

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

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, December 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 Donnie Hester, Fred "Buck" Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes. Commissioner Greg Wood was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Magnolia Martin, 3108 4th Street, thanked County Code Enforcement for getting the property in front of her cleaned up. She stated that County Code Enforcement was working to get the property beside her cleaned up.

Helene Dutcher, 6012 E. Lake Drive, thanked the Commissioners for reading the letter she sent in support of the proposed T-SPLOST projects. She stated she supports safer roads for bicyclist and greenways.

APPOINTMENTS:

Al Potts, Georgia Forestry Commission, gave their annual report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

At the regular meeting, there will be a Public Hearing on the following as presented by Development Support Services Director Carl Fortson:

TC-ZA-17-04 – Application by George Carmichael Martial Deduction Trust, Patricia Carlisle and Randy E. Carmichael, owners; Kim Brownlee Meeks and Marty Mobley, agents

This request is for rezoning of a 4.60 acre proposed tract located on the east side of GA Highway 125 North which begins 330.09 feet north of 40th Street. Proposed rezoning request is to construct a new 7,500 square foot Astro Exterminating office space, warehouse area and a separate storage building. Property is currently zoned AG (Agricultural) and the request is to rezone to G-B (General Business). Subject property is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 058 Parcel 014.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, NOVEMBER 13, 2017:

- A. **Lease Agreement with Alapaha River Coon Club for Property Located at 3390 & 3392 Chula Brookfield Road for January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the Alapaha River Coon Club currently rents County property located at 3390 & 3392 Chula Brookfield Road at a rate of \$1.00 per month. The lease expires December 31, 2017. Staff is trying to get all County leases on a fiscal year (July 1- June 30) schedule to correspond with the County's budget cycle. Therefore, this lease would be considered again in June 2018 for a one year lease. The Board indicated its desire to place item "A" on the Consent Agenda.

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- B. **Lease Agreement with Wesley Lassiter for 32 Acres of Property Adjacent to the Tifton-Tift County Landfill for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that this lease is for 32 acres, more or less, located adjacent to the Tifton-Tift County Landfill. Mr. Lassiter using the property for farming. The agreement is between Tift County, City of Tifton and Wesley Lassiter at a rate of \$2,240 per year. Chairman Grady Thompson stated his concerns regarding the ownership of this property; therefore, the Board indicated its desire to place item "B" on the Regular Agenda.
- C. **Mailing Service Agreement with SouthData:** Chief Tax Assessor Teresa Lupo stated that the Tax Assessor's office contracts with SouthData for printing, postage and mailing personal property reporting forms and assessment notices for real and personal property. This is a great savings that we could not achieve with "in house" services. Mrs. Lupo stated this was a budgeted item. The Board indicated its desire to place item "C" on the Consent Agenda.
- D. **Resolution No. 2017-11 – Appointment of County Legislative Coordinator for ACCG:** County Manager Jim Carter stated ACCG asked that counties appoint a County Legislative Coordinator (CLC) to assist them in distributing information to county elected officials regarding legislative proposals. Mr. Carter recommended appointing the County Clerk as the CLC for Tift County. The Board indicated its desire to place item "D" on the Consent Agenda.
- E. **Alcohol Beverage License Application for Retail Malt Beverage Package and Retail Wine Package Submitted by Rikki N. Hitt for 367 Highway 125 d/b/a Maddie Grace, LLC:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the Sheriff's Department has completed their investigation and have approved the application. Applicant applied for the license in August 2017 but because construction was not complete and a business license had not been issued the alcohol license could not be considered. Applicant is asking that the last few days be added to their 2018 license so that a separate license doesn't have to be issued. County Attorney Anthony Rowell stated he would like to research this request. Therefore, the Board indicated its desire to place item "E" on the Regular Agenda.
- F. **Alcohol Beverage License Application for Retail Wine Package Submitted by Pankaj Patel for 184 Willis Still Road d/b/a PNK, Inc. Sunsweet BP:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the Sheriff's Department has completed their investigation and have approved the application. The applicant currently holds a Retail Malt Beverage Package license. The Board indicated its desire to place item "F" on the Regular Agenda.
- G. **Alcohol License Renewal Applications for 2018:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated all license holders with the exception of one (1) have completed the necessary renewal paperwork and all criminal histories have been completed. The Board indicated its desire to place item "G" on the Consent Agenda.
- H. **Upgrade Motorola E911 Telephone Control System to NG E-911:** County Manager Jim Carter asked for this item to be removed from the agenda.

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- I. **Replacement/Upgrade of E911 Computer Aided Dispatch Software:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the software currently used by E911 staff is woefully outdated and lacks many features that are common in emergency response communications. The utilization of the Spillman CAD system will allow for future integration of other aspects of public safety into one common core system. This common core will allow data to be entered once and then move through departments without having to be re-entered multiple times. Tift County will receive significant cost savings due to the previous relationship with Spillman. County staff is currently discussing the possibility of taking over E911 call taking and dispatching for another county. The site license referenced above will allow us to increase our number of dispatchers without any additional software cost. Another benefit of moving to Spillman's CAD software is the ability for Tift County to serve as a regional E911 call center. The regional call center concept has the potential to reduce the cost of E911 operations by sharing said cost with other local governments. The cost of the software is \$390,741 with annual maintenance of \$41,350. Mr. Carter stated cost would be paid from reserves and paid back to reserves with SPLOST VI collections. The Board indicated its desire to place item "I" on the Consent Agenda.
- J. **Refund of Street Light Fees to Residents in Taylor Ridge Subdivision:** County Attorney Anthony Rowell stated that Taylor Ridge Subdivision Phase I was established as a Special Street Light Tax District in 2002 and Taylor Ridge Subdivision Phase II was established as a Special Street Light Tax District in 2010. When Phase II was approved, those costs were not assessed to the residents in that phase but were assessed to residents in Phase I. This happened for tax years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Therefore, residents in Phase I are due a refund of fees paid. Those residents in Phase II will begin being billed in 2018. The Board indicated its desire to place item "J" on the Consent Agenda.
- K. **Appointment to Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that Jimmy Carson's seat on this Board will expire on December 31, 2017. Mrs. Jordan stated that she has not heard from Mr. Carson as to whether he wishes to be re-appointed. Mrs. Jordan will continue to try and contact Mr. Carson. The Board indicated its desire to place item "K" on the Regular Agenda.
- L. **Appointment of County Clerk:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that in Part I "Related Laws", Article I "Board of Commissioners", Section 12 "Clerk; election; keeping of minutes; bond; compensation" of the Code of Ordinances of Tift County, Georgia stated the following in the first sentence: *"Said board [of commissioners] shall elect a clerk for said board [of commissioners] for a term of one year and fix his salary."* The Board indicated its desire to place item "L" on the Consent Agenda.
- M. **Appointment of County Attorney:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that Part I "Related Laws", Article I "Board of Commissioners", Section 18 "County Attorney; compensation" of the Code of Ordinances of Tift County, Georgia reads as follows: *"The Board of Commissioners shall have the right and authority to employ a county attorney when necessary, his compensation to be fixed by the board [of commissioners] and paid from county treasury."* The Board indicated its desire to place item "M" on the Consent Agenda.

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- N. Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Tifton for the Use of Fire Training Center – Item Tabled at November 13, 2017 Meeting:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that City of Tifton is willing to rent the Fire Training Center to the County for \$500 per month. The Board indicated its desire to place item “N” on the Consent Agenda.
- O. Payment of Vacation Hours to County Manager:** County Attorney Anthony Rowell stated that County Manager Jim Carter has requested payment of his vacation time per his employment contract. The Board indicated its desire to place item “O” on the Regular Agenda.

COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

County Manager Jim Carter has no comments to report.

COUNTY CLERK’S COMMENTS:

County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the County now has a Facebook page and Instagram page. Also, Mrs. Jordan asked the Commissioners who would be attending the Chamber Annual Banquet on February 1, 2018.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S COMMENTS:

County Attorney Anthony Rowell stated that the County has received notice of a proposed annexation at 18 Cassetta Road. The property is currently located in both the County and the City of Tifton. Requestor is asking to annex all the property into the City of Tifton.

He also stated that he has met with Code Enforcement and the Magistrate Court regarding blighted properties and feels that they can improve enforcement under the County’s current code.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Melissa Hughes thanked Code Enforcement for working to have 4th Street cleaned up. She also thanked the Gazette for posting pictures in the paper of the area to encourage clean up.

Commissioner Donnie Hester asked about being shorthanded in the Sheriff’s Department. He stated his concerns with having 10 burglaries in 5 days. County Manager Jim Carter said that the shortage of deputies was 6-7 positions. He also stated that Sheriff Scarborough will be coming to the Commission with a request for salary increases to help with recruitment and retention.

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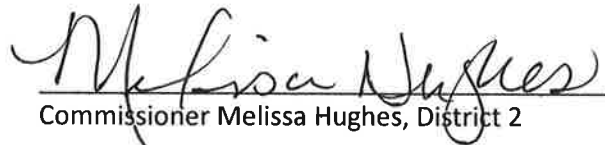
ADJOURN:

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.


Chairman Grady Thompson, District 1


Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

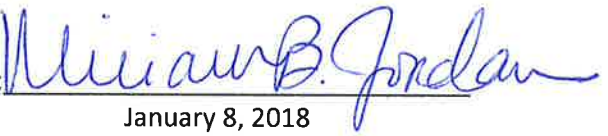
absent
Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1


Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2


Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4


Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5

absent
Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

ATTEST: 
January 8, 2018