

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012 (6:00 P.M.)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman on Monday, March 12, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Robert Setters and Commissioners Buck Rigdon, Donnie Hester, Melissa Chevers, Sherry Miley and Mike Jones.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Hester to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of February 7, 2012 Workshop Session; February 13, 2012 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Samuel Pridgen and a number of other preachers stood at the podium and addressed the Board concerning the heavy violence that has continued to worsen in Tifton and Tift County. The citizens filled the Board room for this meeting as Brother Pridgen spoke stating they had four points as their plan and would like the help of the Board to carry this out. It included strong curfew, enforcement of loitering laws, a community banning law and having video cameras placed around Tifton and at individual businesses. Some members of the Board advised the group they should also address the City of Tifton Council. The group has requested to be on their Agenda as well as the Tift County School Board. The County Attorney advised that there would have to be some research done on a curfew which would have to consider such things as age limits, difference curfews for school nights and nights that would include athletic events. The County Attorney also advised that he is not sure the Commissioners would have the authority to ban anyone from the County. Commissioner Rigdon agrees with a curfew, he thinks there would be nothing better and Commissioner Hester feels that businesses should be held accountable for loitering laws. The group feels that the County should demand that businesses put up video cameras. Commissioner Chevers commented on the number of people at the meeting and stated that it was a great turn out, it needs to continue happening at the meetings, and you all have our attention now. Chairman Thompson praised the group for their efforts in this and says there should also be a lot of praying. The County Manager will continue working with Brother Pridgen and smaller groups to keep the ideas going and keep the Board informed

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. TC-TA-11-01 and TC-ZA-11-04: Petition by Tift County to adopt the proposed Tift County Unified Land Development Code and proposed Tift County Zoning Map: Carl Fortson gave a brief description of the request and of the scheduled Public Hearing and stated that both the request comes with a unanimous recommendation of approval from the Planning and Zoning Board.

The County Attorney called attention to the Zoning Postings on the wall. No one declared a Conflict of Interest and the Public Hearing was opened. There was no one in the audience that made comment on either of the request being considered. With no comments, the County Attorney closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to approved TC-TA-11-01 and TC-ZA-11-04 to adopt the Tift County Unified Land Development Code and the Tift County Zoning Map, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

B. Appointments to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board: The County Clerk advised that the County has vacant seats on this Board. There have been two applications turned in along with a recommendation from the Keep Tift Beautiful Board for the appointment of these two people. They are Richard Burton and Dave Hetzel. The Chairman will need to open the Board for nominations.

The Chairman opened the nominations. Commissioner Rigdon nominated Richard Burton for one vacant seat. There were no other nominations and the Chairman closed the nominations. Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to appoint Richard Burton to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board to serve a four year term, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman opened the nominations to fill the other vacant seat on the Keep Tift Beautiful Board. Commissioner Miley nominated Dave Hetzel. There were no other nominations and the Chairman closed the nomination process. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to appoint Dave Hetzel to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board to serve a four year term, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment to the Board of Elections & Registration: The County Clerk advised that a letter of recommendation has been received from the Board of Elections & Registration to appoint Charlotte B. Walker to fill the unexpired term of Laverne Land. The Chairman opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Jones nominated Charlotte B. Walker. There were no other nominations and the Chairman closed the nomination process. Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to appoint Charlotte B. Walker to fill this position on the Board of Elections and Registration, seconded by Vice Chairman Setters. Motion carried unanimously. This term will expire July 2013.

D. Wine License for Ryan Rutland for the Market at Rutland Farms: The County Clerk advised that this application has been properly processed and comes with an approval from the Sheriff. Motion to approve Wine License for Ryan Rutland for the Market at Rutland Farms was made by Vice Chairman Setters, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Renewal of Beer License for Jeta Patel at Good Neighbor Grocery: The County Clerk advised the Board that staff request a table on this issue for another thirty days pending some correspondence from the state. Motion to table for 30 days was made by Commissioner Chevers, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Signage and Striping Grant from Department of Transportation: The Board was advised that this is a yearly grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation for signage and striping and the Chairman needs to be authorized to endorse the documents. It is for 60.77 miles of County roads. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse the Signage and Striping Grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation was made by Commissioner Miley, seconded by Vice Chairman Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Items:

- Advised that an Executive Session is needed for a legal matter
- The County Clerk reported the dates of Annual Conference to be held in Savannah

Commissioners Items: None

Executive Session: Motion to go into Executive Session legal was made by Commissioner Chevers, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session and adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Setters, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist. 4

Commissioner F. W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: _____

Glynda Hemby, County Clerk
3/12/2012

