



**Board of Commissioners – Regular Meeting
August 5, 2024, 6:00 PM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building
After Agenda**

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Monday, August 5, 2024, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building located at 119 E. Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Ryan Bowlden, and James Dutton were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, Director of Finance and Accounting, Erica Dye, and Deputy County Clerk, Ragan Jones to record the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

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

II. INVOCATION

The Elders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Flowers-Taylor to amend the agenda to add approval of property purchase located at 718, 722, 732 West Broad Street in the amount of \$292,000 to Hanleiter United Methodist Church under New Business #1.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Mauldin & Jenkins LLC to present review of June 30, 2023, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Justin Elliott, Mauldin & Jenkins LLC CPA, presented a review of June 30, 2023, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

2. Presentation of Life Saving Award.

Chief Byrd presented a Life Saving Award to Firefighter Curtis Brigham and Lieutenant Ian Hinton.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT

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 Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners 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 minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they 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. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Sadru Ali, 4319 Newnan Road, spoke regarding the Alcohol Ordinance.

Kimberly Slaughter, 165 Slaughter Road, spoke regarding advanced voting location.

VI. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the minutes from Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on June 26, 2024, Work Session and Regular Meeting on July 1, 2024, Special Called Meeting and Extraordinary Session on July 15, 2024.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve minutes from Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on June 26, 2024, Work Session and Regular Meeting on July 1, 2024, Special Called Meeting and Extraordinary Session on July 15, 2024. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration from Work Session Executive Session

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to approve to purchase property located at 718, 722, 732 West Broad Street in the amount of \$292,000 to Hanleiter United Methodist Church. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

2. Consider request for out of state use of Spalding County Motor Coach.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton approve request for out of state use of Spalding County Motor Coach to the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

3. Consider reappointment of Matthew Perry for Regional IV Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2027.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve reappointment of Matthew Perry for Regional IV Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2027. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

4. Consider reappointment of Steven Norris for Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board for a five-year term ending June 30, 2029.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve reappointment of Steven Norris for Spalding County Department of Family and Children Services Board for a five-year term ending June 30, 2029. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

5. Consider appointment of Chairman Davis for the 2024 AGGC Voting Delegate.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve appointment of Chairman Davis for the 2024 AGGC Voting Delegate. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

6. Consider approval of the Opioid Litigation.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the opioid litigation. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

7. Consider approval for Early Voting Location.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve Early Voting Location. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

8. Consider approval of Annual Area Agency on Aging Contract from Three Rivers.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve Annual Area Agency on Aging Contract from Three Rivers. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

9. Consider approval for CSBG Amendment #2 adding \$2,400 to the grant revenue.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve CSBG Amendment #2 adding \$2,400 to the grant revenue. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

10. Consider approval of First Reading of Alcohol Ordinance

Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to approve First Reading of Alcohol Ordinance. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

11. Consider appointment of 2 Civil Engineering Firms.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve appointment of Croy Engineering, Whitley Engineering, and Paragon Consulting Group as the three engineering organizations that we will have in our lineup for Engineering Services for 2024-2025. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

12. CIE Update and Resolution for FY25.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve CIE Update and Resolution for FY25. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

13. Consideration of adoption of Human Resources Personnel Policy.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to table adoption of Human Resources Personnel Policy. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

VIII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- During the last few years, we have searched for a deputy county manager. I'm happy to report this evening that Ms. Erica Dye was promoted last week to fill the role of Deputy County Manager. Initially in her role, she will oversee Administration, Finance, HR, IT, and Communications. Over the next few months, the plan is to expand her responsibilities.
- I am also happy to report the following hires:
 - o Citizen Engagement Specialist – Dr. Cheryl Burks. This is her second week with the County
 - o Community Development Director who will start August 19th
 - o Senior Planner – we now have several applications and will begin the interview process as our new Community Development Director takes on his role
 - o Grants Manager – who will start this month
 - o New Fire Fighter training class is scheduled to graduate November 22nd
 - o I want to say thank you to the Board of Commissioners for the work performed over the last eight months with Evergreen Solutions, the consulting firm who completed the study that you reviewed to alleviate pay compression. Since your approval of the pay plan, our HR department receives more qualified applicants.
- Dante Handel (Associate Director of Governmental Affairs) with ACCG will provide an update on HB 581 – Property and Sales Tax Reform to our Board of Commissioners on August 29th at 6:00 pm.
- Chairman Davis and I will attend the ACCG Governmental Affairs team in Bartow County on August 7-8 to discuss several important issues ranging from property tax reform, mental health, public works bid threshold, truck weights, GDOTs Infrastructure Bank, LMIG funding, Solar Facilities and Local Government regulations, Electric Vehicle infrastructure, to elections. This is the first of two sessions ACCG will conduct in August. The second session is scheduled for August 21st and 22nd in Dougherty County.
- The firm conducting our Forensic audit continues to progress their work with the full cooperation of county staff. We anticipate the audit will be completed at the end of October.

IX. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johnson

- Inquired about Charles Abbott & Associates; asked if this was on hold until the new Community Development Director started.
- Congratulated the new hires & promotions!
- Great work session!

- Expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the gentleman involved in the award presentation for the life-saving award received today. She remarked on the remarkable nature of the award and extended her thanks to the fire department for their exceptional service.

James Dutton

- Spalding County is a great community to live in!
- Stated that collection centers are not being closed.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor

- Expressed gratitude towards the fire department for their diligent work. She emphasized that the fire department often doesn't receive due credit for their significant contributions to the community, as they are typically the first responders on the scene.
- Stated the importance of ensuring that the administrative staff reflects the diversity of the community in Spalding County.
- Noted that Mauldin and Jenkins discussed their concerns regarding the current training program, highlighting the amount of effort and funding dedicated to staff training and education. She expressed a desire to understand how these concerns will be addressed moving forward.
- Praised the fire department for their exceptional work and highlighted their program, "Praise and Preparedness." She emphasized the importance of this program, which educates church communities—especially the elderly—on CPR, AED usage, and the confidence to act in emergencies.
- Expressed hope that the chain of command would be documented in writing to provide clarity on its structure and function.
- Expressed concerns about the upcoming 2024 audit, fearing it might not go much smoother than the current one.
- Announced that there will be a public even on addiction this Friday, August 9th, at St. John Lutheran Church from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The event will feature an authority on discussing addiction in the community. The talk will also cover available funding from opioid settlement litigation and provide information on opportunities for recovery groups.

Ryan Bowlden

- Congratulated Ms. Dye on her new position!
- Requested an update on the status of Lakeside Drive and Highway 92, referencing an email sent out last week.

Clay Davis

- Encouraged attendance from citizens for the meeting on August 29th that will discuss HB 581.
- Encouraged attendance to the event on August 9 on how to talk about addiction.
- Extended congratulations to the staff, particularly the fire department, for their successful "Beat the Heat" event.
- Requested that the County Manager investigate the process and requirements for updating the county's zoning codes.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried a unanimous vote.