



Board of Commissioners – Extraordinary Session
August 19, 2024, 6:00 PM
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building
After Agenda

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held an Extraordinary Session on Monday, August 19, 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, Deputy County Manager of Administration, Erica Dye, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, 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

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner James Dutton led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to amend the agenda to include Joint Proclamation with the City of Griffin Honoring the Exchange Club “Man of the Year” for 2023 – Dr. Randall Peters under Presentations/Proclamations. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to amend the agenda to include Resolutions to increase the per diem for Official Court Reporters for the Griffin Judicial Circuit, State Court, and Juvenile Court from \$200.00 per day to \$400.00 per day for civil and criminal cases at New Business #9. Motion carried by a 4-1 vote. (Flowers-Taylor)

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session for discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4). Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to accept the Financial Statements for the month ending July 31, 2024, as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Joint Proclamation with the City of Griffin Honoring the Exchange Club “Man of the Year” for 2023 – Dr. Randall Peters

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a Proclamation declaring Dr. Randall Peters as The Griffin Exchange Club Man of the Year 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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.

Michael Middlebrooks, 1108 Maple Drive, commented on the millage rate.

Sandru Ali, 4319 Newnan Road, commented on Alcohol Ordinance distances.

VII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meeting on August 5, 2024.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meeting on August 5, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission on a Sunny Side facility rental policy.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission on a Sunny Side facility rental policy. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

2. Consider a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission on Aquatic Center Fees.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to table a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission on Aquatic Center Fees. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

3. Consider a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to approve the Events in Parks Policy.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to approve the Events in Parks Policy. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Consider approval of carpet purchase for the new Cooperative Extension office.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve carpet purchase for the new Cooperative Extension office at a cost of \$57,000. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. Consider approval of recommendation from Board of Education to Spalding County as the levying authority for the voter approved ESPLOST continuation for payment of bonded indebtedness principal and interest.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve recommendation from Board of Education to Spalding County as the levying authority for the voter approved ESPLOST continuation for payment of bonded indebtedness principal and interest. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Second reading of Alcohol Ordinance

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve second reading of Alcohol Ordinance. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7. Department of Community Development for 2024 New Alcohol License for Retail Sale of Beer and Wine.

Consider approval of the following New 2024 Alcohol License Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for the following:

Anahita Ramodiya for North Food Mart, located at 4290 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA 30223.

Motion/Second to approve New 2024 Alcohol License Retail Sale of Beer and Wine for the following: Anahita Ramodiya for North Food Mart, located at 4290 Newnan Road, Griffin, GA 30223. Motion carried by a 3-2 vote. (Flowers-Taylor, Bowlden)

8. Cancellation of Board of Commissioner Work Session & Regular Meeting on September 2, 2024, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve cancellation of Board of Commissioner Work Session & Regular Meeting on September 2, 2024, due to the Labor Day holiday. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Consider approval of resolutions to increase the per diem for Official Court Reporters for the Griffin Judicial Circuit, State Court, and Juvenile Court from \$200.00 per day to \$400.00 per day for civil and criminal cases.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve resolutions to increase the per diem for Official Court Reporters for the Griffin Judicial Circuit, State Court, and Juvenile Court from \$200.00 per day to \$400.00 per day for civil and criminal cases.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to rescind the previous motion.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to table resolutions to increase the per diem for Official Court Reporters for the Griffin Judicial Circuit, State Court, and Juvenile Court from \$200.00 per day to \$400.00 per day for civil and criminal cases. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IX. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ The bridge on Moon Road over Wildcat Creek is currently under repair due to issues with water turbidity, which has caused instability around the piers beneath the bridge. As a result, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has mandated the closure of the bridge.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor inquired whether the County has the funds available to repair bridges.

Dr. Ledbetter responded by stating that the County has approximately \$1,000,000 allocated for all road-related expenses. The funds for repairing the bridge will come from this budget, which also covers pothole repairs and other road issues. He also mentioned that the bridge was included in the Georgia Department of Transportation's Off-System Bridge Replacement Program, with repairs initially scheduled for 2026.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked about the likelihood of GDOT reimbursing the County for the bridge repairs.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that GDOT would not provide reimbursement.

- ✓ Jenkinsburg Road was closed several years ago due to the bridge and its weight limitations. Despite placing signs, including digital signs in both English and Spanish, tractor-trailers continue to use the road and get stuck at the bridge, requiring the dispatch of another wrecker.

Commissioner Dutton inquired why the County is involved in the private transaction of dispatching the wrecker.

Dr. Ledbetter clarified the County does not pay for the wrecker service but is responsible for dispatching the wrecker through the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Dutton asked whether "No Thru Trucks" signs were in place and if citations were being issued to violators.

Dr. Ledbetter was unsure but expressed hope that citations were being issued, noting that Jenkinsburg Road, as well as Jackson Road, are both listed as "No Thru Truck" roads.

Commissioner Dutton pointed out the cost to repair these roads is significant and that the wear and tear are not caused by regular four-wheel vehicles.

Dr. Ledbetter mentioned one of the arguments from truck drivers is that their GPS systems direct them to use these roads to reach PNG.

Commissioner Dutton then inquired if it was possible to contact Google about the issue.

Dr. Ledbetter responded they had already reached out to every search engine by phone and email regarding the bridge being out and the "No Thru Trucks" designation, but problems persist.

Commissioner Dutton suggested the County should consider filing a complaint with Judge Thacker and Judge Cavanaugh.

Dr. Ledbetter agreed, noting it would be beneficial, especially to address the potholes concentrated on the eastern side of Jackson Road.

- ✓ TSPLOST resurfacing project is three-quarters complete for this year, covering 29.41 miles of resurfacing. Over a three-year period, the program is approaching 75 miles of resurfaced roads. Originally, the program aimed to resurface 100 miles over a five-year period, so it appears that there will be an opportunity to resurface additional miles beyond the initial goal.
- ✓ Kudos to neighbors for voting in TSPLOST.
- ✓ Stated he will be attending ACCG South Policy Committee meeting Wednesday and Thursday of this week.
- ✓ Encouraged citizens to come and participate August 29th at 6:00 p.m. for update and discussion on HB581.

X. REPORT OF DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ No report.

XI. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Rita Johson

- ✓ Suggested when amending the agenda to not include a financial consideration until all information has been reviewed by the Board.

James Dutton

- ✓ Agreed with Commissioner Johnson's statement regarding agenda amendments.
- ✓ Pleased with how TSPLOST is going.
- ✓ Suggested to conduct any future SPLOST like the TSPLOST has been conducted.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor

- ✓ No report

Ryan Bowlden

- ✓ Kudos to Animal Control Director, Vickie Hennessy! She is doing a great job at holding staff accountable,
- ✓ Asked if Public Works has a polymer that can be sprayed on the Moon Road detour that is a dirt road to suppress the dust?

Clay Davis

- ✓ Encouraged the citizens to visit the Athletic Hall of Fame!
- ✓ Attended the Archway Retreat. Informed that commissioners may be asked to join Issue Work Groups.
- ✓ Explained the need to investigate EPI funding.
- ✓ Offered an opportunity to visit the Spalding County Behavioral Health Crisis Center – Pinewood.
- ✓ Encouraged citizens to attend meeting on August 29th regarding HB581.
- ✓ Asked County Manager to set up a date to do ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to enter Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

1. Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4).

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to exit Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried a unanimous vote.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/Flowers-Taylor to instruct the County Manager and staff to work with the County Engineer to develop a renovation plan, solicit an RFP for renovations and present the plan and cost to the Board of Commissioners for consideration to convert the joining building into government use. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second Johnson/Dutton to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.