

**Tifton City Council Workshop**  
**June 3, 2019**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Tifton City Hall**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith  
Council Member Wes Ehlers  
Council Member Jack Folk  
Council Member Frank Sayles

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

**Public Hearing on the FY2020 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski opened the hearing and stated the bottom line of the budget has not changes since it was presented. He mentioned minor changes were made to the SPLOST and Capital Project Budgets, but those changes did not affect the bottom line. He also gave an update on the final tax digest, which was still being prepared by the Tift County Tax Commissioner. Council Member Wes Ehlers asked, and Mr. Pyrzenski confirmed that there was no tax increase planned for this year. The Public Hearing opened for comments, but no one spoke.

Old Business

**Discussion on the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Tifton and Agency Members**  
Council reviewed the list of board applications received which were: Mr. Tyler Riddle, Ms. Abbey McLaren, Mr. Curtis Akins, Mr. Michael Bowen, and Ms. Vivian Hightower. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the City would need to appoint seven (7) members to the board and adopt the ordinance.

**Service Delivery Status Update**

Mr. Rob Wilmot mentioned he and the County Attorney have been working together to finalize the Service Delivery issues, but it recently became apparent that they may not be able to reach an agreement on all issues before the June 30 deadline. Pending Service Delivery items that need to be resolved include: water/wastewater, E-911, main street, library, and road maintenance. Mr. Wilmot mentioned he proposed to draft a letter along with the necessary SDS forms to extend the deadline for another year but met resistance with the County Attorney on the proposed language in the letter. Mr. Wilmot reviewed the mediation process with the Council and stated he notified the County Attorney the City is prepared to go through that process if needed. Council briefly discussed the issues and suggested Mr. Wilmot continue working with DCA and the County on agreeable language in the extension letter. Mr. Wilmot mentioned he would keep everyone informed on the process.

**Moratorium on Walls and Fences in Commercial Downtown**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the moratorium is set to expire soon and a decision needs to be made on how the City would like to address fences. He mentioned staff polled members of the Tifton Merchants Association and the results were split for not allowing fencing or keep the ordinance the same. Mr. Pyrzenski proposed the following options: (1) Not allow any future fencing or walls to be constructed in Commercial Downtown, (2) Revise the current ordinance and add language that

identifies certain restricts, or (3) not make any changes to the current ordinance. Mr. Pyrzenski recommended not allowing fences in the downtown area because of safety concerns. Council briefly discussed.

#### New Business

##### **Agreement with Peachtree Recovery Services**

Ms. Emily Beeman, Human Resources Director, presented the agreement with Peachtree Recovery Services which would help the City recoup costs associated with property damages caused by accidents. Ms. Beeman mentioned the provider would submit insurance claims on the City's behalf if vehicles damaged items such as: road signs, guardrails, street lights, traffic signals. Ms. Beeman mentioned the City will have no financial obligation, but Peachtree will retain 16.5% of all amounts recovered. The service is promoted by the Georgia Municipal Association and staff if requesting the City approved the agreement.

##### **Agreement with PlantNet for Fiber Transport Services**

Mr. Jonathan Taylor, IT Director, presented a long-term agreement with PlantNet for fiber internet services. Mr. Taylor mentioned the City's current agreement will expire in October 2019 and staff worked with PlantNet to negotiate a contract to maintain the fiber connectivity to all City buildings. The cost of the service will be \$34,480.32 per year.

##### **Agreement with Tift County BOE for School Resource Officers**

Mr. Buddy Dowdy, Police Chief, presented the proposed agreement for providing School Resource Officers at all schools located in the City for the 2019-2020 school year. The City will provide five (5) officers to the Tift County Board of Education for the school year at a cost of \$214,267.27. The agreement will cover the officers' salary and benefit costs for 180 school days.

##### **Discussion of Proposed Amendments for Granting Enterprise Zone Incentives**

Mr. Pyrzenski and Ms. Jessica White presented a proposed schedule for evaluating Enterprise Zone Incentives and an agreement for awarding incentives. Staff mentioned the proposed schedule sets maximum limits for available incentives and the incentives will be based on the value of the investment or number of jobs created. Council reviewed the information and briefly discussed.

##### **Resolution for Adoption of the FY 2020 Budget**

Resolution was reviewed, but no discussion was held.

##### **City Manager Report**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the City has planned a Volleyball Tournament against the Hospital and encouraged everyone to attend. He also gave an overview of the Older Americans Month activities held at the Senior Center and mentioned the City's Senior Center had ranked as the #1 center in the region. Lastly he reported the City hasn't had an safety accidents for two months in a row.

##### **Council Comments**

Council Member Sayles mentioned the City's Main Street had again been selected as an Exceptional Main Street and recognized by the State.

Council Member Ehlers congratulated Tim Cooper on his recent retirement with the Tifton Fire Department

Mayor Smith invited everyone to Rock the Block scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> and mentioned the Tourism Association is working with WALB to do a Spotlight on Tifton.

**Executive Session**

Council Member Jack Folk made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved. Meeting closed to executive session  
Council Member Wes Ehlers made the first motion to go out of executive session, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved. Meeting opened to regular session.

**Resolution Providing for Executive Session**

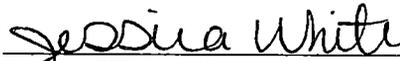
Council Member Wes Ehlers made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

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

Respectively Submitted,



Julie Smith, Mayor



Jessica White, City Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON  
HELD ON June 3, 2019  
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council member JAACK FOIK makes the following motion:

1. That City Council now enters into executive session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following:

(check all that apply)

- Legal Matters.
- Personnel Matters.
- Real Estate Matters.

That each member of this body, in open session, at the conclusion of such executive session, and consistent with the provisions of City of Tifton Resolution No. 99-66, either:

1. Execute the Affidavit, the form of which having been previously approved; or
2. Vote upon the Resolution, the form of which having been previously approved, to be followed by the execution of the above-referenced Affidavit by so many members of this Council that so desire,

all of which is in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4; thereby this body, by appropriate form of either Affidavit or Resolution/Affidavit, ratifying the actions of the Council taken in executive session and confirming that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the Open Meetings law.

Council member Wes Ehlers seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved**

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure:

**Council Members:** All present.

Those voting against the motion for closure:

**Council Members:** None.

**AFFIDAVIT**

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Georgia:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
<u>✓</u>	_____	Julie B. Smith
<u>✓</u>	_____	Wes Ehlers
<u>✓</u>	_____	Jack Folk
_____	<u>✓</u>	Johnny Terrell
<u>✓</u>	_____	Frank Sayles

Who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

1. I am a member of the Tifton City Council and I was present at a meeting of the City Council held on the 3rd day of June, 2019.

2. That it was my understanding that O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) Of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 3rd day of June, 2019, which was closed for the purpose(s) of :

- Legal Matters
- Personnel Matters
- Real Estate Matters

As allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.
5. This affidavit is likewise executed by the following members of the City Council present at such executive session in support of open and honest government and in compliance with City of Tifton Resolution 99-66.

This 3rd day of June, 2019.

Julie Smith  
 Julie Smith  
 Mayor, City of Tifton

Wes Ehlers  
 Wes Ehlers  
 Councilman, District 1

Jack Folk  
 Jack Folk  
 Councilman, District 2

Johnny Terrell  
 Johnny Terrell  
 Councilman, District 3

Frank Sayles, Jr.  
 Frank Sayles, Jr.  
 Councilman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
 By all City Council members  
 on this 3rd day of  
June, 2019.

Jessica White  
 Notary Public

