

WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Tony McBrayer on Tuesday, January 5, 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 Thompson were Commissioners Paul Webb, Greg Wood, Donnie Hester, Fred "Buck" Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was available via teleconference. Notice of this meeting was given to the Tifton Gazette (legal organ), WALB News, Fun Channel, Grapevine, posted on the County's Website and Facebook page and posted at the Charles Kent Administration Building. The notice contained direction and opportunity for any citizens desiring to attend the meeting by phone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were none to report.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Allison Asbrock and Paige Jennings from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs were present virtually to advise the Board of Commissioners as to the process of creating an Historic Preservation Commission.
- B. Tom Carmichael with Carr, Riggs & Ingram presented information about the County's FY20 Financial Statements
- C. Justin Hand with the Tift County Extension Service introduced the new tri-county vegetable agent – Ty Torrance. This agent will work in Tift, Colquitt and Worth Counties.
- D. County Manager Jim Carter introduced the new Animal Shelter Director Candace Hernandez.
- E. County Manager Jim Carter introduced the Interim Recreation Director Jeff Howard.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **TC-ZA-20-06:** Petition is being made by Norma Ann Carrington Boyd, owner, and Ryan Sanders, agent, for rezoning of 35.03 acres of property located on parcels 197 and 261 of Carrington Drexler Road – Tax Map 0057 Parcels 055 & 060. The current zoning is R-1 (Single Family Residential) and the requested zoning is AU (Agriculture Use).
- B. **TC-ZA-20-07:** Petition is being made by Carrington Farms, Inc., owner, and Ryan Sanders, agent, for rezoning of 25 acres of a 30-acre tract of property located on Carrington Drexler Road – Tax Map 0058 Parcel 011. The current zoning is R-1 (Single Family Residential) and the requested zoning is AU (Agriculture Use).

Development Support Services Director Chris Davis stated that the applicants for both these applications would like to rezone this property so that a solar farm can be placed there. The

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**

Planning Commission met to consider these applications and they recommend approval. However, staff does not recommend approval because 9 of the 11 standards for exercising zoning powers were found to cause possible adverse conditions. Also, Mr. Davis stated that this would create spot zoning since none of the contiguous properties are zoned AU. All contiguous properties are zoned R-1.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING:

- A. **Agreement with Plant TiftNet, Inc. for Fiber Transport Services:** It Director Al Stephenson stated that the County's Local Area Network (LAN) utilizes fiber optics provided by Plant Telecommunications running to six (6) county buildings – Administration, EMS, Extension Office, Recreation, Public Safety and Public Works. These connections allow county employees at each of these buildings to access Tift County servers running a variety of applications including financial, payroll, jail records, email, etc. The cost is \$4,281.32 per month. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "A".

- B. **GDOT Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application (LMIG):** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated that the proposed projects for LMIG are as follows: (1) Central Avenue – from I-75 to 17th Street; (2) WB Parks Road – from Salem Church Road to Worth Co. Line and Worth Co. Line to TyTy; (3) TyTy Whiddon Mill Road – from Highway 82 to Whiddon Mill Road; and (4) North Portion of Whiddon Mill Road – from Red Oak Road to County Line. The County's formula amount for the 2021 LMIG Program is \$686,603.50. It is estimated that \$800,000 in additional funding will be needed to complete these projects. This additional funding will come from SPLOST VI and TIA (TSPLOST). The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "B".

- C. **Lease of Motor Grader with Sloper:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated that two (2) quotes were received for the lease of a motorgrader with a sloper – Yancey CAT for \$40,270.46 per year and Flint Equipment for \$40,963.49 per year. Both of these would be five (5) year leases. Staff recommends the low bidder. Staff also ask that Resolution No. 2021-03 for Yancey CAT be approved and the Chairman be authorized to execute all lease documents. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "C".

- D. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tift County Board of Health for Deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in Tift County:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the Board of Health has asked to utilize the Recreation Department for the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to the community. This is only if needed. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "D".

- E. **Agreement with Professional Court Services, Inc. for Probation Services for State Court:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that Professional Court Services, Inc. has provided probation services to both State and Superior Court for many years. This is a one-year agreement. Dr. Homer Day with Professional Court Services, Inc. was present at the Work Session and asked that the Commission make this a two (2) year agreement. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Regular Agenda as item "A".

WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

- F. **Agreement with Professional Court Services, Inc. for Probation Services for Superior Court:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that Professional Court Services, Inc. has provided probation services to both State and Superior Court for many years. This is a one-year agreement. Dr. Homer Day with Professional Court Services, Inc. was present at the Work Session and asked that the Commission make this a two (2) year agreement. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Regular Agenda as item "B".
- G. **Agreement with Golden Environmental:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the current contract for waste collection and disposal with Golden Environmental has expired. Richard Golden has requested an extension of the current contract. The contract language allows for the Commission and Golden Environmental to negotiate and if both parties are in agreement to either renew and/or renegotiate the contract for additional terms of single or multiple years. Staff recommends extending the agreement with Golden Environmental for six (6) months allowing time to negotiate acceptable terms for a new agreement. During that time, Mr. Carter asked that the Chairman appoint a committee to meet with Golden Environmental about any future waste collection and disposal services. Commissioners Melissa Hughes and Paul Webb expressed interest in serving on this committee. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "E".
- H. **Request from GDOT for Opt Out Letter of the County's FY22 5311 Grant Application for Transit Services:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the County received email notification from GDOT on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 asking the County to submit a letter requesting that our FY22 grant application for transit services be withdrawn. By submitting this letter, the Board would be agreeing to opt in to the regional transit system and the County's individual application would not be reviewed. It was represented to staff and the Board by SGRC and GDOT representatives that we would have until March/April to make this decision. Corey Hull from SGRC was present to answer any questions. Troy Green and Algenia Skinner from GDOT were present virtually to answer questions. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "F".
- I. **Resolution No. 2021-01, Refunding of Tift County Hospital Authority's Series 2013 Revenue Certificate and Letter of Intent:** County Attorney Anthony Rowell asked that this be placed on the Regular Agenda to allow him time to get some clarification on this item. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Regular Agenda as item "C".
- J. **Resolution No. 2021-02, FY21 Budget Adjustment for Cost of Living Increases:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that staff used an extremely conservative approach to prepare the FY21 annual operating budget. During this budget process, the Commission asked staff to conduct a midpoint assessment of both budgeted and actual revenues for the express purpose of evaluating the fiscal viability of implementing an employee cost-of-living (COLA) or salary adjustment. After performing that analysis and with the infusion of over \$1.1 million dollars in CARES Act funding, staff recommends a 2% COLA for County employees and an additional 1% for our Public Safety sector to include employees of the following departments: Sheriff, EMS, E911, EMA and Fire. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda as item "G".
- K. **Consideration of Extension of Resolution No. 2020-17, Requirement of Masks in County Buildings:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the requirement for wearing masks in county buildings is set to expire on January 11, 2021 at 6 pm. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Consent Agenda

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**

as item "H" amending the resolution to read that the requirement will be in effect until the Commission terminates it.

- L. **Petition to Change Street Name of Hale Avenue:** County Manager Jim Carter asked that this item be removed from the agenda. Staff needs to draft and present to the Board guidelines for the renaming of streets. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Regular Agenda as item "D".
- M. **Appointments to the Library Board:** There is one (1) vacancy on this board and one (1) term has expired. The term that has expired was occupied by Juan C. Diaz Perez and he wishes to be reappointed. One (1) application has been received for the vacancy – Judith Hutt Thomas. Both of these would be three (3) year terms. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Regular Agenda as item "E".
- N. **Appointment to Keep Tift Beautiful:** There is a vacancy on the Keep Tift Beautiful Board. One application has been received – David J. Rhode. This would be for a four (4) year term. The Board indicated its desire to place this on the Regular Agenda as item "F".

COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

County Manager Jim Carter stated that he needed an Executive Session to discuss personnel and pending litigation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

There were none to report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Melissa Hughes wished everyone a Happy New Year and asked everyone to be safe.

Commissioner Paul Webb asked that the Commission do a canned goods and coat drive.

Chairman Tony McBrayer thanked everyone for a good (but long) first meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Melissa Hughes made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. Commissioner Greg Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Greg Wood made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Paul Webb. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURN:

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Greg Wood made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Fred "Buck" Rigdon. Motion carried 6-0.

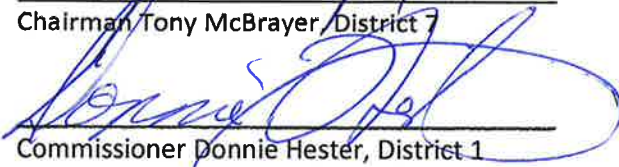
**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**



Chairman Tony McBrayer, District 7



Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4



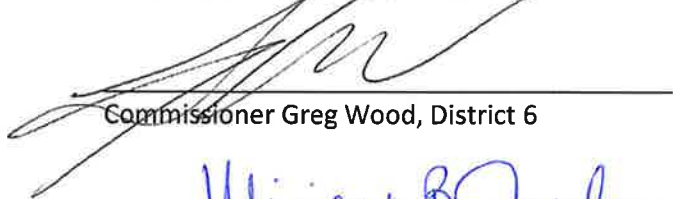
Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1



Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5




Vice Chairperson Melissa Hughes, District 2



Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6



Commissioner Paul Webb, District 3

ATTEST: 
February 8, 2021