

CITY OF TIFTON
Regular City Council Workshop/Called Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2013
Tifton Municipal Courtroom, 130 E. 5th Street
5:00 pm

ATTENDEES

J.G. "Jamie" Cater Jr., Mayor
Johnny Terrell, Vice Mayor
Marianna Keesee, Council Member
Chris Parrott, Council Member
Julie Smith, Council Member

Larry Riner, City Manager
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney
Rona Martin, City Clerk

Mayor Jamie Cater called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

**PRESENTATION BY ERIC GROOM OF GEORGIA MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY
REGARDING THE HEDGE PROGRAM**

Mr. Groom reviewed options and information in the council packets for determining how they would like to proceed with the hedge program. Mr. Groom stated the price of natural gas is stable at this time and a good rate to lock into. He stated a resolution authorizing participation in the program will need to be adopted. Mr. Riner stated the resolution will be brought to council at the October 7th meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF BIDS FOR MAINTENANCE OF PROPANE TANKS AT THE PEAK
SHAVING PLANT**

Donna Pate reviewed the bid stating that Chiles Propane was the low bidder at \$25,972.06. She stated staff recommends approval of this bid at the meeting on October 7th. Roger Lasseter concurred.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEAT PROGRAM FOR 2013

Donna Pate stated the City has received the H.E.A.T. award for the most community participation in the state for the HEAT Program for a city our size. She stated the program provides qualified families \$350 toward their heating bill to pay for their gas usage. She explained what the program is about. She stated the letter will go into the customers utility bills one time only.

DRAWING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATURAL GAS SURVEY

Donna Pate stated this drawing is part of the Public Awareness Program for Tifton Natural Gas making the public aware of the presence of buried pipelines and other related gas facilities in the

community. She stated the drawing is an incentive to participate in the survey. She stated two names will be drawn, one from the customers and one from the excavators. The customer whose name was drawn was Harry Rowe and the excavator was Planttel. Each won \$100 for participating in the awareness campaign survey.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CDBG GRANT FOR LEROY ROGERS SENIOR CENTER

Rona Martin stated this resolution is needed for acceptance of the \$500,000 CDBG for renovations and expansion of the Senior Center. She stated this will be part of the called meeting agenda and is necessary in order to return the acceptance by the October 2nd deadline.

DISCUSSION OF BIDS FOR SOUND SYSTEM AT TIFT THEATRE

This item was removed from the agenda for rebidding.

DISCUSSION OF SIGNAGE TEXT AMENDMENT

Bert Crowe, Environmental Management Director reviewed the information in the council packets. He stated after citizen review and input conducted upon request of the City Council, a determination was made to modify the current LDC relating to the regulation of multiple message signs and types of signage allowed in the historic district. Discussion was held regarding illumination and secondary signage. Mr. Crowe stated this will be on the agenda for a public hearing and action on October 7th. He stated the Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommend approval of the requested changes. He stated it also includes revisions to the HPC Guidelines relating to signage. Council Member Keesee asked that sentence in section 7.17(A) of the LDC regarding rolling, blinking, flashing, scrolling, etc. signs be removed as it is restrictive. She stated it was anti-business. Discussion was held regarding such lights. Mr. Crowe stated the historic district manual would need to reflect the changes. Discussion was held regarding lumens. Hal Baxley asked that scrolling signs be limited to speed and daytime or business hours only. Discussion was held regarding these type signs in the historic district. Mr. Crowe stated he needs to go back to the HPC and businesses in the historic district and review it. Council Member Keesee asked for a modification before the October meeting. Tyron Spearman stated the Tourism Association supports removal of that portion of Section 7.17(a).

DISCUSSION OF BIDS FOR VACUUM TANKER PURCHASE

Michael Coleman, Fire Chief, reviewed the bid request for two vacuum tankers. He stated this is a SPLOST IV project which is budgeted at \$480,000. He stated staff recommends that Fireline, Inc. of Winder, Georgia be awarded the bid for the tankers.

DISCUSSION OF 20TH STREET-COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS PARROTT

Council Member Parrott stated that he has been working with the City Manager regarding resurfacing 20th Street which is a main corridor and repairing sidewalks from Baldwin Drive to Old Ocilla Road at an estimated cost of \$940,000. He stated this does not include infrastructure. Council Member Keesee stated infrastructure should be a consideration and that 20th Street is an arterial road. She stated Tift County should be asked to participate since it is an arterial road. Council Member Parrott stated this would be a phased in project due to the cost. He stated he will update Council as the project moves along.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR SUN MART LOCATED AT 902 S. CENTRAL AVENUE

Rona Martin stated this business is under new ownership. She stated the request is for malt beverage package retail. She stated staff recommends approval of the request and a background check revealed no violations relative to the license.

DISCUSSION OF MINUTES PROTOCOL

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney reviewed the process for taking minutes. He stated the City uses Roberts Rules of Order, as directed by ordinance, as a guideline regarding meetings. He stated Roberts Rules of Order does not take “governments” into consideration. He stated the process should be that the clerk takes down the minutes and will send out a draft for council review. The minutes are then considered by Council at meetings and voted on. He stated if anyone wishes to correct the minutes it should be done by motion and voted on. He stated the City Council can adopt its own guidelines. General discussion was held as to when minutes should be corrected. Mayor Cater asked the City Clerk of her opinion. She stated changes to the minutes should be made at the Council meetings. After further discussion it was determined changes to minutes will be made at the meetings. Mr. Wilmot suggested if you want to go back and review those minutes, it can be done. Attorney Wilmot stated at subsequent meetings, if Council wants to change the minutes, it can be done at that meeting. It was determined that the minutes in question would be brought back to Council at the next regular meeting for further consideration. Council Member Keesee agreed. Council Member Parrott reviewed the suggested process in that an augmented version of Roberts Rules of Order will be followed with the Clerk doing a summary of the minutes for review, and if something needs to be changed, it can be done as part of the motion. Council Member Smith asked if we can reconsider having public input at workshops. Consensus was that policy and procedures for such will be reviewed for updates.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Mr. Riner gave an update stating 3rd Street is paved. He stated Ferry Lake Road is now open. He reviewed the general fund financials. He provided a copy and review of the City’s indebtedness.

CALLED MEETING

Mayor Cater called the meeting to order.

ORDINANCE PROVIDING ZONING CHANGE FROM RESIDENTIAL-10 TO MOBILE HOME PARK FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON SOUTH COLLEGE CIRCLE AND OWNED BY TRAVIS HURST, TO BE INCLUDED WITH SOUTH COLEGE CIRCLE MOBILE HOME PARK

Bert Crowe, Environmental Management Director reviewed once again the request and the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as staff recommendation of approval of the rezoning of the property. Council Member Smith moved, and seconded by Council Member Keesee for discussion. Council Member Terrell expressed his concern for it being too crowded and having an additional lot there. Mr. Crowe stated there would not be an additional lot, but rather, it was vacant. Discussion was held regarding the closing of the entrance at Old Omega Road and the current entrance on South College Circle. After a lengthy discussion Council Member Smith withdrew her motion. Council Member Smith made a motion that this be tabled to 10/7/13 and allow the City Clerk to do research regarding the Old Omega Road closure in order to make an informed decision, seconded by Council Member Parrott. After further discussion Council Members Smith and Parrott withdrew their motions. Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Parrott and carried to deny the request. Motion carried 3/2 with Council Members Smith and Keesee voting nay.

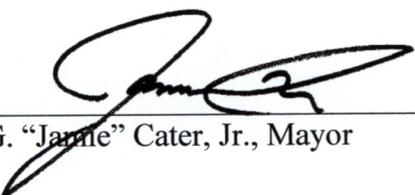
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CDBG GRANT FOR LEROY ROGERS SENIOR CENTER

Council Member Parrott moved, seconded by Council Member Keesee and unanimously carried to accept the CDBG Grant in the amount of \$500,000.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR SOUND SYSTEM FOR TIFT THEATRE

This item was removed from the agenda for rebidding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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



Rona Martin, City Clerk