

**REGULAR SESSION**  
**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017 (6:00 PM)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room of the Charles Kent Administration Building. Members of the Commission present were: Chairman Grady Thompson and Commissioners Robert Setters, Greg Wood, Donnie Hester, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes. Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon was absent.

County Attorney Anthony Rowell offered an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Donnie Hester made a motion to approve the following minutes: (1) Work Session – July 3, 2017; (2) Regular Session – July 10, 2017; (3) Executive Session – July 10, 2017; and (4) Called Session – July 18, 2017. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Setters. The motion carried 6-0 with the Chairman voting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor Julie Smith, City of Tifton, thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to come and address them. She stated that the message she brings on behalf of the City of Tifton is very important. She read the following statement: "I am here to make an official request of the Board of Commissioners. I am requesting that a joint meeting be held between the City's elected officials and the Tift County Board of Commissioners so that a new agenda can begin. The City of Tifton stands ready to cooperate on issues between these two (2) governments. It is time to put differences aside. As elected officials, we cannot afford to take our eyes off this community and the residents that we serve. We cannot be led astray or delay until later on just because there are hurdles and obstacles. Most importantly, we cannot continue to harbor ill will - ill feelings about something or someone and I firmly believe that some of these feelings are related to the issues that are holding us back and preventing us from being the best community in the southeast. As elected officials, it's simply time for us to get over all these issues and at least a majority of us to stand up and work together. Tonight, I am committing to each one of you personally and to every citizen that we the City of Tifton are ready to step up and to move forward with you. We are ready to see things progress. There are many topics that need a solid discussion but we can start with the most pressing. First is SPLOST. We started the methodical discussion over seven months ago. Yes, the clock is ticking. However, if we are committed, we can get this done. November 2017 is the ideal time to call for this vote and we should not miss out on this opportunity nor should we prevent the voters from speaking up. The second is the Service Delivery Strategy. That is due next year and this too is going to take a lot of time, a lot of discussion and a lot of meetings. We are ready to begin those discussions now and water and sewer will be our first service delivery topic. The third item is TSPLOST. WE do not know what the County has proposed for TSPLOST yet. We are working on our list, literally, as we speak. We should be on the page for these items are due on August 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are willing to meet, we would be willing to hire a facilitator to assist us with the meeting so that it would be constructive and positive. For our initial meeting, I would like to offer some dates. Please check your calendars for these dates for this week – Wednesday at 5:30 pm, Thursday at 5:30 pm or Friday as a lunch meeting. We will be glad to host or a neutral location can be selected. That is my statement. We are ready to work together. We need to work together. I am here as the Mayor of the City of Tifton to

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request that we move forward and have joint meeting just like the citizens asked when they were here at the last meeting.”

Commissioner Melissa Hughes thanked the Mayor for coming.

**APPOINTMENTS:** There were none to report.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There were none to report.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

County Manager Jim Carter read the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Motion to Approve Agreement with Vesta Pallas for E911 Phone System Maintenance
- C. Motion to Approve Emergency Purchase of Ambulance
- D. Motion to Remove from the Agenda the Consideration of Vehicles to be Designated at Surplus
- E. Motion to Approve Contract with Southern Georgia Regional Commission for Comp Plan Update 2020
- F. Motion to Approve Paying the Railroad to Upsize Their Storm Drain Pipes Under the Railroad Tracks in South Tifton Next to Southern Avenue
- G. Motion to Approve Paving of Springhill Church Road and Sand Hammock Road
- H. Motion to Approve New VOCA Grant Position for Victims Assistance Program
- I. Motion to Approve a Tax Appeal Administrator Supplement in the Amount of \$3,883.08 for the Clerk of Superior Court

Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the County Manager. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Wood. Motion carried 6-0 with the Chairman voting.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

- B. **Approval of Tax Refund for Big Lots:** Commissioner Greg Wood made a motion to deny the request from Big Lots for a refund. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robert Setters. Motion carried 6-0 with the Chairman voting.

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J. **Appointment to the Following Boards – Airport Authority, Dangerous Dog Board and Keep Tift Beautiful:**

County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that all the boards needing appointments only have one nomination to consider for each position. Therefore, the County Clerk read the following nominations for each vacancy.

Airport Authority – (one (1) vacancy) – Nomination: David Bryan – Term Expiration: 08.30.2021

Dangerous Dog Board (four (4) vacancies) – Nominations: Willie Gainer, Heath Barry, Steve Wood and Jimmy Taylor – Terms Expiring: 08.30.2020

Keep Tift Beautiful (two (2) vacancies) – Nominations: Dave Hetzel and Richard Burton – Terms Expiring: 08.30.2021

County Clerk Miriam Jordan asked the Commissioners were there any other nominations they had forthcoming for these boards. There were none reported.

Chairman Grady Thompson opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a nomination of the slate of individuals as read by the County Clerk.

There being no further nominations, Chairman Thompson closed the nominations.

Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a motion to appoint the members as read and nominated. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Stan Stalnaker. Motion carried 6-0 with the Chairman voting.

**COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS:** County Manager Jim Carter reminded everyone of the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21, 2017.

**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:** Commissioner Donnie Hester stated that he would be available to meet anytime with the City of Tifton. Commissioner Robert Setters agreed that the County and City needed to meet.


**COUNTY CLERK’S COMMENTS:** There were none to report.

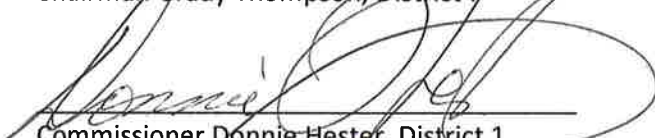
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was none to report.

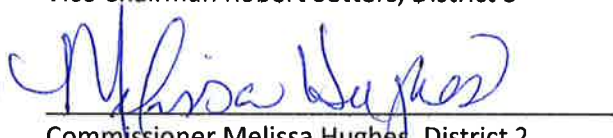
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**ADJOURN:** There being no further discussion, Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robert Setters. Motion carried 6-0 with the Chairman voting.

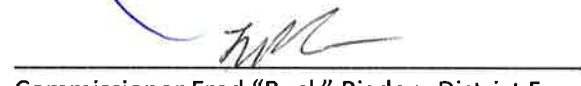
  
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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

  
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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 Hughes, District 2

  
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Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4

  
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Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5

  
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Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

ATTEST:   
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September 18, 2017