

**CITY OF TIFTON  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
JULY 7, 2020  
5:30 PM  
TIFTON CITY HALL**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers

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

**Call to Order**

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Introduction of New Staff Members**

Police Chief Steve Hyman introduced Ms. Ariel Hart and Mr. Matthew Layfield, new officers of the TPD whom recently graduated from the Police Academy. Council congratulated both officers and welcomed them to the City. Chief Hyman also mentioned the City has also received its new K-9 dog named Mia. Mr. Pyrzenski also introduced Ms. Maria Arambula the newly hired administrative assistant.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval, motion seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

**YMCA Recreation Presentation** *(Jason Bishoff w/ Tiftarea YMCA)*

Mr. Jason Bishoff of the Tiftarea YMCA gave a presentation on the programs and facilities available through the YMCA which bring a benefit to the community and its youth. Programs included: Recreation Activities, Free Meal Programs, Operation Christmas, and many annual community events. Mr. Bishoff mentioned the YMCA is looking forward to the possibility of a partnership with the City of Tifton in the future. Following the presentation, Mr. Bishoff introduced the YMCA Board Members present. Council briefly discussed the proposal of developing a partnership with the YMCA to provide recreation for the City of Tifton residents. Following the discussion, Mayor Smith appointed Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers and Council Member M. Jay Hall to a committee to review and discuss the YMCA partnership.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Resolution Approving the Board Appointment Policy**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the previous requested changes have been made to the drafted policy and he mentioned the policy is needing to be approved because appointments need to be made on numerous boards.

### **Review of Proposed Service Agreement with Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. for Building Inspection and Plan Review Services**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned this was brought before Council previously and staff is recommending moving forward with contracting with CAA for building inspection and plan review services. Pyrzenski mentioned the proposed service will provide certified inspectors and increase the service level for the department. Council reviewed and briefly discussed. Mayor Smith recommended gathering feedback from customers on the quality of service to measure customer experience with dealing with the department.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Review of the Digester Cleanout Bids Received**

Mr. Jeff West presented the bids received for cleaning out the digesters at the wastewater treatment plant and mentioned the project would be funded by the City's GEFA Loan. He mentioned the project is very much needed and estimated that the cleanout has not be completed in approximately 30 years. The City received bids from five (5) contractors and staff is recommending awarding the bid to Synagro in the amount of \$594,029.00. Bids received were as follows:

1. Synagro - \$594,029.00
2. Denali Water Solutions, LLC - \$616,200.00
3. Bio-Nomic Services, Inc. - \$718,680.00
4. Eagle Dynamic Solutions, LLC - \$725,461.17
5. Merrell Bros., Inc. - \$843,420.00

#### **Review of the 2020 Street Resurfacing Bids Received**

Mr. Jeff West presented the bids received for resurfacing twenty streets within the City. Mr. West mentioned the City received four (4) bids from contractors and recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder East Coast Asphalt. Bids received were as follows:

1. East Coast Asphalt - \$530,835.33
2. Scruggs Concrete - \$633,349.18
3. Reeves Construction - \$664,039.90
4. Reames and Son - \$906,001.040

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the lowest bid came in under budget, leaving the City with funding to complete additional resurfacing projects. Mr. Pyrzenski requested the Council send him recommendations for additional streets to be added to the resurfacing project.

#### **Recommendation and Review of Proposed Zoning Overlay for US Highway 82**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the City has received requests from businesses along Hwy 82 requesting to allow the commercial area to have an increased sign size. Mr. Danny Wallace presented a draft overlay proposal for the Hwy 82 corridor. Mr. Wallace mentioned the draft overlay proposes to require a business to give an amenity in order to receive approval for the increased signage. Suggested amenities include items such as: increased greenspace, public art, walking trails, and landscaping. Council reviewed the information provided and requested additional time to review.

### **Resolution Approving the Service Delivery Strategy Petition**

Mr. Rob Wilmot presented the proposed resolution which would allow the City Attorney to file a petition to require mandatory mediation and request an order from the Judge to hold the sanctions and abeyance for the City of Tifton. The proposed resolution is necessary to restore the City's qualified governmental status after the required SDS update was not submitted by the June 30, 2020 deadline. Mr. Wilmot suggested approving the resolution tonight so he could move forward with filing the petition.

### **Resolution Providing for a New Alcohol License for Your Pie Located at 2201 US Hwy 41 N.**

Ms. Jessica White presented the resolution and application for a new alcohol license. She mentioned the applicant is requesting beer and wine consumption for the new restaurant opening at the Harvey's shopping center. Ms. White mentioned staff has reviewed the application and background on the applicant and is recommending approval.

### **Resolution Providing for an Amended Alcohol License for Route 82 Truck Stop Located at 306 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

Ms. Jessica White mentioned the applicant has requested an amended license and would like to add wine package retail. Staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval.

### **City Manager Report**

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski gladly announced that the GIS Mapping at the Cemetery will begin soon. He mentioned once complete, an interactive map will be available on the City's Website to view who is buried and which plots are available for purchase. Pyrzenski mentioned the new database will be a great benefit to our community and a helpful tool for those locating plots within the cemetery. Mayor Smith requested the City Attorney research the process for acquiring any unused or abandoned lots.

Pyrzenski also provided Council with an update on the progress made on accomplishing the Council's annual goals. Council reviewed the report presented.

Lastly, Mr. Pyrzenski provided Council with the final property tax digest numbers. Ms. Dana Chancey, Finance Director, reviewed the digest which had a small increase from 2019. Staff recommended approving the roll back and setting the mileage rate at 9.726 for 2020.

### **Mayor & Council Comments**

Council Member Jack Folk spoke in reference to the increase in the COVID-19 cases and encouraged everyone to wear masks and take the virus seriously.

Council Member M. Jay Hall also recommended wearing a mask and being mindful that the virus is still active in the community.

Mayor Julie Smith gave condolences to Mr. Bruce Green on the recent death of his mother.

### **Executive Session For Legal/Personnel/Real Estate**

Council Member Folk made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion seconded by Ehlers and unanimously approved. Meeting closed to executive session.

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to go out of executive session, motion seconded by Mayor Smith, and unanimously approved. Meeting opened back into regular session.

**Resolution Providing for Executive Session**


Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the resolution. Motion seconded by Folk and unanimously approved.

**Resolution Approving the Service Delivery Strategy Petition**

Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the resolution. Motion seconded by Terrell and unanimously approved.

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

AT A MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON  
HELD ON July 7., 2020  
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member JACK FOILC 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

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>	_____	M. Jay Hall

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 7 day of July, 2020.

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 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

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

M. Jay Hall  
 M. Jay Hall  
 Councilman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
 By all City Council members  
 on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

Jessica White  
 Notary Public

