

REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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, December 11, 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, Donnie Hester, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes. Commissioners Greg Wood and Fred "Buck" Rigdon arrived after the adoption of the minutes.

Development Support Services Director Carl Fortson offered an invocation and Chairman Grady Thompson led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a motion to add Item #: P under the Regular Agenda to consider a pay increase for the Sheriff's Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Setters. Motion carried 5-0 with the Chairman voting.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Donnie Hester made a motion to approve the following minutes: (1) Workshop Session – November 7, 2017; (2) Regular Session – November 13, 2017 and (3) Executive Session – November 13, 2017. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Setters. The motion carried 5-0 with the Chairman voting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Randy Carmichael, Tifton, GA, stated he was blessed to live in America and he was thankful for the leadership of the County Commission.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

TC-ZA-17-04 – Application by George Carmichael Marital 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.

Development Support Services Director Carl Fortson stated that the request meets all the 11 standards for exercising zoning power. He also stated that this application was unanimously approved by the Greater Tift County Planning Commission.

County Attorney Nick Kinsley opened the public hearing at 6:14 pm. There were no conflicts of interest with any of the Board of Commissioners.

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 (6:00 PM)**

Kim Brownlee Meeks, 102 E. 8th Street, spoke in favor of the application.

There being no further comments, Chairman Thompson closed the hearing.

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker made a motion to approve application TC-ZA-17-04. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon. Motion carried 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

County Manager Jim Carter read the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Motion to Approve Lease Agreement with Alapaha River Coon Club for Property Located at 3390 & 3392 Chula Brookfield Road for January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 (*Commissioner Robert Setters said he spoke with a representative from the club and the club may not use the property any more after the spring.*)
- C. Motion to Approve Mailing Service Agreement with SouthData
- D. Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2017-11 Appointing the County Clerk as the County Legislative Coordinator for ACCG
- F. Motion to Approve the Alcohol Beverage License Application for Retail Wine Package Submitted by Pankaj Patel for 184 Willis Still Road d/b/a PNK, Inc. Sunsweet BP
- G. Motion to Approve Alcohol Beverage License Renewal Applications for 2018
- I. Motion to Approve the Replacement/Upgrade of the E911 Computer Aided Dispatch Software Purchased from Spillman in the Amount of \$390,741
- J. Motion to Approve Refund of Street Light Fees to Residents in Taylor Ridge Subdivision Phase I for Tax Years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- L. Motion to Appoint Miriam Jordan as County Clerk for 2018
- M. Motion to Appoint Anthony Rowell as County Attorney for 2018
- N. Motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Tifton for Use of their Fire Training Center for \$500 per Month

Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the County Manager. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Stan Stalnaker. Motion carried 6-0.

REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 (6:00 PM)

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 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:** Commissioner Robert Setters made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Wesley Lassiter and the City of Tifton. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Wood. Motion carried 6-0.
- E. **Alcohol License Application for Retail Malt Beverage Package and Retail Wine Package Submitted by Rikki Hitt for 367 Highway 125 d/b/a Maddie Grace, LLC:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the applicant wishes for the license to be for 2018. Commissioner Robert Setters made a motion to approve the alcohol license for 2018. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Wood. Motion carried 6-0.
- K. **Appointment to Tifton-Tift County Library Board:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated Mr. Jimmy Carson does not wish to be reappointed to this board. Since there were no other nominations, Commission Greg Wood made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robert Setters. Motion carried 6-0.
- O. **Payment of Vacation Hours to County Manager:** Commissioner Robert Setters made a motion to pay 80 hours vacation to the County Manager per his employment contract. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Wood. Motion carried 4 (Setters, Wood, Hester, Stalnaker) -2 (Rigdon, Hughes).
- P. **Proposed Pay Plan for Sheriff's Department:** County Manager Jim Carter called Dr. Steve Condrey, who has performed the last 2 salary surveys for Tift County, and asked for his guidance concerning law enforcement pay. He has just completed a study of the very same issue in several communities in Georgia and for the State of Alabama. We discussed our starting pay for entry level POST certified deputies, entry level detention officers and entry level detectives. Based on recent work by Condrey and Associates, Dr. Condrey recommended finding a yearly entry level pay rate in the \$35,000.00 to 36,000.00 range on our current pay scale and calculating the percentage increase (a little over 10%) and applying that rate to the entry level positions mentioned above. Additionally, he also recommended moving current hourly employees in the same or like positions, up 2 steps or (5%) to alleviate the issue of pay rate compression. Currently, the starting pay for a detention officer is \$13.47/hour and would increase to \$14.91/hour; starting pay for a deputy is currently \$14.87/hour and would increase to \$16.41/hour; and the starting pay for an investigator is currently \$15.62/hour and would increase to \$17.29/hour. Pay increase would not be implemented for command or admin staff.

The Sheriff would really like to see the proposed increase become effective January 2018. If implemented across the three (3) Sheriff budgets, a cumulative increase of \$153,927.21 will be required for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Furthermore, an increase of \$307,854.41 will need to be included in the upcoming fiscal year budget.

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 (6:00 PM)**

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker made a motion to approve the salary increase for detention officers, deputies and investigators as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Donnie Hester. Motion carried 6-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS: County Manager Jim Carter thanked the County Clerk for a job well done.

COUNTY CLERK'S COMMENTS: County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that all were invited to the grand opening event at American Textile Company on January 17, 2018 from 11 am to 1 pm.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Melissa Hughes wanted County Manager Jim Carter to know she was not opposed to him getting paid for his vacation but wanted him to use his vacation and spend more time with this family. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker thanked the Sheriff for the work his department does. He also stated that the County and the Sheriff's Department has a Facebook page.

Commissioner Donnie Hester wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He also wanted everyone to know that the Board will look at everyone's salary in the future.


Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon stated he was glad to see Ms. Marianne Hill at the meeting.

Commissioner Greg Wood stated he appreciated Jim Carter and his crew for what they have done and appreciates the Sheriff and all first responders. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Chairman Grady Thompson congratulated E911 Director Tina Gay for the purchase made today to upgrade the County's E911 CAD system.


Sheriff Gene Scarbrough stated that he would be feeding all first responders after the first of the year and invited to Commissioners to join them.

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 (6:00 PM)**

ADJOURN: There being no further discussion, Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Donnie Hester. Motion carried 6-0.




Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7



Commissioner 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