

CITY OF TIFTON
October 5, 2015
5:00 p.m.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tifton City Hall
130 E. 1st 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

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Rona Martin, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cater called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Council Member Johnny Terrell led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL AGENDA

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

CITIZEN INPUT

Walter Dykes and Rhonda Howard, 735 Duggan Street, were present to complain about the noise coming from Britanic Disco Rodeo late at night. Chief Dowdy stated they have tested the noise levels and they are within the limits required by the City's code.

PRESENTATION TO CHARLES HOWELL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Mayor Cater presented the participants of the CHAPS Program with certificates of recognition. They were Susan Warren, Victor Pires, Ann Smith, Heather Reade, Julie Lester, Joe Lester, and Bill Kelley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Councilmember Ehlers and unanimously carried to approve the minutes for the September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting, and the September 17, 2015 Workshop/Called Meeting Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Parrott moved, seconded by Council Member Smith and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2. Approval of Bid for 2015 LMIG Project
3. Approval of Application by Fulwood Garden Center for Designation of Landmark Status
4. Approval of bid for sale of surplus property on Golden Road

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GEORGIA TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BANK FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO 20TH STREET

City Manager, Larry Riner explained that this a budgeted item for FY 2016 for resurfacing 20th Street. He stated a grant is being applied for with an 80% city match vs. 20% from the state. He stated this will allow the City to do additional improvements while resurfacing 20th Street.

Council Member Parrott moved, seconded by Council Member Ehlers and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution providing for submittal of a Grant Application to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank for Improvements to 20th Street.

OTHER BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF JOINT FIRE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF TIFT COUNTY

Tift County Commissioner Robert Setters gave a background of the formulation of the recently reorganized Department of Public Safety. He stated this department is charged with the control of emergency management, emergency communications 911, and fire rescue. He state the Tift County Commission voted in June 2015 to form a standalone fire department to begin operations in July 2016. He discussed procurement and manpower. He extended the opportunity for the city to join them in the management of the Tift County Fire Department. He stated Mr. Jones will provide a brief overview and timeline they will be adhering to.

Jason Jones, EMA Director, provided a handout and gave an overview of the proposed budgetary and organizational structure in partnership with the City of Tifton. He stated they have worked thru a process to provide a better trained and better equipped fire department. He stated this packet includes a budget and organizational structure for the Tift County Fire Department in partnership with the City of Tifton. He reviewed highlights which included 4 additional fulltime personnel, a budget less than the city's amended 2015 budget, opening the west side fire station and other matters. He discussed apparatus that have been procured. He stated should the city decide not to partner with them, they will initiate the standalone department in early December 2015 in order to meet the July 2015 start up deadline. He encouraged everyone to contact them with questions. Mr. Setters stated they are logistically at a crossroads. He stated they will answer any questions at any time. He asked that for an answer as soon as possible in order to make logistical decisions within the next 45 days. He asked for an answer in November. Council Member Ehlers asked if the plan for location of assets, etc. structured around a certain set of guidelines or standard operating procedures. Discussion was held regarding the assets, apparatus, and personnel distribution. Council Member Smith asked if the fire personnel had input into the development of the proposed plan. Mr. Jones stated they are looking for a decision as to the size of the department and a decision. Mayor Cater stated the city wants to hear from our consultant before this is addressed. Council Member Parrott asked if the county would consider a review with a partnership with the city. County Commissioner Setters said no, and stated the county will be managing a fire department effective July 1, 2016. Mr. Jones stated the Board of Commissioners voted to separate and manage a fire department and will execute their intent. Council Member Terrell asked if they had spoken to anyone in the fire department. Mr. Jones stated he has talked to a number of people in the fire department. Discussion was held regarding the current contract. Commissioner Setters discussed the logistical matters that have to take place. Discussion was held regarding funding thus far. Mr. Riner asked about the retirement fund. Mr. Setters stated that will have to be clarified. Mr. Jones stated the figure is based on 42 county employees.

Fire Chief Michael Coleman stated they have been looking at the proposal. He stated it is based upon false premise and asked that Council consider that. He proposed that a meeting with the firefighters be held to provide for an informative meeting. Mr. Riner asked that time be dedicated at the next workshop for the firefighters to meet with Council and go thru the process and provide factual information for consideration. Chief Coleman discussed why the stations, apparatus, etc. are where they are. Council Member Smith asked for a comparison of the current budget and the proposed budget. Mr. Riner stated they will have as much information as possible available.

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE H.E.A.T. PROGRAM

Donna Pate, Utilities Manager, stated this program provides for heating for the less fortunate and elderly and wish to continue with this year. She stated letters will be sent out requesting participation.

DRAWING FOR WINNERS OF THE NATURAL GAS SURVEYS FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Mrs. Pate discussed the requirements of the surveys. Mrs. Pate held a drawing for participants of the natural gas surveys which resulted in W. R. Pearson Construction representing the contractors, and Tammy Schroeder representing the public sector.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTERS

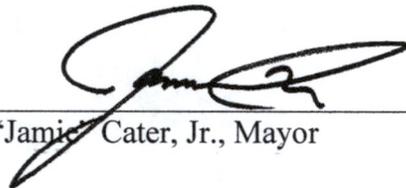
Council Member Smith moved, seconded by Council Member Parrott and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session to discuss Legal Matters.

Council Member Parrott moved, seconded by Council Member Ehlers and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member smith moved, seconded by Council Member Parrott and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution providing for Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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



Rona Martin, City Clerk