

**CITY OF TIFTON  
WORKSHOP/SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
JULY 21, 2016  
5:30 PM  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith  
Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers  
Council Member Jack Folk  
Council Member Johnny Terrell  
Council Member Frank Sayles – absent

Hunter Walker, Interim City Manager  
Jessica Jones, City Clerk  
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

**WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm. Mayor Julie Smith introduced the Interim City Manager, Mr. Hunter Walker, and welcomed him back to Tifton.

**Ordinance for Alcohol Sales at Festival**

Mayor Smith mentioned the ordinance was sent out to the Outreach Marketing Group for review and they are still reviewing and commenting back. Mayor Smith stated at this time she doesn't have anything further on the ordinance unless the other members wish to comment. No other comments were made.

**Agreement with Behavioral Health Service of South Georgia for Employee Assistance Program**

Ms. Brenda with Behavioral Health Services was present and discussed the services provided by BHS to the community. She mentioned they offer outpatient services for children and adults for mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse. Carla Cooper mentioned the agreement presented overviews the confidential services available to our employees at a cost of \$2,000.00 per year. She furthered the contract provides employees and their immediate family with five free counseling visits. Rob Wilmot mentioned the contract will automatically renew each year, unless the city gives 30 days notice to cancel.

**Amendment to the Personnel Policy for Rehired Pensioner**

Ms. Carla Cooper mentioned the current personnel policy does not allow for the re-hire of retirees at full-time. She mentioned currently the policy only allows for retirees to work part-time up to 1040 hours per year. Ms. Cooper mentioned in the past the city has allowed retirees to work over the 1040 hours and staff is requesting this change. Ms. Cooper mentioned the IRS regulations state that a retiree must have a definite separation in work. Ms. Cooper mentioned the city's retirement plans states someone must have a 90 day separation. If approved, re-hired retirees would not be required to re-invest in the pension plan, but they would be required to contribute 5% of their salary to the plan. Vice Mayor Ehlers questioned the reasoning for this change. Rob Wilmot mentioned this change would leave the option open if a retiree is interested in coming back to work full-time.

**Discussion of the FY2017 Millage Rate and 2016 Tax Digest**

Ms. Lois Love mentioned in order to be in compliance with state law the city must officially adopt the millage rate approved in the FY2017 budget, and approve the tax digest and M&O levy. Ms. Love mentioned the required notice and five year history has been published in the newspaper, and the proposed millage rate is 9.759 mills. After council approval, staff will forward all documentation to the Tift County Tax Commissioner for submittal to the state.

**Resolution Approving the GMA 98 Lease Pool Program Change in Trustee and Authorizing the Execution of the Agreements**

Ms. Lois Love mentioned GMA is requesting a Trustee bank change for the lease pool program from New York Mellon to Regions Bank. The presented resolution and agreements will approve this change and allow GMA to change the Trustee for the GMA lease pool program. The city utilizes this program for equipment purchases.

**Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the First Amendment to 1998A Master Lease and Option Agreement**

Ms. Lois Love mentioned the presented resolution will allow the city to finance more computer equipment/software through the lease pool program. She mentioned the amendment would allow the city to finance up to 50% of the total cost for computer systems and software.

**Resolution Providing for Alcohol Beverage License for Ruby Tuesday located at 1306 Hwy 82 W**

Ms. Jessica Jones mentioned the presented application is for a manager change at Ruby Tuesday. A background on the applicant did reveal past offences, but they do not affect the approval of the application. Ms. Jones mentioned staff is recommending approval of the application.

**Resolution Providing for Alcohol Beverage License for The Pub located at 1809 Hwy 41 N**

Ms. Jessica Jones mentioned the presented application is for a new alcohol license for The Pub. She mentioned the location was previously The Lamplighter Pub, and the location is under new ownership. A background on the applicant did reveal past offences, but they do not affect the approval of the application. Ms. Jones mentioned the location is requesting a license to sell beer, wine, and distilled spirits. Staff is recommending approval of the application.

**Resolution Authorizing the City to Contract with GDOT for TEA-21 Funding**

Ms. Jessica Jones mentioned the proposed resolution will allow for the City Manager to execute the contract with GDOT to accept funding for the Streetscape 3 Project. Ms. Jones mentioned she included a map of the areas downtown to be improved which includes: Commerce Way, South Main Street, and Love Ave. Ms. Jones mentioned final plans for the project have been approved. The resolution will allow the city to move forward to the construction phase and release funding from GDOT. Mayor Smith mentioned she has received many requests to add a crosswalk in front of the library. She asked Ms. Jones to check and see if a crosswalk could be added to the project plans. Ms. Jones mentioned she would check with the project engineers on adding this to the plans, and will update council once a response is received.

**Requesting Budget Amendment for Department of Justice JAG Grant**

Chief Buddy Dowdy mentioned the Police Department has three open grants with DOJ which were originally budgeted for overtime. Chief Dowdy mentioned the Police Department requested to amend the grants to purchase body cameras. Chief Dowdy stated DOJ has approved this change and the department is requesting approval to amend the FY2017 Budget to reflect these changes. Ms. Love mentioned this amendment to the grant was requested during the grant process, and did not get included in the final budget. Ms. Love mentioned this has to be approved by council since the bottom line of the budget is changing. Once approved, staff will update the budget and setup the CIP project. Vice Mayor Ehlers asked how many cameras will be purchased with the funding. Chief Dowdy stated 47 cameras will be purchased with the funding and any amount over will come from the technology fund. All patrol officers will be equipped with these cameras.

### **Discussion of Direction for Planning & Zoning Board**

Members of the planning and zoning board were present to discuss with council their ideas on growth, development, and plans for zoning matters in Tifton. They requested the council provide them with an overall vision for Tifton going forward. This would give the board a clear understanding of the council's position when approving zoning matters. Council discussed a current Garvey development happening in county that could have annexed in the city. Houston Shultz, Environmental Management Director, and Danny Wallace, Fire Inspector, addressed the reasons why the project was not annexed. Mayor Smith mentioned our comp plan will need to be updated soon; and it would be good idea to setup a separate meeting to discuss this with the planning and zoning board. Mayor Smith thanked the board members for their service.

Council Member Folk recognized Pete Pyrzenski and the employees at ESG for having 500 days free of accidents. Folk mentioned safety was very important, and congratulated them on their success.

### **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Mayor Julie Smith called the special called meeting to order at approximately 6:15 pm.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to approve the agenda, and adding resolutions for alcohol beverage licenses for Ruby Tuesday and The Pub to the special called meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Sayles, and unanimously approved by all members present.

#### **Resolution Setting the FY2017 Millage Rate and Approving the 2016 Tax Digest and M&O Levy**

Council Member Folk made the first motion to set the final millage rate at 9.759 mills, and approve the 2016 tax digest and M&O levy. Motion seconded by Ehlers and unanimously approved by all members present.

#### **Resolution Approving the GMA 98 Lease Pool Program Change in Trustee and Authorizing the Execution of the Agreements**

Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried by all members present.

#### **Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the First Amendment to 1998A Master Lease and Option Agreement**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Terrell, and unanimously carried by all members present.

#### **Resolution Authorizing the City to Contract with GDOT for TEA-21 Funding**

Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Terrell, unanimously carried by all members present.

#### **Approval of Budget Amendment for Department of Justice JAG Grant**

Council Member Terrell made the first motion for approval, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried by all members present.

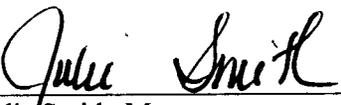
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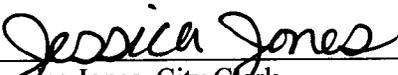
Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion for approval, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried by all members present.

**Resolution Providing for Alcohol Beverage License for The Pub located at 1809 Hwy 41 N**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion for approval, seconded by Folk, and unanimously carried by all members present.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.

  
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Julie Smith, Mayor

  
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Jessica Jones, City Clerk