



**Board of Commissioners – Extraordinary Session
April 15, 2024, at 6:00PM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building
After Agenda**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Spalding County Annex Room 108, with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Ryan Bowlden, and Gwen Flowers-Taylor were present for the meeting. Commissioner Rita Johnson was absent from this meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, and Deputy County Clerk, Ragan Jones, to record minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay W. Davis.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner James Dutton, District #2, delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden, District #4, led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to amend the agenda to include consideration of approval for the Evergreen Pay Study recommendation to New Business #1. The recommendation from Evergreen is to move forward with a hybrid approach to increase the starting pay and adjust pay to alleviate compensation. The total cost is \$3,200,000 for all departments with \$1,800,000 in the general fund for the Sheriff Department and 911 Operators. Spalding County has approximately 90 positions unfilled this current year, leaving approximately \$3,500,000 available for this pay increase. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Presentation of Financial Statements

1. Presentation of Financial Statements for the month ending March 31, 2024.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to accept the Financial Statement for the month ending March 31, 2024, as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Presentations/Proclamations

1. Proclamation of Volunteer Month in Spalding County.

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing Volunteer Appreciation Month

- WHEREAS,** National Volunteer Month is an opportunity to recognize and honor the countless individuals who selflessly invest in the lives of others; and
- WHEREAS,** we have never needed the volunteerism of America more than we do today; and
- WHEREAS,** volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive community; and
- WHEREAS,** volunteering one's time, talents and resources has been an integral part of our heritage and it is essential that we continue this tradition of giving and sharing to preserve and improve the quality of life for all residents in our community; and
- WHEREAS,** volunteers are the catalysts that create positive changes in our communities by bringing their compassion, their time, their ideas, talents, technical skills, and professional expertise to strengthen and help our county flourish. As society's needs change, volunteers are at the heart of community life lending a hand to create a better quality of life for our residents; and
- WHEREAS,** volunteers provide support to recreation activities, public education, health and social services, housing and food service organizations, public safety, emergency preparedness and response, and to environmental initiatives. Volunteers help communities provide basic human services, spiritual support, including neighbor to neighbor assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** the receiver is not the only one who benefits from volunteer service for the giver reaps the rewards of improved skills and widened horizons as well; and
- WHEREAS,** each year a special month is designated in our nation for the dual purpose of recognizing those who give of themselves and of encouraging all citizens to become involved in volunteer work; and it is fitting at this time to say "thank you" to all individuals, groups, and businesses who have given time, energy, and resources to our community through selfless service; and
- WHEREAS,** during this month we call on all community members and organizations to help us thank, celebrate, and recognize the contributions of all volunteers.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize the month of April as Volunteer Appreciation Month in Spalding County, Georgia, and encourage community members of all ages and abilities, to follow the example of our neighbors, friends, and family by saying "Yes" to service. By volunteering we gain knowledge, compassion, and understanding and create a spirit of friendship and connectedness with our neighbors and our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the 15 of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-four.

Clay W. Davis, Chairman

Steve Ledbetter, PhD., County Clerk

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the Proclamation declaring April as Volunteer Appreciation Month in Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Proclamation for Senior Hunger Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing Senior Hunger Awareness Month

WHEREAS, The health and safety of all seniors in Georgia is important to the growth, prosperity, and well-being of our state’s families, communities, and economy; and

WHEREAS, The month of April is Senior Hunger Awareness Month, which provides an opportunity for communities across Georgia to focus on the serious problem of senior hunger and to mobilize a movement to help end senior hunger in our state; and

WHEREAS, According to the latest report on the State of Senior Hunger from Feeding America, Georgia is ranked 9th in the number of food insecure seniors in the nation, meaning 1 in 12 seniors do not know how they will purchase their next balanced meal; and

WHEREAS, Food insecure seniors tend to have lower nutrient intakes, lower diet quality, more chronic health conditions, poorer self-reported health status, lengthened hospital stays and greater hospital readmissions, cost-related medication non-adherence, and out-of-pocket medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, The state’s twelve Area Agencies on Aging, aging services providers, food banks, farmers markets, volunteers, and generous community partners are committed to addressing senior hunger across Georgia’s 159 counties; now

THEREFORE, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize the month of April as Senior Hunger Awareness Month in Spalding County, Georgia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Clay W. Davis, Chairman

Steve Ledbetter, PhD., County Clerk

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve the Proclamation declaring April as Senior Hunger Awareness in Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Proclamation of National Prayer Day on May 2, 2024.

PROCLAMATION DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS: Since the founding of our nation, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, for strength and for guidance in order to walk humbly with God. The national importance of prayer traces its roots to our Founding Fathers as they declared freedom of religion as one of our nation’s greatest needs; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our nation; and

WHEREAS: We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our petitions; and

WHEREAS: Georgians have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of citizens and families. We are proud to join with other counties across Georgia on May 2nd, 2024, in a Day of Prayer;

**NOW, THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED**

We, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2nd, 2024, as “**National Day of Prayer in Spalding County, Georgia**” and encourage our citizens to pray for God’s blessing on our nation and her people.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Clay W. Davis, Chairman

Steve Ledbetter, PhD., County Clerk

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the Proclamation declaring May 2, 2024, as National Day of Prayer in Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Proclamation of Autism Awareness Month.

**PROCLAMATION
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS: Autism spectrum disorders are a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, and speech and nonverbal communications; and,

WHEREAS: Symptoms and characteristics of autism spectrum disorders may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong difficulties in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and leisure activities; and

WHEREAS: An autism spectrum disorder has wide-ranging implications for the entire family of the diagnosed individual. Early diagnosis, research training, education, and therapy are vital to reducing the negative effects of the disorder; and

WHEREAS: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 1 in 36 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS: Autism spectrum disorders are complex and require research to find cures and effective methods of prevention. Increased recognition and understanding of autism are necessary to ensure that individuals are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS: It is in the interest of Spalding County to recognize achievements in this field and to continue these efforts by promoting awareness, care, services, and opportunities for individuals affected by autism so they may achieve their greatest potential.

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED We, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2024, as AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH in Spalding County.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Clay W. Davis, Chairman

Steve Ledbetter, PhD., County Clerk

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve the Proclamation declaring April as Autism Awareness Month in Spalding County. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. Presentation of the 21st Annual Bain Proctor Lifetime Volunteer Service Award.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to table the presentation of the 21st Annual Bain Proctor Lifetime Volunteer Service Award until May 20, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Presentation of John Dennis, Parks Maintenance Technician for 35 years of service.

VI. Citizen Comments

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct your remarks to the Board and not to individual Member or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Members or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairman has the right to limit your comments in the interest of disposing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the members during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three (3) minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Julia Mallonee, 916 Hamilton Blvd, Griffin, GA, 30224 spoke regarding the animal shelter.

Allison Burley 2785 Hwy. 81 W. Hampton, GA, 30228 spoke regarding the animal shelter.

Maria Arboleda, 1006 Moore Road, Griffin, GA 30224 spoke regarding an amplification permit.

VII. Minutes

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meeting on April 1, 2024.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meeting on April 1, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

VIII. New Business

1. Consider approval of the recommendation from Evergreen for the hybrid pay study starting July 1, 2024, using the FY 24 funds.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to approve the recommendation from Evergreen for the hybrid pay study starting July 1, 2024, using the FY 24 funds. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Consider request to use the veranda of the courthouse for National Day of Prayer on May 2nd.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request to use the veranda of the courthouse for National Day of Prayer on May 2nd. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Consider accepting a BOOST grant MOU in the amount of \$50,000 with GRPA for the purpose of conducting accelerated learning programs during Summer Camp.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request to use the veranda of the courthouse for National Day of Prayer on May 2nd. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Consider the approval of the amplification permit for a wedding at 1006 Moore Road.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to approve request of the amplification permit for a wedding at 1006 Moore Road with an amendment to the permit's duration, specifying a cut-off time of midnight. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

5. Consider the approval of the final plat for Patterson Road which consists of four (4) lots and zoned AR-1, Agricultural and Residential.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to approve the final plat for Patterson Road, consisting of four (4) lots and zoned AR-1, Agricultural and Residential. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

6. Consider contract from County Attorney - Beck, Owen, & Murray

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve contract for County Attorney - Beck, Owen, & Murray. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

7. Consider contract from Human Resources Attorney - Jarrad & Davis

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve contract for Human Resources Attorney – Jarrad & Davis. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

8. Consider contract from Zoning Attorney - Galloway & Lyndall

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve contract for Zoning Attorney – Galloway & Lyndall. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

9. Department of Community Development - New Beer/Wine Alcohol License

Consider the approval of the New 2024 Alcohol License (new ownership) for the retail sale of beer and wine for the following:

- Dipan Desai, Citgo Griffin #1639, located at 1639 N Hill Street, Griffin, GA 30223.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a New 2024 Alcohol License (new ownership) for the retail sale of beer and wine for the following: Dipan Desai, Citgo Griffin #1639, located at 1639 N Hill Street, Griffin, GA 30223. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

10. Consider entering a contract with CW Mathews for paving in the amount of 5,811,307.00 to include the alternate option. To include a change order to add Brooks Road, South Pine Hill Road, Hillview Road, Mobley Road, North Walkers Mill Road, and Minter Road.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve entering a contract with CW Mathews for paving in the amount of 5,811,307.00 to include the alternate option. To include a change order to add Brooks Road, South Pine Hill Road, Hillview Road, Mobley Road, North Walkers Mill Road, and Minter Road. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

11. Consider reappointment of Mr. Drew Miller to the Board of Health.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve reappointment of Mr. Drew Miller to the Board of Health. Motion carries a unanimous vote.

XI. Report of County Manager

- ✓ Chairman Davis and I had a visit with Commissioner McMurray with Georgia Department of Transportation, City partners, and airport authority partners regarding \$47,200,000 for out Airport provided by the Governor. We are looking at moving forward with this sooner than anticipated. We reached out to Dr. Solomon and asked him to help us move forward in cleaning up the airport.
- ✓ The bridge at Jordan Hill Road will be opening on April 19th. The Public Works team saved \$500,000 by completing this project in-house.
- ✓ The fire department has received two brand new fire trucks. Equipment is being installed on these trucks. In a few weeks, we will be hosting a “Push in Ceremony.” Our fire department and community will be pushing the new trucks into the bay for the first time.

X. Report of Commissioners

James Dutton

- I am excited that we are moving closer to Airport.
- We need to continue doing what is needed to grow Commercial and Industrial.
- We lost four fire trucks, and this has put us in a bad position in the fire district.
- Encouraged everyone to attend the National Day of Prayer.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor

- I am excited about the pay raise!
- I am happy about the regional airport. By having this, we must have road access to get from west to east and north to south without interruption.
- Encouraged citizens to call code enforcement and report.
- I am glad that we pushed the opening of the Aquatic Center to ensure electrical issues are handled properly.

Ryan Bowlden

- I am excited about the pay raises! We need to follow up on this every year.
- We need to investigate getting better insurance for our employees.

Clay Davis

- We still have 300 miles of roads that we need to take care of.

- The pay raises were over a 10-year effort. Thanked the Board, County Manager, and Mrs. Erica Dye for their hard work in making this possible.
- During the airport meeting, Mrs. Windham was mentioned for how well the joint regional authority was put together.

Stephanie Windham

- At the next meeting, the airport authority will be asking the Board to appoint the Regional Airport Authority.

XI. Executive Session – None.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

/s/ _____
Clay W. Davis, Chairman

/s/ _____
Steve Ledbetter, PhD., County Clerk