

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012 (6:00 p.m.)**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Robert Setters and Commissioners Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Chevers.

**Public Comments:** None

**Appointments:**

**1. Samuel Pridgen** requested to address the Board. Mr. Pridgen was the spokesperson for a number of people in the audience and they were all here to address some community concerns with the Board and to seek their help in accomplishing some ways to control situations on the south side of Tifton. He addressed curfews, no loitering as well as some security devices. The violence is continuing to rise and we need to get the kids off the streets at a decent hour was one of the issues he addressed. Several Commissioners commented on his comments to them and he was commended by Commissioners Hester and Chevers for coming forward and a willingness to step up to the plate to address the concerns. Chairman Thompson also commended his efforts and told him that he needs to continue his pattern of seeking help. We all need to stand behind you. Commissioner Chevers stated that we all need to take a stand in our community. The businesses that know the loitering is going on and are not doing anything about it should be held accountable. He is working to put a committee together to be visible, involve the community, let the newspaper be aware of what they would like to accomplish and get the problems of violence under control. Chairman Thompson stated that numbers make the difference in situations like this. He also invited Rev. Pridgen back again and to fill the room with preachers and members from the community to show that the support is there to keep working on the issues.

**2. Dr. William Grow**, District Health Director addressed the Board and gave a brief south Health District Legislative Briefing. Established by Legislature in 2011, fully operation in July 2011, with ultimate responsibility for the health of communities and state population and function with eighteen (18) health district and 159 County Health Departments. Dr. Grow went on with a slide presentation of the Board to advise them of the staff structure, organizational chart, 10 essential public health services, explaining what they do and gave the breakdown on the budget, giving cut statistics which has resulted in hundreds of unfilled positions. Dr. Grow also gave Key Factors in Local Health Department Problems. Dr. Grow thanked the Board for the opportunity to come visit with them and give this report and for what the County does for Public Health.

**Public Hearings:**

**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 the proposed Tift County Zoning Map:** Carl Fortson gave the Board and explanation of the need to hold the Public Hearing to formally adopt the Unified Code along with the Tift County Zoning Maps. He went over many of the comments and concerns from the Planning and Zoning Board addressing each change made in the Code referencing page and section number. He also handed out a number of maps that illustrated zoning changes and how many of the parcels and maps were just cleaned up. The public hearing will be held at the Regular Meeting on Monday night then the consideration of the Board for adoption.

**Items to be discussed for Regular Session on March 12, 2012:**

**B. Appointments to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** The Board was advised that there are two (2) seats vacant on this Board. Applications have been turned in from Richard Burton and Dave Hetzel and have been included in the Board's information for review. The Keep Tift Beautiful Board recommends the appointment of these two citizens to the Board. This will then fill all six (2) seats the County appoints to this Board.

**C. Appointment to the Board of Elections & Registration:** The Board was advised that due to health issues Laverne Land has resigned her position on the Board of Elections and Registration. Staff has received a letter of recommendation to appoint Charlotte B. "Jerry" Walker to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Land. Her completed Board application has been included in the Board's information for review. The appointment will be through July 9, 2013.

**D. Wine License for Ryan Rutland for the Market at Rutland Farms:** The Board was advised that application has been process for Ryan Rutland for wine license to sell wine by the bottle at The Market at Rutland Farms located at 5641 Union Road. The application has been properly processed, criminal history and fingerprints have been run and it comes with an approval from the Sheriff.

**E. Renewal of Beer License for Jeta Patel at Good Neighbor Grocery:** The Board was advised that staff will ask for this item to be tabled pending further information from the State

**F. Signage and Striping Grant from Department of Transportation:** Jason Jordan advised the Board that this is an annual grant that the County receives from the GA Department of Transportation for signage and striping on County roads. It will be for 60.77 miles of County Roads. There is no local match it is 100% funded by the state. The Chairman will need to be authorized to endorse the grant documents.

**County Manager Items:**

- Reported on the break in at Animal Control

**Commissioners Comments: None**

**Executive Session:** Motion to go into Executive Session for legal and land acquisition was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimous.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Commissioner Miley, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

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Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

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

ATTEST:

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

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County Clerk 3/6/2012