

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Charles Kent Administration Building. Members of the Commission present in addition to Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Robert Setters and Commissioners Greg Wood, Donnie Hester, Fred "Buck" Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were none to report.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Ashley Harmon, former Tift County 4-H Agent, and Miles Drummond, Americorp Civil Service Coordinator, were present to give the Board an update on Tift County's 4-H Program. There were several students present and they were recognized for their achievements.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

The Board was made aware of the following public hearings that will be held at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 11, 2017.

- A. Kick-Off Joint Public Hearing to Announce the Beginning of the 2018 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for Tift County and the Cities of Tifton, Omega and TyTy.
- B. TC-ZA-17-02 – Application by Hobbs Girls, LLC, owners, Chris F. West, Teramore Development, LLC and Joseph Carter, Attorney at Law, agents.

Development Support Services Director Carl Fortson stated that this request is for rezoning of a 1.805 acre of proposed tract located in the northeastern quadrant at the intersection of US Highway 319 North and Mount Olive Church Road. Proposed rezoning request is to construct a new 7,500 square foot Dollar General retail store. Property is currently zoned AG (Agriculture) and the request is to rezone to C-C (Community Commercial). Subject property is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 080 Parcel 112.

- C. TC-ZA-17-03 – Application by Mill Creek Plantation, LLC, owner and David DeLoach, agent.

Development Support Services Director Carl Fortson stated that this request is for a rezoning of 11.633 acres from AG (Agriculture) to R-21 (Residential) for the purpose of expanding The Cove at Willow Creek Subdivision. The property begins at 1001.29 feet east of US Highway 319 South directly across from the intersection of Carpenter Road. Property adjoins a proposed 27.155 acre parcel to the east which is currently zoned R-21 (Residential). Subject property is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 048 Parcel 025.

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**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017:**

County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the Board needs to consider adding Item #1 to the Regular Agenda at the Regular Meeting to consider an appointment to the Hospital Authority.

- A. **Agreement with Plant Communications for Fiber Optics for Six (6) County Buildings – Administration, EMS, Extension Office, Recreation, Public Safety and Public Works:** IT Director Al Stephenson stated that Tift County’s Local Area Network (LAN) utilizes fiber optics provided by Plant Telecommunications for six (6) buildings. These connections allow county employees at each of these buildings to access County servers running a variety of applications including finance, payroll, jail records, email, etc. The current agreement with Plant Telecommunications allows for them to apply a 10% increase in the County’s rate. However, they have agreed to keep the cost the same - \$5,576.32 per month. The Board indicated its desire to place Item “A” on the Consent Agenda.
- B. **Service Agreement with CooperCraft Communications, Inc. for Eaton UPS at EOC:** IT Director Al Stephenson stated that Tift County’s EOC building houses critical information technology services as well as emergency services including 911 and EMA. This building was designed to allow these services to operate without interruption. One critical piece of equipment that protects from electrical outages is an Eaton 93PM UPS. This equipment provides online battery support for the 911 operations room as well as the data server room. In the event of a power outage, the UPS provides power for these functions to continue until the building’s backup generator starts up and begins providing power to the building. A maintenance contract for this unit is vital to insure this equipment is functioning properly and will cover potential expensive repairs should an equipment failure occur. This will be paid with SPLOST. The Board indicated its desire to place item “B” on the Regular Agenda.
- C. **Upgrade of VMware Software:** IT Director Al Stephenson stated that Tift County has utilized VMware as its virtualization software since 2010. This product has allowed Tift County to reduce its server hardware from 20 to 7, provided scalability for growth given the County ability to move server operations to a secondary location should an incident leave the EOC building inoperable. The current version of VMware the County has deployed is going end of life in 2020. VMware is offering a discount incentive for customers to upgrade to the new version of VMware before the 2020 deadline. The cost of upgrading to the newer product with the discount is \$7,556.49. The retail price for upgrading to the latest product is \$9,806.34. Funding for the upgrade will come from the \$5,000 budgeted for the renewal of the software maintenance plus \$2,556.49 from savings on the internet/fiber contract from Plant Telecommunications. The Board indicated its desire to place item “C” on the Consent Agenda.
- D. **ACCG-IRMA and ACCG-GSIWCF Safety Discount Verification Form:** Recreation Director Craig Sowell stated that the County is a member of ACCG’s IRMA (Property & Liability) and GSIWCF (Workers Comp) insurance programs. Members who comply with certain safety incentive discount requirements are eligible to receive a discount on their annual premiums – 5% on IRMA and 7.5% on GSIWCF. The County has met all of these requirements. To receive this discount,

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the Board must execute a Safety Discount Verification form. Once this is submitted, they will then schedule a field audit towards the end of the month. The Board indicated its desire to place item "D" on the Consent Agenda.

- E. **Appointment of Voting Delegate for ACCG Leadership Conference:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that ACCG requires each county to designate a voting delegate to vote on behalf of their specific county for the approval of the final Amended County Platform. This is the official document that guides ACCG's legislative advocacy efforts. The official call for the business session at the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 1:30 pm. The Board indicated its desire to place item "E" on the Consent Agenda.
- F. **Ordinance No. 2017-02, Speed Zone Changes:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has sent an ordinance revising some of the speed limits in the County for the Board's consideration. The Board indicated its desire to place item "F" on the Consent Agenda.
- G. **SPLOST Discussion:** County Manager Jim Carter provided a copy of the proposed SPLOST Project list to the Commissioners. He stated this list has changed from the previous list sent to the Board to reflect the projects requested by the cities of Omega and Ty Ty. Commissioner Robert Setters stated he was happy to see that the City of Tifton and the County were so close in their distributions and he is satisfied with the proposed list. Commissioner Greg Wood also stated he was satisfied with the proposed list. Commissioner Donnie Hester stated it was important to go ahead and get the list done. Chairman Grady Thompson stated he was concerned that the Development Authority and Roads were cut but he was ok with the list as presented. Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon stated he did not prefer the cuts that the Downtown Development Authority sustained. Commissioner Stan Stalnaker was satisfied with the list as presented. Commissioner Stalnaker thanked Tyrone Spearman with the Tourism Association for purchasing two (2) water cannons valued at about \$10,000 for the Recreation Department pool to help cool the water. Commissioner Melissa Hughes stated that she was disappointed that we did not spend more time on these numbers in order to hear from everyone on the Board. She stated she felt it was slack on the staff's part by putting these numbers together but she was pleased that they came as close as they did with it.

County Attorney Anthony Rowell stated that at the joint meeting on Thursday the Board will be asked to consider a Resolution for the Intergovernmental Agreement and the form to be used for the ballot. Once approved by the Board, the form for the ballot will be sent to Elections. The call for the election will not occur until 30 days after Thursday's meeting. County Attorney Rowell cautioned the Board that if they approve both items on Thursday, in order to meet SPLOST deadlines, no changes will be able to be made to the ballot form. He stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement has been sent to each cities attorney for their review.

- H. **Service Delivery Discussion:** County Attorney Anthony Rowell stated the agreement with cities for service delivery has to be approved and on file by June 30, 2018. A service delivery letter has been prepared and a copy was distributed to the Board. Under the Service Delivery statute, the County has to call for a meeting between the appointed members of the respective bodies.

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Once the letter is mailed, the meeting cannot be held any sooner than 15 days nor any later than 45 days from that date the letter is mailed. The letter proposes a date of October 5, 2017. Mr. Rowell stated that we need to get started soon on the service delivery process. The Board needs to be considering who they will delegate to attend the first meeting which will be a planning meeting.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

There were none to report.

**COUNTY CLERK'S COMMENTS:**

County Clerk Miriam Jordan reminded everyone of the Joint Meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 6 pm at the Leroy Rogers Senior Center.


**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

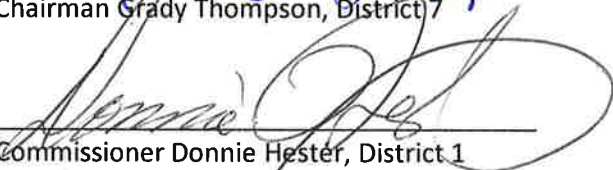
Commissioner Donnie Hester expressed his sympathy to Recreation Director Craig Sowell in the loss of his mother.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.


  
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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

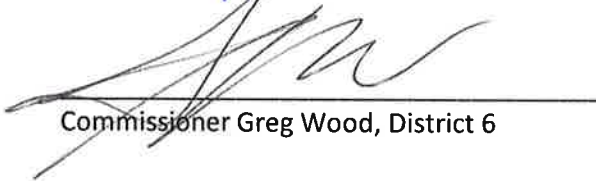
  
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Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

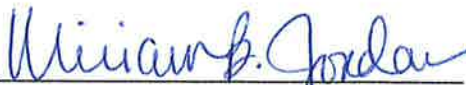
  
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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

*absent*  
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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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October 9, 2017