

**CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 29, 2016
5:30 PM
TIFTON CITY HALL**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers

Council Member Jack Folk

Council Member Frank Sayles

Hunter Walker, Interim City Manager

Jessica Jones, City Clerk

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, Council Member Folk led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Sayles made the first motion for approval of the agenda and Council Member Folk seconded. All members present were in favor.

Citizen Input

None

Chad Alexander, Tift County Tax Commissioner: Mr. Alexander was present to give the City Council an update on the tax digest and tax collection. Mr. Alexander brought a copy of the full tax digest for 2016 which totaled \$3.160 Million in tax revenue. Mr. Alexander mentioned his department has collected 97.99% from the 2015 tax billing and 99.13% from the 2014 tax billing. He mentioned the remaining due is mostly from bankruptcies and are almost impossible to collect. He mentioned the total property tax collection did increase from 2015 to 2016, but was from a property value increase and not a millage rate increase. City Council did not have any additional questions, and thanked Mr. Alexander for attending.

Vice Mayor Ehlers arrived to the meeting.

Swearing in Kristy Daniels to the Tifton-Tift County Library Board: Mayor Smith administered the oath of office and sworn in Mrs. Daniels to the Tifton-Tift County Library Board.

Proclamation Proclaiming September as Alzheimer's Awareness Month: Mayor Smith read aloud the proclamation proclaiming Alzheimer's Awareness Month and thanked the Alzheimer's Association Members present for all their work with patients and finding a cure.

Proclamation Recognizing Latasha Ford: Mayor Smith read aloud a proclamation recognizing Latasha Ford, Reporter for the Tifton Gazette, and thanked Ms. Ford for her work in the community. For the past six years Ms. Ford has covered the city's meetings and events, and her help in keeping our citizens informed was greatly appreciated. This week will be Ms. Ford's last week at the gazette and the city wished her well on her future and thanked her for her service in the City of Tifton.

Approval of the Minutes

Brief discussion was held on the review of the minutes presented from the Joint City/County Meeting. Council Member Folk motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Ehlers and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from June 29, 2016 Joint City/County Special Called Meeting; August 1, 2016 Council Meeting; and August 18, 2016 Council Workshop/Special Called Meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Folk motioned, seconded by Council Member Sayles and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

6. Award of Bid to Crosby Equipment Company for Mini Excavator and Trailer
7. Resolution Approving Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) Contract for Natural Gas Supply
8. Resolution Updating Authorized Signers on Accounts held at First Community Bank
9. Resolution Providing for Alcohol License at Olive Garden located at 1208 Hwy 82 West
10. Resolution Providing for Executive Session at August 18, 2016 Council Workshop/Special Called Meeting

Amendment to the Council Agenda

Vice Mayor Ehlers motioned, seconded by Council Member Folk, and unanimously approved to amend the agenda and remove the following resolutions:

11. Resolution Providing for Alcohol License at Lil Pantry located at 1302 S. Central Ave
12. Resolution Providing for Alcohol License at Friendly Express, Inc. located at 208 E. 20th Street
13. Resolution Providing for Alcohol License for Friendly Express, Inc. located at 1310 US Hwy 82 W.

Ordinance Providing for Approval of Annexation and Rezoning of 1.96 Acres located at 0 Hwy 82 West, Application X16.000.011, Map 0047B Parcel 002

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion for approval, seconded by Council Member Sayles, and unanimously carried for approval.

Ordinance Providing for Moratorium of Crematories

Mr. Rob Wilmot mentioned the moratorium has been in place for some time and is set to expire soon. Mr. Wilmot mentioned staff is still reviewing the ordinance and requests additional time. The ordinance will extend the moratorium of crematories for six (6) months. Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion of approval, seconded by Vice Mayor Ehlers, and unanimously carried for approval.

Appointment of Members to the Retirement Board

Mayor Smith stated the item was discussed at the workshop and a member of the council needs to be appointed to the city retirement board. Mayor Smith also mentioned she would also like to appoint a technical committee to review with staff the financial position of the retirement fund. Mayor Smith appointed Council Member Terrell and herself as members of the Retirement Board. Mayor Smith additionally created and appointed Vice Mayor Ehlers and Council Member Folk to a technical committee to review the financial aspects of the retirement fund.

Approval of Recommendation for City Manager Search/Recruitment

Mr. Hunter Walker mentioned this was presented at the last workshop and staff is ready to move forward with advertising upon council approval. Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the recommendation as presented. Council Member Sayles second the motion, and unanimously carried for approval.

Board Report and Council Appointment of Board Members

Council Member Sayles made the first motion to appoint Jeff Robbins and Brooke Sanders to the Historic Preservation Committee, seconded by Vice Mayor Ehlers, and unanimously approved by all members present.

Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers made the first motion to close the meeting for executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion seconded by Council Member Folk and unanimously carried by Mayor Smith and Council Member Sayles. Meeting closed to executive session

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to go out of executive session and back into regular session. Motion seconded by Council Member Folk and unanimously carried by Mayor Smith and Council Member Sayles. Meeting opened to regular session.

Resolution for Executive Session

Council Member Folk motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Ehlers, and unanimously approved for adoption of the resolution.

There being no further business to discuss meeting adjourned.