

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 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:

There were none to report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **Community Development Block Grant Program – Approved Activities for Grant Award of \$750,000:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that this hearing is a required part of the award package for this grant.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, DECEMBER 14, 2020 MEETING:

- A. **Fire Training Center Facility Use Agreement with City of Tifton:** Fire Rescue Chief Joey Fowler stated that this is an annual renewal of this contract and is a budgeted item. The Board indicated its desire to place item "A" on the Consent Agenda.
- B. **Purchase of Rotary Mower Attachment for Caterpillar Excavator:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated that the rotary mower attachment on the excavator needs replacing. Repairs on the current mower are cost prohibitive. Purchase price to replace this unit is \$17,275. The Board indicated its desire to place item "B" on the Consent Agenda.
- C. **Addendum to Agreement with Watkins & Associates, LLC for Bridge Replacement over Little River/Omega-Eldorado Road:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated that this is a TIA (TSPLOST) project. The County will administer this project but will be funded with TIA funds. The Board indicated its desire to place item "C" on the Consent Agenda.
- D. **Addendum to Agreement with Watkins & Associates, LLC for Bridge Replacement over Little River/Upper TyTy Road:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan stated that this is a TIA (TSPLOST) project. The County will administer this project but will be funded with TIA funds. The Board indicated its desire to place item "D" on the Consent Agenda.

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- E. **Resolution No. 2020-22, Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation for Leasing Motorgraders:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that in the August 2020 meeting the Commission approved the lease of three (3) Motorgraders from Yancey Equipment (Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation). Part of the lease documents require approval of a resolution. The Board indicated its desire to place item "E" on the Consent Agenda.
- F. **Resolution No. 2020-23, Surplus Equipment, Vehicle and Property:** County Manager Jim Carter stated there are three (3) mowers from Building & Grounds and a vehicle from EMS that need to be surplussed and sold on GovDeals. The property located at 221 Chesnutt Avenue has already been surplussed but the disposal method has changed from sealed bid to demolition. The Board indicated its desire to place item "F" on the Consent Agenda.
- G. **Participation in the Southwell Community Resource Collaborative:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that Southwell has asked the Commission to participate in the Southwell Community Resource Collaborative. This would involve appointing two (2) members to serve on this board. Commissioners Melissa Hughes and Paul Webb agreed to serve. The Board indicated its desire to place item "G" on the Consent Agenda.
- H. **Acquisition Policies for CDBG Grant Award:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that these policies are required as part of the award package for the CDBG grant. The Board indicated its desire to place item "H" on the Consent Agenda.
- I. **Language Access Plan for CDBG Grant Award:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that this Language Access Plan is required as part of the award package for the CDBG grant. The Board indicated its desire to place item "H" on the Consent Agenda.
- J. **Alcohol Beverage License Renewals for 2021:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan presented a list of applicants for alcohol beverage license renewals. All background checks have been performed. The Board indicated its desire to place item "J" on the Consent Agenda.
- K. **Petition to Change Street Name of Hale Avenue:** Commissioner Melissa Hughes stated that a petition has been received to change the name of Hale Avenue to Evelyn Johnson Bynes Avenue. Ms. Bynes was the first African-American professional nurse from Tifton. County Attorney Anthony Rowell advised the Board that there are no guidelines for the renaming of streets. He advised the Board to consider adopting some type of structure for future requests. The Board indicated its desire to place item "K" on the Regular Agenda.
- L. **Appointment of County Attorney:** The Board indicated its desire to place item "L" on the Regular Agenda.
- M. **Appointment of County Clerk:** The Board indicated its desire to place item "M" on the Regular Agenda.

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- N. **Creation of an Historic Preservation Commission – DISCUSSION ONLY:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that he and Commissioner Melissa Hughes has met with staff from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) as well as the citizens requesting the creation of an Historic Preservation Commission. DCA has agreed to meet virtually with the Board to answer any questions they may have about this process. Mr. Carter asked that the Board forward any questions they may have regarding the creation of this commission so that he can forward those questions to DCA prior to the meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

County Manager Jim Carter stated that he needed an Executive Session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. He also stated that the Employee Christmas Luncheon has been cancelled due to concerns with the spread of COVID. However, it is hoped to be able to have a luncheon in the spring.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S COMMENTS:

There were none to report.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Paul Webb wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Donnie Hester asked about the progress of the paving of the County’s portion of South Central Avenue.

Commissioner Melissa Hughes expressed her desire to see the City and County work together on road projects such as South Central Avenue. She also expressed her concerns regarding how South Tifton looks. She asked the Board to help her to put some “teeth” in enforcing the codes in the area. Sadly, Commissioner Hughes announced that the Gnat Drop has been cancelled due to concerns with COVID.

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 Melissa Hughes made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Fred “Buck” Rigdon. Motion carried 6-0 with the Chairman voting. Commissioner Greg Wood left before adjournment of Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

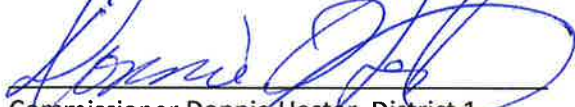
There being no further discussion, Chairman Grady Thompson adjourned the Work Session.

[SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE.]

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Chairman Tony McBrayer, District 7



Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1



Vice Chairperson Melissa Hughes, District 2



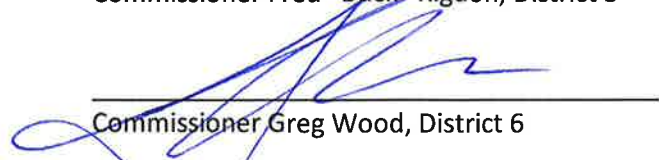
Commissioner Paul Webb, District 3



Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4



Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5



Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

ATTEST:



January 11, 2020