

**City of Tifton**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 6, 2016**  
**Council Chambers, 130 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**5:30 PM**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers

Council Member Jack Folk

Council Member Johnny Terrell

Council Member Frank Sayles

City Manager Larry Riner

City Attorney Rob Wilmot

City Clerk Jessica Jones

**Public Hearing Seeking Comments on FY2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG) Application being submitted by the Tifton Police Department**

Police Chief Buddy Dowdy stated the city has the opportunity to apply for these grant funds each year, and this year they are requesting \$12,040.00 to purchase body worn cameras. The public hearing is being held as a requirement of the grant to receive public input toward the grant application. Attorney Rob Wilmot asked if there were any public comments. Major Raymond Drennon mentioned these cameras are very much needed by the department. There were no other comments, public hearing closed.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

**Prayer and Pledge**

Council Member Terrell led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of the Agenda**

Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the agenda, seconded by Sayles, and unanimously carried.

**Citizen Input**

There was no citizen input.

**Special Presentation to Lynn Cook on Her Retirement and Celebrating 29 Years of Service**

Mayor Smith presented Ms. Lynn Cook with a proclamation celebrating her 29 years in public service and her retirement from the City of Tifton. Everyone wished her well and thanked Ms. Cook for her service.

**Tifton/Tift County Fire Department Life Saver Awards Presentation**

Commendation and Lifesaver awards were presented to City Volunteers, Tift County EMS, and C-shift Firemen by Chief Michael Coleman. Commendation Awards were presented to Walter

"Dawg" Burgess, Captain Chuck Cayton, Lt. Jackson Drawdy, Lt. Allen Peugh, Lt. Paul Boyd, and Firefighter Henry Taylor.

Lifesaver Awards were presented to Captain Bobby Bennett, Engineer John Domagala, Firefighter Eric Betts, Firefighter Drew Berger, and Firefighter Austin Tucker.

These awards were presented as a result of a rescue during a house fire on February 26, 2016. Members of the Howard Family were present and thanked the fireman for their service. Ms. Williams, daughter of Ms. Howard, stated the men did save her mother's life, and she was not burned in the fire. Her mother did have smoke in her lungs and was put on the ventilator. She came off the ventilator and she seemed to be getting better, but passed away shortly after with problems with her heart. Council Member Ehlers stated he was on scene the night of the fire. He saw first-hand these guys at work, and he was very proud of all the firemen and department.

#### **Presentation of Gold Award Received for Tifton-Tift County Water System**

Pete Pyrzenski presented the Gold Award received from Georgia Association of Water Professionals for the Tifton-Tift County Water System. ESG on behalf of the city applied for this award through a competitive process. The application takes into effect the water quality standards, procedures, and policies of the water system. He stated the Tifton-Tift County Water System has some of the best water quality in Georgia.

#### **Presentation of HEAT Award Received from Municipal Gas Authority**

Pete Pyrzenski also presented the Heat Award which was recently awarded to Tifton by Municipal Gas Authority. The Heat Award was given because of the many generous donations contributed to H.E.A.T by city residents. H.E.A.T. is a non-profit organization which offers Heating Energy Assistance to low income families for heating assistance during the winter months. Tifton had over 1,800 customers donate this past year.

#### **FY2017 Proposed Budget Presentation**

City Manager Larry Riner stated the budget being presented tonight is a balanced budget and is hot off the press. He mentioned the budget is also available for public inspection. The Public Hearing for the Proposed FY2017 Budget will be held on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Riner presented the Proposed FY2017 City of Tifton Budget at \$44.7 million for all funds. General Fund Budget totals 12.8 million; he reviewed the various funds such as, enterprise funds, pension fund, etc. Mr. Riner mentioned the revenues for Hotel Motel Tax is up, but the Local Option Sales Tax revenue is down. Based on the preliminary tax digest, the city ad valorem taxes are also expected to decrease. Mr. Riner reviewed the various revenues for the city and respective expenditures by department. Mr. Riner stated the city currently has available funds in SPLOST IV and SPLOST V for capital projects and expects to use all remaining funds in SPLOST IV this year. He reviewed the major capital improvements in the budget which includes: 20<sup>th</sup> Street resurfacing, 10<sup>th</sup> Street ditch improvements, downtown street improvements, traveling bridge filter at Wastewater Treatment Plant, and landfill paving improvements. Mr. Riner stated the budget does include a potential 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for employees. He further

stated the FY2017 Budget proposes to increase landfill tipping fees, inert landfill tipping fees, and sewer rates. Mr. Riner stated in the presented budget the city will also retire the Myon renovation debt and there will be no increase in property taxes.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Folk made the first motion, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from May 2, 2016 Council Meeting and May 23, 2016 Council Workshop/Called Meeting.

### **Consent Agenda**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

7. Declaring Surplus Property – Unnamed Alley between Popular Street & Cypress Street
8. Declaring Surplus Property – Unnamed Alley between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Street
9. Resolution Approving the CDBG Redevelopment Fund Grant MOU with DDA
10. Rejecting Bids for Westside and Chula Fire Stations
11. Changing Date for July Council Meeting to July 11, 2016

### **Ordinance Amending the Requirements for Adult Entertainment Establishments**

Mr. Wilmot mentioned the ordinance was discussed at the last workshop, and it amends the current ordinance to include adult novelty shops. He mentioned novelty shops will be defined in the ordinance as well as the requirements for novelty shops. He mentioned no one under the age of 21 can enter the novelty shop or area where novelties are located. The shops cannot publically display the novelties where minors are allowed. Mayor Julie Smith called for a motion to approve the ordinance. Council Member Sayles made the first motion for approval, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried by all members present.

### **Ordinance Providing for Alcohol Sales at Festivals**

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers made a motion to table the ordinance until the July Workshop, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried by all members present.

### **Resolution Authorizing the Tifton Police Department to Submit an Application for Funding to the FY2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG) Program**

Council Member Jack Folk made the first motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried by all members present.

### **Discussion of Revisions to the Alcohol Ordinance**

Mr. Wilmot mentioned state law makers have made changes to the law in reference to allowing no one under the age of 21 into a bar. Mr. Wilmot mentioned because of these changes, we must also make changes to our current alcohol ordinance. Mr. Wilmot stated there are exceptions to

the law which state you can enter a bar if under 21 if you are attending a live musical concert or a live presentation of the performing arts in which you pay an admission charge. Mr. Wilmot stated we will need to define what a live musical concert is going to include. Mr. Wilmot presented a few options for council to consider. Council discussed what they considered live musical concerts and admission charges. Mr. Wilmot noted the recommendations from council and will draft an ordinance for consideration at the June Workshop. Mayor Julie Smith appointed a committee to work on drafting an amendment to the alcohol ordinance. Committee members included: City Attorney Rob Wilmot, Council Member Jack Folk, and Council Member Sayles.

### **Board Report**

Jessica Jones reviewed the board report with council.

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to reappoint William Kelley to the Library Board and Jan Wise to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sayles and unanimously carried. Council Member Terrell made the first motion to appoint Ms. Rubye Williams to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board, seconded by Council Member Folk, and unanimously carried.

### **Executive Session To Discuss Legal Matters**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to go into executive session for legal matters, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried by Mayor Smith, Council Member Folk, and Council Member Sayles.

Meeting closed to executive session.

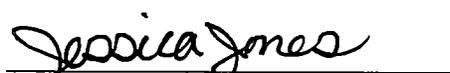
Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried.

### **Resolution for Executive Session**

Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Smith, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Jones, City Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON  
HELD ON June 6, 2016  
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council member Wes Ehlers makes the following motion:

1. That City Council now enters into executive session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following:

(check all that apply)

- Legal Matters.  
 Personnel Matters.  
 Real Estate Matters.

That each member of this body, in open session, at the conclusion of such executive session, and consistent with the provisions of City of Tifton Resolution No. 99-66, either:

1. Execute the Affidavit, the form of which having been previously approved; or
2. Vote upon the Resolution, the form of which having been previously approved, to be followed by the execution of the above-referenced Affidavit by so many members of this Council that so desire,

all of which is in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4; thereby this body, by appropriate form of either Affidavit or Resolution/Affidavit, ratifying the actions of the Council taken in executive session and confirming that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the Open Meetings law.

Council member Johnny Terrell seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved**

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure:

Council Members: Jack Folk, Julie Smith, Frank Sayles

Those voting against the motion for closure:

Council Members:

None

**AFFIDAVIT**

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Georgia:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
✓ _____	_____	Julie Smith
✓ _____	_____	Wes Ehlers
✓ _____	_____	Jack Folk
✓ _____	_____	Johnny Terrell, Jr
✓ _____	_____	Frank Sayles, Jr

Who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

1. I am a member of the Tifton City Council and I was present at a meeting of the City Council held on the 6 day of June, 2016.

2. That it was my understanding that O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) Of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016, which was closed for the purpose(s) of :

- Legal Matters
- Personnel Matters
- Real Estate Matters

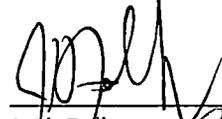
As allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

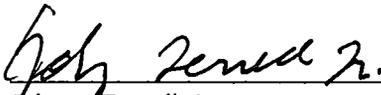
4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.
5. This affidavit is likewise executed by the following members of the City Council present at such executive session in support of open and honest government and in compliance with City of Tifton Resolution 99-66.

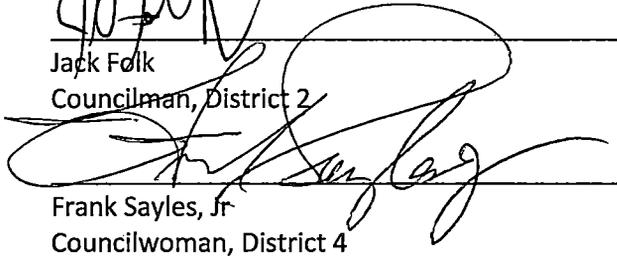
This 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

  
 Julie Smith  
 Mayor, City of Tifton

  
 Wes Ehlers  
 Councilman, District 1

  
 Jack Folk  
 Councilman, District 2

  
 Johnny Terrell, Jr.  
 Councilman, District 3

  
 Frank Sayles, Jr.  
 Councilwoman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
 By all City Council members  
 on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of  
June, 2016.

  
 Notary Public

