

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 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 Tuesday, March 7, 2006, 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, and Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

**Appointments:**

1. Josh Pope, Will Flowers, Bo Flowers and Blair Veazy wish to address the Board on extending Rutland Road at Hamilton Park. This presentation request was withdrawn at this time.
2. Commander Mike Clements with the American Legion addressed the Board concerning the noise complaints from citizens for events held at the American Legion grounds. There has been much discussion concerning this at several meetings and the American Legion Board members were present at this meeting at the request of the Commission Board. They handed out some brochures that has printouts of a summary of incident reports of calls made to 911 concerning noise at the fairgrounds, most of which occurred when there was not events held there. The list consists of 407 calls of which there is a possible eight (8) calls that could have been considered during concerts held at the Legion. Only five (5) of the calls could be considered within range. Their concert hours are from 9 PM until 2 AM and they only had two (2) concerts during the time of the summary calls. Mr. Clements stated they have Sheriff's deputies or police that is hired by the renter at every contract concert. They have purchased a decibel level piece of equipment and are in compliance with the levels stipulated in the Noise Ordinance. Commissioner Mathis stated that he does not know why the calls are not recorded but he has been there and has received calls concerning the noise situation. The residents just get tired of calling because nothing is ever done. Several Commissioners have been out there and verified that there are deputies out there and the noise is loud. Commissioner Huggins stated that when people continue to come complain about the noise and the Sheriff's Department is not getting it under control, the Commission has to take some kind of action. Mr. Clements stated they can not control the noise in moving vehicles on the road. Commissioner Huggins asked if the Legion was ware of alcohol or drugs on the premises. Mr. Clements responded that the people renting are allowed to bring in alcohol but the Legion does not sell it or serve it. The Legion representatives stated they feel they are doing their part to keep the noise at the building and grounds under control but they can not control something that is out of their reach, which would be noise and music from moving vehicles. The next concert is scheduled for Saturday night, Commissioners Mathis and Huggins will be there to observe.
3. Richard Wilson resident of 54 Asmond Road addressed the Board concerning the paving of Asmond Road. Mr. Wilson stated him and the residents that live on this road had submitted a petition several years ago for the paving of this road. He would like to know if there is anything else they need to be doing. The Board will consider approval to survey this road.

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

- A. **SUP 06-03 St Johns Holiness Church request a Special Exception for a special land use consisting of a private school located at 2914 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue currently zoned Residential (R-8):** Jon Mendenhall advised the Board of this request and that it comes to them with a recommendation of approval from staff and Planning and Zoning. Vice Chairman Bell requested of Mr. Mendenhall to please provide the minutes of the Planning and Zoning Committee meetings so that they will know what they say about cases, who was present and how the vote went.
- B. **ZA 06-5 Quality Growers Gin & peanut requests a zoning map amendment for 4.61 acres from its existing Au (Agriculture) to WHI (Wholesale Light Industrial) at the intersection of Old Tifton Moultrie Road and Omega Excelsior Road:** Jon Mendenhall advised the Board this comes as a recommendation of approval from staff,

however, it was tabled by the Planning and Zoning Board due to lack of information. Steven Rakestraw, Consultant for Quality Growers, addressed the Board with some new data they are purposing for this request. Tifton Quality Growers are purposing two (2) new buildings on the property. He presented a drawing of the purposed buildings. The entire tract is twenty one (21) acres. They have put together the plan so that it will blend in with the surroundings and to put in buffers. Commissioner Webb has looked at the site and is of the opinion that it will not affect any residential area in the location. The application is for 4.61 acres and then they purchased an addition twenty one (21) more acres. This request is just for 4.61 acres, but they want to have it all rezone. Another application will need to be filed to rezone the twenty one (21) acres.

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

- C. Fence Bid for Recreation Department:** The Tift County Recreation Director sent out bid invitations, however, no bids were returned. He is asking for authorization to re-bid this project.
- D. Backstop Netting Extension Bid at Recreation Department:** Three bids were received for the Backstop Netting Bid. The Recreation Director recommends the low bid from Networks in the amount of \$13,280. This is within the budget.
- E. Ambulance Bid – EMS:** Only one bid was received. The EMS Director is recommending the bid from Peachstate be approved in the amount of \$85,600 which is within the budget.
- F. Surplus Vehicle Bids:** One bid was received for each advertised surplus vehicle. The bid on the 1996 Chevrolet Lumina was for \$500 and \$250 on the 1993 Ford Crown Vic. Staff recommends acceptance of bids.
- G. Approve Name Change of Beer, Wine and Liquor License for Springhill Country Club:** Springhill Country Club has employed a new General Manager and the alcohol license needs to be changed. This comes as an approval from the Sheriff.
- H. Discussion of Jail Agreement with the City of Tifton:** The board will need to authorize the Sheriff to enter into this agreement with the City of Tifton.
- I. Road Committee Report:** Vice Chairman Bedell and Commissioner Huggins gave a report of the Road Committee meeting with suggested recommendations. The Board members were given a copy of the recommendations for consideration of approval.
- J. Approval for demolition of structure at 1707 South Park Avenue:** Carl Fortson advised the Board that Code Enforcement has been working on this property for several years. They have located a contact person and it has gone through the Magistrate Court procedure. The Magistrate Judge issued a thirty (30) day deadline and if the family has not come forward to take care of it by March 24, 2006, Mr. Fortson is asking for authorization from the Board to demolish the property and clean the lot.
- K. Draft consideration amendment to the Tift County Noise Ordinance: Tabled**
- L. Resolution for submitting application to DCA for a CDBG Grant to assist in Community Revitalization:** Community Development will be submitting a grant to DCA to assist in Community Revitalization. Darrell Wiggins has prepared a Resolution of Support for the Board's approval to be included in the grant application.
- M. Approval of Beer License for Kumar K. Patel:** Mr. Patel has purchased Raceway on Highway 82 and has applied for beer and wine license. The recommendation from the Sheriff will be available at the regular meeting for the Board's consideration.

The Commissioners agreed to place items C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting on March 13, 2006.

#### **County Managers Items:**

- Gave out Status, Road and Monthly Department Reports
- Gave out the Purposed Personnel and Policies Manual. Mr. Park stated he would be giving a summary review at April's meeting
- Advised that the County budgeted \$350,000 to be put in reserve. The County is now in the position and staff recommends putting \$250,000 in reserve
- Reported Pine Lake Driving paving is complete
- Carpenter Road and Zion Hope is complete and a 4-Way stop sign will be temporarily installed
- Advised that computers were purchased in the past from a local vendor and they failed to pay Dell for them and we could not get any maintenance. There has been a suit going on for sometime. We are finally at a point of settlement and will be receiving ten new computers

- Earl Denham gave a brief report from the Chamber stating they are actively supporting SPLOST IV. Also, now that the Statutory Development Authority has been reactivated, both Authorities would like to meet with the Commissioners and bring them up to date with projects and their status. A date will be established and the Commissioners will be notified.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis stated he has been receiving complaints that we have too many truck drivers driving their trucks on small, thinly paved streets and suggest we enforce the signs that are posted on these streets. He has had a request for “Children at Play” signs to be posted on some streets. He was advised to get with Kurt Seigler and Mr. Park to give designed places.

Vice Chairman Bedell suggested that we need to look into the status of a Skate Park. This is needed in Tifton. The Recreation Department is currently working on a grant for this and if this does not come through a recommendation will be brought before the Board to consider moving some SPLOST funds around for this project. Weight limits on bridges were also discussed. The County Manager stated we are waiting on pricing for the repairs of the bridges.

Commissioner Hester stated his appreciation of support at the city Workshop Meeting when he addressed the Council concerning water rate equalization. He is still concerned that the County is entering into too many interlocal agreements too fast with the City of Tifton and feels that the Board should consider taking more time to research matters before entering into anymore agreements for services with them.

Commissioner Huggins thanked Earl Denham and the Chamber for their hard work and dedication for the support of SPLOST IV and for their willingness to communicate and keep the Commission informed on the Development Authorities. He also thanked Mr. Park and all the Department Heads for their dedication and hard work to keep things running smoothly in all County affairs.

Commissioner Mathis commented on the memo received from the County Manager concerning Good Friday becoming a holiday for county employees. Mr. Park advised that it will be effective this year and is included as a regular holiday in the new purposed Personnel and Policy Manual.

**Public Comments:**

Donald Adcock commended Commissioner Hester for standing up for the tax payers on the water rates. He also stated he feels that the tax payers should be given a report on whether we are saving or loosing money on all the consolidation agreements we have with the City.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(4) Real Estate, 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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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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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 Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MARCH 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, March 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. Wayne Roe 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 Hester approving the minutes of the February 9, 2006 Workshop Meeting and the February 13, 2006 Regular Session Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to Agenda:**

Request from Finance Department to approve an increase to credit card corporate limit.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to add this item to the Regular Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution from Continental Lease for the lease purchase of an excavator

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to add this item to the Regular Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson added these two items to the Regular Agenda under letters N & O.

**Public Hearings:**

**A. SUP 06-03 St. Johns Holiness Church requests a Special Exception for a special land use consisting of a private school located at 2914 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue currently zoned Residential (R-8):**

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.

Rev Walker of 604 Sugar Street and Pastor of St. Johns Holiness Church spoke in favor of this request.

Commissioner Mathis called attention to the address of the property that the Board is being asked to approve. He has looked at the property and it has been posted as 2915 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and he stated this can not be the correct address. After looking back through the documentation provided to the Board, it was discovered that the application for this request stated the location address of 2914, which is the correct address.

There was no opposition. Hearing Officer Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve SUP 06-03 St. Johns Holiness Church request for a Special Exception at the corrected address of 2914 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. ZA 06-05 Quality Growers Gin & peanut requests a zoning map amendment of 4.61 acres from its existing AU (Agriculture) to WHI (Wholesale Light Industrial) at the intersection of Old Tifton Moultrie Road and Omega Excelsior Road:**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt and Jon Mendenhall advised the Board that the Zoning Department had received a letter from Quality Growers Gin & Peanut withdrawing their rezoning request at this time.

**Consent Agenda:**

- C. Authorizing the Recreation Director to re-bid for fencing
- D. Award Backstop Netting Extension bid to Networks of Covington, Georgia in the total amount of \$13,280 to include maintenance costs at \$45.00 per hour plus materials if needed.
- E. Award ambulance bid to Peach State Ambulance in the amount of \$85,600
- F. Award surplus vehicle bids for the 1996 Chevrolet Lumina in the amount of \$500 and the 1993 Ford Crown Vic in the amount of \$250.
- G. Approve Name Change only for Beer, Wine and Liquor License for Springhill Country Club
- H. Authorize the Tift County Sheriff to enter into a Jail Agreement with the City of Tifton
- I. Approve the following Road Committee Recommendations:
  - a. County will do earth work on Hill Avenue and Lake Larry Drive and include paving with Southern Avenue and Bruce Lane.
  - b. Advertise for bids for turn key job to include grading, drainage and paving on Ty Ty Sparks Road and Old Brookfield Road from the water treatment facility to Christian Way
  - c. County will do earth work on Warner, Evie, Arthur, Flonnie, Grimsley, Needle Drive, Ross Road, and the unpaved portion of Bowen Road
  - d. Approve request to survey Asmond Road
  - e. Approve resurfacing of the following roads with current SPLOST Funds:
    - i. Rutland Road from EB Hamilton to the Parking Lot
    - ii. Mt. Olive Church Road from Old Ocilla Road to US Hwy 319
    - iii. Leslie Locke Road from Carpenter Road to the dead end
    - iv. Bowen Road from US Hwy 319 to Jacob Hall Road
    - v. Quay Court
- J. Approve the demolition of a structure at 1707 South Park Avenue after March 24, 2006
- K. Table Draft Amendment to Tift County Noise Ordinance. Removed from Consent Agenda and moved to Regular Agenda under the letter P.
- L. Adopt Resolution for submitting application to DCA for a CDBG Grant to assist in Community Revitalization.

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

**Regular Agenda:**

- M. Approval of Beer License for Kumar K. Patel:** This has come to the Board with an approval from the Sheriff. Motion to issue beer license to Kumar K. Patel was made by Commissioner Huggins, second by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.
- N. Request from Finance Department to approve an increase to credit card monthly limit:** First Community Bank has asked the Finance Department to get approval from the Board to increase our corporate limit on credit cards. It is presently in the 60 to 70,000 dollar range and the finance director would like to increase it to \$100,000. The purpose for the increase is to allow department heads to make more purchases thru the credit cards so that individual vendors can be eliminated from accounts payable and less paperwork. This would allow the limits to be higher on individual department head cards and can be used as the primary means of payment for general supplies, maintenance and etc. We presently have open credits with vendors and a lot of these accounts can be closed. The department heads would still have the same responsibility of providing individual invoices. Commissioner Huggins stated he would like for the Board to be provided with monthly reports just so we can maintain accountability. Motion to approve the corporate limit for county credit cards to \$100,000 was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.
- O. Resolution for Continental Leasing for the lease purchase of an excavator:** This is for a replacement of the excavator that was destroyed by fire in January 2006. County

Attorney Reinhardt has reviewed the lease and has a couple of provisions that he would like to work out with the leasing company and recommends that if the Board wishes to act on it tonight, that it be contingent upon these revisions being worked out. Some Commissioners had some questions since they had not seen any documentation on this item. Motion to table until April meeting was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

**P. Amendment to Tift County Noise Ordinance:** The proposed amendment to the Noise Ordinance, in short, prohibits the use of equipment or devices that produce sound (music) between the hours of 11 PM and 7 AM. This also enforces that the music can not be heard more than 100 feet from the property line of where the music is. Motion to adopt the amendment to the Tift County Noise Ordinance was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried. Commissioner Webb voted against the motion. The amendment to the Tift County Noise Ordinance is made a part of these minutes by Exhibit "A".

#### **County Managers Items:**

- Gave monthly Status Reports
- Advised the Board that he had submitted a letter to the DOT concerning crossing arms at the railroad tracks on Carpenter Road. He has received a very favorable reply and he will keep the board informed of the progress of this request.
- Gave a Summary of changes in the revised Personnel Policy

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis asked the County Manager when the Board will be voting on the Personnel Policy. The County Manager plans to make a presentation at the April Workshop and ask the Board to take action at the April Business Meeting. Commissioner Mathis recognized and extended appreciation to the County Clerk for the work in handling two recent insurance claims on the loss of road department equipment.

Vice Chairman Bedell reminded the Board of the Regional EMS Appreciation Banquet on April 6, 2006 and encouraged Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Hester commended Carl Fortson and Code Enforcement for cleaning up the dilapidated houses on the south end of town. He would like to request the Chairman to instruct the County Manager and County Attorney to get moving on the water issues. He would like to see us slow down on consolidating services with the city.

Commissioner Huggins commented on how awful county roads look with trash everywhere. He would like to see if we could possibly get a county jail detail to clean up the roads. There are some liability issues but the County Manager will discuss this with the Sheriff and Judges. He would like for us to invite the Boy Scouts to come to County Commission Meetings. They are a valuable asset to the community and they need to be involved and learn about government because they will be the future leaders of local government.

#### **Public Comments:**

Ronald Nixon addressed the Board stating he believes the Board needs to write a letter in support of Commissioner Hester about the water issues. A group of citizens has formed and soon will be presenting some facts and figures on water lines that have been laid by the city and county as well as miles of sewer lines that have been implemented, installed and upgraded by Tift County. It is time the water rates be equalized and this is an issue that needs to be kept on the front lines with the City of Tifton and not let the ball be dropped.

Donald Adcock voiced his opinion and agrees with Commissioner Hester about moving too fast on consolidation of services with the City of Tifton.

Vice Chairman Bedell responded to comments from Commissioner Huggins concerning the trash by stating that Keep Tift Beautiful is re-organizing and could possibly be involved in the road clean up.

Two candidates that will be running for Commission seats were in the audience and were recognized. Mr. John Setters will be running in District 3 and Mr. Wallace Dorden is a candidate for District 4.

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

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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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 Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk