

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Launch of the Short & Paulk Renaissance Project Announced



Figure 1: Members of involved organizations, strategic partners, and community members tour acquired property.

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TIFTON, Ga. – The City of Tifton, the **Tifton Urban Redevelopment Agency (TURA)**, and the **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** are proud to announce the successful acquisition of the 9.7-acre property located on South Main Street—commonly known as the Short & Paulk Supply Company property. This purchase marks the beginning of a bold and visionary redevelopment initiative termed the **Short and Paulk Renaissance Project** which will be guided by thoughtful planning, strategic development, and active community input, aiming to bring new life and opportunity to the heart of our city.

As the Short & Paulk Renaissance Project begins to take shape, city leaders and project partners are committed to a **community-driven planning process**. In the coming months, residents, downtown merchants, and local organizations will be invited to participate in community events, listening sessions, and surveys. These opportunities will ensure that the development of this property reflects the collective vision, values, and voice of the people who call Tifton home.

This transformative project is a collaborative effort between the **City of Tifton**, the **TURA**, and the **DDA**. These local agencies are collaborating with strategic partners, including **The Georgia Municipal Association**, **Georgia Power**, **Georgia's Rural Center (The Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation)**, and other key stakeholders committed to the revitalization and prosperity of Downtown Tifton.

The City of Tifton would like to extend its sincere gratitude to **Jay and Gayle Short** and the entire Short family for their generous commitment and support. Their sale of this landmark property in December 2024 reflects their enduring belief in the potential of our downtown and their desire to see it flourish for generations to come.

"This acquisition represents more than just land—it represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of Tifton in a way that reflects the hopes and needs of our entire community," said Mayor Julie Smith. "We are honored to be stewards of this project and are committed to ensuring it becomes a source of pride and progress for all."

Funding for the purchase was made possible through **SPLOST funds** (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), which were allocated in the referendum for property acquisition purposes for the City, DDA and URA, with essential financing support from **South Georgia Banking Company**.

A citizen engagement group will be formed for the Short & Paulk Renaissance Project. This group will assist the involved organizations in the planning process of this landmark project by representing the ideas of the public. Signup for this citizen engagement group is now open and can be found by clicking [here](#) or scanning the attached QR code.

The City of Tifton is excited to lead this pivotal moment in our city's growth—and we look forward to building the future, together.

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The **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** is a project-driven entity that plans and manages the downtown business district. The goals of the DDA are committed to the improvement and revitalization of Downtown Tifton through development activities, business recruitment and retention activities, and capital improvement projects. DDA meets every third Tuesday of the month. To learn more about DDA, please click [here](#).

The **Tifton Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA)** focuses on improving areas of the city that are in need of revival. The URA meets each second Thursday of the month. Click [here](#) to learn more about the URA.

The **City of Tifton's** vision is to continuously grow a safe and thriving community by providing progressive city services delivered with integrity and friendliness. To learn more about the City of Tifton, please click [here](#).

Contact:

Caroline Abbott
Director of Communications & Marketing, City of Tifton
cabbott@tifton.net
229-391-3996