City of Tifton
Regular Council Meeting
March 2, 2015
5:00 PM
Tifton Municipal Courtroom
130 E. 5th Street

ATTENDEES

Jamie Cater, Mayor
Johnny Terrell, Vice Mayor
Wes Ehlers, Council Member
Chris Parrott, Council Member
Julie Smith, Council Member

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- City of Tifton request for Text Amendments to the Land Development Code relating to Right-of-Way Signage (Amending Chapter 6 & Chapter 7) (T15-000-001)

Attorney Rob Wilmot stated the matter under consideration is for text amendments to the Land Development Code by the City of Tifton relating to right-of-way signage. (T15-000-001) He stated Chapter 6 is to correct the inconsistency between the language of the text contained in Section 6.01.05 (C) and the "Visibility at Intersections" diagram. He stated the amendment to Chapter 7 is to add a new section 7.09.01 to be titled "Permitted Signs in Right of Way" to permit directional real estate signs at certain locations within the City Right of Way.

Council Member Smith asked if she needed to recuse herself since she is with a real estate company. Attorney Wilmot stated not at this point.

Bert Crowe, Environmental Management Director reviewed the proposed changes to Chapters 6 and 7 of the Land Development Code. He stated the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the requests unanimously.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

Mark Brown, 606 E 48th Street requested that a time frame be put on when any sign has to be removed upon sale, etc. He stated he did not object to having the signs in place, but that they should be removed timely upon the sale of any home. He stated there is a problem with signs in general being left after they are no longer useful.

Mayor Cater closed the public hearing.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jamie Cater called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Mayor Cater led in the prayer and pledge.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA

Council Member Smith moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell and unanimously carried to approve the Council agenda.

CITIZEN INPUT

Mark Brown, 606 E. 48th Street, expressed concern over the code enforcement department. He stated he has contacted code enforcement to have signs at the stop signs at several streets removed, with no results. He stated he contacted the City Manager in July who, in turn, contacted code enforcement to have the signs removed. He stated the signs were still there three weeks later. He then called Mr. Riner back and informed him the signs were still up. Mr. Riner had the signs removed at that time. He complained that code enforcement did not police the situation with the signs. He stated he also complained about semi-truck parking in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot. He stated Mr. Crowe's response was a poor report (he provided the report). After further comments he asked that the department be given back to the county and put the money toward the westside fire station. Mr. Riner stated this is private property on a state route and they have permission from the property owners to park the trucks in the lot and this is legal. Council Member Parrott stated Mr. Brown raised some good issues and he would like to explore them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Ehlers and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 Workshop/Called Meeting and the February 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Parrott moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell and unanimously carried to approve items 2-12 as listed below on the consent agenda.

2. Consider authorization for City Manager to execute a letter of support for Affordable Equity Partners for the West Haven Project

3. Ordinance updating the Retirement Plan regarding discontinuance of the 4% interest rate; clarification of the definition of compensation, and other matters

4. Ordinance updating the Retirement Plan regarding the makeup of the Retirement Board

5. Resolution providing for City of Ethics Recertification

6. Resolution providing for FY2015 Budget Revisions

7. Surplus of Equipment for the SWCD due to outsourcing

8. Resolution providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for J's Convenience Store located at 1405 US Hwy. 41 N

9. Resolution providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for Lil Pantry located at 1302 S. Central Avenue

10. Resolution providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for SN Food Mart located at 127 Tifton Eldorado Road

11. Resolution providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for Britanic Disco Rodeo located at 1101 S. Main Street

12. Ordinance regarding building code violations as they relate to occupation tax certificates (T15-000-003)

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNAGE (AMENDING CHAPTER 6) (T15-000-001)

Council Member Ehlers moved, seconded by Council Member Parrott and unanimously carried to adopt an Ordinance providing for Text Amendments to the Land Development Code relating to Right-of-Way Signage (Amending Chapter 6) (T15-000-001).

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE RELATING TO RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNAGE (AMENDING CHAPTER 7) (T15-000-001)

Council Member Smith recused herself from the discussion and left the room. Council Member Parrott moved for discussion, seconded by Council Member Terrell. Council Member Parrott stated the idea regarding a timeframe was good and asked Mr. Crowe to explain. Mr. Crowe read that the signs shall be removed within 10 days after any sale. Mr. Crowe explained the process for realtor right-of-way signs. Council Member Terrell stated the realtors took responsibility for removal of the signage at their previous meeting with them. Discussion was held regarding political signs. Mayor Cater called for the question. The motion carried unanimously (4-0) to adopt an Ordinance Providing for Text Amendments to the Land Development Code relating to Right-of-Way Signage. (Amending Chapter 7) (T15-000-001) Council Member Smith returned to the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

REAPPOINTMENT TO THE TIFTON TREE BOARD

Council Member Smith moved, seconded by Council Member Ehlers and unanimously carried to reappoint Al Potts to the Tifton Tree Board. Council Member Smith asked that Jeannie Rigdon be contacted regarding new board members.

Mr. Riner reminded everyone of the Rhythm & Ribs Festival in Fulwood Park this weekend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 p.m.

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

Rona Martin, City Clerk