

TIFTON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 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

Jessica Jones, City Clerk

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Call To Order

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented it to the members of the Tift County Commission on Children and Youth.

New City Website Demo

Mr. Jonathon Taylor, IT Director, presented to council the new city website and stated the new website design was scheduled to go live this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Tift County Tax Commissioner to Sell Property for Upon Which the City Has a Lien: Mr. Wilmot mentioned the ordinance has been updated to reflect the four properties discussed with Mr. Chad Alexander at the previous council meeting. The ordinance will allow the Tax Commissioner to sell the property to the highest bidder at the tax sale, which may be less than the demolition lien on the property.

Sign Committee Recommendation on HPC Guidelines Chapter 2 Section IV, Part 1, Electronic Graphic Display Signs: Mr. Houston Shultz presented the final recommendations from the sign committee. Suggested changes included HPC Manual Chapter 2 Section IV (Signage) and Chapter 3 Section V (Materials) and LDC Chapter 7 Section 7.19.00I (Sign Removal Procedures). The historic manual recommendations included changes to Electronic Graphic Display Signs which the committee felt was not appropriate for the Historical District and Exterior Materials and Colors used for new construction should contribute to the visual continuity of the district. The recommendations to the LDC included changes to sign removal within the right-of-ways.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Stormwater Utility

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski, Mr. Scott Murphy, and Mr. Jeff West discussed with Council the recommendation of developing a stormwater utility to effectively maintain the City's stormwater and drainage infrastructure. Mr. Murphy mentioned a large majority of the current drainage pipes inside the city have exceeded their lifetime and were failing as a result of corrosion. He furthered the city has a very large amount of ditches to maintain and the public works department's is spending a large amount of time and materials to make drainage the repairs. Mr. Pyrzenski included a staff presentation and 2016 Georgia Stormwater Utilities Report for Council to review. Mr. Pyrzenski

also requested approval to work with a consultant to prepare a plan for implementing a stormwater utility for the City of Tifton. Council briefly discussed the proposal and collectively agreed for the City Manager to move forward with hiring a consultant to develop a plan for implementing the proposed utility.

Personnel Policy and Employee Benefits Update

Ms. Carla Cooper, HR Director, overviewed with Council the proposed changes to the Employee Handbook and Employee Medical Benefits. The changes to the Employee Handbook included allowing elected officials to enroll in the City's Health Insurance Plan, reducing the health insurance waiting period for new hires to 30 days, and making changes to the eligibility of spouse coverage.

Mr. Pyrzenski also mentioned Fire Chief Michael Coleman had decided to retire and an ordinance was included in the agenda packet for his retirement benefit.

Ordinance Approving GMA Health Insurance Plan Documents

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski presented an ordinance for participation in the Georgia Municipal Benefit System (GMEBS) Life and Health Insurance Program. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned staff has reviewed multiple health insurance plans and recommends switching to GMA's Blue Cross Blue Shield. The new plan will offer better insurance coverage for employees and will decrease costs for the city. Mr. Pyrzenski discussed the changes and mentioned the city will save \$190,000 for the year and costs will increase for employees but their deductible will be decreasing. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the city's supplemental benefits, dental, and vision will continue through Skip Hill & Associates.

Transfer of Property to Tift County for Recreation and Authorize City Manager to Execute

Deeds: Mr. Pyrzenski stated the deeds for the ball fields have been drafted based on direction from council. The deeds were placed in the agenda packet for review and once approved will be executed and recorded.

Proposed Lease Agreement with TCCCY for Facility Located at 418 N. Ridge Ave

Mr. Pyrzenski stated a draft of the lease was included in the council packet for review. The city will charge TCCCY \$350 per month to lease the property and building located at 418 N. Ridge Ave. Mr. Pyrzenski stated the roof has been repaired and Ms. Lillie McIntyre with TCCCY is very happy with the improvements made to the building.

Resolution Amending Dates and Times for Council Meetings

Mr. Pyrzenski stated the proposed resolution will change the Council Workshop and Council Meeting Dates so that the Council Workshop will be held on the first Monday of each month and the Council Meeting be held on the third Monday of each month. Meeting time will remain the same at 5:30 PM. He mentioned staff will notify the public of these changes once approved.

Resolution Appointing MGAG Voting Delegates

Mr. Pyrzenski presented a resolution which would appoint Mayor Julie Smith and Mr. Pete Pyrzenski as voting delegates for Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia.

Discussion of Natural Gas Base Rates and Current Year Projections

Mr. Wayne Putnal, Finance Director, stated after reviewing the gas projections and consumptions for the year the city is expected to see a \$550,000 shortfall. Staff proposed increasing the natural gas base rates to \$7.50 for residential customers and \$10.00 for commercial customers. It was also recommended to add a rehook/turn on fee of \$90.00. Mr. Putnal mentioned because of the warmer

weather the gas revenue is down and the projected revenue has a shortfall for FY2017. As a result of this shortfall MGAG and staff are recommending the increase. Mr. Pyrzenski also recommended the city amp up the marketing and gas incentives to encourage citizens to convert to natural gas. Council briefly discussed the recommendation and Vice Mayor Ehlers requested additional information on fund balance and reserves in the natural gas fund.

Resolution Approving Application for Additional FY2017 LMIG Funding for Safety

Improvements on Local Roads: Mr. Jeff West, ESG Regional Director, presented a resolution to apply for additional LMIG funding in the amount of \$100,000 to restripe Tift Avenue, 12th Street, Prince Ave, Old Ocilla Road, Central Ave, Love Ave, Tifton Eldorado Road, Magnolia Drive, 8th Street, Fulwood Boulevard, and Lake Drive. Mr. West mentioned the City would be required to provide a 30% match to the project. Discussion was held and Council Member Terrell requested having the school crossings at all the schools also be restriped.

Review of Bids for Purchase of Dump Truck for Public Works

Mr. Jeff West presented bids received for the purchase of a new dump truck. Bids were received from the following vendors:

Rush Truck Centers - \$76,432.00

Peach State Truck Centers - \$84,809.46

Peach State Truck Centers - \$77,645.68

Staff recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder Rush Truck Centers in the amount of \$76,432.00. The purchase for the new dump truck is currently budgeted in SPLOST V.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at Lil Pantry located at 1302 S. Central Ave:

Ms. Jessica Jones presented the resolution for approval of the alcohol license to sell package beer at Lil Pantry. Ms. Jones mentioned staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval. Mr. Qadeer Ahmad, owner, was present to discuss his application with Council. Council Member Terrell spoke to Mr. Ahmad about the location of the business and expressed he expected him to comply with the alcohol laws and not sell to underage customers.

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at EZ-Mart 2 located at 301 7th Street

Ms. Jessica Jones presented the resolution for approval of the alcohol license to sell beer and wine at EZ-Mart 2. Ms. Jones mentioned staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval. Ms. Preeti Sandhu was present to discuss her application with Council. Council did not have any comments for Ms. Sandhu.

NON ACTION ITEMS

Overview of Rhythm & Ribs Festival

Mr. Jeff West presented a report detailing the man hours, equipment costs, and materials used in connection with the Rhythm and Ribs Festival. The summary presented reflected \$22,652.14 in time and materials used by ESG Staff working in preparing for and the day of the event. Council reviewed the report and thanked ESG for their part in making improvements to Fulwood Park and the successful event.

Review of FY2018 Budget Calendar

Mr. Wayne Putnal, Finance Director, reviewed with the Council the budget calendar and stated the proposed budget will be available for review on May 5th. Based on the calendar presented the FY2018 Budget is scheduled to be adopted by council at the meeting on June 15, 2017.

Mr. Putnal mentioned the city recently sent out a RFP for new financial software and received eight proposals. Staff is currently reviewing the information submitted, scheduling demos, and will be working toward determining the best software for Tifton.

Mr. Pyrzenski recognized Mr. Bobby Bennett, Interim Fire Chief, and mentioned Mr. Bennett was selected Interim Chief by the department's captains. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the city would soon be advertising for the Fire Chief position, but Mr. Bennett would be taking over during this process.

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

Julie Smith, Mayor

Jessica Jones, City Clerk