

**CITY OF TIFTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 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

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Jessica Jones, City Clerk

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM. Vice Mayor Ehlers gave the Invocation and led the 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 made the first motion for approval of the minutes from the February 6, 2017 Regular Meeting and February 16, 2017 Workshop & Special Called Meeting. Motion was seconded by Terrell and unanimously approved.

Special Presentations

Chad Alexander, Tift County Tax Commissioner

Mr. Chad Alexander discussed with council four properties which have back taxes owed and demo liens from the City cleaning up the property. Mr. Alexander requested the City submit a letter to his office releasing the liens from the property so they can be sold at a reasonable rate. He mentioned with the demo fees and back taxes on the property the sale price totals more than the value of the property and the property will most likely not be sold at the tax auction. Mr. Alexander stated he will be also working with the School Board and Tift County to also get letters for their portion of the taxes. Mr. Alexander stated he would like to clean up the digest and get these properties back on the tax rolls. Council briefly discussed the issue and will follow up after action is taken on the item.

Annual Main Street Impact Report – Lequrica Gaskins

Ms. Lequrica Gaskins presented the 2016 Main Street Impact Report to the City Council. Ms. Gaskins mentioned the report is part of the Main Street annual assessment and is conducted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The report presented showed positive growth in downtown and reflected both public and private investment in the downtown area. The report indicated that ten rehabilitation projects were completed in 2016 totaling 1.7 Million dollars, and twenty businesses opened or expanded creating 111 new jobs. Council reviewed the information presented and briefly discussed the report.

Citizen Input

No one spoke

Consent Agenda

Council Member Folk motioned, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved the following items on the consent agenda:

4. Resolution Updating Authorizes Signatories for City of Tifton Bank Accounts
5. Resolution Updating Authorized Signatories at First Community Bank
6. Resolution Updating Georgia Fund 1 Account
7. Resolution Providing for Alcohol License at Ruby Tuesday Located at 1306 US Hwy 82 W

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

Mr. Rob Wilmot mentioned he will revise the proposed resolution to only include the four properties discussed early with Mr. Alexander and bring back before Council for consideration. Item was continued until the next workshop.

Fire Protection and Suppression Ordinance

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski mentioned this item was discussed at the previous workshop and proposed ordinance was included in the packet. Mayor Smith mentioned that the recovery fee established in the ordinance will only be charged to insurance companies of non-city residents who are at fault in a accident. Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Terrell, and approved by Smith and Sayles. Vice Mayor Ehlers abstained from the vote. Ordinance adopted 4 to 1.

Ordinance Providing for a Six-Month Moratorium on Crematories

Mr. Wilmot requested an investigated committee be established to discuss crematories and report back to Council with the finding and recommendation going forward. Mr. Wilmot requested the moratorium be extended another six-months in order for the committee and council have time to evaluate. Council Member Sayles made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Ehlers, and approved by Smith and Terrell. Council Member Folk voted against the ordinance. Ordinance adopted 4 to 1.

Board Report

Council reviewed the presented board report, but no appointments were made.

City Manager Report

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski mentioned the Streetscape Phase 3 Beautification Project is scheduled to begin in early April and will bring improvements to Commerce Way, Main Street, and 3rd Street. He also mentioned he met with Ms. Lynn Lovett with Georgia Power last week and she delivered the city's franchise fee check. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the past weekend's Rhythm & Ribs Festival was a huge success and appreciated everyone's efforts in the event. Lastly, he introduced Mr. Wayne Putnal, new finance director. Mr. Putnal thanked the Council for the opportunity and is looking forward to working in Tifton.

Executive Session

Council Member Sayles made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, motion seconded by Folk, and approved by Smith, Ehlers, and Terrell. Meeting closed to executive session.

Council Member Folk made the first motion to out of executive session and back into regular session, seconded by Terrell, and approved by Smith, Ehlers, and Sayles. 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 Sayles, and unanimously approved for adoption.

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

Respectively Submitted,

Julie Smith, Mayor

Jessica Jones, City Clerk