

City of Tifton
City Council Retreat
January 27, 2019
9:00 AM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 406

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith

Council Member Wes Ehlers

Council Member Jack Folk (via phone)

Council Member Johnny Terrell

Council Member Frank Sayles

Pete Pyrzenski, City Manager

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Bruce Green, Interim Downtown Director

Jessica White, City Clerk

Review of By-Laws and Organization of City Boards

Council reviewed the information provided in reference to the DDA and HPC Boards. Council discussed requirements for board appointments and requested the board application be updated to reflect the requirements. Mr. Wilmot researched the state law and determined members of the HPC must be a city resident, and DDA members can either be a city resident or own a business in the DDA area. Council briefly discussed the role of the DDA board and expressed concerns in reference to the members of the DDA being overly cautious and dragging out decisions.

Mayor Julie Smith stepped out of the meeting. Council briefly discussed the Commerce Way Project. The Council agreed that the project is a City grant, but expressed that the funding to purchase the building should come from the DDA. It was suggested to draft a letter of affirmation to the DDA board and detail the Council's expectations to move forward with pending projects and utilize DDA's resources, as necessary, to complete project goals. Mayor Smith returned to the meeting following the discussion.

Council briefly discussed the Tourism Board and their function with marketing and promotion of tourism events. Council suggested scheduling a meeting with the Tourism Board Members to discuss the opportunity for possibly increasing the hotel/motel tax in Tifton. The City discussed increasing the tax a few years ago and were unsuccessful so they mentioned the County, Tourism Association, and State Legislators would all need to be on board in order for the proposed increase to be successful.

Mr. Wilmot mentioned at the last Planning and Zoning Meeting there were citizen concerns about the City not posting rezoning notices on the property in which they brought application. Mr. Wilmot explained that the City is not required to post notices on the property, but the Council felt the City should follow the same guidelines as everyone. Mr. Wilmot will draft an ordinance to revise the requirements for zoning postings and public notices.

Urban Redevelopment Authority Creation

Council discussed recreating the URA board which was originally formed in 2000, but has since dissolved. The board will be tasked with promoting redevelopment in the Urban Redevelopment Area and move forward with goals established in the South Tifton Redevelopment Plan. City Attorney Rob Wilmot will draft the necessary ordinances and info to reestablish the Authority and appointment board members.

Service Delivery Update

Council reviewed the pending service delivery items that need to be worked out with the County and expressed discussions should begin promptly in order to meet the June 30 deadline. Council recommended sending a letter to the County encouraging them to begin service delivery discussions.

City Manager Report

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the RFP for Garbage Services was advertised on Friday and proposals are due back in March. Mr. Pyrzenski also mentioned his goals for 2019 are to develop an ordinance for Council to review for initiating a blight tax; and formalizing processes, criteria, and agreements for Enterprise Zone Incentives.

Executive Session

Council Member Ehlers made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved. Meeting closed to executive session.

Council Member Ehlers made the first motion in go out of executive session, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved. Meeting opened back into regular session.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

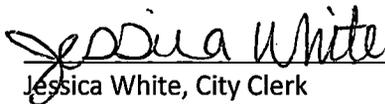
Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,



Mayor Julie Smith



Jessica White, City Clerk