noted that the bridge will be replaced 100% with Federal Right of Way funding. Additionally, Mr. Wilson added that the bridge will be reconstructed and realigned. Furthermore, Commissioner Gardner questioned the status of the FY 13 LMIG Program. Mr. Wilson noted that we received notification that 17 projects submitted have been approved. Mr. Wilson has received copies of bid documents completed by the City and will be modifying those to work for our projects. Commissioner Gardner also commended staff for always giving prompt responses and attention to citizens' complaints.

**Johnson-** None

**Ray-** Commended the Spalding County 4-H Program and their recent awards at the competition held in Douglasville. Commissioner Ray noted that there were 427 total participants and our 4-H program brought home 44 first place awards, 22 second place awards and 20 third place awards. Additionally, Commissioner Ray thanked the Public Works Department and employees that help to get the trees down on East Maddox Road.

**Flowers-Taylor-** Agreed that the Silver Sneaker program would be a good idea; however, would like to see someone hired to do billing because of the associated reporting and costs of the Silver Sneaker program. Chairman Flowers-Taylor advised staff that she would like to see an update on the goals set at the February retreat. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor also would like the Board to set a date to look at the County Manager's evaluation sometime after the budget is finalized. Additionally, Chairman Flowers-Taylor noted that after visiting the Senior Center, she would like to see a part time employee hired due to the high volume of participants utilizing the center after 5:00 p.m. Furthermore, Chairman Flowers-Taylor requested a date be set with the Board to outline priorities for the FY 14 budget. **Board consensus to hold budget meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** In response to Mr. Bailey's citizens' comments, Chairman Flowers-Taylor noted that there is an airport authority created by state statute; however, there has been no official county-wide vote for the airport. Chairman Flowers-Taylor stated that in response the article posted by the Griffin Daily News, the airport can issue debt themselves without indebting the county. In response to Jewel Walker-Harp's comments, Chairman Flowers-Taylor noted that the intent was for the Council on Aging to utilize the entire building at 1005 Memorial Drive (formally the Senior Center).

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION - NONE**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

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