

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015**

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Chairperson Doug Hollberg presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Joanne Todd, Cynthia Reid-Ward, Cora Flowers, Dick Morrow, Ryan McLemore and Rodney McCord (arriving late) attended. Also present were City Manager Kenny L. Smith, City Attorney Andrew J. Whalen, III, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance .....Commissioner Morrow  
Invocation..... Chairman Hollberg

Approval of Agenda

***Motion/second to approve by Commissioners Morrow/Todd carried by a vote of 6-0.***

<b>PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS</b>
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1. Recognize Chris Sprayberry, Help Desk Administrator with the Information Technology Department, as the May 2015 "Strongest Link" award recipient. *Chief Technology Officer Jack Poland will address.*

Mr. Poland said he was proud to be present to recognize May's Strongest Link, Chris Sprayberry. Chris has worked diligently and hard since coming to work here. He gets a job done and done right. Clients that he helps are not disappointed. He is very dedicated and committed to the City. IT has been instrumental in the provision of infrastructure for the Thomas property as fiber, switching, phones, and other facilities. Chris has been a critical part of that team. Nominated by Gibb Cotton, a fellow colleague, the nomination of Chris Sprayberry speaks volumes as to his work ethic. He can multi-task and is great to work with in this department. He was presented a plaque and award, and the chain from last month's recipient, Amanda Carmichael. Chris thanked everyone for this honor.

2. Recognition of graduates from the first annual Citizens Fire Academy class. *Fire Chief Tommy Jones will address.*

This is a new program under Director Strickland's leadership and it has proven to be well received. This was put together very quickly but has been comprehensive, asking a great deal from the participants. It allows an understanding of what goes on at Griffin Fire and Rescue. Some activities included Fire Services, Rescue Services, Lifeflight and extrication, 911, EOC, and other areas of interest. They met for four weeks, twice per week which required dedication, and the inaugural Fire Academy was a success. Commissioner McCord arrived.

Leslie Fagin., Alexander Cain, David Mann, Amy Mann, Mark Johnson, Regina Stephens, Jennifer Romes, Gwendolyn Dallas, and Garrett Tiller were attendees who were congratulated, given departmental T-shirts, and photographed.

3. Review Financials for April 2015. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*  
Mr. Schwab was present to answer any questions on the review of cash balance, LOST collections, and interim statements by fund. Financials were deemed to be tracking well.

<b>CITIZEN COMMENTS</b>
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There were no comments.

<b>PUBLIC HEARINGS</b>
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4. Receive comments regarding the proposed budgets for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Chairman Hollberg declared the public hearing open for comment. City Manager Smith noted our FY 2016 proposed budget for all funds showed \$104,434,005 in revenue. There are expenses before depreciation and bad debt of \$101,688,165. General Fund revenues are projected at \$17,579,279 with expenses of \$25,948,898. Transfers are estimated at \$8,369,618. All capital requests total \$10,994,617 and include airport request of \$6.3 million. There are no millage rate increases or increases for fees/services. Print and online versions of the budget have been available for about a month. This is the second of public hearings, and the FY 2015-2016 Budget is ready to adopt. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

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<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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5. Consider approving the Minutes of the May 26, 2015 Workshop and Regular Scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

***Motion/second to approve by Commissioners Morrow/McCord carried 6-0-1 with Commissioner Flowers abstaining since she was absent from the meetings.***

<b>REGULAR AGENDA</b>
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6. Consider approval of a Resolution adopting the annual Fiscal Year 2015–2016 Operating Budget appropriating expenditures and projected revenues for specified purposes, functions and activities by fund for the budget period and the Capital Improvement Program. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve carried 7-0.***

7. Spalding County Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests to address the Commission regarding the extension of hours of local Parks and Recreation venues for the months of June and July 2015. *Spalding County Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor will address.*

She has been working over the past couple of month with elected officials, agencies and civic groups to be more proactive with trying to provide a safe and structured environment for youth with improved free summer programming at Fairmont Community Center. Different activities (sports, exercise, movies, etc.) bring the community together to provide for those who cannot afford to go to summer camps. AMBUCS and City Park are closed during the day for paid summer camp participants. They are soliciting donations for sports equipment, exercise equipment, game boards and game tables, movies, ball game paraphernalia. Griffin's Police Chief wants to implement an education program throughout this time to inform children about how to deal with police officers and to avoid gang activity. They want to begin with hours from 10 to 8 by next week. Activities will be structured; local 4-Hers are volunteering to assist with projects, as are scouts, rifle team, sororities, fraternities and local attorneys. This is not a Parks and Recreation program but rather a gang intervention program. They hope to take ownership of this problem and prevent youth from getting involved with gangs and to perhaps stretch the program into even after school begins because of the timing of implementation. This can establish mentoring partnerships that can change lives and open up avenues these children have not had before. The Sheriff's Office is not involved with this program because they do not have enough people to assist. Some felt that Griffin's PD also does not have extra manpower to provide, but Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that Griffin Police Department said part of what they are already doing is community policing, and they would like to see these children not be afraid of law enforcement. Specific youth opportunity programs will help.

Mr. Smith said the Police Chief does not advocate providing an assigned officer to the location but rather engaging in public relations and educational opportunities. Officers can stop by during the day as they have free time to interact. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor said she understood the Police Chief wanted officers to have enough of a presence here to educate them and familiarize them with the department, but not have someone assigned to the location. The request totals \$4000; Spalding County provided \$2000 in FY 2014-15 and \$2000 in FY 2015-16. She responded to Commissioner Todd that without the City's participation, this venture could be funded for one month rather than two, but she could not see why the City would not also be interested in making a difference. Some discussion followed as to how to fund this request; Mr. Smith responded to Commissioner Morrow that there is enough money in Commissioners' contingency. This venture would require an additional 95 hours of supervision, noted County Commissioner Flowers-Taylor. Generally with summer camp going on, the parks are open to non-campers only from 5-6 pm for activity time. This proposal would provide so much greater opportunities from 10 am to 8 pm. This will cover staff required to open facilities and provide supervision. Mr. Smith said he would rather have the City provide for an expenditure of \$4000 out of Commissioners' Contingency this year and let Spalding County deal with how it is appropriated since the time span involves two budget years. He asked that any motion include a Budget Amendment to fund the request in this manner. Commissioner

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Morrow said he had felt reservations when he thought this was a Parks and Recreation Department request, but he was more comfortable with the explanation that it was essentially a gang intervention measure. Some supervisors will be County employees, but adult volunteers will be on hand, as well. They have done no census but anytime a free summer program has been offered, there are usually as many as 100 participants, so she fills the program will be filled. Chairman Hollberg stated he was willing to try to provide some instruction for a soccer program with coaches and urged others to think outside the box for different activities.

***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to fund the full amount of \$4000 from Commissioners' Contingency for this current budget year carried 7-0.***

8. Consider approval of an ordinance amending the Code of Griffin at Chapter 18, AVIATION, by enacting a new Article V., SAFE, EFFICIENT USE AND PRESERVATION OF NAVIGABLE AIRSPACE. *Griffin-Spalding County Airport Manager Robert Mohl and City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Mr. Whalen explained that the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority had never actually incorporated height limitations into the City Code. This ordinance will suffice *not just* for existing airport property but for any new airport property, as well. This will formalize this process and comply with federal regulations. Airport Manager Robert Mohl said this action was part of federal grant assurances; protection must be in place. This proposal is similar to the one in the County and mechanisms will be in place when we move with the airport to satisfy these grant assurances. Commissioner Morrow stated the County and City needed to work together to get these assurances in place; this is a joint effort. ***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Todd to approve this ordinance as presented on first reading carried 7-0.***

9. Consider approval of:
  1. A Job-Related Certification policy to encourage and reward employees for increasing their job-related knowledge and enhancing their value to their department and the City, and;
  2. A Sign-On, Recruitment & Retention Bonus policy to provide the City with the ability to find, hire and retain quality employees in hard to fill classes of jobs. *Human Resource Director Miles Neville will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners McCord/Morrow to approve both requests carried 7-0.*** Commissioner Flowers thanked Mr. Neville for his work on these policies and hopes this will bring about better hiring and retention.

10. Consider the approval of the 2015 Chemical Annual Bid in the amount of \$544,485.93 to eleven (11) vendors for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of the Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Ward/Todd to approve as presented carried 7-0.***

11. Consider approval of an amendment to McNaughton McKay for the Variable Frequency Drive in the amount of \$16,101.18 for Still Branch Water Treatment Plant of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Director Brant D. Keller will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Ward to approve as presented carried 7-0.***

12. Consider approval on first reading of Ordinance revising the Code of Griffin, Georgia at Chapter 82, TAXATION, Article III, EXCISE TAX ON HOTELS, by increasing the rate of tax to 8.0% in accordance with Act 288 (HB 644) of the 2015-2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly of Georgia; revising the name of the Article to reflect the current title used in state law; and for other purposes. If adopted, the increased rate will become effective August 1, 2015. *City Attorney Andrew J. Whalen III will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Ward/McLemore to approve as presented.*** In response to a question by Commissioner Morrow, Mr. Smith noted that the County's version fell short, but he noted that the legislation was still alive and well and only has to finish up in the Senate. The County has raised their rate from 3% to 5% without the legislation. Mr. Smith advised the City has met with hotel owners to make them aware of this action. ***Motion/second carried 7-0.***

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13. Appoint two (2) members to the Griffin-Spalding 800 MHz Radio Users Group. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Public Safety Director Frank Strickland and Gibb Cotton from IT are staff recommendations. ***Motion/second by Commissioner Todd/McLemore to appoint representatives as noted carried 7-0.***

14. Consider amending current lease agreement with Law Offices of G. Alan Dodson, LLC for Suite 405 at One Griffin Center to adjust ending date of 36-month lease agreement correctly to December 31, 2016. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

City Manager Kenny Smith explained this was just a correction to the last three-year lease that was executed. The lease renewal began January 1, 2014 and the termination date was noted as 2017 (three years later for this 36-month lease) rather than the correct expiration date of December 31, which would make the correct year be 2016. ***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Todd to approve as presented carried 7-0.***

<b>CITY MANAGER'S REPORT</b>
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- Congratulated staff on June Jam. With 3500 people in attendance, it was exciting and well run. He was excited about the location change to the new park area.
- Congratulated Commissioner McLemore on his new baby boy born this week.

<b>CITY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS</b>
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- City Attorney Andrew Whalen congratulated Commissioner McLemore, as well.
- Commissioner McCord echoed those sentiments and noted all seemed to enjoy June Jam.
- Commissioner McLemore thanked all for the well wishes for Nolan Michael McLemore, one of Griffin's newest citizens, and his parents.
- Commissioner Morrow congratulated Commissioner McLemore and extended sympathies on the passing today of Mr. Joe Harrell.
- Commissioner Todd said June Jam has great turnout with better traffic control and area.
- Chairman Hollberg said there has been great feedback on June Jam. He congratulated everyone and thanked Kenda Woodard for her hard work. He named participants and stakeholders in the event and thanked them all for their team efforts. All departments worked together to make it happen. He advised he will be away for the next 10 days beginning Friday, going to Canada with scouts, and he will be out of pocket communications-wise. The theme "***For the Love of Griffin***" is serving to help make Griffin the best city it can be. Finally, his wife will be a teacher next year at Spalding High School.

<b>ADJOURN</b>
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***Motion/second at 6:39 p.m. to adjourn by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow carried 7-0.***

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

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Douglas S. Hollberg, Chairperson