

WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Tony McBrayer on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 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 McBrayer were Commissioners Paul Webb, Greg Wood, Donnie Hester, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes. Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon were absent. County Manager Jim Carter was also absent.

Chairman Tony McBrayer led in prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were none to report.

APPOINTMENTS:

There were none to report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **Ordinance No. 2021-02** – Text Amendment to Chapter 94 "Solid Waste", Article IV "Environment", Division 1 "Generally", Section 94-54 "Transporting solid waste and litter" of the Code of Ordinances of Tift County, Georgia

Development Support Services Director Chris Davis stated that the change of the word "or" to "and" was the only text amendment. This change would help DSS to enforce litter being on the side of county roads. The Planning Commission heard this request on July 8, 2021 and has recommended approval.

- B. **Ordinance No. 2021-03** – Text Amendment to Chapter 26 "Businesses", Article II "Annual Business Registration and Inspection", Section 26-36 "Effect of transacting business without registering and/or paying regulatory fee", Subsection (a) of the Code of Ordinances of Tift County, Georgia

Development Support Services Director Chris Davis stated that currently the late fees are based on a percentage that grows each month the business is late. This causes issues for DSS with timing of when checks are received and how the percentage continues to increase. Staff recommends that the late fee assessed for business licenses mirrors what is set for building permits. This would mean that the late fee for business licenses would be double the license fee. This would set a definite amount that would not change no matter when the business renewed their license. The Planning Commission heard this request on July 8, 2021 and has recommended approval.

- C. **Ordinance No. 2021-04** – Text Amendment to Chapter 102 "Taxation", Article VIII "Special Street Light Tax Districts", Division 2 "Establishment Procedure", Section 102-213 "Street light construction by property developers for new subdivisions; constructive knowledge of street light

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districts created under this article”, Subsection (a) of the Code of Ordinances of Tift County, Georgia and Amendment of Chapter 6 “Infrastructure Improvements” by adding Section 6.05.00 “Requirements for Street Lights” to the Tift County Unified Development Code

Development Support Services Director Chris Davis asked that the standards for street lighting in new subdivisions be added to the Unified Development Code. The addition of these standards would make it mandatory for developers to have street lights installed in new subdivisions. A street light layout would become part of the review process in the beginning stages of development. The Planning Commission heard this request on July 8, 2021 and has recommended approval.

- D. **Ordinance No. 2021-05** – Amendment to Chapter 7 “Technical Standards Manual” by adding Section 7 “Finished Water and Distribution Systems” to the Tift County Unified Development Code

Development Support Services Director Chris Davis asked the Board to adopt these standards for underground utilities crossing county roads. These standards are set forth by EPD and GDOT. These standards would help prevent damage to county roads that would cause costly repairs. County Engineer Stacy Watkins has reviewed the standards. The Planning Commission heard this request on July 8, 2021 and has recommended approval.

- E. **Ordinance No. 2021-06** – Amendment to Chapter 4 “Site Design Standards” by adding Section 4.03A.00 “Residential and Non-Residential Solar Energy Systems and Solar Energy Production Facilities” to the Tift County Unified Development Code

Development Support Services Director Chris Davis stated that by adding this section it would regulate the ever growing demand for solar farms in the county and the placement of solar panels on residential and commercial buildings. The Planning Commission heard this request on July 8, 2021 and has recommended approval.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 MEETING:

- A. **Adoption of FY22 County Schedule of Fees:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the Tift County Code of Ordinances references a “schedule of fees” which is maintained by the County Clerk. A list of those fees referenced in the ordinances was provided. All fees are the same except for the building permit fees and pet cremation fees. Development Support Services Director Chris Davis stated that the increase in building permit fees proposed will help offset the rising cost for maintaining inspections. A comparison to surrounding cities and counties was provided. Animal Control Director Candice Hernandez stated that the cost of urns is exceeding what the county charges for pet cremation services. It is requested that the charge for these services increase and that urns no longer be sold. Remains would be sent home in a temporary tin. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Regular Agenda.

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- B. **Copier Leases with AMJ, LLC for Canon Copiers:** It Director Al Stephenson stated that the copier leases for Solicitor, Tax Commissioner, Recreation, Road Department and Fire Rescue have expired. These devices provide printing, copying and scanning to email functions. Ashley's has quoted replacement models based on the department's current needs. By replacing these units with newer models the county can take advantage of lower per page printing/copying costs. The new leases will be for a term of four (4) years. The annual lease for all five (5) copiers is \$12,780. Pricing reflects the contract pricing with the State of Georgia. This will result in a projected savings of \$6,420 per year. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.
- C. **Addendum B to Contract with Watkins & Associates, LLC for Bowen Road:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated that the addendum would provide services for the grade, drain, base and surfacing improvements on Bowen Road. County crews will perform this work. Paving will come at a later date. The scope of services for this addendum includes topographic survey and locating all existing features for use in design of land disturbing activities; preparation of erosion, sedimentation and pollution control plan and application of a land disturbance permit; and preparation and submission of NPDES permit. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.
- D. **Notice of Award and Contract Agreement with MidState Construction & Striping, LLC for FY21 OSS LMIG:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated bids were received and opened for the FY21 OSS LMIG on August 25, 2021. Two (2) bids were received with MidState Construction and Striping, LLC being the apparent low bidder at \$106,625. GDOT has provided \$90,000 for this project and the remaining expense will come from SPLOST VI. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.
- E. **Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Agency Director:** EMA Director Joey Fowler asked that Jason Walker and Josh Stitely be appointed as Deputy EMA Directors. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.
- F. **Agreement with Traylor Business Services, Inc. for Personal Property Audit Services:** Chief Appraiser Hayward Becton stated that Traylor Business Services, Inc. has contracted with the County for over 20 years. The discovery of over and under reported personal property has always resulted in an increase of taxable personal property. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.
- G. **Agreement with EPD for Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the County's application for the reimbursement program has been approved. The Scrap Tire Event will be held on October 8-9, 2021 at the Tift County Public Works facility. The reimbursement will only cover hauling and recycling fees. Reimbursement of up to \$36,195 was approved. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.
- H. **Resolution No. 2021-17:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated there were several pieces of equipment from the Recreation Department that needs to be surplussed. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.

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- I. **DISCUSSION – Mandate Requiring Mask in County Buildings:** Commissioner Melissa Hughes voiced her support for a mask mandate for all employees even if they work for a constitutional officer. Commissioner Greg Wood stated he felt it was past time for this kind of mandate. Commissioner Donnie Hester stated that we needed to be stewards of what goes on in the County. Commissioner Paul Webb stated that only N95 mask are effective. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Regular Agenda.

- J. **DISCUSSION – American Rescue Plan Funding and Expenditures:** Assistant County Manager Mike Walker stated that the County has received the first wave of ARPA funds – approximately \$3.9 M. He stated that County Manager Jim Carter will be bringing before this Board a plan for the expenditure of these monies. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Regular Agenda.

- K. **Unionville and Phillipsburg Drainage Concept Plan and Hydrology Study –** Assistant County Manager Mike Walker stated that up to \$200,000 of ARPA funds are requested to be used for this concept plan and hydrology study. The State is offering additional grant monies for these types of projects. For the county’s application to be competitive this plan and study will need to be part of the application. Applications are due by October 31, 2021. The Board indicated its desire to place this item on the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

There were none to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S COMMENTS:

There were none to report.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Melissa Hughes asked about speed bumps or humps on Golden Road. She also asked what housing assistance is available to people in the County.

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker thanked Animal Control Director Candice Hernandez for her assistance in rescuing an animal he called about.

Commissioner Paul Webb invited everyone to the Omega Pepper Festival this weekend. He also thanked Animal Control Director Candice Hernandez for all the work she is doing at the shelter. He stated he has visited the shelter several times the last few months looking for a dog to adopt.

Chairman Tony McBrayer stated that he has represented the County at several events recently – Tiftarea Ministerial Association Meeting; Presentation of Proclamation to Jack and Ann Stone at Western Auto Anniversary Celebration and meeting with Senator John Ossoff. He also thanked Animal Control Director Candice Hernandez for the tour of the Animal Shelter.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were none to report.

ADJOURN:

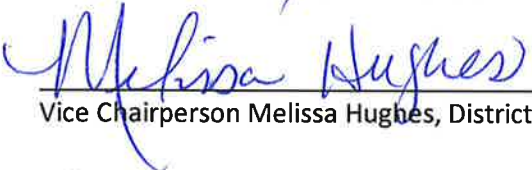
There being no further discussion, the Work Session was adjourned.



Chairman Tony McBrayer, District 7



Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1



Vice Chairperson Melissa Hughes, District 2



Commissioner Paul Webb, District 3



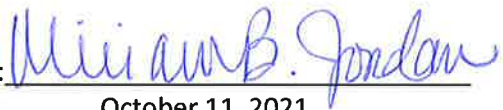
Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4



Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5



Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

ATTEST: 

October 11, 2021