

**City of Tifton
Council Workshop
December 4, 2017
Tifton City Hall**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith
Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers
Council Member Jack Folk
Council Member Johnny Terrell
Council Member Frank Sayles, Jr

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

**5:00 PM
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE HEARING FOR LA ESTRELLA**

Mayor Smith opened the hearing, City Attorney Rob Wilmot mentioned the hearing was to review evidence obtained during an investigation on La Estrella, located at 331 Commerce Way, Tifton, Georgia. City Attorney Rob Wilmot called the first witness, Sgt. Yi, to the stand. Sgt. Yi's gave a background on the investigation and undercover operation performed by the Tifton Police Department. An event flyer for October 7, 2017 was presented as evidence. Council also reviewed video evidence captured by an undercover officer, Mr. Derrick Martin, on October 7, 2017 at La Estrella. Tifton Police Department Officer, Jerry Dollar, also testified that he smelled marijuana coming from the business on October 7th and he has also smelt it on numerous occasions. Ms. Gail Gay-Cruz, Owner of La Estrella, was present and did question the witness, but did not present any evidence. She did provide pictures of girls dressed in night attire, and mentioned the girls come to her business dressed that way. There being no further evidence, the hearing was closed. During the special called meeting the Council unanimously voted to revoke La Estrella's Alcohol License.

**5:30 PM
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order. Mayor Smith stated she recently attended the Rural Prosperity Summit at the UGA Conference Center. From the conference, she gathered that communities that are "doing the best" are doing things a little bit differently by creating a viable outcome for children after they complete school. Mayor Smith requested others to continue to work together to create a foundation for growth within the community by being responsible and creative with taxpayer funds.

Ms. Lynn Lovett w/ Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House

Mayor introduced Ms. Lynn Lovett. Ms. Lovett thanked council for opportunity to speak. She stated she is current board member at Ruth's Cottage, would like to update Council on their Capital Campaign. Ms. Lovett also introduced Nancy Bryan, executive director, and Roger Dill board member for Ruth's Cottage and building committee chairman. Ms. Lovett explained in detail the importance of the new shelter due to better service provisions to victims and safety for staff and clients. Ms. Lovett mentioned additional services have been funded thru grants; however, there is additional funding needed for the new facility. Ms. Bryan mentioned Ruth's Cottage is requesting a letter of commitment from the city to include with CDBG grant which is due in April 2018. Mayor

Smith stated council recognizes the need for the assistance and will we look into seeing if the City can provide any funding or in-kind assistance.

Mr. Dave Hetzel w/ WWALS Watershead Coalition

Mr. Hetzel was present to request Council's support of House Bill HR 158 and the Withlacoochee and Little River water trail which runs through Tifton. A draft of the proposed resolutions were provided for council to review.

OLD BUSINESS

Agreement from the Tifton Housing Authority for Tenants Covered by the VAWA Act of 2013

Pete Pyrzenski stated a couple of months ago this agreement was presented to Council. Mr. Pyrzenski explained the agreement and recommended allowing the tenants covered to pay \$25.00 down and make monthly payments of \$25.00 until paid in full. Council member Jack Folk asked for clarification of deposit for utilities. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned currently the city's billing system does not allow us to transfer deposits. Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers questioned if it would be considered a gratuity to waive the transfer fee altogether, but thought it was appropriate since there were only a few cases. Council briefly discussed the proposed agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Amending Section 82-36 Deposits for Tenant-Occupied Multifamily Property

Pete Pyrzenski stated the current ordinance only includes water. The proposed ordinance has been amended to also include sewer and natural gas. Ms. Sanders mentioned the staff is requesting the amendment to include language for all utility services and not just specifically water. Council briefly reviewed and discussed the presented ordinance.

Study of Derelict and Blighted Property Ordinances

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski provided Council with an informational packet for addressing blighted property. Mr. Pyrzenski suggested appointing a committee to review the information and make a recommendation back to Council. Council member Johnny Terrell and Commissioner Melissa Hughes agreed this matter is especially necessary and agreed to serve on the committee to further research and resolve this matter.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License for Applebee's located at 808 W. 7th St.

Ms. Jessica Jones stated Applebee's has a new manager. Staff has processed the application and is recommending approval of the resolution and alcohol license. Council Member Johnny Terrell proposed postponing approval of renewal. Mayor Smith suggested Mr. Pyrzenski, Council Member Terrell and Chief Buddy Dowdy discuss Mr. Terrell's concerns of Applebee's adhering to the alcohol ordinance.

**Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License for Hussain Brothers Corp dba Lil
Pantry located at 1302 S. Central Ave.**

Ms. Jessica Jones stated Hussain Brothers Corp is applying for a new license at 1302 S. Central Ave. Staff has processed the application and is recommending approval of the resolution and alcohol

license.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License for Sunmart located at 902 S. Central Ave.

Ms. Jessica Jones stated Sunmart has a new manager. Staff has processed the application and is recommending approval of the resolution and alcohol license.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License for CVS Pharmacy located at 111 E. 8th St.

Ms. Jessica Jones stated CVS has a new manager. Staff has processed the application and is recommending approval of the resolution and alcohol license.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License for Jay's Food Mart located at 10 Sandra Dr.

Ms. Jessica Jones member Jay's Food Mart has a new manager. Staff has processed the application and is recommending approval of the resolution and alcohol license.

OTHER BUSINESS

Utility Bill Advertisement

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski mentioned the first advertisement through was sent out this month in the utility bills and wanted to get Council's input on the service. Council Member Frank Sayles stated he has received some complaints; however, he does support. Mayor Smith mentioned she had also received a complaint. Mr. Pyrzenski stated no action is required.

City Manager Report

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski thanked everyone for involvement in parade and preparation.

ESG has provided a rebate check of \$107,574 to City of Tifton. He is recommending additionally paving Emmett Street and 11th Street with the general fund portion of the rebate and SPLOST.

He also recommended hold off on approving the draft Interlocal Agreement for Water Service in order for staff to further explore and review the agreement with the City Attorney and the County. All were in agreement.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Mayor Smith called to order the special called meeting.

Service Delivery – Interlocal Agreement for Water Utility

Council Member Folk made the first motion to remove the Interlocal Agreement for Water Utility from the agenda. Motion seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

Approval of FY2017 LMIG Streets and SPLOST Funds for Resurfacing

Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the street resurfacing list and increased budget amount to include adding Emmett Drive and 11th Street (from Ridge to Timmons). Council Member Terrell seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved. The following streets or portion of streets were approved for street resurfacing: 16th Street, Goff Street, Fulwood Drive, Eastwood Drive, Pineview, Park Avenue, Ridge Avenue, 40th Street, 9th Street, Emmett Drive, and 11th Street.

Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to go into executive session, seconded by Sayles, and motion was unanimously approved. Meeting closed to executive session.

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

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

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

Revoke Alcohol License of La Estrella, located at 331 Commerce Way

Council Member Terrell made the first motion to revoke La Estrella's alcohol license immediately, seconded by Sayles, and motion was unanimously approved.

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

Julie Smith, Mayor

Jessica Jones, City Clerk