

City of Tifton
Council Workshop/Special Called Meeting Minutes
February 05, 2018
5:30 PM
Tifton City Hall

ATTENDEES

Julie Smith, Mayor

Wes Ehlers, Vice Mayor

Jack Folk, Council Member

Johnny Terrell, Council Member

Frank Sayles, Council Member

Pete Pyrzenski, City Manager

Becky Moore, Administrative Assistant

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 5:28 PM.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

City Manager Pyrzenski introduced the City's new Human Resources Director, Denise Verdesoto, to the Council and community. The Mayor and Council welcomed Ms. Verdesoto to the team.

Meridith Lipson w/ Mauldin & Jenkins – Review of the FY2017 Audit

The Council was provided two documents, the financial document and a summary of the audit presentation. Ms. Lipson briefly highlighted items the summary report compiled by Mauldin and Jenkins that was handed out to the Council. The City has received an unmodified clean plan opinion, which is the type of opinion you want to get. The City's Pension Fund was better in FY2017 than it had been in previous years.

Lequrica Gaskins, DDA Representative – Commerce Way Project HPD Agreement

DDA, through the City, applied for a grant for this project. Approval from the Historic Preservation Commission at the State level has been given to take the buildings down. Ms. Gaskins discussed that the HPC at the State level has asked the City to take inventory of these two properties. One way this will be done is there will be a kiosk at the location with historical information with what was there and the historical value of what was once there. This project will be removing slum and blight in addition to getting the much needed additional parking. Council Member Sayles states that this is something that has been in the works for a while.

Review of Bid Received for Expanding the Parking Area at the Senior Center

Mr. Adam Cobb reviewed the project and mentioned there was one bid received. This bid came in under budget by Reeves in the amount of \$276,801.50. This task was projected and budgeted for \$300,000 from SPLOST. The plan will increase the amount of parking spots from the existing 25 to 74 spots. Mr. Cobb shared the plan with the Mayor and Council.

Ordinance Requesting Modification to PUO 2006-04 and PUO 2014-02 to Reclassify Certain Lots from Single Family to Two Family Dwellings

Mr. Houston Shultz said there was supposed to be a Public Hearing on the agenda for this item. Mr. Rob Wilmot presented this as a Public Hearing and asked that Mr. Shultz give the Council a brief overview. Mr. Shultz discussed that Mr. Buckner was asking for the modification of PUO 2006-04 and PUO 2014-02 with application P17-0005. The Planning & Zoning Board met and approved the recommendation on January 8, 2018 with a two-to-one vote. Procedural questions were asked to Council with all answers being unanimously "no". Mr. Wilmot asked for anyone in

favor to step forward: Todd Bucker, 59 Logan Drive, Tifton, Georgia – He is the developer and he plans on taking the two residential lots and plans to place duplexes on these lots. Mr. Wilmot asked if there were anyone in opposition: No one came forward. Mr. Wilmot asked that the Public Hearing be closed.

Consideration of Resolution to Transfer Assets and Administration of the City’s Retirement Plan to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Plan and Trust

Mr. Pyrzenski stated that the GMA has provided the information on moving the City’s plan from Allen, Mooney, & Barnes to GMEBS. This resolution will authorize the start of the process to move assets, and an ordinance will come later that spells out the details of the actual plan. This will be approximately a six month process. Council mentioned that they would like to add it to the Special Called Meeting agenda. Council Member Folk mentioned that management needs to be aware and conscientious of the timing of the transfer so that the City doesn’t lose a month on its plan.

Consideration of a Resolution Urging the State Legislature for More Local Control of Fireworks

House Bill 419 has come out talking about noise ordinances and allowing fireworks to fall under these local ordinances. This resolution is supporting this bill in legislation. This will allow local government to have some control on when fireworks can be set off.

Consideration of a Resolution Approving Privatizing Probation Services and Entering into a Contract with Professional Court Services, Inc.

Mr. Wilmot stated to the Council that this is the same group the City has contracted with over the years. Legislature has passed some new laws and requirements. This is a revision to the contract to comply with the new laws that have passed. Mayor Smith asked if this was what was required for us to be in compliance by law. Mr. Wilmot confirmed. The concern was brought up that this would prey on those that could not pay; however, this is not the case as this is to help limit how much those could be fined. Vice Mayor Ehlers asked if the City still oversees the Community Service. Mr. Pyrzenski confirmed.

Consideration of a Resolution Designating “Rhythm And Ribs BBQ Festival” as a Festival Pursuant to the Festival Ordinance of the City of Tifton

Mr. Wilmot stated that this was in line with the Council’s role as outlined in the ordinance. The alcohol perimeters will be Fulwood Park. Council Member Sayles asked for confirmation that these were the same regulations as last year. Mr. Wilmot stated that these are in line with Rock the Block.

Resolution Providing for an Amended Alcohol License at Ginning located at 255 Brumby Way

Ms. Moore mentioned Ginning provided a new manager on their alcohol renewal and staff is recommending approval of the application and resolution.

Resolution Providing for a New Alcohol License at Save-A-Lot located at 163 S Virginia Ave

Ms. Moore mentioned the application is for a new alcohol license at Save-A-Lot for beer and wine sales. Staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval of the application and resolution.

Resolution Providing for an Amended Alcohol License at The Shell Station located at 2302 US Hwy 41 N

Ms. Moore mentioned The Shell Station provided an amended application to include beer consumption. Ms. Moore also stated that they are adding pool tables. Staff is recommending approval of the application and resolution.

Resolution Providing for a New Alcohol License at El Patron located at 451 Fulwood Blvd

Ms. Moore mentioned the application is for a new alcohol license at El Patron located in the old KFC building on 8th Street. Staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval of the application and resolution.

Resolution Providing for a New Alcohol License at Taco Loco Mexican Grill located at 307 W 12th St

Ms. Moore mentioned the application is for a new alcohol license at Taco Loco Mexican Grill located at Hawkeyes' previous location. Staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval of the application and resolution.

City Manager Report

a) TSPLOST Project List for Tifton: Updates on TSPLOST List was handed out and briefly discussed by Mr. Pyrzenski. The Council asked why the airport was on the City's list, and Mr. Pyrzenski stated that he has already asked the question to DOT. There is currently \$9.6 million allotted for the City. If the Regional TSPLOST does not pass then this list and all goes away, but then the City and County can try for TSPLOST together. The citizens of Tift County should be voting May 2018.

b) Panhandling and Beggars: Panhandling, beggars, and loitering is becoming a City and County issue. Now may be the time to have the discussions on what can be done without infringing on rights. Mayor Smith has spoken with Sheriff Scarbrough on the possibility of forming a committee with both, Police and Sherriff, representatives as well as legal and Council representatives. We currently have an "aggressive begging" statute and a loitering ordinance.

c) Ruth's Cottage: Mr. Pyrzenski stated that Lynn Lovette has contacted asking for a letter for in-kind donations toward the building, such as a special fire line, valves, sewer tap and lines to the facility, water meters, and a permit.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Mayor Smith adjourned the Workshop and called the Special Called Meeting to order at approximately 6:48 PM. Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to add the "Resolution Approving the Transfer Assets and Administration of the City's Retirement Plan to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Plan and Trust" to the Special Called Meeting Agenda. Motion was seconded by Council Member Folk and approved unanimously.

Resolution Approving Privatizing Probation Services and Entering into a Contract with Professional Court Services, Inc.

Council Member Terrell made the first motion to approve the resolution approving privatizing probation services and entering into a contract with Professional Court Services, Inc. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Resolution Approving the Memorandum of the Agreement with Georgia HPD for the Commerce Way Parking Project

Council Member Sayles made the first motion to approve the resolution approving the memorandum of the agreement with Georgia HPD for the Commerce Way parking project. Vice Mayor Ehlers seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Resolution Approving the Transfer Assets and Administration of the City’s Retirement Plan to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Plan and Trust

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to approve the resolution approving the transfer assets and administration of the City’s Retirement Plan to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Plan and Trust. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Executive Session to Discuss Legal and Personnel

Council Member Terrell made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel; motion seconded by Council Member Sayles and unanimously approved. Meeting closed to executive session.

Council Member Terrell made the first motion to go out of executive session and back into regular session. Motion seconded by Council Member Sayles and unanimously approved.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

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

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.

Julie Smith, Mayor

Becky Moore, Deputy Clerk