

**CITY OF TIFTON  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP/SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 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

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney

Jessica Jones, City Clerk

**Public Hearing for Application X16-000-011, Requesting Annexation of 1.96 Acres Located at 0 US Hwy 82 West (Map & Parcel 0047b 002)**

Mr. Rob Wilmot verified with City Council that they had no conflicts with participating or approving the property being considered for annexation. All council members confirmed that they did not have a conflict of interest in the proposed annexation and rezoning application. Mr. Wilmot mentioned the application being presented is for annexation and rezoning of a tract of land located near Walmart on Highway 82. Mr. Wilmot stated the application was approved unanimously by the Planning and Zoning board on August 8, 2016, and is recommended for approval by staff. Mr. Skylar Long, owner's agent, was present to speak in favor of the annexation. Mr. Long mentioned the annexation is being requested in order to connect to the city sewer. No one spoke in opposition to the application. There being no further comments, public hearing was closed.

**Discussion of Retirement Board Appointee**

Ms. Carla Cooper mentioned it is time to appoint council members to the retirement board. Ms. Cooper mentioned Mr. Terrell is the current council member appointed to the board, and the Mayor. Ms. Cooper mentioned currently the plan states the Mayor and one appointed city council member will serve on the retirement board. She also stated the plan can be amended if the Mayor wishes to not serve and appoint another council member to the board. Mayor Smith mentioned she preferred to not be on the board, and felt other council members were more qualified to serve. City Council discussed also organizing a smaller committee to review the retirement plan. Mayor Smith mentioned she would get with Ms. Cooper on forming the committee and will make appointments at the next council meeting.

**Discussion of Bid for Mini Excavator**

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski presented the bids received for the purchase of a mini excavator and trailer for the utilities department. Mr. Pyrzenski stated the lowest bidder was Crosby Equipment Company of Douglas in the amount of \$59,049.00. He mentioned the item purchased is a budget item in the FY2017 budget. Vice Mayor Ehlers questioned the warranty and service on the equipment. Mr. Pyrzenski added Crosby Equipment was a Kubota dealer, and he did not expect to have any issues with the proposed warranty.

### **Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) Contract for Natural Gas Supply**

Mr. Pyrzenski stated the contract presented will renew the city's current contract with MGAG, and also adds an additional supply charge to our monthly gas billing. The proposed change in the charges adds an additional two cents per gas meter. Mr. Pyrzenski stated the city purchases gas from MGAG to supply the gas to our customers. He furthered the city has been a long-time member of MGAG, and staff is recommending approval of the contract and additional supply charge.

### **Resolution Updating Authorized Signers on Accounts held at First Community Bank (Synovus)**

Ms. Karen Sanders, Interim Finance Director, presented a resolution to update the city's banking accounts with First Community Bank. Ms. Sanders mentioned because of the recent personnel changes the city needs to update the authorized signers on the banking accounts. Ms. Sanders mentioned herself and Mr. Hunter Walker will be added to the accounts.

### **Resolution Authorizing the City of Tifton to Enter into a Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)**

Ms. Jessica Jones presented a resolution approving the GEMA Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Ms. Jones mentioned the presented agreement is a renewal of the previous agreement signed, and will be in effect until March 1, 2020. She furthered the agreement will allow the city to be reimbursed for equipment, personnel, and supplies used during a state declared disaster. Ms. Jones stated the resolution has been placed on the special called meeting agenda to be approved tonight, because agreement needs to be returned by Friday.

### **Discussion of Alcohol License for Lil Pantry Located at 1302 S. Central Avenue**

Ms. Jones reviewed the application for alcohol beverage license for Lil Pantry. Ms. Jones mentioned a state background check has been done on the owner and manager; the manager did have a record, but the charges are dated. Staff recommends approval of the application, pending fingerprints. Mr. Terrell mentioned the location had previously been caught for selling to people underage, and the manager needs to be aware they would be watched closely.

### **Discussion of Alcohol License for Olive Garden located at 1208 Hwy 82 West**

Ms. Jones mentioned Olive Garden has a new manager, and is updating their application to reflect the change. Ms. Jones mentioned a background check has been completed on the manager which did reveal charges but they are older charges. Staff recommends approval of the application, pending fingerprints.

### **Discussion of Alcohol License for Friendly Express, Inc. located at 208 E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street**

Ms. Jones mentioned Friendly City Express is leasing the current convenience store located at 208 E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Jones stated a background was completed on the CEO, and did not reveal any offences. The current manager at the location will continue employment and manage the location. Staff recommends approval of the application.

### **Discussion of Alcohol License for Friendly Express, Inc. located at 1310 US Hwy 82 West**

Ms. Jones mentioned Friendly City Express is leasing the current convenience store located at 1310 US Hwy 82 West. Ms. Jones stated a background was completed on the CEO, and did not reveal any offences. Ms. Jones mentioned they are currently looking for a manager for the location, and will have one in place prior to council approval.

**Discussion of City Manager Search/Recruitment**

Mr. Walker presented a recruitment plan for finding a New City Manager. Mr. Walker proposed using the city's HR staff, and not contracting with the firm for recruitment. Mr. Walker presented the job description, candidate profile, and recruitment timeline. He mentioned the City Charter states the responsibilities of the City Manager, and the position is appointed by City Council. Mr. Walker stated council can decide if they would like to see every application or if they would like staff to narrow down the applicants prior to council review. Council discussed also having a meet and greet or a citizen committee to help with selection of the City Manager. Council Member Folk mentioned contract management and safety leadership needs to be added to the job description.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Smith challenged everyone to go to YouTube and search for the University of Texas, 2014 Commencement Speech given by Admiral William H. McRaven. Mayor Smith mentioned because of the recent issues the city is facing it is easy to get discouraged during the troubled times. Mayor Smith stated the speech is very uplifting and encouraged everyone to watch the video.

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**Resolution Authorizing the City of Tifton to Enter into a Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)**

Council Member Jack Folk made the first motion, seconded by Council Member Terrell, and unanimously approved.

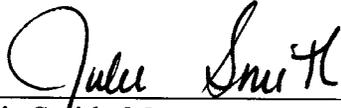
**Resolution for Provision of Extrication Within the City Limits of Tifton**

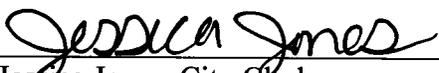
Mr. Wilnot mentioned in June the City of Tifton notified Tift County that the Tifton Fire Department would perform extrication in the City of Tifton. The presented resolution formalizes that decision, and commits our equipment and personnel to extrication. Council Member Frank Sayles made the first motion for approval of the resolution, seconded by Council Member Ehlers, and unanimously approved.

**Executive Session**

Vice Mayor Ehlers made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Council Member Terrell seconded the motion, and unanimously approved. Meeting closed to Executive Session.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Smith, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Jones, City Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON  
HELD ON August 18, 2016  
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member Wes Ehlers makes the following motion:

1. That City Council now enters into executive session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following:

(check all that apply)

- Legal Matters.  
 Personnel Matters.  
 Real Estate Matters.

That each member of this body, in open session, at the conclusion of such executive session, and consistent with the provisions of City of Tifton Resolution No. 99-66, either:

1. Execute the Affidavit, the form of which having been previously approved; or
2. Vote upon the Resolution, the form of which having been previously approved, to be followed by the execution of the above-referenced Affidavit by so many members of this Council that so desire,

all of which is in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4; thereby this body, by appropriate form of either Affidavit or Resolution/Affidavit, ratifying the actions of the Council taken in executive session and confirming that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the Open Meetings law.

Council member Johnny Terrell seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved**

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure:

Council Members: Julie Smith, Wes Ehlers, Jack Folk,  
Johnny Terrell, Frank Sayles

Those voting against the motion for closure:

Council Members: None

**AFFIDAVIT**

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Georgia:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
<u>✓</u>	_____	Julie Smith
<u>✓</u>	_____	Wes Ehlers
<u>✓</u>	_____	Jack Folk
<u>✓</u>	_____	Johnny Terrell, Jr
<u>✓</u>	_____	Frank Sayles, Jr

Who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

1. I am a member of the Tifton City Council and I was present at a meeting of the City Council held on the 18 day of August, 2016.

2. That it was my understanding that O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) Of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016, which was closed for the purpose(s) of :

- Legal Matters
- Personnel Matters
- Real Estate Matters

As allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.
5. This affidavit is likewise executed by the following members of the City Council present at such executive session in support of open and honest government and in compliance with City of Tifton Resolution 99-66.

This 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

Julie Smith  
 Julie Smith  
 Mayor, City of Tifton

Wes Ehlers  
 Wes Ehlers  
 Councilman, District 1

Jack Folk  
 Jack Folk  
 Councilman, District 2

Johnny Terrell, Jr.  
 Johnny Terrell, Jr  
 Councilman, District 3

Frank Sayles, Jr  
 Frank Sayles, Jr  
 Councilman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
 By all City Council members  
 on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
August, 2016.

Jessica Jones  
 Notary Public

