

**CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JANUARY 11, 2021
5:30 PM
TIFTON CITY HALL**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith
Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers
Council Member Jack Folk
Council Member Johnny Terrell
Council Member M. Jay Hall

Pete Pyrzenski, City Manager
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney
Jessica White, City Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Folk motioned for approval of the agenda with the addition of public comments. Motion seconded by Ehlers and unanimously approved.

Public Comments

Evan Morris w/ Shady Lane: Mr. Morris was present to discuss the recent change in garbage providers. He mentioned the new company, Ryland Environmental, is more expensive and he would like to remain with Golden Environmental to support a local business. Mr. Wilmot explained that the City's contract with Ryland is an exclusive contract and all customers inside the city must use Ryland Environmental. Mr. Pyrzenski commented on the garbage pricing and reasons for the city having a sole provider for garbage services.

Mr. James with Ryland Environmental commented that he is currently working with the Cordele Recycling Center to establish recycling for commercial customers and hopes to have that service in place soon.

Review of 2021 Council Meeting Calendar

Council reviewed the calendar presented and Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19th because the regular meeting date falls on a city holiday.

Discussion on False Alarm Ordinance

Chief Bennett mentioned the city currently has an ordinance in place for alarm registration and false alarms, but it does not effectively address repeat false alarms. Chief Bennett mentioned in the past year, the fire department responded to 166 alarm calls and 88 of those calls were for false alarms. He mentioned responding to false alarms is very costly, especially at night, and also poses an unnecessary liability. Council discussed the concerns with Chief Bennet and agreed repeat locations and those who fail to maintain their system should incur fines. Following discussion, Council agreed for staff to move forward with drafting ordinance amendments for addressing false alarms.

Business License Ordinance Discussion

Mayor Smith mentioned Mr. Chad Alexander, Tift County Tax Commissioner, requested the City consider adopting an ordinance requiring personal property taxes be paid prior to issuance of a City business license. Mr. Alexander was present to discuss the option with Council and provided an example ordinance from the City of Waycross. Mr. Alexander mentioned coordinating the efforts will help ensure the City and County have accurate records and are collecting for each business. Following discussion, Mayor Smith requested staff work with the Tax Commissioner to develop a plan for coordinating efforts.

Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of the FY2020 CHIP Grant Application

Mr. Bruce Green mentioned staff is requesting approval to apply for a CHIP Grant in the amount of \$600,000 to construct 4 or 5 new homes for purchase by low to moderate-income families. Mr. Green mentioned staff has evaluated the options of applying for funding for rehab or new construction; and because the city has property available on Park Avenue, staff recommends new construction to inspire homeownership in the area. Council reviewed the resolution and briefly discussed the grant.

Resolution Appointing Agent Under the Georgia Abandoned Mobile Home Act

Ms. Crystal Gaillard gave an overview of the legislation and the process for removing abandoned mobile homes from properties. Ms. Gaillard mentioned this is a good tool and will assist the City in addressing the abandoned mobile homes on Old Omega Road. The proposed resolution would appoint the Community Improvement Director as the Local Government Agent as defined by state law. Council reviewed the resolution presented.

Resolution Setting Qualifying Fees for the 2021 General Election

Ms. Jessica White presented the resolution for setting the qualifying fee for Council District 1 and 3 at \$207.00 for the 2021 Election. The candidate qualifying period will begin on Monday, August 16, 2021, and end on Friday, August 20, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Alcohol License Renewals

Ms. White mentioned the following businesses submitted an amended application during the 2021 alcohol license renewal period; she reviewed the applications and recommended approval of the following alcohol licenses:

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at Food Lion Located at 2201 US Hwy 41

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at Circle K #2745157 Located at 1203 Hwy 82 West

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at Terminal South Located at 265 Brumby Way

Resolution Providing for an Alcohol Beverage License at El Limon Located at 501 S. Ridge Ave

City Manager Report

Mr. Pyrzenski gave an update on the 2nd Street Project.

Mayor & Council Comments

Council Member Jack Folk spoke positively on the garbage pickup change and mentioned he was glad to see Ryland not requiring its employees to ride on the back of the garbage trucks. He also encouraged everyone to continue wearing a mask and getting a vaccine.

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers sent condolences to the family of Mr. Butch Davis who recently passed and was a long-time banker in Tifton.

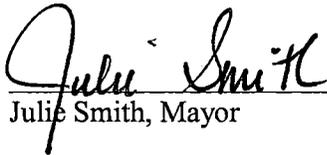
Council Member Johnny Terrell asked staff to visit areas in his district that were recently resurfaced to ensure the shoulder grade would be repaired to normal grade.

Council Member M.Jay Hall wished everyone a safe and happy new year.

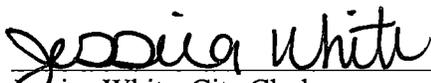
Mayor Julie Smith provided Council with the meeting attendance policy and mentioned the policy would be enforced going forward as teleconferencing issues impact meetings. Lastly, Mayor Smith thanked the Council, Staff, and Volunteers for their dedicated work and mentioned she is looking forward to a new year.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted,



Julie Smith, Mayor



Jessica White, City Clerk