

WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
6:30 P.M.

The regularly scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday December 6, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

Appointments:

Christine Day, Educational Coordinator for E-911 gave a brief report on a 911 call that came in on October 26, 2005. The call came from young Christian Flippe who is 5 years old. His grandmother had passed out and he and his 1 year old sister were the only ones there. This young man stayed calm throughout the entire ordeal. This call saved his grandmother's life. EMS was dispatched and the paramedics commended young Christian for a job well done. He was named as a 911 First Hero and was paid a visit by the 911 Mascot, Red E Fox. Christian was presented with a 911 Hero Medal of Honor, a certificate of recognition and a Sam Goody gift card.

Public Hearing scheduled for December 12, 2005:

- A. TCZ-05-12 Special Exception request of Dan Berry to be considered to operate a Commercial Chicken House in an AU (Agricultural) Zoning District on U.S. Highway 82**
- B. TCZ-05-13 Request from Jeff Crosby to rezone from its existing AU (Agricultural) to R-1 (Residential) a 120 acre parcel located at the corner of New River Church Road and Old Ocilla Road.**
- C. SD-05-15 Final Plat for Caroline Estate from Travis Hurst located on Adams Road.**

Items to be discussed at the December Business Meeting:

- D. Reimbursement of Tax Sale Proceeds to Ms. Jewell Tillman – 2101 South Park Avenue:** County Attorney, Rob Reinhardt advised this is excess proceeds from a tax sale held in November and those funds would need to be authorized for release to Ms. Tillman
- E. Beer License Application for Anant Patel for Quick Buys on Hwy 125 South:** The County Clerk advised the application is in order and has been approved by the Sheriff.
- F. Appoint a County Liaison to Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** Vice Chairman Bedell would like to see Commissioner Hester appointed to this Board if his schedule allows. The County Manager will check on the date and time this Board meets.
- G. Consideration of adopting a Resolution supporting Restoring Georgia's Environmental Trust Fund:** The County Manager explained this Trust Fund has enabled Tift County in the past to help fund part of a salary in Development Support Services. These funds have been cut and legislatively we need to support the restoring of the funds. We have verbally expressed this to our legislators.
- H. Purposed changes to the Loitering Ordinance:** County Attorney Reinhardt gave out a revised purposed change to the Loitering Ordinance to address congregating on streets and street corners for the Board's consideration.
- I. Adoption of the Joint Ordinance with the City of Tifton regarding Policies and Procedures with respect to Water and Wastewater.** Commissioner Hester addressed this by stating he feels the Board needs to consider some things prior to adopting, especially concerning the rates. He stated everybody needs to be paying the same amount for water. Commissioner Rigdon stated this would be discussed at the next Water Enterprise Meeting and hopes to address Commissioner Hester's concerns. Vice Chairman Bedell addressed the comment brought up at an earlier meeting about a surcharge. She understands it is not specifically a surcharge; just County residents are paying a higher rate for water. It was decided that the Board needs to defer a decision on this for thirty days until these issues can be addressed.
- J. Adoption of Joint Sign Ordinance with the City of Tifton:** Vice Chairman Bedell asked the Board if they are ready to adopt the Joint Ordinance. Commissioner Huggins stated he felt we should have some public comment and education on this prior to passage. We need to notify the City that the Commissioners are not ready to vote.

K. Adoption of Resolution in Support of SPLOST IV Presentation and Referendum

Jointly with the City of Tifton: Commissioner Hester addressed this item stating he was not ready to act on this and that other discussions need to take place. He is very concerned about the allocation for the Development Authority to be split with the Downtown Development Authority. He believes we need to let the monies stay as allocated; the Development Authority has been doing an outstanding job at bringing in industry and creating jobs for Tift County. Commissioner Huggins agreed with Commissioner Hester that the Development Authority is doing a great job creating jobs for Tift County. He stated we (the Commissioners) have been elected as trustees of the tax payer's money and we need to be good stewards of that. He also stated the Commission is not allocating any money right now; we are simply laying out the ground rules of what we are going to spend the money on. It is a Resolution in support of SPLOST IV. Commissioner Hester stated that it seems as if the City is dictating to the Board of Commissioners what we are going to do and we do not have to take that. Commissioner Hester commented then, that we need to take a stand and stop letting people come in our building and tell us what we are going to do. Vice Chairman Bedell sees this as a responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to allocate the money but if we do not pass this SPLOST IV Referendum it is going to hit the taxpayers hard. Commissioner Mathis was in agreement that we need to adopt the SPLOST IV Resolution that he would be totally against doing anything that would ruin or cause examination of the Development Authority; however, at the same time we must realize that we have to support the SPLOST IV Referendum. Commissioner Webb stated that it will continue to be the responsibility of the Commissioners to dispense the money from SPLOST IV. Commissioner Rigdon was in agreement with Commissioner Webb's statements.

County Manager Items:

- Handed out Monthly Status Reports, Monthly Department Reports and Monthly Road Update Reports
- Reminded the Board of the Groundbreaking for the Brookfield Fire Station scheduled for December 7, 2005 at 11 o'clock
- Advised the Board that Joe Beaumont has submitted his resignation as Coroner. The County Attorney is researching the steps the County needs to take for a replacement since this is an elected position.
- Introduced Craig Grace who is running EMS for us while we search for a new EMS Director and he is doing a good job
- He advised that we are very close to closing a deal with ABAC on a new women's soccer program who will be utilizing our field. This is a good example of how we are working with other entities in the County to cut our cost and leverage the use of our recreational facilities. Chairman Thompson commended Craig for a job well done in putting something together for the parade with the Centennial Banner.
- Craig Grace was invited to speak to the Board. Craig has been serving as the Training Officer for Tift County EMS. He is now in charge of operations on an interim basis since the resignation of EMS Director Danny Edwards. Craig stated he has been with Tift County since 1993 and is proud to be a part of Tift County EMS.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Mathis advised that we are continuing to have problems with noise at the fairgrounds. They now seem to be having events every other week rather than every week. We need to talk to the Sheriff and hope this will correct itself. Commissioner Mathis also stated he has some concerns about the moral of county employees, especially to the crews working on the road; we need to really access what is going on with our employees.

Commissioner Webb believes we need to move forward and put somebody in charge of the Road Department. He stated that roads are not being maintained, he has turned in several complaints that have not been handled. He stated that this winter is a very critical time. The County Manager advised that Kurt Seigler had been assigned to the administrative duties and Richard Burr the day to day operations. He stated the Harry Doss had indicated to him that he may be returning after the first of the year.

Vice Chairman Bedell commended E-911 for the newsletter they have been putting out. She addressed the article about mapping for the cell phones. Mary Ann explained that there is a chip that will need to be inserted into the cell phone. If anyone has any doubts they can call 911 and they will know if your phone has the chip and upgrade.

Commissioner Huggins directed a question to Jon Mendenhall on the permitting on vinyl siding. Mr. Mendenhall reported that it does require permitting depending on the location, if it is in the city which falls in a historic district and the same for re-roofing. Commissioner Huggins does not feel that is fair, that is only for cosmetic, the permitting should only be required for structural changes. Mr. Park and the Department will check into this. Commissioner Huggins advised that the Board needs to address Karen Mejia's title in Human Resources. Mr. Park will bring a recommendation to the Board.

Public Comments:

Ken Taylor addressed the Board from the advertising world and would like to know what's wrong with the Sign Ordinance as it stands now. The advertising business people do not understand what's going on? Lots of business folks he has talked to today and in the past are very upset about this purposed Ordinance. This Ordinance is much stricter than the City of Atlanta. They believe when the Commissioners put together an Ordinance of this nature that the local business people need to be asked for input; it involves their livelihood.

Mary Jane Tipper, Councilperson for the City of Ty Ty, resident address is 124 Arthur Street addressed the Board concerning the SPLOST IV allocations. Ms. Tipper stated when the City of Ty Ty sent in their request for SPLOST funding it was for quite a bit more from the last SPLOST however, it was not for something they wanted, it was for something they need. They are presently under mandate from EPD concerning their processing of sewer and their permit expires January 26, 2006. They have not been sitting on this situation, they have been working with engineers looking at various ways they can meet EPD's requirements. They have found some land for lease they can use for the spray fields but it is going to be very expensive. They will have to run four (4) miles of pipe; then install the spraying system. The City of Ty Ty is soliciting the Board's support in this situation. They asked for 3.2 million and feel the least they can request is 2.7 million. The Chairman asked Mr. Park to check for some alternative funding to help Ty Ty in their situation. They have been allocated 1.5 million and they are asking for reconsideration of their amount to at least 2.7 million.

Dick Chalfant, resident of Kennedy Road and a member of the Tifton/Tift County Library Board of Trustees addressed the Board stating they have not made a decision yet where they will move their operations during the renovations of the Library. They have been considering the old Recreation Building; however, there are some unresolved issues. The agreement at present stipulates that rent will be \$500 per month, the County will continue to carry the insurance, the building will be turned over to them in operable condition and the Library will be responsible for the electric bill, operations and maintenance. They need some numbers in order to prepare their budget and an explanation of what operation and maintenance entails. Commissioner Huggins recommended waiving the rent fee, however, there are some other issues that need to be resolved first and they will require discussion in Executive Session.

Melissa Chevers, resident of 1815 Marion Drive addressed the Board commending Carl Fortson and Code Enforcement for working with the dilapidated houses on 5th Avenue.

Executive Session:

Motion to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) Personnel and OCGA 50-14-3(4) for real estate was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Commission Hester, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

Commissioner Fred W. Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

County Clerk

REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, December 12, 2005
6:30 P.M.

The Regular Business Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, December 12, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Mathis 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.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving the minutes of the November 7, 2005 Workshop Session, and the November 14, 2005 Regular Business Session, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

A. TCZ-05-12: Special Exception request of Dan Berry to operate a Commercial Chicken House in AU (Agricultural Zoning District) on Highway 82: Motion to table was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

B. TCZ-05-13: Rezoning request from Jeff Crosby: Applicant withdrew application prior to this scheduled public hearing.

C. SD-05-15: Final Plat for Caroline Estate from Travis Hurst: No public hearing is required for the approval of a Final Plat. Jon Mendenhall presented the final plat to the Board and asked Kurt Seigler, County Engineer to give a status report of the roads in this subdivision. He reported the roads are getting into shape but the weather conditions have not allowed asphalt at this time. He stated everything is looking very positive. The Final Plat was approved by the Planning Commission contingent upon approval of staff and the condition of the roads. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to approve the Final Plat for Caroline Estate Subdivision, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

D. Reimbursement of Tax Sale proceeds to Ms. Jewell Tillman: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester authorizing the tax sale proceeds in the amount of \$1,673.29 be released to Ms. Jewell Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Beer License Application for Anant Patel: Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving the 2006 Beer License for Anant Patel, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Appoint a County liaison to Keep Tift Beautiful Board: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell appointing Commissioner Donnie Hester to be the County liaison on the Keep Tift Beautiful Board, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration of adopting a Resolution supporting Restoring Georgia's Environmental Trust Fund: Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to adopt the Resolution supporting the Restoring Georgia's Environmental Trust Fund, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Purposed changes to Loitering Ordinance: The County Manager and County Attorney have made some changes in Section 78-27. General Offenses of the Loitering Ordinance for Tift County. Motion to adopt the amendment to the Loitering Ordinance was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously. The Amendment has been made a part of these minutes under Exhibit "A".

I. Adoption of Joint Ordinance with the City of Tifton regarding Policies and Procedures

with respect to Water and Wastewater: Motion to table was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Adoption of Joint Sign Ordinance with the City of Tifton: Motion to table was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Adoption of Resolution in Support of the SPLOST IV presentation and referendum

Jointly with the City of Tifton: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to table, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Commissioner Huggins entered into discussion prior to the vote. After discussion of this matter Vice Chairman Bedell withdrew motion to table and Commissioner Mathis withdrew the second. Motion was then made by Commissioner Huggins that the Tift County Board of Commissioners go on record only at this time in support of the SPLOST IV Referendum, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Items:

- Reminded the Board of the Ribbon Cutting at the Multi-Purpose Building at 1:30 PM on December 19, 2005
- Reminded the Board of the TAG Meeting at the Multi-Purpose Building at 6:30 PM on December 19, 2005
- Advised the Coroner has resigned. The County Attorney advised that the Judge of the Probate Court appoints someone to fill the unexpired term until the next scheduled general election. Mike Beaumont has expressed an interest in serving out the unexpired term of Joe Beaumont. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis for the county Attorney to advise the Probate Judge the Board of commissioners is recommending Mike Beaumont to be appointed to fill the unexpired Coroner term.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Mathis is still concerned about the noise at the fairgrounds. He stated we do have deputies out there during the events, however, they are off duty deputies. He said that the decibel levels have been lowered. He believes we are going to have to legislative measures to get this under control, however, it can not only affect the fairgrounds; it will have to be countywide. The Board agreed that the same committee that worked on lowering the decibel levels do some further investigation and bring a recommendation for a shut down time back to the Board.

Commissioner Huggins asked the County Manager if things were in order to move forward with the surveying of the Bowen Road Extension. The County Manager is working on this and will advise as soon as the paperwork is ready.

- Addressed Jon Mendenhall about the permitting for siding and roofing. Mr. Mendenhall replied that there is some discussion whether it is maintenance or not. Mr. Park and Mr. Mendenhall will get together on this and report back.
- Asked if the City Net Billing on the unoccupied buildings had been squared away. Mr. Park stated he has talked back with the City and they have told us to disregard the invoices.
- Asked the County Attorney how things were progressing on the additional two members to the Development Authority. Mr. Reinhardt stated he is waiting on specific instructions to move forward. Direction was given to Mr. Reinhardt to draw up a draft on the purposed Statutory Authority to work in tandem with the existing Constitutional Authority.

Public Comments:

Roy Walker of 1010 Tyson Avenue addressed the Board concerning the noise at the fairgrounds. He has been concerned about this noise and has been actively seeking some sort of fix for it for six (6) years. He believes that 11PM is late enough for anybody to be open but thinks that the only solution is to pull their license.

Mr. Leonard Tubbs of Sherry Lane also addressed the Board concerning the noise at the fairgrounds. The lowering of the decibel levels did not correct the noise. He will be back until it gets under control and does not believe it will be corrected until the business is shut down.

Ronald Nixon, 2700 South Park Avenue

- Asked last month about the equalization of water rates. He commended Commissioner Hester for bringing it up and talking about it, but talking is not getting anything done about the fairness of the rates for the citizens in the unincorporated areas of Tift County.

- Addressed the Chairman concerning the trucks still going up and down Golden Road, there are signs posted on this road not allowing 18 wheelers and he feels it should be addressed and enforced.
- He has had lots of calls from other citizens concerning this issue as well as others and feels if it is not addressed and resolved soon the Board will continue to see more and more citizens address these issues at meetings.
- He stated that at a previous meeting he recalls Commissioner Mathis commented on the moral of Tift County employees. Mr. Nixon feels one thing the Board can do and he believes it would be very bold and pro-active, is that they consider appointing Craig Grace who is presently serving as interim EMS Director, to this position permanently. He commended Mr. Grace for the twelve (12) years he has worked in EMS and it is impressive when you start at the bottom and work your way up through the ranks. An employee needs to be rewarded for their dedication to Tift County.

Executive Session: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Legal Matters with the County Attorney, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

Commissioner Fred W. Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

County Clerk