

## MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, June 16, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Samuel Gardner presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, William Gay, Director Human Resources, Jim Fortune, County Attorney and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

**I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** – Chairman Samuel Gardner.

**II. INVOCATION** – led by Commissioner Flowers-Taylor.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG** – led by Commissioner Miller.

*Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to amend the Agenda to include an Executive Session for discussion of a real estate acquisition. Motion carried unanimously by all.*

*Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to amend the Agenda to readdress the issue of football fees that was voted on at the last meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.*

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Alvin Huff, City of Griffin Citizen Engagement Specialist, to present results of the 2014 SPLOST Survey.

Alvin Huff stated the survey ran from the end of April through June 6 with the a few hard copies coming in on June 9<sup>th</sup> that were included in the numbers. Mr. Huff stated that the SPLOST survey was designed with three types of questions:

- Questions regarding the location of the individual filling out the survey: Orchard Hill, Sunny Side, City of Griffin or unincorporated Spalding County. Whether they would like to receive announcements from the City and County.
- Questions addressing major priorities in terms of what the SPLOST should focus on.
- Then addressed specific problems.

There were a total of 444 respondents, with one citizen simply turning in a survey stating that they did not want a SPLOST so this item could not be included as part of the survey.

Approximately 204 residents in unincorporated Spalding County responded to the survey. This presentation contains the results from unincorporated Spalding County and the county as a whole. Mr. Huff stated that it should be noted that there is inherent bias with these results because the individuals who took the time to respond are people who are very passionate about the issue of SPLOST. So this is not a perfectly random sample that will represent the county 100%, neither is it a stratified sample that will represent each individual district. Mr. Huff also stated that the margin of error for the survey is approximately 5%. Mr. Huff further

advised that anyone who simply stated they did not want the SPLOST was counted automatically as a no vote.

The composite for Spalding County revealed the top three priorities as Paying Down Debt, Emergency Services and Transportation.

The questions were then further broken down and the survey revealed the following:

- The residents had no problem in paying off debt for capital projects.
- The residents would like to see something done regarding animal control.
- In terms of building a new library, that was a no vote in terms of unincorporated Spalding County as well as the incorporated areas.

The survey further broke down the sections to better determine where the citizens would prefer the funds to be spent in certain areas:

- In regard to the Parks and Recreation segment:
  - Lights at Wyomia Tyus Park was clearly the number 1 priority.
  - The Aquatic Center was number 2 if you look at the combined total of unincorporated and incorporated Spalding County.
  - Expanding the bathrooms at Wyomia Tyus Park is number 3.
- In regard to the Emergency Service segment:
  - Installing sirens was number 1 across the board.
  - Upgrading the CAD was number 2 and
  - Building new fire stations was the third option.
- In regard to Transportation Request:
  - Resurfacing roads was number 1 across the board
  - Paving dirt roads was number 2
  - Adding sidewalks in unincorporated Spalding County.

2. Mr. Huff added that these are the top responses for these categories. That the information received may not be a viable sample of the citizens of the county as a whole due to the limited responses received to the survey.

## **V. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the eleven month period ended May 31, 2014.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, introduced the ACCG Summer Intern, Joshua Lai-mé. Mr. Lai-mé is a student at Gordon State College and is majoring in Computer Science. Ms. Garrison stated that Mr. Lai-mé would be working with the Finance Department to develop a vendor database for the website. She stated that Mr. Lai-mé has already created a fillable form to be used for collecting data from the vendors. Mr. Lai-mé is in the office across from Mr. Wilson and will be working from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. every day.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/ Ray to approve the financial statements for the eleven month period ended May 31, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **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.

### **Spoke against of the airport.**

Joe Bailey, 4079H Newnan Road, Griffin, GA  
Bobby Peurlfoy, 917 S. McDonough Road, Griffin, GA

### **Spoke in favor of putting a new Animal Shelter on the 2014 SPLOST**

Daryl K. Williams, 834 Dusky Sap Court, Sun City, Griffin, GA  
Kathleen McHugh, 813 Peach Blossom, Sun City, Griffin, GA  
Jean Williams, 834 Dusky Sap Court, Sun City, Griffin, GA

Ms. Fannie K. Delaney, 208 Pinetree Circle, Griffin, GA  
Ms. Delaney came in to say thank you to the Sheriff's Department, Mr. Wilson, the first responders and the Public Works department. Ms. Delaney stated that recently there had been break-ins and acts of vandalism in the Pinetree community and that the county came to their aide immediately. Ms. Delaney stated that she simply wanted to thank the County for everything that they have done for the community and that she hopes that the County will continue.

Mr. Zack Holmes, 357 Moreland Road, Griffin, GA.  
Mr. Holmes stated that he was not representing anyone but himself in the comments that he is making before the Board. He presented the Board of Commissioners with a list of Activities being offered this summer through the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Holmes was concerned that all of the organizations involved in the summer program listing with the exception of the program being ran by the Good Samaritans were not charged for the use of the facilities. Mr. Holmes stated that it was not right for the County to charge Mr. Ramos' group for using the facilities when the other organizations who are running their programs out of the Parks and Recreation facilities were not being asked to pay for use of the facilities.

## **VII. MINUTES**

1. Consider approval of the Minutes for Minutes for the June 2, 2014 Regular Meeting and the June 2, 2014 Budget Public Hearing.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Spalding***

**County Board of Commissioners, the June 2, 2014 Budget Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consider approval on second reading an ordinance amending the FY 2014 Budget Ordinance to provide for yearend budget amendments.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve on second reading the ordinance amending the FY 2014 Budget Ordinance to provide for yearend budget amendments. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor had asked that the agenda be amended to include revisiting the equipment deposit that was previously voted on as part of the fee schedule for the 2014 football season. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has asked that the Security Charges that had been included in their budget for football be removed and that the equipment deposit be removed.

Mr. Wilson advised that Kelly Leger, Superintendent of Recreation, sent out a memo which was forwarded to the Board. The memo covered the total cost for running the football program this fall and included a recommendation that the fee be rounded to \$125.00 per player with no equipment deposit. The scholarship awards would be available to 56 children who qualify. The memo stated that the South Atlanta Youth Association has committed to being an active partner in equipment returns if consideration is given to not charge the equipment deposit.

Commissioner Miller stated that since the South Atlanta Youth Association will be taking over the football program in FY 2015, if they want to assist in getting the equipment back that he would have no problem with not charging a deposit. Since the South Atlanta Youth Association is the group that will receive the equipment at the end of the season, they have an incentive to make sure the equipment is returned.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to accept the proposal submitted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory board to reduce the amount per participant to \$125.00 with no equipment deposit and to award 56 scholarships to children who qualify. Motion carried 4-1 (Ray).***

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Conduct public hearing to consider the establishment of street light district for Sun City Peachtree – Pod 31B.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to convene a public hearing to consider the establishment of a street light district for Sun City Peachtree – Pod 31B. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

The meeting was then open to the public, with no one coming forward to comment on the street light district.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider approval of street light district for Sun City Peachtree - Pod 31B.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Miller to approve the street light district for Sun City Peachtree – Pod 31B. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider approval of a Resolution authorizing issuance of Tax-Exempt Industrial Development Revenue Bonds for the 1888 Mills, LLC Project.

James Fortune, County Attorney, advised that the Spalding County Development Authority was going to issue bonds to help the 1888 Mills group recondition the Nacom Building and purchase new equipment to keep those jobs here, in Spalding County. To make the bonds more attractive, they are going to be tax exempt which means that the interest it pays will be tax exempt. For this to be done, it has to have the public approval to issue such bonds. Spalding County will be under no obligation to these bonds, they will be secured by the assets. The issuance of these bonds will not affect any tax payer. There has to be a finding by the Board that this bond action does have public approval.

The bond issue has been advertised and a Tefra hearing has already been held and no one objected to the matter. We are asking that the Board approve the Tefra and authorize the issuance of these bonds.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve the issuance of Tax-Exempt Industrial Development Bonds for the 1888 Mills, LLC Project. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider approval on first reading the Spalding County Personnel Ordinance.

Mr. Wilson that after many months and numerous meetings we have a Personnel Ordinance for the Board to consider. All of the changes requested have been made. The document does include a table of contents, an index, the position classification plan and everything that the Board of Commissioners has requested. The only item that we could not accommodate was having the definition of immediate family be uniform throughout the ordinance. There is really no way to do that as the definition applies differently to each portion can be different from the definition adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the Ethics Ordinance. Mr. Wilson advised that Mr. Gay and Mr. Fortune were available if there were any questions.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that the Ordinance be amended to allow for immediate salary increase of 10% for anyone who is placed in an interim position of an individual that will not be returning to work.

Mr. Wilson suggested that wording be added that if the incumbent is on approved leave then the individual filling in will not receive additional compensation until the end of 90 days; however, if the incumbent is not on approved leave, then the individual who is appointed to fill the position will receive 10% immediately upon assumption of the responsibilities of the incumbent.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that the Board require that a pre-employment drug test be reinstated. Consensus of the Board was the pre-employment drug test be placed back into the Personnel Ordinance.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve Personnel Ordinance on the first reading with the two identified changes. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider approval of Inmate Work Detail Agreement with the City of Griffin for their Solid Waste Department.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County was contacted by Phil Francis and Kenny Smith regarding a Contract Detail crew. The City will reimburse us 100% of the salary and benefits for one correctional officer. They will get up to 12 inmates and one correctional officer to oversee the inmates. He has talked with Warden Sikes and he advises that we do have enough inmates to accommodate this work detail agreement. Mr. Fortune drew up the contract and the City has this matter on their agenda for next week. Staff recommends approval.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Inmate work Detail Agreement with the City of Griffin for their Solid Waste Department. Motion carried unanimously.***

6. Consider approval of request from the Spalding County Fire Department to apply for the Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Mr. Wilson advised that the County is eligible to apply for two grants, item numbers 6 and 7. The Emergency Management Performance Grant will be used to replace an emergency generator at the Gary Reid fire station. Total project cost is \$33,000-\$34,000 and the local match is 15% of that cost. We did budget a grant match in this year's budget for grants of this nature. We are recommending approval as the replacement of the generator is a long term capital project that we have had to put off so the grant will enable us to replace this piece of equipment.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve the request of the Spalding County Fire Department to apply for the Emergency Management Performance Grant. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider approval of the Spalding County Fire Department's request to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to provide funding for two additional weather sirens.

Mr. Wilson stated that because Spalding County was declared a federal declaration for disaster earlier this year, we are able to apply for this grant. There is a 15% local match on this one as well. We have applied for this grant in the past and with the funds we purchased weather sirens. Our plan is to purchase two more weather sirens one to be placed at Wyomia Tyus Park and the other at the Woodroof Fire Station.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve the request of the Spalding County Fire Department to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to provide funding for two weather sirens one to be placed at Wyomia Tyus Park and the other to be placed at the Woodroof Fire Station. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

8. Consider approval on first reading the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance.

Mr. Wilson stated we have held the Budget Hearing and as mentioned earlier the Budget does not require an increase in taxes nor does it appropriate fund balances from the general fund, fire fund or the emergency telephone system funds. The Budget will require two readings for approval. The second reading is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve on first reading of the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that an additional \$40,000 be budgeted for unsafe building abatement.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor inquired as to revised job descriptions and budgeted amounts for interim positions and the assistant county manager position.

***Motion carried 3-2 (Flowers-Taylor/Miller).***

9. Consider cancellation of the July 7, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wilson advised that historically this meeting has been cancelled due to people going out of town for the holiday.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to cancel the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners scheduled for July 7, 2014 with the stipulation that if needed we will have a Called Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

1. June 23 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a Special Called Meeting with the consultant from Baker to get some operating and capital cost for the airport properties. We have asked them to compile not only the capital and the operational costs for 10 and 20 years and we will also have debt service costs estimated for the county's portion should we decide to issue bonds for whatever amount the Board decides.

2. The College and Career Academy charter application meeting is scheduled for June 23 at 11:30 a.m. at School Administrative Offices.
3. A Special Called Meeting has been scheduled for June 26 at 5:45 p.m. to approve the second reading of the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance.
4. Zoning Public Hearing is scheduled for June 26 at 6:00 p.m.
5. The required 2014 SPLOST Meeting with Sunny Side, Orchard Hill and the City of Griffin is set for June 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. here in the Annex. At that time the cities will present their requests for the 2014 SPLOST to the county.

He believes it is a consensus of this board that this should be a six year SPLOST and in order to do so there must be an intergovernmental agreement with the cities. We can discuss an intergovernmental agreement on June 26, but we will probably have some more meetings prior to August 1 in order to have the correct language for the ballot. We have to have the language prepared in order to meet the deadline for the ballot.

6. Representatives from Facility Dude will be in the offices on Wednesday, June 25 to meet with the folks currently utilizing this software, they will be available for questions and they will be doing seminars.
7. Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 is a county holiday and all county offices will be closed.
8. 4H Youth in Governance this a.m. We had approximately 20 4H participants who conducted a mock County Commission meeting. We had representatives here from the airport authority who made a presentation to them and we had Terry Colling here to talk about voting, how important it is to vote and to show them how the machines worked. The youth were able to vote and we had a voting machine here for them to use.

## **XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Miller** – Commissioner Miller stated that he had heard a lot of complaints about the way the Board of Tax Assessors handled appeals. Commissioner Miller stated that he went before the Appeals Board this week himself and that he was very pleased with the way his appeal was handled by that Board. They presented the reasons for having to raise values or having to lower values. They were organized and outlined reasons such as bankruptcy properties and foreclosures in the area. They were prepared with the details. He was surprised by their organization and professionalism and he left the meeting understanding why his taxes increased.

In regard to the airport meeting, he agrees with what the public said and agrees with the items raised by Commissioner Ray at that meeting. The meeting was poorly run and was a very one sided presentation. There were sheets given out asking people what they wanted to know and none of the questions were presented at the meeting, nor were any answers given. The only individuals allowed to speak were the ones in favor of the airport. He was under the

impression that if there was a group represented that they would have the opportunity to speak; however, the organized group Taxpayers Against the Airport was present and they were not allowed to speak.

**Flowers-Taylor** – Commissioner Flowers-Taylor applauded the people from Sun City for coming to the meeting and commenting on the Animal Shelter. She agrees that the Animal Control facility is substandard. I know that it is not in the budget to build a new shelter, but as a capital project with the talent that we have here at the County we should be able to make some improvements to the way that these animals are housed.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor also wanted to comment on the Airport Authority workshop. It was their workshop and it is the protocol that we don't have public comments during the workshop. As a board, this is something that needs to be addressed, if the public shows up at a workshop and wants to comment then we need to allow the comment as long as it is not something that would not obstruct or extend the meeting unnecessarily.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor commented on the sirens and First Call. She stated that people are not impressed with First Call because they blow your email and your telephone up with every weather event. It is possible that we need to better education the citizens on how to sign up for First Call and determine the choices that are available and that need to be made when signing up. She stated that she really doesn't need to know if there is a fog alert because she can look out the window and see that for herself. Maybe there is something that can be done to educate our citizens so that we can have two effective tools to accommodate and keep them alerted.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she found the low number of people taking the SPLOST survey very disappointing. People are always wanting to have a say in the government and how things or done, but when they are given the opportunity to have their voice heard, they do not take advantage of it. Out of a county population of approximately 68,000 citizens only 444 people cared enough to voice their concerns or comment on the SPLOST. The whole purpose of the survey was to allow the citizens to voice their opinion on projects to be considered and it is sad when people come to these meetings and state that we don't give them a chance to voice their opinions and we don't give them a choice, but when given the opportunity to have their voice heard, they really aren't interested.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor wanted to comment regarding Mr. Ramos and the Good Samaritans project. All of the people on the list that Mr. Holmes presented to the board are organizations that have a history with Parks and Recreation and have partnered with the county for years in order to provide these programs and services to the community that we as a county cannot provide. The issue that she has with the suggestion that we revisit charging the Good Samaritans is this organization has never done this program with a government. For the public's knowledge, we did not ask Mr. Ramos to pay rent, Mr. Ramos brought a presentation to us that said he would pay rent and that he would provide all of these things for free. We are not picking or choosing who we are allowing to provide services. If at some point, we find the program is of benefit to the

community and is providing the service to our children the matter can be revisited. She just wanted to state for the record that the arrangements that were made, were at his request.

**Johnson** –Commissioner Johnson stated that she had received a post card in the mail announcing the Otsuka Chemical America Plant will have their ground breaking ceremony on July 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated that she hopes that we will have more of these companies come to Spalding County. Commissioner Johnson stated that she has listened to everyone voice their opinions on the airport, but she feels that a new airport will enhance our opportunities for new jobs.

**Commissioner Ray** wanted to thank everyone in Spalding County and our community who assisted in the outpouring of support for Kevin Jordan last week. Commissioner Ray asked if the county would consider a joint city/county joint proclamation in honor of Officer Jordan.

The consensus of the Board was that Mr. Wilson should contact the City of Griffin to draft a joint proclamation honoring Officer Kevin Jordan.

Commissioner Ray stated that he has a request from the Spalding County Sheriff's Office that we look at the availability of funds in the Commissioners Contingency Fund for funds to purchase additional vest for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Ray asked Mr. Wilson to review the funds still available for 2014 in the Contingency and get back with the commissioners on the funds that are available.

Commissioner Ray wanted to add his comments to those of Commissioner Flowers-Taylor. He stated that no one is against the Good Samaritans program, we want to see it succeed, but at the same time, this is a program that involves our children. All we have asked is that the program be transparent and there have been some issues surrounding their transparency. This program involves our children and involves the safety of our children when we are placing them in the care of someone. Our biggest resource is our children and the safety of our children so we are going to be careful. It is the responsibility of this board to make sure that any program that comes into the county for our children is exactly that and will benefit our children.

Commissioner Ray stated that he has a commitment on the night of June 26<sup>th</sup>, he will be here for the 5:45 Budget meeting, but will have to leave and will not be in attendance for the Zoning Public Hearing or the SPLOST meeting.

**Gardner** – Chairman Gardner wanted to echo what Commissioner Johnson said regarding the Lakes at Green Valley and Otsuka moving to Griffin. We had been told by the Development Authority that projects such as the one at the Lakes at Green Valley, once it is completed it is typically 18 to 24 months before you start seeing industries locating. We are at 24 months now and hopefully this is just the beginning of the activity we will be seeing at the Lakes at Green Valley. He stated that he hopes this is just the first of many companies to relocate to the Lakes at Green Valley over the next 12 to 18 months.

### **XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Wilson advised that the agenda had been amended to discuss acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4).

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4) at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

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/s/ Samuel C. Gardner  
Chairman

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/s/ William P. Wilson, Jr.  
County Manager