

**City of Tifton
Regular Council Meeting
October 7, 2013
5:00 PM
Municipal Courtroom**

ATTENDEES

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

Larry Riner, City Manager
Rona Martin, City Clerk
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AWARD FOR THE LEROY ROGERS SENIOR CENTER RENOVATION AND EXPANSION**

Rona Martin, City Clerk, provided a brief overview of the project stating this is a renovation and expansion of the senior center that will be done in two phases. She stated the cost is approximately \$980,000 with funds coming from SPLOST IV at about \$550,000 and the CDBG grant at \$500,000 covering the building construction. She stated funds from SPLOST V will cover the parking and drainage improvements as part of Phase II. No one from the public spoke for or against the project.

- **TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF TIFTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION MANUAL TO CONSIDER REVISIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR PERMITTING OF BANNERS AND STICK SIGNS IN THE COMMERCIAL AREAS OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT AND PERMITTING CHANNEL LIGHTING AND LED LIGHTING WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL AREAS OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT**
- **TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF TIFTON LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO REGULATE MULTIPLE MESSAGE SIGNS AND TO ALLOW FOR DIRECT LIGHTING IN THE COMMERCIAL AREAS OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT UPON OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL BY THE CITY OF TIFTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Attorney Rob Wilmot explained the procedures for the public hearings for the two text amendments. Mr. Wilmot then addressed the council to qualify the members and determine if they had any conflicts of interest regarding the proposed amendments. Mr. Wilmot asked the members of the council if they had any property interest, financial business interest, or if their family members had any interest in affected areas. Mayor Cater and Council Members Parrott and Smith disclosed that they owned property in the historic district.

Bert Crowe reviewed the staff recommendation as it related to the Land Development Code and the Historic Preservation Manual. He discussed the temporary signage, political signs and types of lighting allowed. He discussed multi-message signs as well as scrolling, blinking, flashing, signs. Mr. Wilmot explained the requirements of Certified Local Governments to include the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the review of any proposed changes to the ordinances and then on to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He explained the process if changes are made by Council. Mr. Wilmot asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the changes.

Mr. Charles Styer, 410 N. Park Avenue, stated the staff proposals will provide relief to businesses in Tifton and have a small impact on the historic district. He stated flashing, blinking signs should be allowed outside the historic district. He stated the residential nature should be kept zoned as RP.

Mr. Wilmot asked if anyone wanted to speak in opposition.

Mr. Hal Baxley, 225 E. Second Street stated decisions need to be made long term as technology is moving toward scrolling, blinking, flashing signs. He stated the downtown commercial district should have the same opportunities as other areas of the City. He stated sign advertising is the only way to have a successful business. He stated scrolling, flashing, blinking signs should be allowed.

Mr. Allen Peugh, Central & Hwy. 82, stated he eliminated several banners with an LED sign. He stated he wants to keep his LED sign.

Council Member Smith explained the benefits of a Certified Local Government as it relates to historic preservation.

Mayor Cater closed the public hearing.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cater called the meeting to order at approximately 5:35 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Council Member Chris Parrott led the prayer and pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Parrott made the motion for approval of the agenda, seconded by Council Member Terrell, and unanimously carried by all members present.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION

Mayor Cater and Crystal Craft recognized Angela Stubbins as employee of the month in the Public Works Department.

CITIZEN INPUT

Darlene Pilcher, 805 N. Ridge Avenue stated this is the 25th anniversary of the designation of the City's historic district. She stated our local government has supported the district. She stated downtown is the heart of the city. She expressed appreciation for Council's support and asked that careful consideration be given to the sign changes.

Hal Baxley thanked and commended Council for their work in the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from: September 9, 2013 Regular Meeting, and the September 19, 2013 Workshop/Called Meeting. Council Member Keesee moved for approval of the minutes with a change to September 19, 2013 minutes regarding discussion on the signage text amendment. She stated she asked that the sentence in section 7.17(a) of the Land Development Code regarding "blinking, flashing, scrolling, fading, or fluctuating lights or other illuminating devices that have a changing light intensity, brightness or color" be removed and not the entire section, seconded by Council Member Parrott, and unanimously carried by all members present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Smith moved, seconded by Council Member Parrott, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda for items 2-5 as follows:

2. Resolution granting the City Manager authority to participate in Hedging of Natural Gas through Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia for the City of Tifton
3. Approval of proposal for purchase of (2) Two Vacuum Tankers from Fireline, Inc. at \$480,000 – funded by SPLOST IV
4. Approval of bid for Prep, Prime & Painting of (6) Propane Storage Tanks to Chiles Propane LLC at \$25,972.06
5. Resolution providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for Pinkesh Food, Inc., Sun Mart located at 902 S. Central Avenue

RESOLUTION ALLOWING CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ANNEXATION PETITION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF TIFTON-EASTGATE SUBDIVISION

Council Member Parrott moved, seconded by Council Member Keesee and unanimously carried to adopt a resolution allowing the City Manager to sign an annexation petition on behalf of the City of Tifton.

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE – SIGNAGE

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGE TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

Mr. Wilmot asked that these be tabled in order for DNR to review them. Discussion was held regarding a conference call with Leigh Burns and Council during a workshop. Council Member Keesee moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell and unanimously carried to table the above two ordinances to the December 2, 2013 regular council meeting to allow for review by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

APPROVAL OF RFP FOR TIFT THEATRE SOUND SYSTEM TO ECB PRO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,991.00

Steven Henderson reviewed the results of the RFP. Council Member Keesee asked for financial information on the theatre. Council Member Terrell moved for approval of the RFP for the Tift Theatre Sound System. The motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Cater suggested this be revisited. Mr. Riner stated this is the closest bid we've had for what we need.

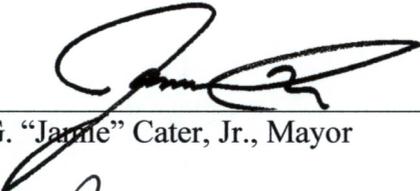
CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY

Council Member Keesee moved, seconded by Council Member Smith and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to the Customer Service Policy changing the disconnect fees as stated on the schedule of fees.

DISCUSSION OF MINUTES OF 6/28/2013

Council Member Smith stated she had no problem with the minutes staying as presented. She stated she wanted to make sure any future changes to minutes would take place at the regular Council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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



Rona Martin, City Clerk

