

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006  
6:30 P.M.**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Thursday, February 9, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Charlotte Bedell, Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

**Appointments:**

1. Gene Goode, Tax Commissioner addressed the Board for authorization to write off taxes due on mobile homes from 2000-2003 in the amount of \$6,632.29. Mr. Goode reported that these are mobile homes that have been moved out of the county without the proper permits and there is no chance of collecting these taxes. Mr. Goode also asked for authorization to Nulla Bona three pieces of property. These businesses are no longer in operation in Tift County and have left owing tax bills for equipment that they have not been able to track down. These three tax bills are for Classie Homes Showcase for the amount of \$5,419.10; Wayne Frier Home Center for the amount of \$3,342.49 and MC Choate & Sons for the amount of \$11,187.04. The Board will take action and give authorization for this tax write off request and Nulla Bona request at the Regular Meeting on February 13, 2006. It was agreed upon by the Commissioners to place these items on the Consent Agenda.

**Public Hearings scheduled for Regular Session on February 13, 2006 at 6:30 PM**

- A. SUP 06-01 Alltel Communications requests a Special Exception to construct a telecommunications tower 500 feet north of US Hwy 82 on Church Street**
- B. SUP-06-02 Vicky Orr requests a Special Exception for a rural farm homestead located at 491 Adams Road**
- C. ZP 06-01 Shane Pridgen requests the rezoning 20.13 acres located on Mt. Olive Church Road**

Mr. Jon Mendenhall explained each request to the Board and reported that they all come to the Board with a recommendation of approval from staff and Planning and Zoning.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on February 13, 2006:**

- D. Library Board Appointment:** Debbie Benson has resigned from the Library Board and a replacement needs to be appointed to fill her unexpired term. Mr. Robert B. Gressette has expressed an interest in serving on this Board and is recommended from the Library Board.
- E. Shilpa A. Patel application for Beer & Wine License:** The application has been received along with the application fee and the fee for the beer and wine license. This comes as an approval from Sheriff Vowell.
- F. Declare 2 Vehicles Surplus:** There are two vehicles in the Tift County Fleet that are no longer in use and beyond their service life and need to be declared surplus in order for them to be advertised for sale. The two vehicles are a 1993 Ford Crown Vic and a 1996 Chevrolet Lumina.
- G. Water Waste/Water Ordinance:** This was tabled at the January 2006 Meeting. Commissioner Rigdon explained that this had been reviewed previously by him and Commissioner Huggins at the Enterprise Fund meetings and it is a housekeeping measure. This simply lays out the operations and day to day management of the water and wastewater agreement. It does not set rates. Vice Chairman Bedell would like to have added under Section 12 to this Ordinance that customers will have to abide by the water restrictions mandated by the city.
- H. Ballot Vote:** Ballots will be prepared with the nominations submitted to the County Clerk for the Board to vote on the two new members to be appointed to The Development Authority of Tift County.
- I. Approve the Amended and Restated 457 (b) Governmental Plan Document with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (PebSCO) to comply with the final regulations by the IRS.** The County Clerk explained that this is simply a formality the Board needs to take action on to bring this Plan into compliance with IRS rules and regulations.

The Commissioners agreed to place items D, E, F, I, and the requests of the Tax Commissioner on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting on February 13, 2006.

**County Managers Items:**

- Gave out Status, Road and Monthly Department Reports
- Reminded Board of Tifton Day in Atlanta on February 21, 2006
- Advised that the first 47 pages of the revised proposed Personnel Policy Manual are ready for their review
- Advised of SDCC Meeting Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>
- Gave a memo to Board about the Jail Agreement with the city. Board will need to give the Sheriff authority to enter into this contract agreement with the City of Tifton
- Gave a memo dealing with the Driver's License building located on Fulwood and the old State patrol building. There is a business interested in purchasing the State Patrol Building and Mr. Park is working with Earl Denham at the Chamber on this. He will keep the Board informed.
- Gave a memo on the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant that was turned down. It was for the assistance in drainage problems on Hwy 82 West. This project now needs a funding source and will probably be put off until FY 2007.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Huggins requested some information be provided from the State Patrol on how much we are generating in tickets and the payment amount on the new State Patrol Building. He asked if we were having any serious problems on county roads, stating he had a call on a road off of Hwy 41 South, across from the airport that water stands on that road pretty bad. He would like to see if there is anything we can do to help the situation. He also reminded Mr. Park to check with Ed Moore on the cutting of the timber at the road department.

Commissioner Hester advised the Board that he is still concerned about the water rates and he plans to address the Tifton City Council on February 27<sup>th</sup> about this. He believes once we consolidated, that everything should be equal. He invited the Board members to attend for support if they would like.

Vice Chairman Bedell stated she would like to have an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Personnel. She has talked with the County Manager on some concerns from Ty Ty on problems with noise. A Professor at ABAC has been contacted to see if they have someone to help measure the long wave length.

**Public Comments:**

Department Heads giving brief reports were Regenia Wells, Animal Control; Laurie Whitworth, EMA; Mary Ann Eaton, E-911; Teresa Lupo, Tax Assessor; Craig Sowell, Recreation; and Carl Fortson, Code Enforcement.

Jack Thompson, resident of 2602 Lullwater Road addressed the Board to bring their attention to the increased amount of water that drains between 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Lullwater Road and Kent Road. He attended the City council meeting earlier this week because they are purposing to annex the area on Old Ocilla Road and Pinview into the city and fill it in which would increase the amount of water behind his house. In the past six to eight years the water has increased and seems to stay there. He has done some extensive research to find the problem areas. He has discussed the problem several times with Harry Doss. During heavy rains the water can't go anywhere and it backs up into his yard. He is asking with all the new construction going on in the area, that it be looked at and do something to alleviate some of the water backup. The Board asked Mr. Park and Jon Mendenhall to take a look at this situation. Commissioner Huggins has been out there through heavy rains and he is aware that the canal fills up. He will work with staff to see what we can do and see if pipes in the area are sufficient to take care of the water.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(4) Real Estate and OCGA 50-14-3(6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

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Commissioner Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

ATTEST:

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County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006  
6:30 P.M.**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, February 13, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative 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. Craig Nalls to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

All actions taken in this meeting are results of 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 January 10, 2006 Joint Meeting with the City of Tifton, January 10, 2006 Workshop Session, the January 18, 2006 Joint Meeting with County and Cities and the January 18, 2006 Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearings:**

- A. SUP 06-01** Alltel Communications requests a Special Exception to construct a telecommunications tower 500 feet north of U. S. Hwy 82 on Church Street:

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt, opened the public hearing and advised the Board that this request comes to them with a recommendation of approval from staff and the Planning and Zoning Board.

Michael Sandifer, Consultant for Alltel Communications spoke in favor of the request and stated he would answer any questions the Board may have. This tower will be located on the east side of Tifton in order to enhance coverage and capacity.

There was no opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis approving SUP 06-01 request of Alltel Communications to erect a tower 500 feet north of U. S. Hwy 82 on Church Street, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. SUP 06-02** Vicky Orr requests a Special Exception for a rural farm homestead located at 491 Adams Road:

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt, opened the public hearing and advised the Board that this request comes to them with a recommendation of approval from staff and the Planning and Zoning Board.

Kim Colwell spoke on behalf of Vicky Orr as her representative on this property. Ms. Orr and her sister inherited this property consisting of 2.46 acres. The lot size is under the required 3 acres but it is stated in the zoning ordinance that if a piece of property is inherited and does not meet the required lot size, the owners will be allowed to sell the property. It is Ms. Orr's intent, to sell the house and 2.46 acres.

There was no opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to approve SUP06-02 Special Exception for a rural farm homestead located at 491 Adams Road, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. ZP 06-01** Shane Pridgen requests the rezoning of 20.13 acres located on Mt. Olive Church Road from AU (Agriculture) to R-1 (Residential):

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt, opened the public hearing and advised the Board that this rezoning request of 20.13 acres located on Mt. Olive Church Road from Shane Pridgen comes to the Board with a recommendation of approval from staff and Planning and Zoning Board.

Shane Pridgen resident of 3618 Lakewood Drive spoke in favor of his request. He stated that he intends to split three acres between him and his mother-in-law, make two lots consisting of 1 and ½ acres each. He plans to construct a home for himself consisting of 2700 square feet and a home for his mother-in-law consisting of 1800 square feet. He advised that city utilities and water will be supplied to the property.

There was no opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving ZP06-01 rezoning request of Shane Pridgen of 20.13 acres located on Mt. Olive Church road from AU (Agriculture) to R-1 (Residential), seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

- D. Appoint Robert B. Gressette to the Tifton/Tift County Library Board
- E. Approve Beer and Wine License for Shilpa A. Patel
- F. Declare a 1996 Chevrolet Lumina and a 1993 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus vehicles
- I. Approve the Amended and Restated 457 (b) Governmental Plan document with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (PEBSCO) to comply with the final regulations by the IRS
- J. Authorize the Tax Commissioner to Nulla Bona three cases: Classie Homes Showcase, Wayne Frier Home Center, and M C Choate & Sons, totaling \$19,948.63
- K. Authorize the Tax Commissioner to execute mobile home tax write offs from years 200 through 2003 in the total amount of \$6,632.29

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

**Regular Agenda:**

- G. Joint Water and Wastewater Ordinance: Tabled from January 2006 Meeting. Commissioner Huggins made a motion to adopt the Joint Water and Wastewater Ordinance that provides policies and procedures subject to the statement being added for the state mandated water restrictions be abided by, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. Ballot Vote: Appointing two new members to the Development Authority of Tift County. The County Clerk gave Board members a ballot with nominations submitted for the appointment of two members to the Development Authority of Tift County. After the count, the County Clerk reported that Dr. Homer Day and Mr. Harold Harper had been elected to this Authority Board. Motion was made by vice Chairman Bedell authorizing the County clerk to destroy the ballots, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Managers Items:**

- Requested a very short Executive Session at the end of the meeting for a Personnel and Legal Matter

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Huggins reminded Mr. Park to check with Ed Moore about the cutting of the timber at the Road Department and to continue to stay on top of the drainage situation behind the Ramada Inn. He also stated that we need to set up a Road Committee meeting.

Vice Chairman Bedell advised that she would get with Commissioner Huggins and set a date for a Road Committee meeting for next week. She inquired if Mr. Park had been able to contact a source on locating equipment that will help us measure long wave lengths concerning the noise complaints at the fairgrounds. Mr. Park is working on a contact.

Commissioner Mathis stated he is still receiving complaints about the noise at the fairgrounds. The County Clerk is receiving letters from citizens complaining. The County Attorney advised the Board that a letter was sent to the folks that run the fairgrounds concerning the complaints and the noise levels as instructed by the Board a few months ago. The noise is continuing to go on until 2 AM or after. The citizens are asking that if the Sheriff's office cannot enforce the Ordinance that the Board consider closing them down. The Board instructed the County Attorney to send a second letter, certified, return receipt requested, so that we will know they get it. The Board also instructed Mr. Reinhardt to address this issue through our Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Reinhardt feels this will be more effective to look at both the Nuisance and Noise Ordinance and see which is our strongest defensive and address it that way for now and then come up with some Ordinance by the next Workshop Meeting that will address the issues at hand.

The second issue addressed by Commissioner Mathis was that he has been getting some request about street lights on some dark streets and asked how we go about this. Mr. Park explained that normally we create a Special Tax District. He will work with Commissioner Mathis on this issue.

**Public Comments:**

Donald Adcock addressed the Board concerning all the complaints about the fairgrounds and noise. He stated that the people that run the fairgrounds are good responsible citizens. He feels it is their problem, not necessarily a Commissioner's problem.

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

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

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

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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ABSENT  
Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

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Commissioner Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

ATTEST:

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County Clerk