

**City of Tifton
Council Workshop
September 5, 2017
5:30 PM
Tifton City Hall**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith
Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers
Council Member Jack Folk
Council Member Johnny Terrell
Council Member Frank Sayles

Pete Pyrzenski, City Manager
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney
Jessica Jones, City Clerk

Public Hearings

Application Z17-000-002 Submitted by Summerco, Inc. Requesting to Rezone Approximately .28 Acres located at 302 Commerce Way from GB to CD (T044 024)

Mr. Rob Wilmot briefly reviewed the public hearing procedures and asked the City Council Members present if they have any conflicts of interest in which they should not participate in the hearing. Those members present Ehlers, Smith, and Sayles confirmed they did not have any conflicts. The public hearing was held on a request for reclassification of approximately .28 acres located at 302 Commerce Way from General Business (GB) to Commercial Downtown (CD). Mr. Shultz mentioned the request is suitable in comparison to the surrounding properties and existing land use patterns within the area. The property is located in the Downtown Character Area. Mr. Shultz stated the application was unanimously approved by the Planning and Zoning Board and staff is also recommending approval of the rezoning application. No one spoke in favor or in opposition of the application. There being no further comment the public hearing was closed at 5:35 PM.

Special Presentations

Proclamation Designating Adult Education and Family Literacy Week and Literacy Day

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud and presented a proclamation designating Family Literacy Week and Literacy Day in Tifton to raise awareness for the important programs offered and available through the Literacy Volunteers of Tifton-Tift County. Ms. Bonnie Sayles mentioned their annual fundraiser, Carnival of Knowledge is planned for September 28, 2017 and Ms. Bonnie also introduced the volunteers and program directors who were in attendance.

Council Member Terrell arrived to the meeting.

Ms. Loretta Hylton w/ Southern Georgia Regional Commission – Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Hylton mentioned it is time to update the Tift County Comprehensive Plan and the Kick-off Public Hearing is scheduled for September 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM. The comprehensive plan is a vision for the future and is used to develop goals for Tifton's land use, development, and capital improvement projects. The first plan workshop is scheduled for October 18th 10:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hylton stated the plan must be submitted to DCA by June 30, 2018.

Houston Shultz introduced the new code enforcement officer Steffen Pearman

Steve Hyman introduced Ed Yarbrough, new police officer, who was recently hired as a School Resource Officer. Mr. Yarbrough brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the department, and is also a

certified training officer. Mr. Yarbrough reviewed the department's recent training on tasers and gave a brief overview of taser usage and demonstrated the tasers currently being used by the Tifton Police Department.

Discussion Items

Crematory Committee Recommendation

Mr. Jeff Robbins mentioned the crematory review committee was asked to evaluate the environmental impact, health impact, and appropriate zoning requirements for allowing crematories inside the city. The committee met on three occasions and toured the local crematory, Reflections, to become familiar with the cremation process. After evaluation of the proposed concerns, the committee collectively agreed the zoning regulations for crematories were appropriate and didn't feel any changes need to be made. Mr. Robbins mentioned the committee did suggest only allowing one incinerator per funeral home and requiring state inspection documentation be submitted with the business license renewal.

Review of Bids Received for Gas Main Relocation on 11th Street and Pehler Street

Mr. Jeff West mentioned the project is needed in order to make necessary improvements to the area by relocating the exposed gas main and making sure it is buried securely underground. The following bids were received:

R.A.W. Construction \$36,325.00
Little River Contractors \$34,000.00

Staff recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder, Little River Contractors in the amount of \$34,000.00.

Discussion of Allowing Advertising Inserts in the Monthly Utility Bills

Mr. Putnal mentioned this item was discussed at the previous work session and briefly reviewed the proposal which would allow for advertising in the City's utility bills.

Mr. Putnal contacted the company for additional questions after the last meeting and the company mentioned a statement could be placed on the advertisement disclosing that the City of Tifton does not endorse this advertisement. Mr. Putnal mentioned the advertising would be available to local businesses, but the City could limit advertising if preferred. Mr. Putnal also mentioned there is a video available online to review how the advertising will work. Mayor Smith questioned and Mr. Putnal confirmed that the program could be canceled at any time. Vice Mayor Ehlers requested if we could approve inserts prior to the including in the billing cycle. Mr. Putnal stated he believed that would be possible.

MGAG Main Street Financing Program

Ms. Donna Pate mentioned the program offers a 0% interest, 60-month loan up to \$5,000 to good standing customers who use the program to purchase new gas appliances. Ms. Pate mentioned the City's part in the process would be to bill and collect the payment for the loan on the customer's current monthly utility bill. The Council viewed a few advertisements other communities are using for marketing the gas program.

Electric Cities of Georgia Economic and Community Development Services

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the program is a great opportunity to determine the needs and development assessment for Tifton. The program would provide data for marketing, recruitment, sales and professional development. The program would assist the city in having resources and info to identify

and attract businesses to Tifton. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the program would cost approximately \$1,300 per year.

Discussion of Curfew Ordinance

Mr. Wilmot provided the Council with a review of the current curfew ordinance and case studies in reference to providing for curfews at public places and for minors. Mr. Wilmot suggested making minor changes to the ordinance and possibly extending the evening hours for minors from 10:00 PM to 12:00 AM. Mr. Wilmot mentioned a review could be done on the ordinance to make sure it is consistent with state law and supreme court actions.

Discussion of ATV and Golf Carts After Dark

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned Tifton is a Golf Cart Friendly Community, but if Council would like to review and make any recommendations or changes to the ordinance we can look at reviewing and making updates to the ordinance if needed. A copy of the current ordinance was provided for the Council to review. Brief discussion was held and Mr. Dowdy mentioned ATV and Off-Road Vehicles were not eligible for road use since they exceeded the speed limit restriction of 20 miles per hour.

Resolution Authorizing Submission of the FY2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Application

Chief Dowdy mentioned the police department is applying for the 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$13,324.00. The department will be applying for a grant to be used to pay officers overtime to patrol high crime areas to address drug and traffic issues. The presented resolution authorizes the department to submit the application on behalf of the City of Tifton.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License for Crazy Loon Saloon Located at 1401 N. Tift Avenue, Ste. A

Ms. Jessica Jones stated the owners have requested to add alcohol catering to their current license. Staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval.

Ordinance Re-Classifying the Zoning of 0.28 Acres located at 302 Commerce Way, Z17.000.002

No comment was made on the agenda item, as it was previously discussed in the public hearing prior to the meeting.

Ordinance Update for Occupational Tax Collection

Mr. Wilmot gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to the occupational tax ordinance. Changes recommended included: penalty date changes, adding a final return, and proposed changes to the fee schedule. According to state law a penalty can be added after a 90-day period and then a penalty would be added to the tax. Mr. Wilmot mentioned the final return was previously not included in the ordinance and suggested adding the requirement to true up the actual figures at year end. Council briefly discussed and the finance committee requested time to review the ordinance before it is approved.

Financial Update

Mr. Putnal provided a budget report for review for the General Fund, Hotel Motel Tax Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Gas Fund, and Solid Waste Fund. Mr. Putnal mentioned for the month ending July 31, 2017 the General Fund had total expenditures of \$751,198. All budgets have currently spent around 8% of their budget and Mr. Putnal felt everything is currently on target as budgeted.

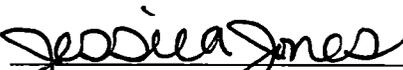
City Manager Report

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski mentioned it is too early to tell on hurricane Irma at this time, but he has had discussions with the County and staff on preparing as best as they can for flooding and prepare for proper drainage. Mr. Ehlers mentioned anyone wishing to sign-up for emergency alerts can go on the Tift County Website under the Emergency Management Department to register.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.



Julie Smith, Mayor



Jessica Jones, City Clerk