

City of Tifton
Council Meeting Minutes
February 6, 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
Jessica Jones, City Clerk
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Council Member Jack Folk led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Council Member Folk motioned, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2017 Regular Meeting, January 19, 2017 Workshop/Special Called Meeting, and January 22, 2017 Retreat.

Swearing in Ms. Jafaria Robinson to the Tifton Housing Authority Board

Mayor Julie Smith administered the oath of office and sworn in Ms. Robinson to the Tifton Housing Authority Board.

Proclamation Recognizing FBLA Week

Mayor Smith read aloud the proclamation and spoke with the teens present about their experiences job shadowing in the community.

Citizen Input

No one spoke

Consent Agenda

Vice Mayor Ehlers motioned, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

4. Resolution Accepting the FY2016 Audit
5. Ordinance Amending the City of Tifton Pension Plan for Provisions of the Heroes and Earnings Assistance of Relief Tax Act of 2008 (HEART Act)
6. Ordinance Restating the City of Tifton Pension Plan Documents
7. Resolution Providing for Alcohol Beverage License to Elm Street Mart located at 520 Elm Street

Resolution Adding a Local Vendor Preference to the City Purchasing Policy

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

Ordinance Amending the HPC Guidelines Chapter 2 Section IV (Signage)

City Council decided to vote on each proposed amendment individually and the approved changes would become part of the adopted ordinance. Ordinance was adopted as follows:

Tifton Historic District Manual Chapter 2, Section IV, Part 1 (Definitions)

The current definition of “awning sign” shall be deleted in its entirety and in lieu thereof shall read as follows:

Awning Sign. A sign located on a roof-life cover extending before a place as a shelter.

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Immediately following the definition of “electronic graphic display sign” the following sentence shall appear and read as follows:

Electronic graphic display signs are not appropriate in the City of Tifton’s Historic District.

Discussion was held on the proposed change, and Council requested more consideration be given for developing criteria and standards for electronic graphic display signs in the historic district. Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers made the motion to table the item until the next workshop, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved.

Tifton Historic District Manual Chapter 2, Section IV, Part 3 (Introduce new signs that are consistent with local character and building type)

The current language shall be deleted in its entirety and in lieu thereof shall read as follows:

Signs should reflect and be integrated into the architectural design of the building and not obscure architectural detail and should not dominate the façade or interfere with adjacent buildings.

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval, seconded by Smith, and unanimously approved.

Tifton Historic District Manual Chapter 2, Section IV, Part 5 (Sign Area and Dimension)

Paragraph 3, related to sign area for signboards or awning signs in historic commercial areas shall be deleted in its entirety and in lieu thereof shall read as follows:

Maximum sign area of signboard or awning signs in historic commercial areas should be determined by multiplying the building’s front façade width by 1.5 feet. Awning signage must be painted, printed, or embroidered to the awning surface.

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval, seconded by Smith, and unanimously approved.

Tifton Historic District Manual Chapter 2, Section IV, Part 7 (Banners)

Shall be deleted in its entirety and in lieu thereof shall read as follows:

One banner per lot shall be permitted up to 15 square feet and may be displayed horizontally or vertically. Banners shall only be permitted in the historic commercial areas.

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

Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 of the Land Development Code Related to the Regulation of Banners and Signage

City Council decided to vote on each proposed amendment individually and the approved changes would become part of the adopted ordinance. Ordinance was adopted as follows:

Tifton LDC Section 7.12.00 F (6)

Shall be deleted and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

6. Each building tenant shall be limited to one wall and/or awning sign on each street facing wall. In the event a tenant or owner chooses to use both a wall sign and an awning sign the tenant or owner must stay within the total aggregated square footage allotted for the building.

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Tifton LDC Section 7.16.00 A (2)

Shall be deleted and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

2. Every parcel may display no more than two (2) banners with a maximum size of fifteen (15) square feet per banner. On parcels that have more than one 911 address each 911 address may display one (1) banner with a maximum size of fifteen (15) square feet per banner.

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval, seconded by Smith, and unanimously carried for approval.

Tifton LDC Section 7.19.00 B

Shall be deleted and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

B. All notices mailed by the Director shall be sent by certified mail. Any time periods provided in this section shall be deemed to commence on the date of the receipt of the certified mail. Alternatively, notice may be personally hand delivered to the sign owner, and notice shall be effective on such date of hand delivery.

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval, seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously carried for approval.

Tifton LDC Section 7.19.00

Staff recommended increasing the sign impoundment fee of \$5.00 to \$25.00. Council discussed the recommendation, but no action was taken or approved.

Resolution Authorizing Tift County Tax Commissioner to Sell Property for Less than Taxes Owed

Mr. Wilmot mentioned the City presently has multiple properties that are being considered for tax sales and also has liens from city code enforcement demolition costs. Mr. Wilmot mentioned in order to sale the property and get them back on the tax rolls the Tax Commissioner is requesting approval to sale the properties at a lesser value than the liens on the property. Mr. Pyrzenski expressed his recommendation of moving forward to clean-up the current records currently and work toward establishing a land bank in the future to claim and redevelop the properties. Vice Mayor Ehlers asked Mr. Wilmot to contact the County and Board of Education and make sure they were also in approval of selling the property for less than the value of the tax lien. No action was taken on the proposed resolution.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.

Julie Smith, Mayor

Jessica Jones, City Clerk