

**CITY OF TIFTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15, 2021  
5:30 PM  
TIFTON CITY HALL**

**Attendees**

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

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.

**Prayer & Pledge**

Elder Deneice Brown w/ Joy Temple Church gave the invocation and led the pledge.

**Introduction of Chris Griffin, Assistant Police Chief**

Chief Steve Hyman introduced Mr. Griffin who was recently hired as the Assistant Chief for the Tifton Police Department. Griffin thanked Tifton for the opportunity and mentioned it truly is the friendly city.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Council Member Folk made the first motion to add Discussion of the Mask Ordinance and approve the agenda, motion seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Terrell motioned for approval of the minutes, motion seconded by Ehlers, and unanimously approved the minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Comments**

Bob Cartwright, 1813 Red Fox Trail, was present to comment on the alarm ordinance. He mentioned he spent his career in retail and didn't feel fees should be charged for false alarms. Mr. Cartwright discussed occasions when he experienced false alarms and asked Council to thoroughly review the data before moving forward. Council Member Jack Folk commented and mentioned fees would only be assessed on repeat offenders. Mayor Smith commented the ordinance is not intended to create a hardship for businesses, but address those who are negligent in not correcting alarm issues.

**Consent Agenda**

Council Member Folk motioned, seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of Request to Surplus 1998 Caterpillar 516C Dirt Pan

2. Authorizing Issuance of a Letter of Support for Tift Magnolia Villas, LP's 2021 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Application for a Senior Housing Development on EB Hamilton Drive
3. Resolution Granting Enterprise Zone Incentives to The Faws Properties, LLC for Property Located at 331 Commerce Way
4. Resolution Providing for a New Alcohol Beverage License at Save-A-Lot located at 121 S. Virginia Avenue

**Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 34 - Emergency Services as it Relates to False Alarms**

Chief Bennett reviewed the process for following up on false alarms and mentioned the department does a thorough investigation. He mentioned the fees being proposed are intended to address those who are negligent in correcting alarm issues. The proposed ordinance would access a \$250 fee on the fourth false alarm call and \$1,000 each time the fire department responded thereafter. Council briefly discussed the ordinance and Mayor Smith suggested lowering the \$1,000 fee. Council Member Folk made the motion to postpone the ordinance until the March Workshop. Motion seconded by Hall and unanimously approved.

**Ordinance Providing for Home Delivery of Alcohol by Authorized Package Retailers**

City Attorney Rob Wilmot reviewed the ordinance, which would allow retailers to deliver alcohol inside the City if they met the state requirements. Council Member Folk made the first motion from approval, motion seconded by Terrell, and unanimously approved.

**Ordinance Rezoning 0.85 Acres, Located at 80 Oak Point Avenue, Map & Parcel 032E 210, from General Business (GB) to Multi-Residential (MR) Submitted by Todd Buckner of Tifton Apartments, LLC (Application PP20-0059)**

Council Member Folk made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, motion seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

**Ordinance Amending Section 5.02.08 of the Land Development Code (Mobile Food Units) (Application PP20-0058)**

Council Member Hall made the first motion for approval of the ordinance, motion seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

**Discussion of Mask Ordinance**

Mr. Pyrzenski provided the latest data on the current COVID cases. The cases were currently below the 100 per 100k threshold for enforcing the mask requirement. Council Member Folk suggested letting the mask ordinance expire on February 20<sup>th</sup>, continue watching the numbers, and bring the ordinance back if needed. Council Member Ehlers asked that the City continue public education efforts and encourage the public to wear masks.

**Financial Report**

Ms. Dana Chancey presented the month-end financial reports for December 2020 and January 2021. Mr. Pyrzenski reviewed the revenues and expenditures for each fund and reported that the City was in doing great financially. He also commented that the audit was nearing completion and would be submitted soon.

### **Board Appointments**

Council Member Ehlers motioned to appoint Hal Baxley to the Downtown Development Authority and appoint Victoria Heath to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board. Motion seconded by Hall and unanimously approved.

### **City Manager Report**

Mr. Pete Pyrzenski reviewed the budget calendar for planning the budget for the upcoming year. He also mentioned staff is continuing to watch the City's drainage and stormwater and asked that anyone inform him of any issues that arise from the excessive amounts of rain. Mr. Pyrzenski showed a video from DCA congratulating the City on being redesignated as a PlanFirst Community.

### **Mayor & Council Comments**

Council Member Ehlers thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers following the recent passing of his Grandmother.

Mayor Smith commented on the renovations at the previous Annie Belle Clark School. She mentioned she recently did a walk-through of the facility and commended Tift County BOE for renovating the building to become the BOE offices.

### **Executive Session for Legal Matters**

Council Member Hall made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion seconded by Ehlers and unanimously approved. Meeting closed to executive session.

Council Member Hall made the first motion to go out of executive session and back into regular session. Motion seconded by Ehlers and unanimously approved. Meeting opened.

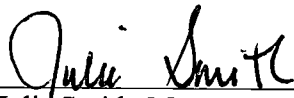
### **Approval of Consent Order**


Council Member Folk motioned to approve the consent order as drafted by Rob Wilmot for settling injunction with Golden Environmental. Motion seconded by Terrell and unanimously approved.

### **Resolution Providing for Executive Session**

Council Member Ehlers made the first motion for approval, motion seconded by Folk, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

  
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Julie Smith, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica White, City Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON  
HELD ON Feb 15, 2021  
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member M. Jay Hall 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 Wes Ehlers seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved**

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure:

Council Members: All

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>	
✓ _____	_____	Julie B. Smith
✓ _____	_____	Wes Ehlers
✓ _____	_____	Jack Folk
✓ _____	_____	Johnny Terrell
✓ _____	_____	M. Jay Hall

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 15<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2021.
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 15<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2021, 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 15 day of February, 2021.

Julie Smith  
 Julie Smith  
 Mayor, City of Tifton

Wes Ehlers  
 Wes Ehlers  
 Councilman, District 1

Jack Folk  
 Jack Folk  
 Councilman, District 2

Johnny Terrell  
 Johnny Terrell  
 Councilman, District 3

M. Jay Hall  
 M. Jay Hall  
 Councilman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
 By all City Council members  
 on this 15th day of February, 2021.

Jessica White  
 Notary Public

