

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 14, 2005 5:30 PM**

**Grady Thompson, Chairman, District 7 Charlotte W. Bedell, Vice Chairman Dist 6
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**

**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, March 14, 2005, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room of the Administration Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, and Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Rev. Ray Dawson to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Commissioner Webb to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-12-2(1) and OCGA 50-14-3(6), seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Webb to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Webb approving the minutes of the February 1, 2005 Workshop Session, February 10, 2005 Regular Meeting and February 24, 2005 Joint TAG Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to add bids for painting the DOT Building behind the Administrative Building to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Thompson added the item as letter L.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Approval of divided road into Waterford Subdivision: Mr. Jeremy Hobbs made a request for approval of a divided road entrance into Waterford Subdivision in order to preserve a line of huge, old pecan trees they do not want to destroy. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to approve the divided road entrance into Waterford Subdivision and placing the stipulation that the property be retained by the land owner, the land owner agrees to all maintenance and agrees to indemnify the County of any liability claim that maybe brought against the County as a result of the divided entrance, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried with Commissioner Mathis voting against the motion.

TEXT AMENDMENTS:

- 1) An Amendment in Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Ordinance would allow for a Rural Farm Homestead to be granted as a Special Exception by the Tift County Board of Commissioners. It would have to be a minimum of one (1) acre and shall remain in the Agricultural Use (AU) zoning classification. This is presently addressed in the Ordinance done by the provisions of a will only. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell allowing the Zoning Administrator to

present this Text Amendment to the Zoning Board, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) An amendment would allow property owners to sell corner areas of a field. The lot would have to be 1 to 2.99 acres and must front an existing public road. This amendment would be done by Special Exception by the Tift County Board of Commissioners. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator and present this amendment to the Zoning Board, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried with Commissioner Rigdon and Vice Chairman Bedell voting against the motion.

C. Acceptance of Public Transportation Operating Grant for Tift Lift: This grant is for the maintenance and operation of Tift Lift. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis authorizing the Chairman to endorse the documentation for this grant, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

D. County Roads: Mr. Park advised that Roger Dill is meeting in Atlanta again with the Department of Transportation and will report back to us. Motion to table any decisions on the roads was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Beer License Application for Love's Travel Center: All documents have been reviewed and this application has been approved by the Sheriff. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to approve the beer license for Love's Travel Center, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Lighting for Track at Behavioral Health: Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to deny the lighting of the track due to liability issues and various other reasons, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Conference Center Seats: The County has made a verbal commitment to fund \$50,000 from SPLOST funds for the additional seats at the conference center if this project gets the requested matching funds from the State. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to table then he rescinded this motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to confirm the County would contribute \$50,000 from SPLOST funds for the additional seats contingent upon all other parties (Tourism and the City) contributing their fair share and verification of the matching funds from the State, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Travel Policy: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to adopt the revised Travel Policy with the proposed changes, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to raise the mileage rate paid by the County from .28 per mile to .35 per mile, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Expansion Discussion: Mr. Park addressed the Board with the previously discussed plan for water lines to be run down Hall Road. The contractor is waiting for approval to begin construction from the awarded bid on the pipe. This is the second part of the project. Mr. Park advised that the contractor has a freeze on the pipe prices, however, if the Board turns down the proposal we will have to re-bid both phases of the project. It is the recommendation of staff to proceed. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to table a decision for 30 days pending a joint meeting be set up with the City Officials to sit down and discuss this issue, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Discussion: Commissioner Huggins would like to bring in the Water and Sewer Authority and bring in the city to discuss the consolidation of this service. Vice Chairman Bedell disagreed with the tabling because a lot of time has been spent on this study and the way we need to go with this project with the least expense to cross the river with the pipe lines. The vote was taken on the motion to table and carried, however Vice Chairman Bedell and Commissioner Webb voted against the motion. Commissioner Rigdon is in favor of the two governments working out a comprehensive plan for consolidation of the water system. Mr. Park advised that the pipe price will go away after 30 days. Commissioner Hester suggested that this be discussed at the SDCC meeting to

be held on Friday and have the County Manager set up a joint meeting with the city the first part of the week for discussion of the water system.

J. Mileage Request from Board of Health: This agenda item was addressed under the Travel Policy in agenda item H.

K. Documents to close the Tift County Health Care & Employee Benefits Trust Fund: Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins authorizing the closing of this account and to transfer the funds, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Bids for Painting the DOT Building behind the Administrative Building: Bids have been received to paint this building as follows:

Crumbley Brothers	\$5,500.00
Tony Snow Painting & Repair	\$6,000.00
Taylor Painting & Wall Covering	\$6,500.00

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to accept the low bid in the amount of \$5,500 from Crumbley Brothers, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS:

- Mr. Park distributed Monthly Status Reports
- Gave the date of SDCC Meeting for Friday, March 18, 2005

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Rigdon: Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon that all future resolutions passed by the Board will be signed by all Board members, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

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