

CITY OF TIFTON
Called City Council Workshop
October 10, 2013
Tifton Municipal Courtroom
2:00 p.m.

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.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH LEIGH BURNS, GEORGIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Mr. Wilmot began the discussion with regards to our qualifications as a certified local government and the requirement of changes in the historic district being reviewed by the HPD of the Department of Natural Resources. He reiterated that any changes to the HPC Manual would not affect our status as a certified local government, wherein, Council will give careful, thoughtful consideration to any changes. Leigh Burns, HPD, confirmed such and explained the view of HPD as part of an agreement with the City, the reviewing of any changes to the HPC Design Guidelines by the Historic Preservation Division. She stated lighting and signage definitely contributes to the overall aesthetics of an area. She stated there is a 30 day obligatory review for them to make comments about the changes. She stated the guidelines were funded by a certified local government grant in 1990. She stated Tifton's guidelines are highly regarded standards in the state. She discussed the concerns of opening up a document for possible changes. She discussed the reasons for HPD review of proposed changes. Mayor Cater asked if the 30 day review process can be expedited sooner. Ms. Burns stated it could be done in 15 days. Ms. Burns stated Stone Mountain recently went through some changes with HPD recommending that those changes not take place. She discussed the importance of maintaining our historic resources. She stated signage is difficult and hopefully some common ground can be reached. She stated Tifton has a fine reputation for preservation across the state. She stated she would like to work out a solution with Tifton. Council Member Smith asked about properties who have taken advantage of the national register incentives. Ms. Burns stated she can provide those stats. She discussed the importance of the Myon rehabilitation. Discussion was held regarding existing signage and previous enforcement and how non-conforming signage should be handled. Ms. Burns stated one should work with the property owners on bringing their properties into compliance from this point forward. She stated businesses should be educated on the rewards of following the requirements such as tax credits, etc. Discussion was held regarding the use of improper signage (scrolling, blinking, etc.) in the district and the need to bring those into compliance if they were placed after the City's ordinance was adopted. Ms. Burns suggested better directional signage, temporary signage, maps of the area and such is considered. Council Member Keesee asked about signage in the historic district of Thomasville. Ms. Burns offered to compile that information. Discussion was held regarding the changes that will be submitted for review by HPD. Council Member Smith asked how much money Tifton has received through the certified local government offerings. Discussion was held regarding certified local governments and their status. Discussion was held regarding HPC training requirements. Discussion was held regarding national register status. Mr. Wilmot asked about banners and stick signs. Ms. Burns stated they should always be considered temporary and maintenance should be the consideration. She discussed the need for Main Street to work with business owners in the downtown. Mr. Wilmot discussed the proposal for use of banners and the need for replacement when those banners become unsightly. Ms. Burns stated that was a good solution that would

have to be well defined. Mr. Wilmot stated a proposal for use of stick signs (political signs up to 5 at 2 sq. ft each) up to 10 sq. ft. would be allowed. She stated that would not be appropriate in the district and felt sandwich boards would be more appropriate. Mr. Wilmot asked for a copy of the agreement with the National Parks Service. Ms. Burns stated she would provide such. Ms. Burns stated they could provide alternatives as part of the review process. Mayor Cater inquired about Colony Bank. Ms. Burns stated that was handled thru the environmental review process. She said she would check on that. She stated middle ground for the businesses can be found and still preserve the district. Discussion was held regarding the various zones and tax credits. Mr. Riner asked that comments be included in the review of the guidelines.

Hal Baxley reiterated his position on signage in the historic district. He stated he wishes to advertise specials with a moving, scrolling sign. He stated such signage will not create a negative feel in the historic district. Ms. Burns stated her concern is that these design standards have served the community well, and hoped that the need can be mitigated, but the integrity of the district should be protected.

Eloise Styer asked about interior signs. Ms. Burns stated the effects of internal signage on the outside can be addressed. Mr. Wilmot stated interior signs are not addressed in the guidelines. She stated it may be addressed in planning and zoning. Mr. Wilmot stated that would be looked at.

Council Member Keesee asked about channel lighting. Ms. Burns referred to page 42 of the guidelines. She asked that these be outlined in writing for response. Mr. Wilmot stated all of the proposed changes would be outlined in the letter to HPD. Ms. Burns offered to do a public information session in the future.

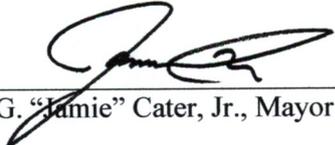
Bert Crowe provided a hand out and review of additional recommendations. Discussion was held regarding banners and stick type signs as well as internally lit signage and multi message signs. Mr. Crowe stated this can be ready for the next workshop. Discussion was held regarding blinking, flashing, scrolling signs. Mr. Crowe stated there would be an exception provision for that type of signage in a multi message sign section. General discussion was held regarding scrolling signs. Mr. Wilmot stated he will provide a list of issues to Council for consideration and comments and include in a proposed ordinance for the next workshop. Council Member Keesee expressed concern about the description of multi message signs. She expressed concern about having such signs in the downtown area.

Council Member Terrell had to leave due to another commitment.

Darlene Pilcher expressed concern over losing the integrity of the historic district. Mayor Cater asked for flexibility in the district. Mr. Baxley asked for flexibility.

Council Member Parrott had to leave due to another commitment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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



Rona Martin, City Clerk