

**City of Tifton  
Council Meeting  
September 17, 2018  
5:30 PM  
Tifton City Hall**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith  
Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers  
Council Member Jack Folk  
Council Member Johnny Terrell

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Prayer & Pledge**

Pastor Rodney Owen with First Baptist Ty Ty gave the invocation and led the pledge.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to move items 11 and 12 concerning retirement to the first items of discussion under new business, and approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Folk and unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the minutes from the August 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, September 7<sup>th</sup> SDCC Meeting, and September 10<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop. Motion seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

**Swearing in Kristin Morrison to the Historic Preservation Commission**

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud the oath of office to Ms. Morrison and she was sworn in to serve a five year term on the HPC.

**Proclamation Declaring September as Alzheimer's Awareness Month**

Mayor Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented it to the members present with the Alzheimer's Association.

**Proclamation Declaring Adult Education and Family Literacy Week**

Mayor Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented it to the Literacy Volunteers present. Dr. Drew Howard with the Howard Center also presented the Literacy Volunteers with a \$5,000 check to support their efforts in the community.

Council Member Johnny Terrell arrived to the meeting.

**Public Comments**

Spud Bowen, 811 Murray Avenue: Mr. Bowen thanked Dr. Howard for his overwhelming support of the community. Mr. Bowen spoke to the Council concerning the recent headlines in the Gazette concerning the City/County lawsuit and urged the City to get the lawsuit issues settled quickly. He also spoke in reference to the retirement transfer to GMA. He mentioned he was on the Council when the City moved the retirement from GMA to AMB. Mr. Bowen stated since the retirement

has been with Allen, Mooney, & Barnes (AMB) the City has seen a positive return on investments, and hopes the Council has closely reviewed the transfer to ensure longevity of the plan. Mayor Smith spoke in response to the City/County lawsuit and mentioned the City is hoping to also get the lawsuit resolved timely.

### **Consent Agenda**

Vice Mayor Ehlers motioned, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved to accept the following items on the consent agenda:

4. Award of Bid to Griffin Ford for Six (6) Police Units
5. Authorize Participation in the Heating Energy Assistant Team (H.E.A.T.) Program for 2018
6. Resolution Appointing an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Tifton Municipal Court
7. Ordinance Amending the Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance

### New Business

#### **Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Assets and Administration of the City's Retirement Plan to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Plan and Trust**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion of approval, motion seconded by Mayor Smith, and unanimously approved.

#### **Ordinance Adopting the Retirement Agreement with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System**

Mr. Randy Logan with GMA briefly discussed the retirement plan transfer. He mentioned 288 cities in Georgia are currently in the GMA program. He also mentioned by moving the retirement to GMA the city will see a higher return with a lower administration cost, and the city will not have to contribute as much as they currently contribute to their plan. Mr. Pyrzenski reviewed some of the plan changes which included: employees receiving 1 year for any military service, flexibility of choosing a beneficiary, years of service can be portable to and from other cities who have GMA retirement plans, employee contribution reduction from 5% to 3%, and GMA staff available to answer questions concerning the plan. A discussion was held concerning changing the public safety employees retirement eligibility sum of age and years of service from 80 to 75. Chief Bennett spoke in favor of the change to 75. Vice Mayor Ehlers motioned to amend the retirement eligibility sum (age + years of service) for public safety employees to 75 and approve the ordinance as amended. Motioned seconded by Mayor Smith, and unanimously approved. Proposed amendment and ordinance adopted.

Vice Mayor Ehlers left the meeting.

#### **Ordinance Annexing Property Located on North US Highway 125, Map & Parcel T0058 014, be annexed into the City of Tifton, Submitted by David Deloach (Application PP18-0035)**

Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, motion seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

#### **Ordinance Re-Zoning the \_\_\_ Acres Annexed into the City, Map & Parcel T0058 014, from County AU to City R12 and Amending the Zoning Map to Reflect These Changes**

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

#### **Review of Proposed Plans for Road Closures and Realignment to Accommodate Hospital Expansion**

Mr. Rob Wilmot presented a proposed map detailing the requested street closures and realignment requested. After review, Council Member Folk made the first motion to approve the request, motion seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

### **Review of Financial Reports**

Mr. Wayne Putnal, Finance Director, presented the financial reports for July and August 2019. Council reviewed the reports but no discussion was held.

### **City Manager Report**

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski mentioned Jessica White, City Clerk, had recently completed the classes in the Clerks' Master Certification Program and would be working on a final project to complete her certification. He also recognized Chief Bennett and the firefighters on improving their times on the agility test. Chief Bennett introduced the three new firefighters recently hired.

### **Board Report**

City Council reviewed the report but no appointments were made.

### **Mayor & City Council Reports**

Council Member Terrell mentioned he was glad to see the retirement change behind them.

Council Member Folk spoke in reference to the water & sewer agreement. He mentioned the agreement was brought about because of discussions to consolidate governments, and it has no positive impacts for the City.

Mayor Smith mentioned this week has been proclaimed as Constitution Week in Tifton and she spoke about the positive event she attended at the Tift County High School. She also invited everyone to attend the tourism marketing presentation on Thursday at the Peanut Museum.

### **Executive Session to Discussion Legal and Personnel Matters**

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

Council Member Terrell made the motion to close executive session and open back to regular session. Motion seconded by Folk and unanimously approved.

### **Resolution Providing for Executive Session**

Council Member Terrell 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

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Mayor Julie Smith

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Jessica White