

**CITY OF TIFTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2017  
5:30 PM  
TIFTON CITY HALL**

**Attendees**

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers  
Council Member Jack Folk  
Council Member Johnny Terrell  
Council Member Frank Sayles

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

Vice Mayor Ehlers called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, and led the prayer and pledge.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Council Member Folk motioned, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as presented.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Sayles motioned, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the September 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, October 2, 2017 Workshop, and October 9, 2017 Called Workshop.

**Proclamation Recognizing Go Light Up Your World Day**

Vice Mayor Ehlers read aloud the proclamation proclaiming October 25, 2017, as Go Light Up Your World Day in Tifton. Ms. Lillie McEntyre w/ TCCCY accepted the proclamation and encouraged everyone to put out luminaries across Tift County on October 25<sup>th</sup> to support the event and children in the County.

**Proclamation Recognizing Retired Educators Day**

Vice Mayor Ehlers read aloud the proclamation proclaiming November 5, 2017 as Retired Educators Day in Tifton and presented the proclamation to the representatives present.

**Introduction of New Police Officers Mark Stone and Mark Driskell**

Captain Raymond Drennon introduced the new officers and mentioned they just recently graduated from the police academy and were hired full-time with the Department. City Council welcomed Officer Stone and Officer Driskell.

**Patrick Atwater w/ Tift County Board of Education**

Mr. Patrick Atwater was present to discuss the success of the school resource officers' partnership at Tift County Schools. Mr. Atwater mentioned the partnership has been in existence for around 25 years, and has been a very beneficial partnership to the students, staff, and parents. Mr. Atwater mentioned Tift County of Schools has approximately 8,000 students and all of the schools are within the city limits with the exception of JT Reddick and Omega. Mr. Atwater stated the school system has averaged an additional \$70,000 each year for having uniformed off-duty officers present at the schools which do not have SRO staff full-time. Mr. Atwater mentioned this cost is in addition to the SRO Contract with the city and is also a benefit to the primary schools. Council

Member Folk asked how many students live inside the city limits? Mr. Atwater stated he did not have that information tonight, but he could get that information. Mr. Atwater mentioned the partnership has been successful and he is looking forward to continuing the partnership with the City.

#### **Kenneth Brown w/ Internal Revenue Service**

Mr. Brown was present to share valuable information and make the community leaders aware of the IRS free income tax preparation program. Mr. Brown mentioned the program is available to assist low income and elderly individuals with preparing their tax returns. Mr. Brown mentioned they are currently looking for volunteers in Tifton for the program and can offer training to the volunteers. Mr. Brown passed out information about the program and asked Council to please send anyone interested in volunteering their way.

#### **Citizen Input**

No one spoke

#### **Consent Agenda**

Council Member Terrell motioned, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved to accept the following items on the consent agenda:

5. Adoption of the New Vision and Mission Statement for the City of Tifton
7. Ordinance Updating Occupational Tax Collection

#### **Agreement with Tift County Board of Education for School Resource Officers**

Council Member Sayles made the first motion for approval of the agreement, seconded by Terrell, and motion was unanimously approved. During discussion, Council Member Folk did request the agreement be reviewed in 2018 prior to budget adoption so the City can properly negotiate the agreement.

#### **Ordinance Rezoning 1.03 Acres Located at 303 Beech Street From R8 to GB, Application Z17-000-003, Submitted by H.C. Dorminey Estate (T058 018)**

Vice Mayor Ehlers was not present at the previous public hearing on the zoning matters. So, City Attorney Rob Wilmot asked Mr. Ehlers the conflict questions and Mr. Ehlers confirmed he did not have any conflicts with the property or property owners. After reviewed the rezoning request, Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved.

#### **Ordinance Rezoning 22.68 Acres Located at LL307 South Carpenter Road RP to GB, Application Z17-000-004, Submitted by Bowen Family Partnership, LLP (T0046 008A)**

City Attorney Rob Wilmot asked Mr. Ehlers the conflict questions for participation in zoning matters and Mr. Ehlers confirmed he did not have any conflicts with the property or property owners. Council Member Jack Folk made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved.

#### **Proposal from the Tifton Housing Authority for Tenants Covered by the VAWA Act of 2013**

Mr. Pyrzenski reviewed the proposal and recommended allowing for tenants to pay a \$75 down payment on the utility deposit and allow the tenant to pay the remaining balance over six months.

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned this is positive partnership and will assist any tenant of the housing authority which had to relocate because of domestic violence. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned our current billing system is not able to transfer deposits, but the new software has the capability and this would not be needed once the new software is in place. Council requested additional information on how often this issue comes up, and statistics from the Housing Authority on how many requests they anticipate each year. Council Member Folk made the first motion to postpone indefinitely, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

#### **Review of Bids for Natural Gas Service to Windy Hill Road (#17-015)**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the bids came in over budget and after speaking with Tifton Peanut Company they are going to hold off on the expansion of the gas line at this time. Council Member Folk made the first motion to reject all bids, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

#### **Natural Gas Service Agreement with Tifton Peanut Company #2, LLC to Construct a 4” Natural Gas Line**

Since Mr. Grimes w/ Tifton Peanut Company #2 did not want to move forward with the project at this time since the bids came in over budget. The Council decided to postpone the agreement. Council Member Sayles made the first motion to postpone indefinitely, motion seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

#### **Financial Update**

Mr. Wayne Putnal presented the Council with a year to date financial update through September 2017. Mr. Putnal reviewed the reports with Council, and Mr. Ehlers requested an email when the insurance premium tax was received.

#### **City Manager Report**

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the audit preparation was completed and gave kudos to Ms. Karen Sanders in finance for her work on preparing for the annual audit. Mr. Pyrzenski also mentioned Lequrica Gaskins has fundraised approximately \$50,000 for the annual Hometown Holiday Event, and thanked her for her work in pulling off the event. Lastly Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned 20<sup>th</sup> Street water line installation should be completed this week, and paving should be starting back up.

Vice Mayor Ehlers mentioned that early voting for the November General Election begins tomorrow.

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Folk made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned.

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Wes Ehlers, Vice Mayor

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Jessica Jones, City Clerk