

**CITY OF TIFTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 17, 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. Rev. Hardy gave the Invocation and Sargent Callister led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Johnny Terrell made the first motion for approval of the minutes from the March 6, 2017 Regular Meeting and April 3, 2017 Workshop. Motion was seconded by Folk and unanimously approved.

**Special Presentations**

Proclamation Recognizing MGA Cheer: Mayor Julie Smith presented a proclamation to the local youth MGA cheerleading squad for receiving an At-Large Bid to compete in a National Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, Florida. The Mayor and City Council wished the girls the best at the competition and hoped they would bring back a win to Tifton.

Georgia Cities Week Activities: Ms. Becky Moore, Executive Assistant, reviewed the upcoming schedule of events for Georgia Cities Week being held April 22<sup>nd</sup> thru April 29th. Events included a kids' carnival, softball tournament, art contest, and coffee with council. Sargent John Anderson, US Army Recruiter, was also present and stated the Army would be sponsoring the softball tournament and was looking forward to partnering with the city on the event.

Results of Weight Loss Challenge: Mr. Pete Pyrzenski recognized the employees from the City of Tifton and ESG who participated in the 2017 Weight Loss Challenge and applauded these employees on their accomplishments.

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski introduced the new police officers: Thomas Chastin, Justin Brewer, and Chris Knight; New Police Department Chaplains Rev. Branch and Rev. Harvey; and the new Downtown Parking Officer Hunter Daughtrey.

## **Citizen Input**

No one spoke

## **Consent Agenda**

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

5. Resolution Authorizing Tift County Tax Commissioner to Sell Property for Upon Which the City Has a Lien
6. Resolution Amending the Personnel Policies and Procedures as it Relates to the City's Fringe Benefit Program
7. Ordinance Amending the City's Retirement Plan to Provide for Normal Retirement for Michael Coleman
8. Ordinance Providing for Participation in the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Life and Health Program
9. Transfer of Property to Tift County for Recreation and Authorize City Manager to Execute Deeds
10. Resolution Approving the Lease Agreement with TCCCY for Facility Located at 418 N. Ridge Ave.
11. Resolution Amending Date and Times for Council Meetings
12. Resolution Appointing MGAG Voting Delegates
13. Award of Bid to Rush Truck Centers of Georgia in the Amount of \$76,432.00 for Purchase of a Diesel, 4700 Dump Body Truck for the Public Works Department
14. Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at Lil Pantry Located at 1302 S. Central Ave
15. Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at EZ-Mart 2 Located at 301 7<sup>th</sup> Street

## **Ordinance Amending HPC Guidelines Chapter 2 Section IV, Part 1, Electronic Graphic Display Signs**

City Council discussed the proposed changes and their respective views on allowing electronic graphic display signs in the Historic District. Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval of the ordinance and Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Ehlers, Folk, and Terrell opposed the ordinance and voted no. Ordinance was not approved by a 3 to 2 vote.

## **Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Section 7.19.00 of the Tifton Land Development Code Related to Removal of Signs within the Right-of-Way**

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

### **Resolution Amending Natural Gas Rates**

Mr. Pyrzewski reviewed with Council the financial position and revenue shortfall for the gas fund. He recommended increasing the residential base rates to \$7.50 and commercial base rates to \$10.00. He also recommended not making any changes to the re-hook rates at this time. Council Member Johnny Terrell made the first motion for approval of the resolution increasing the gas rates, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

### **Resolution Approving Application for Additional FY2017 Funding for Safety Improvements on Local Roads**

Mr. Jeff West mentioned the recommendation of re-striping school crosswalks has been added to the application and staff is recommending applying for \$100,000 in funding. He further that the city would be required to provide a 30% match to the project. Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the resolution and application submittal, seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

### **Ordinance Correcting Scrivener's Error in Ordinance Number 2016-11**

Mr. Wilmot mentioned he recently reviewed the ordinance and noticed that the word "not" was excluded from the ordinance. Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

### **Appointment of a Crematory Review Committee**

Mayor Julie Smith appointed the following members to the Crematory Review Committee: Mr. Jeff Robbins, Mr. Curtis Akins, Ms. Barbara Mullinax, and Mr. Chris Beals. This Committee will evaluate the environmental impact, health impact, and appropriate zoning requirements for allowing crematories inside the city.

### **Board Report**

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers made the first motion to re-appoint Ms. Lori Felton, Ms. Elizabeth Moss, and Mr. Al Potts to the Tifton Tree Board. Motion second by Folk and unanimously approved.

Council Member Jack Folk made the first motion to re-appoint Mr. Jeff Robbins, Mr. Jeffery Daniel, and Ms. Suzanne Click to the HPC. Motion second by Sayles, and unanimously approved.

Council Member Sayles made the first motion to appoint Mr. Brad Barbee and Mr. Chris Beals to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board. Motion second by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Julie Smith mentioned she attended a Regional TSPLOST Roundtable Meeting today and updated the Council on the discussions held. Mayor Smith mentioned the committee is recommending having the Regional TSPLOST vote on the May 2018 ballot. Mayor Smith mentioned this regional TSPLOST will affect the planning of our County SPLOST Referendum and we need to begin discussions for timing the county SPLOST referendum. Mayor Smith mentioned the next steps being taken to initiate the regional tax and how the tax would be

disbursed if approved by the votes. Mayor Smith stated that 11 out of 18 Counties in our region have passed a Resolution supporting the TSPLOST.

**Executive Session**

Council Member Jack Folk made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate, legal, and personnel matters. Motion seconded by Terrell, and approved by Smith, Ehlers, and Sayles. 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**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved for adoption.

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

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Julie Smith, Mayor

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Jessica Jones, City Clerk