

**CITY OF TIFTON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2016
5:30 PM
TIFTON CITY HALL**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers

Council Member Jack Folk

Council Member Johnny Terrell

Council Member Frank Sayles

Hunter Walker, Interim City Manager

Jessica Jones, City Clerk

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Post Award Public Hearing to Discuss the Approved Activities for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant in the Amount of \$500,000

Ms. Jessica Jones opened the public hearing for the 2016 CDBG Award, and stated the City of Tifton was recently awarded the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for a drainage project near the Town & County Mobile Home Park. Ms. Jones mentioned the City of Tifton would be contributing \$218,288 to the project with both cash and in-kind commitments. The project will serve 349 residents of which 347 are considered low to moderate income. The project will address drainage issues in the area as well as safety hazards to the 160 children whom live in the mobile home park, and are attracted to play along the ditch banks. The project proposes to pipe the large ditch with adequate drainage and eliminate the neighborhood health and safety concern. Of the \$500,000 grant, \$470,000 will go toward the construction and \$30,000 will pay for administration. Mayor Smith mentioned both the City and County received funding this year for CDBG projects and brought one million dollars back to our community. The public hearing opened for questions and comments. There being no public comment the public hearing was closed.

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 5:35 PM. Mayor Smith gave the innovation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Smith asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the agenda, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Mayor Smith asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from October 3, 2016 Council Meeting and October 20, 2016 Workshop. Council Member Sayles made the first motion, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

Citizen Input

No one spoke

Annual Retirement Report Presentation – Richard Mooney and Chuck Carr

Mr. Richard Mooney w/ Allen Mooney & Barnes gave an update on the status of the City's Retirement Fund. Mr. Mooney reviewed how the current election is effecting the market. Mr. Mooney stated the city's retirement policy allows for up to fifty-five percent of the account can be invested in equities, and the other portions can be invested in bonds. Based on the report the City's

retirement fund is stable and investment growth is minimal since only up to 55% can be invested in the market. Mr. Mooney mentioned that with the City's Retirement Account they are being very conservative during this time. For the first three quarters this calendar year the city account received \$455,000 from interests and dividends and the total retirement account value of \$20,688,000. He also reviewed the City's 457 Retirement Plan which is an optional plan available to the employees, and currently has 42 employees participating in the plan. Lastly Mr. Mooney reviewed the Tifton-Tift County Landfill Investment Account and stated the Landfill account is gaining about 3% net and 4.4% overall for the calendar year 2016. Vice Mayor Ehlers asked for a separate report just for the Landfill Investment Account which can be shared with Tift County. Mr. Mooney stated he would email the report tomorrow showing the Landfill Investment Account.

Mr. Chuck Carr, Actuary Consultant, gave an overview of how he figures the city's contribution to the retirement account and evaluates the overall value needed for the life of the plan and its participants. Mr. Carr mentioned with the current participants to date the city retirement account requires 40 Million for the life of the plan. Mr. Carr mentioned an evaluation is done each year and he explained how he calculates the city's contribution to the plan. This year's evaluation requires the city to invest at a minimum 2.35%. Mr. Carr mentioned currently the city is investing 2.77%, and that is a good percentage to stay at if fiscally possible. Mr. Carr mentioned currently the city has more people drawing pensions, than currently employed, and the city must plan accordingly to bridge the 20-Million-Dollar gap in investment needed and cash on hand.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Terrell motioned, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried to the following items on the consent agenda:

Resolution Declaring Unnamed Alley Between Victor Drive and East 14th Street Surplus

Resolution Declaring Unnamed Alley Between Harlan Avenue and South Park Avenue Surplus

Resolution Declaring a Portion of Tift Lane, South of 20th Street, Surplus

Resolution Declaring Surplus Between Davis Avenue and Belmont Avenue

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

Resolution Providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for DNS Convenience, Inc. located at 1820 US Hwy 41 North

Resolution Accepting 2016 Community Development Block Grant in the Amount of \$500,000 for Drainage Improvements

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Property to Rosetta Daniels-Duggins for Residential Property located at 811 Armour Road

Ordinance Amending the Land Development Code Sections in Reference to Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Ordinance Amending the City Code of Ordinances Related to Prohibited Businesses

Resolution Providing for Executive Session at the October 20, 2016 Council Workshop

Resolution Granting Incentives for Enterprise Zone Application from Pediatric Dental Center of Georgia for Property Located at 820 Love Avenue

Council reviewed the Enterprise Zone Application. Vice Mayor Ehlers made the motion for approval

of the resolution giving the maximum available incentives, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Resolution Providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for Sunny Swifty located at 1355 S. Main Street

Ms. Jessica Jones mentioned the application being presented is for an amended application. The business has a new manager; staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval. Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Resolution Providing for Alcoholic Beverage License for Big K-Mart located at 144 S. Virginia Avenue

Ms. Jessica Jones mentioned the application being presented is for an amended application. The business has a new manager; staff has reviewed the application and is recommending approval. Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

Request from Jonathan Jones of Edgemont Properties, LLC to Discuss the Deceleration Lane and Traffic Signal Approved in PUO 2006-06 and Amended PUO 2015-18

Ms. Jessica Jones mentioned Houston Shultz was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but he included a memo in the packet stating staff, ESG, Astra Construction, and Mr. Jones would be meeting on Thursday to discuss constructing the 200' deceleration lane on 20th Street. Ms. Jones mentioned at the last workshop Council requested Mr. Jones get an updated traffic study, but to date a traffic study has not been received. Mr. Walker stated it was staff's understanding that Council did want to move forward with the deceleration lane and staff is just wanting to update the Council on the status of the request. Council briefly discussed the issue with the traffic light and traffic study.

Award of Bid for Wheel Loader at Landfill

Ricky Hobby mentioned at the workshop there were some concerns about the buyback program and he invited a representative with ASC to address the Council's concerns. Council Member Folk questioned the amount they bid on the buy back, which was almost \$40,000 more than the other bidders. The representative stated the buyback price was derived from the information provided by staff on the number of hours the equipment will be used in the five-year period. Council Member Sayles made the first motion to award to the bid to ASC Construction Equipment in the amount of \$125,291.00, seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

Award of Bid for Four Police Units

Chief Buddy Dowdy presented the bids received for four new police vehicles. Staff recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder, Allen Virgil Ford, in the amount of \$100,828.00. Council reviewed the bids received and questioned awarding the bid to a local dealer. The local dealer whom submitted a bid was a Dodge Dealer and Chief Dowdy stated he would prefer a Ford. Council requested Chief Dowdy re-bid the vehicles and specifically state the vehicle make he preferred to purchase. Council Member Folk made the first motion to reject all bids and re-bid, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved by all members.

1st Quarter Financial Summary

Ms. Karen Sanders, Interim Finance Director, reviewed the financial reports with council. She mentioned the water and sewer funds were up, hotel motel tax was continuing to increase, and the insurance premium tax also increased by \$78,000 from last year. The Local Option Sales Tax, Gas

Fund, and SWCD are coming in low for the first quarter. Ms. Sanders mentioned SPLOST was coming in at 83% and she suggested amending the budget at revision to reflect the decrease in revenues. Council reviewed the financial reports and discussed. Mr. Ricky Hobby and Ms. Sanders answered questions in reference to the landfill financial status.

Board Report

Council reviewed the board report, but no appointments were made.

City Manager Report

Mr. Hunter Walker mentioned he sent an email in reference to the surplus equipment at the landfill which needed to be transferred to the general fund since it was being utilized by ESG. Mr. Walker mentioned the item will need to be brought before the SDCC for consideration, along with numerous other items. Mr. Walker also mentioned interviews were being conducted at this time for the public information officer position, and one applicant was looking very promising for the position.

Executive Session

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers made the first motion to go into executive session for legal and personnel matters, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved by Mayor Smith, Folk, and Sayles. Meeting closed to executive session.

Council Member Folk made the first motion to go out of executive session, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved by Smith, Ehlers, and Sayles.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

Council Member Folk made the first motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.

Mayor Julie Smith

Jessica Jones, City Clerk