

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 10, 2005 6:30 PM**

Grady Thompson, Chairman, District 7

Donnie Hester, Commissioner, Dist 1 Frankie Mathis, Commissioner, Dist 2
Hugh Webb, Commissioner, Dist 3 John M. Huggins, Commissioner, Dist 4
Fred W. Rigdon, Commissioner, Dist 5 Charlotte W. Bedell, Commissioner, Dist 6

Bill Park, County Manager Glynda Hemby, County Clerk
Rob Reinhardt, County Attorney

The Regular Business Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, January 10 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room of the Administration Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Charlotte Bedell, Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Rev. Jason Wade to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Commissioner Webb to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) and OCGA 50-14-2(1), Personnel and Consult with County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

All actions taken in this meeting are results of the Commissioners votes with the Chairman not voting except in the case of a tie which will be stipulated as such.

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving the minutes of the December 7, 2004 Workshop Session, December 13, 2004, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis for the additions to the Agenda, Appoint a Road Committee, Appointment to South Georgia Regional Development Center Board, Change Meeting dates for February to 1st and 7th, Acceptance of Right of Way Deed of Rigdon-Aultman Road, Bids on Tift Water System Upgrade and Repeal of 1985 Legislation dealing with the Bidding Process for the County, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Thompson added the items as I through N.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of a Vice Chairman: Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins that the appointed Vice Chair remains the same until such time as the Commission Board can set a new policy on the Election of the Vice Chairman, which means Charlotte Bedell will hold the Vice Chairman seat for the next two years, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Request for a Tax Write Off for The Crafty Sun: Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to authorize the Tax Assessor to write off this tax bill in the amount of \$107.55 for The Crafty Sun, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment to replace Roy Rankin on the Southwest GA Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases Planning Board: Vice Chairman Bedell advised the Board that an application has been received from Roosevelt Russell who has indicated he would be willing to serve on this Board. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to appoint Roosevelt Russell to serve as the County's representative on the Southwest GA MHDDAD Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Award of Soft Drink Bid Proposal for the Recreation Department: Craig Sowell, Recreation Director sent out bids for the Soft Drink Proposal for this department and bids were opened and review by staff on January 5, 2005. The bid award period is from January 2005 through December 2008. The recommendation of Mr. Sowell and staff is to accept the low bid from Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to award to Soft Drink Bid to Coca-Cola Bottling, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Beer and Wine License Application from Chet P. Patel for Raceway: The County Clerk advised that all documents for this process are complete and fees have been paid. This application has been approved by Sheriff Vowell. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to issue Beer and Wine License to Chet P. Patel for Raceway, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Credit Card Program for County Purchases: Mr. Park has drafted a Credit Card Policy for County Department Heads for County purchases which are designed to cut down on hand written Purchase Orders and staff time. The credit cards will be issued through First Community Bank. Each department will be issued credit cards. The Department Head will be responsible for properly turning in all receipts with complete documentation of the line item the charges are to be paid from in their budget. The limits are set at \$1,000 per month and \$500 per transaction. Each employee that is issued a credit card will sign an acknowledgement statement stating they have been issued a copy of the Credit Card Policy; they have read it and will abide by it. This policy has been reviewed by the County Attorney and the Finance Director. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester accepting the Credit Card Policy as presented, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Tift County Vehicle Policy: This Policy has been tabled several times. The outstanding issue is whether or not the County is going to allow the use of smoking and uses of other tobacco in County vehicles. Mr. Park advised that the Clean Air Ordinance does not allow smoking in County vehicles. He recommends that if the Commission agrees to allow the uses of tobacco in the vehicles that they also implement a requirement that any employee that burns holes in seat or carpet or causes any other damage in the vehicle by spilling tobacco products and such that the employee agrees to have this corrected at their expense. Motion was made by Commissioner Webb for the Vehicle Policy to be amended so that an employee of Tift County who is issued a County vehicle and is at work in the vehicle by himself/herself be allowed to use tobacco products in the vehicle. This motion dies for lack of a second. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to accept the Tift County Vehicle Policy as presented, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Commissioners Mathis, Bedell and Rigdon voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Hester, Huggins, and Webb voted against the motion. Chairman Thompson broke the tie with a vote against the motion. The motion failed. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell that the Tift County Vehicle Policy read the same as the Tift County Clean Air Ordinance in reference to tobacco products, which only states you cannot smoke in County vehicles and buildings, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried with Commissioner Webb abstaining.

H. Educational Funding and Reimbursement Program for Tift County: This is a policy for funding educational training required by the employee's position. The County will fund the training and an employee/employer contract agreement will be signed stating that the employee, after receiving training in excess of \$1,000, agrees to stay employed with Tift County for at least two years. The employee will be required to sign a promissory note stating that if they leave County employment before the two years have expired, they will reimburse the County for the training cost. Motion was made by Vice

Chairman Bedell to adopt the Educational Funding and Reimbursement Program for Tift County as presented, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Appoint a Road Committee: Vice Chairman Bedell reviewed the members of the previous road committee and asked that the Chairman update this committee by either keeping the same ones or making new appointments. Chairman Thompson made the following appointments to the Tift County Road Committee:

Charlotte Bedell, Chairman

John Moody Huggins

Harry Doss

Kurt Seigler

Grady Thompson

Bill Park

Glynda Hemby

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to accept the appointments as stated forming the Tift County Road Committee, second by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Appointment to the South Georgia Regional Development Center Board: The vacancy on this Board is to be appointed by the Chairman of the Tift County Board of Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Tifton. This requires no action by the Board.

K. Change February Meeting Dates: Due to the Legislative Conference in Atlanta, the Board needs to change the regularly schedule meeting dates for the month of February. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to change the February meeting dates to Tuesday, February 1, 2005 and Monday, February 7, 2005, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Acceptance of Right of Way Deed of a Road off Rigdon-Aultman Road: A right of way deed has been presented for the Board's consideration of acceptance. Mr. Doss advised the Board that this is known as Piddle Road which is just off Rigdon-Aultman Road. Mr. Raleigh Moorman has paved this road to standards and wishes to deed it to the County. The County Attorney advised that the Right-of-Way Deed states to construct and maintain this as a public road. Mr. Reinhardt recommends getting the right of way deed corrected to state "maintains the road" since it had already been constructed. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to accept the Right of Way Deed of Piddle Road subject to the change stated by the County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Bids of Tift Water System Upgrade: The bids have been received for the Upgrade for the Tift County Water System for Taylor Ridge and Spring Hill Subdivisions. Robert and Company has sent a letter of recommendation to award the bid to the low bidder, Lawn Cutters, Inc from Omega, Georgia in the amount of \$355,340. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to accept the recommendation and award the bid to Lawn Cutters, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

N. Repeal of the Local Legislation on \$2500 bidding Process: The County Attorney asked the Board's consideration to repeal Local Legislation passed in 1985 which sets \$2500 as a contract price in which the Commission has to bid purchases. The recommendation from the County Manager is to set this at \$5,000. The request is at this point to repeal the Local Legislation and later come back with a policy setting the bid amount. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to table, seconded by Commissioner Hester. The suggested action is setting whatever amount the Board deems to set as bid purchasing to be done by Ordinance rather than through Legislation. There was a tie vote to table the motion. Chairman Thompson voted to break the tie with a vote to table.

County Manager Items: Mr. Park had no comments. He gave monthly project status reports and a mid-year report from department heads.

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Huggins asked for a status report on the audit. Leigh Jordan, Finance Director reported that we are still waiting on information from the Health Department, Development Authority and the Clerk of Court. He then asked for a status report on the Multi-Purpose Building. Craig Sowell, Recreation Director, reported that it is on schedule.

Commissioner Bedell requested that a Centennial Year Committee be appointed. She stated that we need to get some plans in action. Mr. Park will discuss with the Chamber and report back on what we need to do. This will also be discussed at SDCC Meeting.

Commissioner Hester discussed the scheduled MLK Parade. Craig Sowell reported the status at this time and that permits will need to be obtained from the DOT as well as the County because of a change in the route of the parade. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to waive the permit fee and allow the parade to end up at Mott Gym, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: Mr. Roy Rankin was present to give a report on the Grand Jury Presentments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Grady Thompson, Chairman

Charlotte Bedell, Vice Chairman

Donnie Hester, Commissioners

Frankie Mathis, Commissioner

Hugh Webb, Commissioner

John M. Huggins, Commissioner

Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon Commissioner

Attest:

County Clerk