



Board of Commissioners – Regular Meeting
May 6, 2024, at 6:00PM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building
Minutes

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Spalding County Annex Room 108, with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Ryan Bowlden, Rita Johnson, and Gwen Flowers-Taylor were present for the 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 to Amend the Agenda

Motion/Second by Davis/Bowlden to amend the agenda to include consideration of IGA for Hillview Road under New Business #4. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Presentations/Proclamations

- 1. Proclamation of Correctional Officers and Employee’s Week.

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF
CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES’ WEEK
May 5 thru 11, 2024

WHEREAS: In 1984, President Ronald Regan announced the first week of May as National Correctional Officer and Employee Appreciation Week in that the President recognized the jailers and Correctional Officers have one of the highest rates of occupational injuries and sickness; and

WHEREAS: Correctional Officers and Employees at the Spalding County Correctional Institution demonstrate dedicated service in performing their duties; and

WHEREAS: Correctional Officers and Employees provide security supervision, treatment services and reentry efforts for hundreds of individuals in the course of a year, and

WHEREAS: The work of Spalding County's Correctional Officers is an integral part of the daily operations of the Georgia Department of Corrections and the criminal justice system at-large; and

WHEREAS: The Correctional Officers and staff at the Spalding County Correctional Institution help to make Georgia's prison system a recognized leader among penal institutions nationally; and

WHEREAS: The residents of Spalding County recognize and understand the complex, dangerous and challenging responsibilities carried out by every single member of the Spalding County Correctional Institution; and

**NOW, THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED** the Spalding County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize the men and women of the Spalding County Correctional Institution, and encourage all residents to join in recognition and appreciation of the outstanding service provided by our professional correctional employees for the safety and welfare of our community. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the week of May 5-11, 2024 as Correctional Officers and Employees week in Spalding County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County to be affixed this, the 6th day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-four.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Proclamation declaring May 5-11, 2024, as Correctional Officers and Employee's Week. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. 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.

Michelle Drugacz, 312 Whispering Pines Way, Griffin, GA, 30223 spoke regarding displaced families.

VI. Minutes

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on April 15, 2024, and Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on April 29, 2024.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on April 15, 2024, and Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on April 29, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

VIII. New Business

1. Amend the agreement between the Spalding County Sentence Enforcement and the Spalding County State Court to supervise probationers.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to amend the agreement between the Spalding County Sentence Enforcement and the Spalding County State Court to supervise probationers. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Consider agreement for Airport Engineering Design and/or Planning Assistance between Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Griffin, Spalding County, and Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve agreement for Airport Engineering Design and/or Planning Assistance between Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Griffin, Spalding County, and Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Consider approval of MOU for Archway

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve MOU for Archway. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Consider IGA for Hillview Road.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve MOU for Archway. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

XI. Report of County Manager

- ✓ The 155 Redesignation Project is nearing completion for Spalding County's portion. Conversations with Atlanta Regional Commission, specifically around this project, asking him for support in moving this project forward faster to alleviate some of the challenges we have with our commercial traffic coming through the middle of downtown Griffin and they have agreed to support and help us with the request from the Georgia Department of Transportation.
- ✓ Aquatic Center Update: Electrical issues have been resolved. The certificate of occupancy is pending with final review of required bonds. There will be a discussion coming to the Board soon for a soft opening and grand opening date.
- ✓ We are gearing up for the road improvements for completing year 3 of T-SPLOST. CW Matthews had a recharge event on their mix at the local plant which delayed 2 weeks. The start date is May 15th, but we believe they will have no issues completing the resurfacing of all T-SPLOST roads for year 3.
- ✓ Sidewalk Projects Updates:
 - Carver Road sidewalk is complete.
 - Spalding Street sidewalk property acquisition is ongoing, and the staking of easements and rights of ways is scheduled to occur within the next 3 weeks.
 - North Hill Street: project is in preparation. Paragon has completed easement documents, and it is being reviewed and will advise as needed.
- ✓ Parks received a BOOST grant from INODICG. Project is moving along, and bids will be brought to the Board by the end of September to meet grant requirements.
- ✓ McLeRoy has completed the chip and seal at Henley Road, Weldon Road, and Cecil Jackson.

X. Report of Commissioners

Rita Johnson

- Great work session!
- The presentation of MSI Insurance Benefits sparked valuable discussions that we much needed. I'm grateful for the progress we've made thus far and optimistic about continuing this positive trend for the betterment of all involved.
- Kudos to making the right decision in vesting in our employees with the pay study.
- Attending the ACCG Conference in Savannah was truly worthwhile. It lived up to my expectations and provided valuable insights. There's immense value in learning from fellow commissioners and cultivating relationships through these conferences.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor

- Attending the National Day of Prayer was a meaningful experience. It's a reminder of the freedom we have in our country to openly participate in public prayer. Grateful for this aspect of our nation's values.
- The Juneteenth Parade sponsored by Reginald Watts and his wife Kizzy was a fantastic initiative. Please inform the Board if we can assist in spreading the word about this significant national holiday and its celebrations.
- It's important to ensure that 4-H members are recognized for their achievements. Let's make sure they continue to receive the acknowledgment they deserve. If you can, please consider supporting a 4-H member in their endeavors.
- Thanked Mrs. Drugacz for the information she provided.

- I attended a meeting with the Fire Marshal concerning the emergency disaster funds allocated to Spalding County. Disappointment was expressed regarding the predetermined allocation of these funds. There is money specifically for landlords to facilitate renovations, with provisions against rent gouging. Additionally, monies are designated to aid in home renovations and new home construction. It was emphasized that these funds are crucial for individuals affected by the tornado who may not have been fully covered by insurance.
- There are concerns with Hwy 19 and 41 regarding development or infrastructure. It's important to ensure that we take charge of the situation, particularly concerning growth in areas following sewer installation and along Hwy 16 West. If we can get a workshop scheduled, that would be beneficial.

Ryan Bowlden

- While expressing satisfaction with the current progress of the staff, it was emphasized that the alcohol ordinance needs immediate attention and completion.

James Dutton

- It's fantastic to hear that our employees are actively involved in teaching and instructing at the ACCG Conference. Their participation showcases their expertise and dedication, which is truly commendable!
- We are in the initial planning phase for the 4th of July Parade, let's move forward with this plan sooner rather than later. Let's ensure we initiate the preparations promptly to make it a successful and memorable event.
- May 7th is 4-H Honors Night, and I couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate the dedication and hard work of these young adults.
- I had a productive discussion with Senator Marty Harbin about the airport. Maintaining positive relationships with state delegations, like Senator Harbin, is essential for effective collaboration and progress on important issues like airport development.
- With 4,400 houses in the pipeline, it's crucial to uphold building codes, zoning regulations, and building requirements. Raising the bar for construction standards ensures the development of sturdy and reliable homes.

Clay Davis

- The Board of Assessors will be present at our next meeting to provide an update.
- Along with Correctional Officers, it is also Nurses and Teacher Appreciation week.
- The National Day of Prayer went well. It's heartening to see communities come together in appreciation of this important tradition.
- Early voting is underway! I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity and cast your vote. Your voice matters, so make sure it's heard at the polls.
- Work Sessions have been productive!

Stephanie Windham

- Unfortunately, the Alcohol Ordinance couldn't be on today's Workshop agenda. It's crucial that we prioritize it before the next meeting.
- Mrs. Drugacz spoke about her leadership group project, which was amazing. Involving three groups, the project showcased impressive initiative. It's suggested to invite spokespeople from these groups, as their efforts have the potential for sustainability and greatness.

XI. Executive Session – None.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

/s/ _____
Clay W. Davis, Chairman

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