

**TIFTON CITY COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2020  
2:30 PM  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith  
Council Member Jack Folk  
Council Member Johnny Terrell  
Council Member M.Jay Hall

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

The City of Tifton Mayor and City Council held an Emergency Called Meeting on Friday, March 2020, to Declare a Local State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 Virus. Council, staff, and the public participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 2:35 PM.

**Resolution Declaring a Local State of Emergency in the City of Tifton, Georgia During the Public Health Emergency of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Global Pandemic**  
Mayor Smith read aloud the title of the resolution and called for a motion of approval. Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

The resolution approved officially declared a local state of emergency and provided for the following provisions:

**Section 1:** The City Council adopts and makes the findings discussed in the “Whereas” paragraphs the factual findings of the Council.

**Section 2:** The City Council hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency in the City of Tifton due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the United States and the State of Georgia.

**Section 3:** The following provisions shall govern during the Public Health State of Emergency declared herein:

- a. The City Council and all other boards, commissions or agencies of the City, shall have authority to conduct meetings and take votes by teleconference in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-1(g);
- b. The City Manager, with approval of the Mayor, shall have authority to take such actions deemed necessary or appropriate for the public health and safety of the citizens of the City of Tifton.
- c. If a restaurant is licensed to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption, such restaurant, during the effective dates of this Resolution only, shall be authorized to sell unopened bottles of beer or wine for take-out consumption off-premises;

- d. The due date and payment of alcohol excise taxes of restaurants licensed to sell alcoholic beverages shall be delayed through and until June 30, 2020 and shall not be subject to penalties or interest. Any alcohol excise taxes of restaurants that accrue and are unpaid during the period until June 30, 2020 shall be paid to the City in six (6) equal installments in the months of July through December. All alcohol excise taxes of restaurants shall be due and payable in the normal procedure beginning July 1, 2020; and
- e. The City Council suspends the bid and competitive portions of the City's Purchasing Policies and authorizes the City Manager to utilize Section Five the Purchasing Policy. During the effective dates of this Resolution, the City Manager's purchasing approval authority shall be \$200,000.00 and such purchases above normal spending levels shall be provided to the Mayor for approval. The City Manager shall provide written weekly reports to the City Council of any purchases approved above the normal purchasing levels provided in the City's ordinances. The City Manager shall develop and implement policies and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
- f. The City Council desires to make certain that the chain of authority within city management is clear. If the City Manager is unable to perform his duties, Interim Deputy City Manager Bobby Bennett shall assume the duties of the City Manager. If the City Manager and Interim Deputy City Manager are unable to perform the duties, Jonathan Taylor, IT Manager shall assume the duties of the City Manager.

**Section 4:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby suspended during the effective dates of this Resolution (or any extension thereof) and the terms and provisions of this Resolution shall prevail.

**Section 5:** This Resolution shall take effect upon passage by the City Council and shall expire by its own terms at 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020, unless terminated or extended by further action of the City Council.

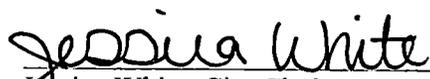
**Section 6:** The City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, shall have the power to correct scribes' errors.

After adoption of the resolution, Mayor Smith stated the resolution would be provided to the news media outlets and posted on the City's Website. She also mentioned the City would follow up with a press conference this afternoon.

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

Respectively Submitted,

  
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Julie Smith, Mayor

  
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Jessica White, City Clerk