

CITY OF TIFTON
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2013
5:00 pm
Municipal Courtroom

ATTENDEES

J.G. "Jamie" Cater Jr., Mayor
Johnny Terrell, Vice Mayor
Marianna Keesee, Council Member
Chris Parrott, Council Member

Julie Smith, Council Member
Larry Riner, City Manager
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney
Jessica Jones, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER – COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Cater called the meeting to order.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER

Mayor Jamie Cater sworn in Mr. Hayward Fowler to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board, Mr. Fowler will serve a four year term.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Mayor Jamie Cater led the prayer and pledge.

CITIZEN INPUT

Jack Abbott – Flooding Issues at new river: Mr. Abbott resides at 110 Mixon-Abbott Road, Mr. Abbott stated he was present to talk about the New River channel and he believes that this is an important issue to the city as well as the county. Mr. Abbott mentioned all the drainage of North East Tifton runs into the New River. Mr. Abbott mentioned prior to the mid-1970's Tifton would always flood from just a few inches of rain. Sometime during the 1970's Tifton began installing the channels to the New River. Mr. Abbott mentioned he has flown over the channel recently and the channel is not blocked up to Lower Brookfield Road, but past Lower Brookfield the channel is blocked. He believes the blockage is a result of beaver dams. Mr. Abbott knew the problem was in the county but if something is not done this could lead to a possible problem for the city. Mr. Abbot mentioned we all should be concerned because land owners have lost: valuable timber, accessibility to adjoining properties, use of productive land, and wildlife habitat all from the standing water on their properties. Mayor Jamie Cater expressed that the concerns are mainly in the county and the city has done a study on the flooding issue. Mayor Cater stated the culverts under Hwy 319 need to be larger or replaced and the city has asked DOT to help fund the much needed project. Mr. Jack furthered that the Southern Regional Commission has applied for a grant for pollution control of New River. Mr. Abbott read aloud that according to the 2010 Georgia Clear Water Act, New River has been found to be non-supporting the designated supporting use for high fecal coli form levels. Mr. Abbott mentioned the city depends on New River drainage channel to carry water out of town and he believes this is very important to the City of Tifton. The council thanked Mr. Abbott for bringing the issue to the council's attention and for his concerns.

REPORT BY KEEP TIFT BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE – MR. DAVE HETZEL

Mr. Hetzel mentioned he feels that it is important for boards and committees to report back to the city council annually to give an update on their accomplishments or perhaps challenges. Mr. Hetzel mentioned he is the outgoing Chair of the committee; and Mary Mallow has been appointed the new committee chair. Mr. Hetzel mentioned the committee is a non-profit organization and is made of community volunteers whom are appointed by the City of Tifton, City of Omega, City of Ty Ty, and Tift County officials. Mr. Hetzel stated the committee meets the third Thursday at the Tifton Welcome

Station at 7:00 pm. Mr. Hetzel stated the goals of the committee are to: promote recycling efforts to extend the life of the landfill, improve the appearance of the county, and provide public education through community activities. Mr. Hetzel in closing overviewed the past year's events and accomplishments with the council. Mayor Cater thanked Mr. Hetzel for the update and for his service.

REPORT BY ESG ON WASTEWATER OPERATIONS – MR. SCOTT MURPHY

Mr. Larry Riner stated representatives from ESG were present to give an update to the city council on the accomplishments at the Wastewater Treatment Facility since taking over operations in November 2012. Mr. Scott Murphy stated condition assessments have been completed on all facilities and equipment, as well as over 900 hours of employee safety training completed. Facility upgrades have also been completed including sludge digester rebuilt, repaired failing aerators, pump repairs, and influent controller repaired. Mr. Murphy mentioned in 2013 ESG will implement their asset management program, complete another conditions assessment at year end, develop a 12-year repair and replacement forecast, optimize existing facility operations, and prepare a capital improvement plan. Mr. Murphy also acknowledged the comment made by Mr. Jack Abbott concerning the coli form levels in the New River. He informed the board that the water downstream from the treatment plant contains a lower bacterial count than the water upstream. Mr. Murphy stated multiple tests are performed at both the treatment plant and within the stream discharge and all tests are well below state standards. Mayor Cater thanked Mr. Murphy and the other representatives from ESG for the presentation and for their services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Cater asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the January 7, 2013 Regular Council Meeting. Chris Parrott made the first motion for approval of the minutes, seconded by Johnny Terrell, and unanimously carried by all members present for approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Cater asked if anyone wished to have any items removed from the consent agenda. Since no member of the council asked for any items to be removed, Mayor Cater asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Julie Smith made the first motion to approve all three (3) items on the consent agenda, motion seconded by Chris Parrott, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2. Resolution providing for appropriate staff to make deposits/withdrawals in the Georgia Fund 1 for the City of Tifton General Fund (Local Government Investment Pool)
3. Resolution providing for appropriate staff to make deposits/withdrawals in the Georgia Fund 1 for the City of Tifton SPLOST Fund (Local Government Investment Pool)
4. Approval of Board Report

DISCUSSION OF TIFT THEATRE

Item removed from the agenda and was not discussed. Marianna Keesee requested for the item to be discussed at the March Council Meeting.

DISCUSSION OF GOLF CART LEGISLATION

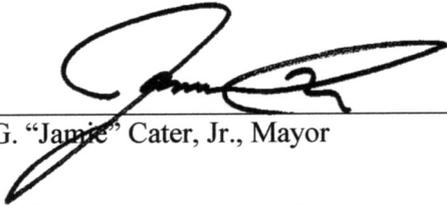
Rob Wilmot updated the council on the status of the golf cart legislation. Mr. Wilmot stated the state had formed a committee to review the state law in reference to required signage for golf carts on public streets. Mr. Wilmot mentioned he has drafted legislation that is now being considered by the committee and he hopes this will be presented during the current legislative session. Mr. Wilmot stated his recommendation to the state was to place the required golf cart signage at the same location as the radar

detection signs. The council agreed his recommendation was appropriate and was very appreciative of his work on the golf cart signage issue.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – LARRY RINER

Mr. Larry Riner mentioned the finance department has completed the financial statements and trial balances for FY2012 and are ready to be submitted to the auditors for review. Mr. Riner mentioned he anticipates a current financial update will be presented to the council in March.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.



J.G. "Jamie" Cater, Jr., Mayor



Jessica Jones, Deputy Clerk