

**JOINT CALLED MEETING
CITY OF TIFTON MAYOR & COUNCIL
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 29, 2016
WELCOME STATION
5:00 PM**

A Joint Meeting of the Tifton Mayor and Council and Tift County Board of Commissioners was held to discuss joint matters. All members of the Tifton City Council were present. All members of the Tift County Board of Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Hester.

Mayor Smith called the meet to order at approximately 5:00 PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval with removing item number 2: Update on Joint Services. Motion seconded by Sayles and unanimously approved.

Chairman Grady Thompson called the Commission meeting to order, and called for a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item number 2. Commissioner Wood made the first motion for approval, seconded by Commissioner Setters, and unanimously approved.

Discuss Division of Tifton/Tift County Fire Department

City Manager Larry Riner passed around a listing of the fire department assets as prepared by the City. Council Member Ehlers reviewed the list aloud and asked everyone to review the list prepared. Based on the list presented, the City of Tifton will owe Tift County \$22,000 after assets are divided. Council Member Jack Folk asked if the County has also prepared a list of assets. County Manager Jim Carter stated they did not have a list to present, but he did have questions on the list presented. Mr. Riner reviewed how the City developed the asset listing presented. All items presented by the City were physical assets purchased as a joint department and did not account for City equipment purchased prior to 2004.

Mr. Carter questioned the ownership of the Westside Fire Station and how it was paid for. A brief discussion was held on the SPLOST accounting discrepancies between SPLOST 3 and SPLOST 4 expenditures. City Finance Director Lois Love addressed the issue, stating a misclassification of the Westside Fire Station funding was made in the supplemental report of the audit, and it did not affect the financial statements. Ms. Love mentioned a statement will be included in the FY2016 Audit to correct the misclassification in the previous years' audits. Mayor Smith gave the County Finance Director permission to contact the City's auditor for clarification on the matter.

Commissioner Setters questioned all other items to be divided outside of operational assets. Fire Chief Coleman mentioned discussions in reference to equipment purchased through a AFG grant have been discussed, and have been partially resolved with the exception of air bottles. He expected to have those discrepancies worked out shortly.

County Attorney Tony Rowell mentioned the two governments would need to develop a joint resolution or agreement to memorialize the final separation. Both bodies agreed that the City and County fire departments would work together to ensure all citizens are protected.

Mr. Jim Carter mentioned he would like to see the City and County work together to develop a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Tifton Fire Department and Tift County Fire Department.

Council Member Ehlers questioned how E-911 would handle calls for emergency and fire personnel beginning July 1. Mr. Jason Jones, EMA Director, stated E-911 was ready to handle dispatch and tones have been established for the City and County fire departments. He furthered that dispatch would be handled the same, and he has worked with Chief Coleman on the tones for the Tifton Fire Department.

Discussion was held on how extrication would be handled inside the city limits. Mr. Jones mentioned with the development of the Tift County Fire Rescue they merged Tift County EMS with that department. He mentioned the full time staff of the department are trained in both Fire and EMS to some degree currently, and anticipates all employees will have basic training in both EMS and Fire by Spring 2017. Mr. Jones spoke in reference to the ambulance service's requirement to provide extrication unless a waiver was on file. He explained how the department would handle calls for extrication. Council Member Jack Folk stated the City Fire Department will continue providing the same service of protection within the City of Tifton as it does currently. Fire Chief Coleman mentioned the statements presented by Mr. Jones were accurate, but the Tifton Fire Department has the necessary equipment to provide extrication inside the City limits. Fire Chief Coleman mentioned from an operational standpoint, the fire department is recommending continuing the same services inside the City.

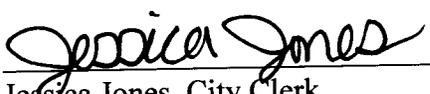
A discussion was held in reference to the governments answering calls in each other's jurisdiction. City Attorney Rob Wilmot mentioned, from a legal standpoint, a city cannot provide services inside the county without a contract and vice versa. Mr. Carter agreed we do need to get the agreements in place, but until then we need to do the right thing when answering calls in gray areas. A brief discussion was held in reference to properties part-in and part-out or located on the line.

Since there was no further business to discuss, Mayor Smith called for a motion to adjourn for the city. Council Member Folk made the first motion, seconded by Terrell, and motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Thompson called for a motion to adjourn for the county. Vice Chairman Hughes made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and motion unanimously carried.



Julie Smith, Mayor



Jessica Jones, City Clerk