

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007  
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, May 8, 2007, 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 Donnie Hester, and Commissioners Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, C. Michael Jones, Sherry Miley and Robert Setters.

**Public Comments:**

Virginia Lewis addressed the Board concerning Adams Road. Several years ago they came before the Board and they received a letter in 2003 that this Road would be put on the paving list in its priority. They would like to know the status of the Road. Staff will respond to Ms. Lewis by the end of the week.

Donald Adcock addressed the Board to agree with the group on the Skate Board Park. It will be a good thing, he said. He also discussed the draught, it is worse than 1954. He requested that if there was any way the farmers can be considered for some tax relief. The Board will take his request under advisement.

**Appointments:**

1. Bonnie Sayles addressed the Board as the spokesperson for the people in favor of the proposed Skate Board Park in Tift County. She thanked Lisa Braski for her time and research she has put into this proposal. She stated that skateboarding had experienced a surge in Georgia and across the country in the last four or five years. They have organized a group and at their first meeting they had in excess of 125 folks at the meeting. They have acquired about 50 letters from elementary schools in support of the park. It will contribute to Tourism by bringing people into Tift County. They feel the youth need more choices of things to do. She stated that right now on the weekends the youth are going to Albany, Douglas and as far as Jacksonville to skate board and to participate in competition. The group presented a proposal and design from Southern Playgrounds. Phase I and II will cost approximately \$317,000, to add restrooms and concessions will be around \$55,000, bleachers, \$3,000, totaling \$375,000. They are requesting the Board consider appointing a sub-committee to study the proposal and come up with some recommendations. Some Commissioners feel they should also go to the City with their presentation to see if this could be a joint venture. They will also look into soliciting private funds. The Chairman appointed a committee consisting of Commissioners Hester, Setters, and Miley. He also asked the County Manger and Recreation Director to serve on this committee.
2. Joe Courson addressed the Board on Tax Equity. He stated that four and one half years ago action was taken about tax equity. A study was done and jointly paid for by the City and the County on duplication of services and tax equity. An agreement was signed in October of 2002 that called for some tax reduction. There are some citizens that would like for the Agreement to be taken off the shelf and the Board to consider abiding by the Agreement.

**Public Hearings for Regular Session on May 14, 2007:**

- A. **TC-SE-07-04: Mary Alice Lassiter has requested a Special Exception to place a 2007 doublewide manufactured home at 14 Second Avenue North:** Carl Fortson explained the nature of this request. He sees a problem with the drainage ditch running across the property and recommends she should ask Planning and Zoning for a setback variance to keep the mobile home away from the ditch. The County Manager believes this is not a good situation for the County and feels if we allow it, we should have several stipulations put on it.
- B. **TC-SE-07-05: Paul Moyer is requesting a Special Exception to allow a Rural Farm Homestead at 122 Perdue Road:** Mr. Fortson stated this comes to the Board as a denial because a motion was not passed by the Planning and Zoning Board. The requirement is

210 feet of road frontage but Mr. Moyer will only have 129 feet of road frontage. Mr. Moyer will transfer to his son one acre of land which includes the existing home place.

- C. TC-ZA-07-06: Omie Lee Hutchinson is requesting rezoning from AU (Agricultural Use) to R-12 (Residential) consisting of 3.80 acres at 45 Brandie Lane to create a small subdivision of five (5) lots/tracts:** Mr. Fortson advised that this comes to the Board as a denial because there was no one present at the Planning and Zoning Meeting for discussion. Staff believes it is a reasonable request and recommends approval. Ms. Hutchinson intends to develop a small subdivision consisting of 5 lots/tracts for construction of 1200 heated square foot single family homes.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on May 14, 2007:**

- D. Appointment to Southeast GA Area Agency Council:** Previously the Board reappointed Ms. Jo Hunt to continue serving on this Board. We have received a letter from Ms. Hunt stating because of her declining health she is no longer able to serve. The Board needs to consider another appointee to this Board. The County Clerk will provide some information on when and where this Board meets.
- E. Beer License for Laura Kirkland for Good Neighbor Grocery:** Approved by the Sheriff
- F. Board appointment to Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** Application submitted for consideration from Reginald Phillips
- G. Reappointments to Athletic Advisory Council:** Recommendations from staff are to reappoint Carl Johnson, Bobby Fresh, Chad Alexander, Scott Burgess and Judy Wise.
- H. Bids – Tennis Court Resurfacing:** Staff recommends awarding low bid from Athletic Specialties in the amount of \$9,934.50
- I. Bids – Pool Vacuum:** Staff recommends awarding low bid from Aquatic Consulting in the amount of \$4,408
- J. Bids – Mower for Recreation:** Staff recommends awarding low bid from Powerhouse Outdoor Equipment in the amount of \$6,374
- K. Bids – Truck for Road Department:** Staff recommends awarding low bid from Griffin Ford in the amount of \$18,564 for the ½ ton pick-up and \$20,061 for the ¾ ton crew cab pick-up
- L. Bids – Paving and Resurfacing:** Staff recommends awarding low bid for Project 01 to The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$642,108.55; Project 02 to Littlefield Construction Company in the amount of \$123,903.84; and Project 03 to Littlefield Construction Company in the amount of \$480,974.96.
- M. Resolution & Agreement for 401 A Defined Contribution Plan, Jim Carter's eligibility:** The County Attorney explained this Resolution and Agreement is simply for housekeeping since the County has changed County Managers.

The Commissioners agreed to put items E, F,G,H,I,J,K, L, and M on the Consent Agenda.

**County Managers Items:**

- Advised the Board that Scott Bowers, EMA Deputy Director is now serving as Interim E-911 Director also. He invited the Commissioners to attend the E-911 Hero ceremonies to be held in May at various schools
- Recommends that the Board consider approving the \$650 increase requests for Pauper Burials and advised that it will be put on the Agenda as an addition for consideration on Monday night at the Regular Meeting.
- Greenwood Cemetary request is still being researched for further information
- Airport Runway Extension – Have received some grant information and will keep the Board informed of the progress
- Water & Sewer Meeting – He attended the meeting on the fixed base meter reading. He is getting some other information and the Committee will bring something to the Board soon
- Brown Bagging- Gave a draft for the Board to review
- Asked Jason Jordan to give an update on the Road Projects. Commissioner Miley requested to be contacted to attend the next Road Committee meeting
- Parking Lot paving for Tift Regional – He just received the information today and it involves in-kind work which the hospital will reimburse. He is looking into this and will update the Board at the next meeting

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis advised the Board that Ms. Sara Paulk will be resigning as the Librarian and her last day is May 18, 2007. He reported a search committee has been formed to look for a replacement for this position. He advised that he has talked to Billy Spicer, Ground & Maintenance about the county owned building across the street that houses the reading programs; it is in bad need or some repairs such as the front porch and some roof leaks. He would like for the County Manager to check into this to see that the repairs get done by the summer when the reading programs are at their peak. He reported on a conversation he had with a fellow Commissioner in Savannah on spraying of a particular chemical. The Road Superintendent advised that he has tried that product and he does not get good results. He requested that the County Clerk provided some information on NACO that the Board can look over to decide on the benefits, if any, on becoming a member of this organization. He inquired about some lighting for the track on 8<sup>th</sup> Street where the Heart Walk is held. The Sheriff was present and he stated he could provide the lightening at the track for this event. Commissioner Mathis inquired about when the budget process would begin. The County Manager and Finance have been working on it and should have some numbers soon for the Board's consideration.

Vice Chairman Hester stated that some street lights need to be on Hale Avenue; he stated the poles are in place. He stated he is aware that some right of way deeds have not been signed on T.C. Gordon Road and he inquired about the status of Regent Road and Hyde Park. He was advised that the letter from the citizens has been received and it is being checked into and will report back to him.

Commissioner Jones requested that the County Attorney and other folks necessary need to work on the "sinkhole" on Highway 82. He asked the Road Superintendent to look at the ditches on Upper Ty Ty Road and get them back to where they can be mowed. He advised of a meeting that will be held later this month with the topic: "Coming to the Table", and urged the Commissioners to attend if possible. He would like to see the county governments get together and look at a vision for the City, County and School Board. He advised that one thing mentioned at a presentation on Art he attended was that we need to begin looking for a "Grant Writer", there is lots of money out there available and we need to be taking advantage of it.

Commissioner Setters thanked the Road Department Staff for handling some recent requests he had made in a very timely manner. He reminded the Board of the joint item still on the table about Code Enforcement, permits and etc., making it more user friendly and that we don't need to forget about it.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-13[4], Land Acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman 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 Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, Dist 6

ATTTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007  
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, April 9, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Commissioners Sherry Miley, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, and Robert Setters. Commissioner Jones was absent.

Chairman Thompson called to order the Regular Business Meeting of the Tift County Board of Commissioners at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Robert Setters 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.

**Public Comments:**

Joe Courson spoke to the Board again on Tax Equity and asked that as the research is being conducted that they be kept informed of what is discovered. He again asked the Board to consider living up to the word of the Commission Board and enforce the Agreement that was signed some 4 1/2 years ago. The County Manager advised that he and the County Attorney are looking at all the documentation and records when this document was signed and he will inform the Board and Mr. Courson of the facts when he can quote what he knows, not what he thinks.

Virginia Lewis and Danny Hill addressed the Board on the timetable for the paving of Adams Road and expressed some problems on Dave Hogan Road with sand. The County Manager responded on behalf of the Board and to advise the Board that there is no more money in SPLOST III for roads and we are now in the process of looking at the criteria for road paving dollars in SPLOST IV and he will keep the Board abreast of the progress.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester approving the minutes of the April 3, 2007 Workshop Session, and the April 9, 2000 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Request for Pauper Burials increase from \$250 to \$650.

Motion to add this item to the Agenda under letter N was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Carolyn Abel to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board.

Motion to add this item to the Agenda under letter O was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve purchase of needed items for the new Juvenile Court.

Motion to add this item to the Agenda under letter P was made by Commissioner Rigdon, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearings:**

- A. TC-SE-07-04: Mary Alice Lassiter has requested a Special Exception to place a doublewide manufactured home at 14 Second Avenue North: Mr. Fortson explained the nature of the request and opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Fortson stated that it comes to the Board with an approval from Planning and Zoning. He and the County Manager have looked at the proposed request and have some stipulation to add to the recommendation for the Board to consider. The first is to ask Ms. Lassiter to go to the Zoning and Appeals Board and ask for a 20 foot yard setback variance and then the County require Ms. Lassiter to pipe the property from the north to the south before staff could recommend approval. This would eliminate any future problems with drainage. The

County Attorney advised that this matter deals with two separate issues. The issue that the Board is to deal with at this meeting is the Special Exception to place the mobile home. The recommendation of the request for a Setback Variance will need to go before the Zoning Board and then come back to the Board for consideration.

Ms. Lassiter was present to speak in favor of her request and stated she just wants to be able to utilize her property. She does not understand what all the requirements that the Board is requesting. Ms. Lassiter has been told that she cannot place the mobile home on top of the drainage pipe that exist therefore she will need to apply for the setback variance and pipe the property for drainage in order to legally place the mobile home. Ms. Lassiter stated she has already purchased the mobile home and has already paid for and had one pipe installed. The Commissioners asked Ms. Lassiter to give them a little time to try to help her work something out in order for her to be able to utilize her property.

There was no opposition and Mr. Fortson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis for this to be sent back to the Planning and Zoning Board to make sure things are cleared up prior to any action taken by this Board, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Manager, County Attorney and two Commissioners will work with this situation, get the recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Board and advise Ms. Lassiter.

- B. TC-SE-07-05: Paul Moyer is requesting a Special Exception to allow a Rural Farm Homestead at 122 Perdue Road. Mr. Fortson explained the nature of the request and opened the Public Hearing. This comes to the Board as a denial because there was no action taken by the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Moyer is cutting out the 1 acre tract from a larger tract but does not have the required 210 road frontage therefore in conjunction with the Special Exception his request is a for a Variance of 80.08 feet for the frontage.

Paul Moyer was present and spoke in favor of his request asking the Board's consideration to grant his request so he can deed the property to his son.

There was no opposition and Mr. Fortson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to approve TC-SE-07-05 request of Paul Moyer, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. TC-ZA-07-06: Omie Lee Hutchinson is requesting rezoning from AU (Agricultural use) to R-12 (Residential) consisting of 3.80 acres at 45 Brandie Lane to create a small subdivision of five (5) lots/tracts: Mr. Fortson explained the nature of the request and opened the Public Hearing. This comes to the Board as denial from the Planning and Zoning Board and Mr. Fortson stated that he believes it comes as a denial because there was no one present to speak on this request. The staff recommends approval.

Omie Lee Hutchinson, 4404 Fraizer Circle was present to speak in favor of her request. She stated that both sides of this property are subdivisions and water and sewer are available to the property. She is willing to develop the road.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to approve TC-ZA-07-06 rezoning request, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

- E. Motion approving Beer License for Laura Kirkland at Good Neighbor Grocery
- F. Motion appointing Reginald Phillips to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board
- G. Motion appointing Carl Johnson, Bobby Fresh, Chad Alexander, Scott Burgess and Judy Wise to the Athletic Advisory Committee for a three year term to end May 2010

- H. Motion to award the low bid to Athletic Specialties in the amount of \$9,934.50 for the repair and resurfacing of the Tennis Courts.
- I. Motion to award the low bid to Aquatic consulting in the amount of \$4,408 for a swimming pool vacuum at the Recreation Department.
- J. Motion to award the low bid to PowerHouse Outdoor Equipment in the amount of \$6,374 for a mower for the Recreation Department
- K. Motion to award the low bid to Griffin Ford in the amount of \$18,564 for a ½ ton pick-up truck and \$20,061 for a ¾ ton crew cab pick-up truck for the Road Department
- L. Motion to award the low bid to the following contractors for road paving and resurfacing projects:
  - 1} The Scruggs company for resurfacing of Lower Brookfield Road, New River Church Road, Chula Brookfield Road, Brighton Road and Lamb loop in the amount of \$642,108.55
  - 2} Littlefield Construction Company for paving of Ross Road in the amount of \$123,903.84
  - 3} Littlefield Construction Company for resurfacing of Little River road, Ray Taylor Road and Zion Hope Road in the amount of \$480,974.96
- M. Motion authorizing the Chairman endorse the Resolution and Agreement for the 401A Defined Contribution Plan, designating the eligibility of Jim Carter, County Manager

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously

**Regular Agenda:**

- D. Appointment to the Southeast Georgia Area on Aging Advisory Board. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to appoint Commissioner Sherry Miley to serve on this Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.
- N. Request for Pauper Burials increase from \$250 to \$650: Staff recommendation is to approve the requested increase amount of \$650. Motion to approve the increase for Pauper Burials in the amount of \$650 was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.
- O. Motion to appoint Carolyn Abel to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.
- P. Approve the purchase of items needed to complete the new Juvenile Court Room. Motion to approve the purchase of items needed for finalize the new Juvenile Court Room Project in the amount of \$45,251.64 was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Comments:

- Advised signs are put up on Brookfield Road in response to request from Commissioner Setters
- Lights on Hale Avenue are being worked on in response to request from Vice Chairman Hester
- Advised of the status of Adams Road, Carter Street and Hyde Park

Commissioners Comments:

Vice Chairman Hester asked the County Attorney to advise of his research and opinion on the Greenwood Cemetery request for funds to be allotted in the budget. Mr. Rowel reported that he found where on April 21, 1928 the property was deeded for the cemetery; therefore this is considered private property which would prohibit the funds to be given to help with the maintenance. His legal opinion is that it would be inappropriate to advance money to this cause.

Commissioner Setters stated that since the Mr. Carter has taken his role of County Manager things have been and are being taken care of in a timely manner.

Chairman Thompson stated that since we have started the countywide trash pick -up and clean-up programs, a lot of trash has been picked up and we are not as “trashy” as we were. We need to continue these efforts.

Commissioner Mathis advised that the State Development Authority was touring Tifton and Tift County today and thanked the County manager and Commissioner Miley for attending the luncheon that was sponsored by the Chamber. We need to thank the Chamber and Moultrie Tech for being a great host for this event. The meeting was very productive.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(4) seconded by Commissioner Setters Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon, Dist 5

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, Dist 6

ATTEST:

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County Clerk