

**TIFTON CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
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

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Jessica White, City Clerk

Call to Order

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

Public Hearing for Application PP19-0043, Rezoning Request Submitted by Hand Construction for Rezoning 9.636 Acres, Owned by Northwest 82, LLC Located on Hunt Road, Map/Parcel T0046 006A, from General Business (GB) to Multi-Residential (MR)

Attorney Rob Wilmot stated the Public Hearing was to hear from the public regarding a rezoning request submitted by Hand Construction for 9.636 Acres located on Hunt Road, Application PP19-0043.

Mr. Wilmot served as the hearing officer and asked the Council Members the following questions pertaining to conflict of interest with regard to the above zoning application:

1. Has the applicant contributed \$250.00 or more to any member's campaign within the past two years?
2. Do you or any members of your family own property that would be impacted by this application, whether that be a positive or negative impact?
3. Do you or any members of your family have an interest in a business that would be impacted by this application, whether that be a positive or negative impact?

All Council Members answered NO to the conflict questions and were able to participate in the public hearing.

Mr. Danny Wallace, Assistance Director of Community Development, presented the staff report. Mr. Wallace mentioned the application was processed according to the zoning procedures law and was reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Both staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval of the rezoning application. Mr. Wallace mentioned additionally staff recommends the developer add sidewalks and additional trees on the property along Hunt Road to fit the interconnected design. The public hearing opened to public comment and no one spoke. The public hearing was closed.

Proclamation Declaring National Assisted Living Week

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented to members present of Cypress Pond Senior Living. Representatives present spoke about all the activities they have planned in celebration of National Assisted Living Week and encouraged everyone to join them.

Proclamation Declaring Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented to Ms. Bonnie Sayles with Literacy Volunteers of Tifton-Tift County. Ms. Sayles spoke about their upcoming Carnival of Knowledge Event planned for September 12, 2019.

New Business

Golden Environmental Agreement Revisions

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski and Mr. Ricky Hobby, Landfill Director, presented proposed revisions that would be included in the one-year agreement with Golden Environmental. Proposed revisions included: contractor should provide a liaison to handle City of Tifton customer service matters; Changes for addressing additional garbage not placed in the designated cart; annual route audits; pilot program for collecting bulky and yard waste once per week; provisions for negotiating special service pickups with customers, daily reporting requirements; removing contractor's exclusive rights for commercial collection; requiring new carts for residential customers; truck maintenance requirements; downtown commercial dumpster billing; and adding safety standards for trucks and employees. Mr. Hobby and Mr. Richard Golden with Golden Environmental spoke in reference to the two-month pilot program for weekly yard debris and bulky item pickup. Mr. Golden also mentioned he had recently hired a liaison to handle customer service for Tifton residents. Council reviewed the recommended changes and discussed. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned he would have a draft agreement prepared for Council's review in October.

Review of Bids Received for Police and Fire Department Vehicles

Chief Buddy Dowdy presented the bids received for the nine emergency vehicles. Chief Dowdy mentioned staff is recommending purchasing five (5) Dodge Chargers and one (1) Ford SUV from Griffin Ford Chrysler Jeep Dodge and three (3) Chevrolet SUVs from Brannen Motor Company. Total cost for all nine (9) vehicles is \$253,398.00. Mr. Dowdy mentioned staff is requesting the different SUVs be purchased in order to compare operational and maintenance costs. Council briefly reviewed the bids and discussed.

Review of ESG Agreement Amendment

Mr. Jeff West, ESG Director, presented an amendment to the City contract to provide for a 1.02% increase in the base fees for the ESG annual contract. The proposed amendment would set the base fees at \$6,454,944.00 for providing public works, utility services, and fleet management for FY2020.

City of Tifton Utility/Customer Service Overview

Mr. Brandon Howard, City Liaison, presented a review of the current Customer Service procedures, utility penalty charges and cutoff policy with Council. Mr. Howard mentioned staff was asked to review the current procedures to ensure efficiency. Mr. Howard also provided Council with a report comparing Tifton's procedures to surrounding cities. Mr. Howard mentioned staff would be updating the current policy to reflect software changes and making revisions based on current practices. Staff recommended the following efforts for improvement: Customer education on

billing procedures, Courtesy calls for late payments, and not disconnecting customers with a balance below \$25.00. Council reviewed the information presented and made additional suggestions for consideration.

Small Cell Ordinance

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski presented a proposed ordinance which provides provision for addressing the placement of small cell facilities and associated poles within a public right of way. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the proposed ordinance would allow the city to have local control and establishes reasonable regulations for companies wishing to install small wireless facilities. Mr. Jonathan Taylor, IT Director, informed Council of what a small cell looked like and how they are used by wireless providers to increase service in certain areas. Mr. Taylor mentioned small cell installation is becoming more prevalent and will be necessary as wireless providers move to a 5G internet speed. Council reviewed the ordinance and briefly discussed.

Discussion of Recommended Changes for Transient Merchant Permits

An ordinance amendment was presented recommending changes for transient merchant permits. Ms. Jessica White requested Council's consideration for allowing an annual license fee of \$75.00 for covering administrative costs for evaluating transient merchant applications annually; and allowing daily, weekly, or monthly permits to be issued throughout the year, not to exceed 30 days. Council briefly discussed and agreed to not move forward with making any changes at this time.

Discussion of Recommendation for Allowing Brown-Bagging and Regulating Such Establishments

Ms. White informed Council that the City's current alcohol ordinance does not allow brown bagging and a new paint & sip business is requesting brown-bagging be allowed. Staff provided information from other cities and requested Council's consideration for allowing brown-bagging and adding regulations for obtaining a brown-bagging license. Council discussed and asked staff to prepare recommended changes for consideration.

Consider Changes to the Mobile Food Unit Ordinance

Ms. White mentioned staff has recently had multiple interests from people wanting to have food trucks in Tifton, but finding a location that meets the current requirements is difficult. Ms. Jill Reade, Environmental Health Manager, provided Council with the Health Department's requirements for food trucks and was available to answer questions. Council reviewed the current ordinance and briefly discussed. Council requested staff prepare recommended changes for consideration

Other Business

City Manager Report

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski mentioned City Hall Staff recently took part in robbery training which was led by Captain Hyman. He also informed Council that the City installed a new water line to service the new Ruth's Cottage Facility. Mr. Bruce Green also provided info on the Downtown September Month of Music Events.

Mayor & Council Comments

Vice Mayor Ehlers thanked the Police Department for allowing him to participate in the recent active shooter training.

Council Member Frank Sayles recommended the City prepare a list of sidewalks that needed repairs.

Executive Session

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

Council Member Johnny Terrell made the first motion to go out of executive session, seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

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

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

Julie Smith, Mayor

Jessica White, City Clerk