

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County Regular Meeting Monday, August 4, 2014 6:00 PM 119 E. Solomon St., Meeting Room 108

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Courthouse Annex, Monday, August 4, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Chairman Raymond Ray presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., William Gay, Director of Human Resources, Jim Fortune, County Attorney and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes. Chairman Gardner was not present at this meeting

- I. **OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** led by Vice Chairman Raymond Ray.
- II. **INVOCATION** – led by Commissioner Rita Johnson.
- III. **PLEDGE TO FLAG** – led by Commissioner Bart Miller.
- IV. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**
- V. **PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
- 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 the new airport:

Bobby Folds, 106 Pine Avenue, SW, Griffin.
Roger Bass, 307 Muskgrove Road, Griffin.
Bobby Peurfoy, 917 S. McDonough Road, Griffin.

Dick Morrow, 715 W. Solomon Street, Griffin – Wanted to thank the Board of Commissioners for working together with the City of Griffin and the Airport Authority in getting to this point. All three attorneys, the City, the County and the Airport Authority have collaborated to address all of the concerns expressed in previous meetings with regard to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Agenda this evening. Mr. Morrow then stated that once the Intergovernmental Agreement is in place the next step will be to meet with GDOT and begin the formal process toward FAA funding.

Mr. Morrow stated that two of the Spalding County Commissioners currently sit on the Airport Authority board and he invited the other members of the Board to participate in the decision making regarding the airport when they get to the point of contract negotiation to make sure that local participation is addressed. He invited all of the members of the Board to join with the Airport Authority to add their input in decisions since this is truly a community project and it will be open and transparent to all.

Mr. Morrow further stated that a new business friendly airport will help to grow industry, jobs and a business tax base. He stated that this is a positive step forward for our community, in taking the current losing airport off the taxpayer subsidy and building a new business airport will be a major win for our taxpayers.

Bobbie Hannon, 314 Horseshoe Bend Circle, Griffin – Ms. Hannon stated that if the new airport is allowed to be built, she would like to know how the airport will affect Jackson Road Elementary School and Kennedy Road Middle School? She expressed her concern over the airport being a safety issue for the children attending those schools. She also wanted to know what the plans were for the North McDonough Road that runs in front of her home. Will the road be widened? Will the residents have direct access onto the road?

Brenda Kilar, 219 Horseshoe Bend Circle, Griffin – Ms. Kilar stated that she had been a resident of Spalding County for 12 years, she was concerned about how high the taxes are in the county. Ms. Kilar wanted to know if the property owners within a certain radius of the airport would be compensated in any way or given a break of any kind on their taxes, since having an airport in the back yard is not going to be conducive to selling their property.

James Higgins, 222 S. Horseshoe Bend, Griffin – Expressed his concerns regarding the additional noise from the new airport. He stated that he knows the FAA has regulations, but wanted to know if the county plans to implement any regulations with regard to noise abatement once the airport is open.

John Postell, 304 Horseshoe Bend, Griffin – Questioned the logic being used in choosing the current proposed site for the new airport. On the site there are 2 schools in the way, 8 high pressure gas lines and 2 power lines. There are a lot of people living in that area and a lot of homes that will be taken. He stated that the site that starts on High Falls Road and goes over to Bailey Jester Road has only 1 power line and no gas lines and it would be less costly for the taxpayers.

Jeff Mattox, 1209 W. Broad Street, Griffin – Mr. Mattox was concerned that by the City and the County signing over their interest in the airport to the Airport Authority that was giving too much power to the Airport Authority. He questioned the term of office for a member of the Airport Authority, he stated that six years was too long for someone to serve on the Authority. Last he wanted to state that he felt the Bailey Jester Road location would be the better site for the proposed airport for the same reasons as outlined by Mr. Postell there are no high pressure gas lines, only one power line. He further stated that there are 5 creek beds on the proposed site, he said that he knew there had been an environmental study done on the proposed location, he simply questions the arithmetic when it comes to the costs.

Commissioner Ray stated on the questions that were presented, we would do the best to get everyone an answer to their questions by mail.

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the July 21, 2014 Extraordinary Meeting, the July 25, 2014 Special Called Meeting, and the July 28, 2014 Special Called Meeting.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the minutes for the July 21, 2014 Extraordinary Meeting, the July 25, 2014 Special Called Meeting and the July 28, 2014 Special Called Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA -

- I. Consider approval on second reading an ordinance amending the FY 2014 Budget Ordinance to provide for yearend budget amendments.
2. Consider approval on second reading, Ordinance #2014-03 to amend the Spalding County code of Ordinances, Part VI, Chapter 2, Article A, Section 6-2004, Item (e), relating to no thru trucks for: Vaughn Road beginning at Georgia Highway 16 and continuing north for 4.8 miles to Georgia Highway 92.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to approve both of the items on the consent agenda on second reading as stated. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Consider lifting from the table approval on second reading the Spalding County Personnel Ordinance.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to lift from the table approval on second reading of the Spalding County Personnel Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval on second reading the Spalding County Personnel Ordinance. Item tabled at the July 21, 2014 Extraordinary Session.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve on second reading the Personnel Ordinance.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she was concerned that the effective date for the document is scheduled for October 1. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the effective date should be immediately upon adoption. She further stated that currently there is no policy governing personnel and personnel salaries and making the policy effective upon adoption would clear up some of the issues currently being faced by the county. She asked the commissioners to rescind their motions and make the effective date immediately.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that the reason for requesting October 1 as the effective date was to give Human Resources time to train Department Heads

and allow time for the employees to review the changes being made to the Ordinance.

Commissioner Johnson inquired as to what kind of training needed to take place prior to the Ordinance becoming effective. She further stated that if the policy being made effective immediately was going to be a hindrance that she would not be willing to rescind her motion.

Mr. Wilson advised that there are several things within the new ordinance that the employees need to be made aware of and although the ordinance has been on the agenda for quite some time, it hasn't been distributed to the employees because it hasn't been approved.

Commissioner Miller suggested that the effective date be moved up to September 1 stating that the Policy and Procedures should be distributed to everyone within 30 days.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the employees who read the personnel policies is probably 2% and most of the time, the only reason this document is read is when there is a problem. She suggested that the Policy and Procedures be made available to the employees on the website and that they be encourage to visit the website to review the document.

Commissioner Johnson rescinded her motion

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve on second reading the Personnel Ordinance with a revision to as to the effective date of the ordinance being changed from October 1 to September 1, 2014. Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider request of the Humane Society for a letter stating that Spalding County has no objection to the State granting a one-day alcohol license for the Society's Annual Chili Cook-Off to be held on October 18, 2014 at the Pavilion on Aerodrome Way.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the annual request, we have not had any complaints in the past regarding this event and the paperwork has been reviewed and approval is recommended.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the request of the Humane Society for a letter stating that Spalding County has no objection to the State granting a one-day alcohol license for the Society's Annual Chili Cook-Off to be held on October 18, 2014 at the Pavilion on Aerodrome Way. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of rental request from Truevine Fellowship Holiness Church to utilize the parking lot adjacent to the Spalding County Courthouse Annex for a car show to be held on October 6, 2014.

Mr. Wilson advised that this is an annual request by Truevine Fellowship Holiness Church, this will be the second year. The rental fee is \$150 and they have agreed to provide the same required insurance coverage as they provided last year and approval is recommended.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to approve the rental request from the Truevine Fellowship Holiness Church to utilize the parking lot adjacent to the Spalding County Courthouse Annex for a car show to be held on October 6, 2014. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Reconsider approval of revised contract with Reunited Training & Counseling, Inc., and Good Samaritans Community Development Group, Inc.

Mr. Wilson stated in February the Board of Commissioners approved 3 locations, and Good Samaritans came back to us and said that they only wanted 1 location, that location being City Park. They have now come back stating that they have had such a positive response from the Fairmont Community that they would like to revise the contract to add the Fairmont Community Center effective today. The Commissioners were polled and 3 of you advised that you had no problem with the rental of Fairmont Community Center starting today. The agreement before you has two locations those being City Park and Fairmont Community Center.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the revised contract with reunited Training & Counseling, Inc., and Good Samaritans Community Development Group, Inc.

Commissioner Miller expressed his concern over basketball season starting and this group holding their after school program in the gym. Commissioner Miller stated that we need to check with Parks and Recreation because we already have a problem with a shortage of basketball courts and we can't cut the association off to accommodate the after school program.

Mr. Wilson will follow up Parks and Recreation and will email the commissioners.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor questioned if the staff that started at Fairmont today has passed all of the background checks.

Mr. Wilson stated that Parks and Recreation requires anyone utilizing our facilities and working with children have a background check prior to using the facility. He will check with Parks and recreation to make sure the appropriate back ground checks have been done and he will email the commissioners with his findings.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Griffin and the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority for the joint funding of a new General Aviation Airport.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Intergovernmental Agreement lays out the Option 3 as presented at the joint meeting on July 25th. It also contains the additional language that Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requested regarding the utilization of local contractors whenever possible. The Intergovernmental Agreement has been reviewed all of the parties and legal counsel and Revision 3 that is currently presented to you is the culmination of the input by all parties.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Griffin and the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority for the joint funding of a new General Aviation Airport.

Commissioner Miller apologized for the language that he used after the last meeting with the City, the County and the Airport Authority. Commissioner Miller stated that he was in favor of Option 1, turning the airport over to the City of Griffin. Everyone in the County thought it was going to be put on the ballot. He stated that he feels that the whole matter has been handled wrong.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she has some questions about the specifics of the agreement. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor reviewed the interest and debt service repayment terms of the Agreement. She then asked if we had received an appraisal on the Walking Track and the Sheriff's Hanger, as she would like to know when the County could expect for that lease/purchase to be paid off.

Mr. Wilson stated that we currently have not received an appraisal for that property. The property will have to be declared as nonessential before the FAA will approve the sale of the property.

Commissioner Ray advised that all of the property surrounding the airport currently belongs to the City of Griffin and Spalding County and the Airport Authority, and these entities have identified the pieces of property that would be designated as nonessential. That would be the walking trail, the sheriff's hanger, the Kiwanis building and the fairgrounds could all be deemed nonessential and could be put up for sale and those funds would then go toward the new airport. A fair market value will have to be done on the nonessential properties, the FAA will have to approve the appraisal and then a lease to purchase agreement can be entered into for the walking track and the hanger.

Motion carried 3-1 (Miller).

5. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board to fill the unexpired term of Tootsie Powers to expire December 31, 2016.

Mr. Wilson advised that Mr. Bill Kelley had been nominated by Chairman Gardner to fill the unexpired term of Tootsie Powers on the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board that will expire on December 31, 2016.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to appoint Bill Kelley to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board to fill the unexpired term of Tootsie Powers to expire December 31, 2016. Motion carried 3-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

6. Consider appointments to Advisory Committee on Naming Land and Facilities as outlined in the Policy for the Naming of Facilities, and erecting Plaques, Monuments, Major Markers and Artwork to review request to rename the Spalding County Senior Citizens Center.

Motion/Second by Miller/Johnson to table the request to appoint and Advisory Committee on Naming Land and Facilities as outlined in the Policy for the Naming of Facilities and erecting Plaques, Monuments, Major Markers and Artwork to review request to rename the Spalding County Senior Citizens Center. Motion carried 3-1 (Flowers-Taylor).

7. Consider appointments to committee to recommend Policies, Procedures and Rental Fees for portable bathroom facilities.

Mr. Wilson advised that at the last meeting the commissioners decided to form a committee to look at this matter. After discussion the motion was to form a committee consisting of two members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, one member of the Downtown Council Advisory Board or Main Street, one member of the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners and T.J. Imberger would represent the County Commissioners on the committee and come back with a recommendation.

Commissioner Miller stated that that we need to sit down and figure out what it costs to man and provide the units and establish a fee schedule to cover the expenses. He further stated that he was not in favor of these units being utilized and the county having to pay all of the costs.

Mr. Daa'ood Amin, 133 N. Hill Street, stated that the original request of the Main Street group was to build a public restroom at the Park @ 6th. It was decided that since restroom facilities were a part of all of the other park facilities operated by the county that those amenities should be available to the Park @ 6th. Mr. Amin stated that they had tried to purchase the property adjacent to the park and behind the park, but were unable to do so. At that point the proposal for portable restrooms seemed to be the solution to the problem.

At the time the portable facilities were purchased, Main Street had no idea there would be additional fees associated with the use of the facilities for the

Park @ 6th. After the units were purchased and the costs determined for manning the units, cleaning the units and disposing of the grey water associated with the units, the costs were a surprise and an expense that no one had anticipated. Mr. Amin stated that one possibility would be if Main Street could project the costs for utilizing these units annually, then a line item could be added to their next budget so that funds could be allocated out of the hotel/motel tax fund to help cover some of the costs for these units.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to have the Main Street Group and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meet to develop the policies and procedures for using the portable units and to establish a fee schedule for the use of the units. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Vice Chairman Ray stated that Mr. Wilson would be contacting Main Street Group and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to get things started.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- Cooperative Extension will host an open house at their new location, Tuesday, August 19th, from 3-6, at 835 Memorial Drive, which is adjacent to Parks and Recreation and the Board of Elections.
- We issued a press release last week that Spalding County had received the Certificate of Excellence for Financial Reporting for the 13th consecutive year.
- SPLOST collections for the month of June were \$713,922.00 that is the second highest month for 2014. We had estimated revenues of \$750,000.00 per month for the 2008 SPLOST and collections remain at approximately 8% under the estimates. For the 2014 SPLOST we have estimated revenues of \$700,000.00 per month.
- The last day to appeal your 2014 property tax assessment will be August 16th. The Revenue Department has granted an extension to the Tax Commissioner an extension to September 2nd to submit the digest, so we are hoping by the end of this month we will have the digest and be able to set the mileage rate.
- Recognized Barbara Lights who has been appointed the New E911 Communications Manager for Spalding County. Barbara has been with the County since 1984. She started as a dispatcher at Fire EMS on Carver Road and has worked her way up. We feel that Barbara is going to do a great job for us and we wanted to recognize her tonight and congratulate her on her accomplishments and her new position.

Barbara thanked the Commissioners for giving her this opportunity. She stated that she has been with the county for almost 30 years, September 5th will be 30 years with Spalding County. She stated that she cannot do this alone, she has a team and they will work together and then introduced one of her coworkers, Erica Callahan. She wanted everyone to know that they have a great center and they are going to make it better. She stated that she has a 100 day plan, a one

year plan and a five year plan for Spalding County and that she hopes to make our center one of the best centers in the State of Georgia.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Miller stated that on School Road at Minter Road the culvert is sinking down, he has had complaints of people going down that section of road and the bottom of their cars are hitting.

Commissioner Miller further stated that he had talked with Mr. Wilson about installing rumble strips on Birdie Road at Moore Road near David Elder's old house. He stated that he had received an email where Mr. Crane and the Sheriff had recommended a Stop Sign at the intersection, but feels that due to the position of the location, something more needs to be put there to give a warning before you get to the intersection. He asked Mr. Wilson to check on this again. The State installed rumble strips on Moore Road and on Birdie Road at their intersection on SR92, but something needs to be installed at the intersection where Birdie Road and Moore Road merge into one road.

Commissioner Miller asked for a list of road that will be paved with the 2014 SPLOST money. He needs the list of dirt roads and paved roads in the order that they will be paved.

Commissioner Miller stated that he had asked for a meeting with Spalding High, Griffin High and the Griffin Gators regarding operation of the swim center, if the SPLOST passes.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor wanted to congratulate Ms. Lights on her new position. She stated that she is always surprised and pleased to see a Department Head appointed that is the epitome of diversity and ethnicity which she feels is sorely lacking in Spalding County government.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked when the evaluation is scheduled for the County Manager.

Mr. Wilson advised that the evaluation has been scheduled for August 18, at 5:00 p.m. prior to the Extraordinary Session of the Board of Commissioners. This date was set at the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she felt it is a little preemptive to ask the schools and the Gators how they are going to help with the Swim Center since Commissioner Miller stated that we are going to have a hard time passing the SPLOST. She stated that she felt this is a discussion better held once the SPLOST has passed and there is a need for the meeting.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor further stated that she knows a lot of people are disappointed about the vote for the airport being removed as a possibility; but she feels that Spalding County has some good things on the horizon. There have been a lot of planning and environmental studies done, and there have been a lot of people who have simply been waiting to get on with their lives. They have been in limbo not knowing what was going to happen, if they were going to have

to move or what direction was going to be taken. She stated that the value of the properties will be accommodated in such a way that the individuals who will be selling their property will get a decent value for their property and there will be assistance available to help them relocate.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor also stated that the lady who came in asking about SR 155, she is asking the same questions. Why are big trucks still coming down Broad Street? At one point there was talk about SR155 connecting directly with SR 16, she stated she would like to get more information on that proposal and would like to have more conversation about that. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that when the airport is built that there should be other options for entry into that airport other than off of Jackson Road.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor closed with a statement one of her constituents made to her: "If some of the people of Spalding County spent as much time trying to figure out how to make things work as they do coming up with reasons why things won't work, we would be a lot further down the road..." She stated that she has chosen to go forward with that philosophy.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she agreed with Commissioner Flowers-Taylor on that philosophy. She further stated that she is an optimist and her optimism is based on data and research and studies that have been presented to the Board. We have let opportunities go by year after year, decade after decade. It has to stop and things are going to have to change and it takes leadership to do it. She stated that she is welcoming the opportunity and is excited to work with the City of Griffin and the Airport Authority. She stated she is glad we have the Intergovernmental Agreement behind us, that we as a county are moving forward and industries will be coming, the SPLOST will pass and people are going to see a different Spalding County in the next few years.

Vice Chairman Ray stated that last week there was a meeting with District Attorney, Scott Ballard, who had talked with Upson and Pike County commissioners who had requested a meeting with the Spalding County Chairman and Mr. Wilson. The Chairman was not available to attend, so he attended the meeting. Commissioner Ray stated that the District Attorney is again talking about splitting the Griffin Judicial Circuit.

Commissioner Ray advised that the proposal is to take Fayette County and make them their own judicial circuit. Pike, Upson and Spalding County would then make up a second Judicial Circuit which would require another Judge, 2 more ADA's and 2 more secretaries to facilitate at least 3 Judges in the Griffin Circuit and 2 Judges in the Fayette Circuit.

Commissioner Ray further stated that Mr. Ballard is of the opinion that splitting the circuit would provide a cost savings to Pike, Upson and Spalding Counties. He stated that all of the counties within a judicial circuit contribute to the judicial circuit budget and he does not see that budget being reduced at all. He further stated that he sees the budget increasing with a split, and asked for budgetary information for the past year and current year based on personnel assigned to the D.A.'s office, based on their current assignments within the individual Counties serviced by the D.A.'s office. We have received an initial

response to the request, but we have not received any detailed information regarding the impact to Pike, Upson and Spalding counties. There will be further meetings on this development and Mr. Wilson, the Board and Jinna Garrison will go over the numbers to determine if there is any cost savings to us or if any reductions are made to the budget should the judicial circuit split.

Commissioner Ray further stated that he is not in favor of this proposal because he cannot see a decrease in the financial obligation for Spalding County and at this point he hasn't seen any benefit to Spalding County at all. However, it is early in the process and we will wait until the final numbers are provided by the D.A.'s office.

Commissioner Ray congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on working with the Disc Golf Association in raising funds to establish a disc golf course at Wyomia Tyus Park.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.