

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 9, 2005 6:30 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, May 9, 2005, at 6:30 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. Darrell Luke to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

PRESENTMENT OF PROCLAMATIONS:

The Chairman presented a Proclamation to Danny Edwards, EMS Director declaring the week of May 16-21, 2005 as EMS Week in Tift County.

Danny Edwards, EMS Director, and the Board of Commissioners recognized EMS employees who received Pre-Hospital Saves at the Region 8 EMS Banquet held in Moultrie in April. Pre-Hospital Save awards are awarded to medics who are directly responsible for saving a human life through the professional application of life support measures to patients found to be in cardiorespiratory arrest and are successfully resuscitated by the treatment from the paramedics. Eighteen Tift County EMS paramedics were recognized. In addition, two Tift County EMS paramedics were recognized for receiving Medal of Honor awards. This award is presented to medics who distinguish themselves in the line of duty by acting under adverse or extreme conditions and at times placing their own lives at risk. These two employees were awarded this for their immediate action taken at a scene of a major traffic accident on 1-75 in October 2004.

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 Mathis approving the minutes of the April 5, 2005 Workshop Session, April 11, 2005 Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to add the following items to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Thompson added the items as letters P, Q & R.

- Authorize Chairman to endorse DOT right of way certification on Carpenter/Rigdon Aultman Road
- Authorize the transition of State Court from part-time to full-time effective July 1, 2005
- Appointment of the Board of Commissioners' liaison to the Hospital Board

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. TCZ-05-02 Text Amendment to the Tift County Zoning Ordinance Section 9-10
Text to be deleted: 9.10 Board of Appeals as a variance on lot size. 9.10.1 Where the

property is inherited under the provisions of a will or under the laws of descent and distribution and the owner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Zoning Appeals Board that such property:

Text to be adopted: 9.10 Rural Farm Homestead. In the AU (Agricultural Use) zoning district only, provision for a Rural Farm Homestead may be provided by the Tift County Commissioners as a Special Exception where the following conditions can be met, on a case by case basis.

Mr. Rob Reinhardt, County Hearing Officer opened the scheduled public hearing.

Rex Wilson of 467 Adams Road, Chula, spoke in opposition to the Text Amendment. In his opinion this is in conflict to the three (3) acre provision that is currently in the Tift County Zoning Ordinance and wanted to go on record of this fact. He thinks it is a double standard if the Board allows this one (1) acre for a lot already established but not for a new home to be built on this size lot. He is not in favor of this Text Amendment or any change that would effect the three (3) acre provision now listed in the Zoning Ordinance.

There were no other comments.

Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to amend the Tift County Zoning Ordinance under Section 9.10 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

2. TCZ-05-03 Text Amendment to Tift County Zoning Ordinance Section 9-11

Specific Text to be adopted: 9.11 Rural Farm Substandard Lot Size:

9.11 Rural Farm Substandard Size Lot in an AU Zoning District only.

9.11.1 The lot size shall be from 1.0 acre to 2.99 acres. In all such cases, the owner shall provide a plat prepared by a registered land surveyor which must received approval for the Tift county Board of Health and Zoning Administrator prior to recordation in the land records of Tift County.

9.11.2 Each and every lot so established under this provision shall be a minimum of one (1) acre and meet Tift County Zoning Ordinance conventional frontage requirements which is a minimum of 210' road frontage and shall front an existing road.

9.11.3 Only one Rural Farm Substandard Size Lot shall be allowed per parcel.

Mr. Reinhardt, County Hearing Officer opened the scheduled public hearing.

Carl Fortson advised the Board of some wording changes and some revisions that have been suggested prior to this meeting. Commissioner Rigdon stated that when this amendment was discussed in the Workshop Session that if there were in changes, we would take it back to very beginning and start over again. Mr. Fortson read the changes that had been discussed to the Board.

Rex Wilson of 467 Adams Road, Chula spoke in opposition to the Text Amendment. He stated as far as he is concerned there is only one (1) issue here and it is the reduction of the three (3) acres stated in the Zoning Ordinance and he is opposition to changes this. He stated sometime ago there was a reduction in acreage from five (5) acres to three (3) acres. He is committed to protecting the farm land in Tift County.

There were no further comments.

Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Vice Chairman Bedell made a motion to table any action on this Text Amendment for thirty days instructing staff to bring this back before the Commission Board with the proposed revisions in the amendment at the next workshop meeting, second by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

3. TCZ-05-04 Sarah Thompson request to rezone 2.693 acres from WLI (Wholesale Light industrial) to GB (General Business)

This request is made on behalf of the Tift County Development Authority to rezone the property for the intent that the property will be developed as a medical clinic. This comes to the Board with a recommendation of approval from staff.

Mr. Reinhardt opened the scheduled public hearing.

Ms. Sarah Thompson, Vice President of Operations at Tift Regional Medical Center addressed the Board in support of the rezoning. Ms. Thompson stated that the property is located on Old Union Road and if this rezoning is approved this will give the Hospital and the Development Authority an opportunity to develop an Industrial Medical Clinic near the industrial site. The advantages of the development on this site would be convenience for the workers at the industrial park rather than driving out to the hospital and there would be sufficient parking lot size to accommodate tractor trailer parking where that is not the case at the hospital area.

There were no further comments.

Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to approve TCZ-05-04 rezoning request of Sarah Thompson to rezone 2.693 acres from WHL (Wholesale Light Industrial) to GA (General Business), seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Petition to Close Clyde Jones Road:

A petition to close Clyde Jones Road from Ponder Road to Bryan Ellis Road has been received, properly advertised and the public hearing scheduled.

Mr. Reinhardt, Hearing Officer opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Webb to close Clyde Jones Road, removing it from the Tift County Roads System, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously. The legal description and map of said road are made a part of these official minutes noted as Exhibit "A".

5. Close Pond Dam portion of Norman Circle: This is a recommendation from staff and the County Attorney in order to alleviate liability for the County. It has been properly advertised and the public hearing scheduled.

Mr. Reinhardt, Hearing Officer opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to close the pond dam portion of Norman Circle, removing it from the Tift County Roads System, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously. The legal description and map of said closure are made a part of these official minutes noted as Exhibit "B".

CONSENT AGENDA: The Chairman read the items placed on the Consent Agenda from the May 3, 2005 Workshop Meeting as follows:

- A. Approval to demolish property at 2908 5th Avenue
- B. Approval of Resolution to implement Phase II for collection of Wireless 911 Fees
- C. Award Bid for painting Administration Building to Gibbs Painting for \$37,550
- D. Omitted from Consent Agenda (See action under New Business)

- E. Award of Truck Bid for Recreation Department to Allen Vigil Ford for \$16,988
- F. Authorize Chairman to endorse DOT Project on Old Ocilla Road and 12th Street
- G. Authorize Chairman to execute County Right of Way Agreement on Bruce Lane and Southern Avenue
- H. Authorize Chairman to endorse documents for a Grant Application for the Cooperative Extension Service for Outreach Project Funding
- I. Award Lease Equipment bids for the Road Department to Yancey Brothers Company in the amount of \$112,636.08 annually and Flint Equipment Company in the amount of \$12,444 annually
- J. Acceptance of Right of Way Deed on the roads in Laurel Creek Subdivision
- K. Approval of the return excess funds paid by Capitol City Bank and Trust at a Tax Sale
- L. Approval of new appointments and re-appointments to the Tift County Athletic Advisory Board
- M. Approval of Resolution for a Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP) Grant for \$296,625
- N. Approval of Resolution for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$269,962

Motion approving all items listed on the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Interlocal Agreements for Consolidation: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the recommendation to add Interlocal Agreements or Addenda for Mosquito Control, Solid Waste and Code Enforcement to a Joint City/County Session Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Beer License Application for Paresh Patel: The County Clerk advised that Sheriff Vowell has now approved this application. Motion authorizing the County Clerk to issue to Beer License to Paresh Patel was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

P. Right of Way Agreement on Carpenter/Rigdon-Aultman Roads: The DOT has submitted right of way certification documents to be executed by the Chairman. Motion authorizing the Chairman to execute the right of way agreement documents on Carpenter/Rigdon-Aultman Roads was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Q. State Court: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester authorizing the transition of State Court from part-time to full-time effective July 1, 2005, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

R. Appointment of the Board of Commissioners liaison to the Hospital Board: The Chairman expressed his desire to continue serving in this capacity. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to appoint Commissioner Rigdon to be the liaison on behalf of the Tift County Commission Board. This motion dies for lack of a second. Vice Chairman Bedell suggested that the appropriate thing to do is select this person by secret ballot as that is what has been done in the past. Motion to table until the next meeting and all interested Commissioners contact the County Clerk to have their name put on the ballot, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS: No Comments

Commissioner Huggins asked the County Manager if he could provide some numbers on outsourcing the County's payroll. Mr. Park responded by saying that the figure was somewhere around \$21,000 but he is of the opinion that we can continue handling payroll in house effectively without any additional payroll cost. Commissioner Huggins asked Mr. Park to report back to the Commission at the next meeting with his recommendation.

Vice Chairman Bedell asked Mr. Park to give an update on the progress of the Centennial. He reported that we have entered into an agreement with John Tibbets for the Coordinator for the organization of the Centennial. The Steering Committee will meet May 10, 2005 at 8 o'clock AM.

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Huggins stated that we now have a vacant position on the Tift County Board of Health resulting from the death of Dr. David M. Bedell. Commissioner Huggins made a motion to respectfully appoint Charlotte W. Bedell to fill this vacant position for the remainder of the unexpired term of Dr. Bedell on the Tift County Board of Health, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hester asked Harry Doss if he has looked into the striping of South Central. Mr. Doss reported that he looked at it and is agreement that it is in need of painting but the striping process has not begun, we do not have any paint in as of yet. The process of painting should get under way in a couple of months. Commissioner Hester also thanked Carl Fortson and staff for the efforts they are making on the demolishing of dilapidated houses.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Rigdon if he had had the opportunity to talk to the School Board concerning funding for the library. Commissioner Rigdon reported that he had not but would get on the agenda this month and address it with them.

Vice Chairman Bedell commented in support of Commissioner Hester's remarks concerning the efforts of the demolishing the dilapidated houses and we need to definitely continue with Keep Tift Beautiful particularly in South Tifton.

Public Comments

Mr. Charles Majeski, who serves on the South Georgia Community Service Board, addressed the Board to give appreciation and thanks for the repairs and improvements to the building. His daughter, Sue was present, who is a consumer of the services, to give her statement on what the services offered at this facility mean to her. She attends counseling three days a week at the center. Ms. Joan Cobb, also a county appointed member of this Board, expressed appreciation to Tift County for offering this service to citizens. She stated mental illness, substance abuse and mental retardation is a sickness and urged the Board to remember this when looking at the budget and to continue funding this much needed service to the consumer.

Executive Session: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) and OCGA 50-14-2(1) to discuss personnel and legal matters seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell 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

