

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, October 4, 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, October 4, 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.

Proclamation Presentment:

Chairman Thompson presented a Proclamation to representatives Elaine Harrod and Mary Meeler from Ruth's Cottage declaring the month of October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Tift County.

Appointments:

Mr. Mike Flippo, Fire Chief for Tifton/Tift County was present to give an update on Fire Services for Tifton and Tift County. In the first three quarters of 2005 a total of 1005 calls have been received with 385 of those calls being in the unincorporated areas of Tift County. Chief Flippo reported on such things as response times, hose testing, hydrant maintenance, budget, training updates and firefighter status. At present there are 30 career staff, on shift, 6 administrative staff and 87 volunteers. He also gave a brief update on the Brookfield Fire Station.

Public Hearing scheduled for October 10, 2005:

A. TCZ-05-10 Rezoning request from Larry King to rezone 34.77 acres from A-U (Agricultural) to R-1 (Residential): This request comes to the Board with a recommendation of approval from staff however, the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board as a denial due to the fact no motion was made at the Planning and Zoning Board meeting.

Items to be discussed at the October Business Meeting:

- B. Award bid on resurfacing of Omega-Eldorado and Tifton-Worth County Line Roads to Littlefield Construction in the low bid amount of \$252,451.56.**
- C. Authorize the Liability Insurance Renewal from ACCG-IRMA in the amount of \$261,429.**
- D. Authorize the Chairman to execute the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the ExpressPoll System for elections as required by the State.**
- E. Authorize the Chairman to execute the County right of Way Agreement for base and paving on Bruce Lane and Southern Avenue and for the resurfacing of Fletcher Road.**

The Commissioners agreed for all items listed above to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the October 10, 2005 Regular Meeting.

County Manager Items:

- Handed out Monthly Status Reports, Monthly Department Reports and Monthly Road Update Reports
- Reported that work is still continuing with merging with the City of Tifton on Registration Tax (Regulatory Fees) to be managed by the City with an proposed effective date for next Fiscal Year
- Reported that Development Support Services is fully staffed
- This Friday will be the last day the County will accept water payments
- Requested an addition to the Agenda for October 10, 2005 meeting to expedite the final site plan approval of Waterford Subdivision contingent upon the approval from Planning and Zoning at their next scheduled meeting.

Department Heads present giving brief reports were Craig Sowell, Recreation; Teresa Lupo, Tax Assessors; Mary Ann Eaton, E-911; Jon Mendenhall, Development Support Services; Kurt Seigler, County Engineering Department; Braxton Driskell, Information Technology; Gene Goode, Tax Commissioner; Laurie Vitale, Emergency Management Services; Danny Edwards, EMS; and Regenia Wells, Animal Control.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Mathis advised that he continues to receive calls about the noise levels at the fairgrounds. He has been out there and heard the noise and stated something must be done. Commissioner Mathis also stated he had been asked if the County could provide some type of shed or shelter for the children in the winter time and rainy days while they stand to wait for the school bus to pick them up. He would like for the County Manager to look into this. The third comment from Commissioner Mathis was concerning health insurance. He would like for the Chairman to get prepared to make some appointments to a committee to work on the consolidation of the health plan with the City of Tifton.

Commissioner Webb commented that since the zoning consolidation with the City is now in place, we need to start looking at some of the plans closely. The average person has to purchase three acres in order to build a home. This needs to be addressed and come up with some common sense amendments. It was stated that this is one of the responsibilities of Jon Mendenhall, the new Zoning Director. Mr. Park stated that we now have to look at both the City and County Zoning Ordinances and blend them together to have one set of rules for everybody regards of whether you are in the city or the unincorporated areas.

Vice Chairman Bedell challenged each Commissioner to sign up to take the NIMS (National Incident Management System) training and urged the commissioners to read over the proposed Sign Ordinance very carefully and mark anything they may have questions about. She strongly encouraged that the County begin to get abandoned mobile homes cleaned up.

Commissioner Huggins asked about an update on the additional appointments to the Development Authority. The County Attorney will be giving some information concerning this. He also requested that the Commission be given a monthly report from the County Attorney. Commissioner Huggins would like to see a committee appointed to begin looking into the consolidation of the Public Works for the City and County. He requested the County Manager send out a memo instructing employees not to park in front of the Administration Building in order for citizens to have available spaces when they come to conduct business and encourages the Administration Staff to notify employees that drive County vehicles to limit travel as much as possible due to the cost of fuel.

Commissioner Rigdon stated he would like for staff to consider increasing the SPLOST allocation to the Downtown Development Authority.

Public Comments: None

Executive Session: OCGA 51-14-3(6) Personnel Matter; OCGA 50-14-2 (1) Legal

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session for a personnel matter and a legal matter, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 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, October 10, 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. Commissioner Hugh Webb was absent

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 September 6, 2005 Workshop Session, September 12, 2005 Regular Meeting seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA TO ADD TO ITEM A:

Award bid for the culvert on Cromer Road to Ed Smith Construction Company in the low bid amount of \$59,382.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to add this item to Item A under the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO REGULAR AGENDA:

Board Appointment to Hospital Authority Board by ballot
Discussion of Waterford Subdivision Final Plat
Adoption of the EMAG (Environmental Management Advocacy Group) Joint Resolution

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

Chairman Thompson added these items to the Regular Agenda as letters E, F and G.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Award bid on resurfacing of Omega-Eldorado and Tifton-Worth County Line Roads to Littlefield Construction Company in the low bid amount of \$252,451.56 and award bid for the culvert on Cromer Road to Ed Smith Construction Company in the low bid amount of \$59,382.
- B. Authorize ACCG-IRMA Renewal for Liability Insurance in the amount of \$261,429.
- C. Authorize the Chairman to execute the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the ExpressPoll System for elections as required by the State.
- D. Authorize the Chairman to execute county Right of Way Agreement for base and paving of Bruce Lane and Southern Avenue and for resurfacing of Fletcher Road.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell approving all items listed on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

TCZ-05-10 Rezoning Request from Larry King to rezone 34.77 acres from A-U (Agricultural) to R-1 (Residential): Mr. King has requested to have rezoned 34.77 acres of property located in northeast Tift County near the Chula-Brookfield Road and the intersection of US Highway 125 for the purpose of developing a residential housing subdivision. Jon Mendenhall, Zoning Director addressed the Board stating the application is in order and meets all necessary guidelines. This comes to the Board with a recommendation from staff of approval however the Planning and Zoning Board took no action at their scheduled meeting.

County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing. There were no public comments for or in opposition to the rezoning application. County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving TCZ-05-10 Rezoning request from Larry King to rezone 34.77 acres from A-U (Agricultural) to R-1 (Residential), seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- E. Board Appoint to the Hospital Authority:** Ballots were handed out to the Commissioners for voting. The County Clerk reported after counting the ballots that John Brownlee was elected to serve another five (5) year term on the Hospital Authority Board. Motion allowing the County Clerk to destroy the ballots was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.
- F. Discussion of Final Plat for Waterford Subdivision:** The County Attorney advised the Board that this is the Final Plat and we are attempting to speed up approval. Jon Mendenhall, Zoning Director will explain the particulars. Mr. Mendenhall reported this is Waterford Subdivision, Phase I which consists of 13 lots located off Old Ocilla Road. A letter has been received from the County Engineer on the approval for acceptance of the roads. Mr. Mendenhall stated that the subdivision meets all standard requirements. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving the Final Plat of Waterford Subdivision, Phase I, 13 lots contingent upon approval action from Planning and Zoning Board, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Adoption of EMAG (Environmental Management Advocacy Group) Resolution:** This Resolution was presented and discussed at the recent TAG Meeting. Vice Chairman Bedell stated that the Board needs to adopt this Resolution so that the appointments of this Group can be made and they can get their responsibilities underway. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to adopt the EMAG Joint Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carries unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS:

- A mutual retreat with the City of Tifton needs to be scheduled to discuss the upcoming SPLOST. The Board authorized Mr. Park to work with the City on a date for this meeting to be held on a late afternoon or evening week day rather than a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mathis asked for permission from the Board to allow comment from the several residents that were present to address the noise issue. He stated he continues to receive calls concerning the noise level coming from the fairgrounds. The Board will hear their comments under the Public Comment section on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Bedell reminded the Board of the ACCG District 11 Meeting to be held on October 26, 2005 and to please let the County Clerk know if they plan to attend. She reminded the Board of the Sign Ordinance that was given to them to read and address any comments or concerns they might have with her so she can report them to the Committee that is preparing the Ordinance. She discussed the letter the County Commission has received from Judge McCorvey requesting the need for a new Courthouse Annex and would like for that to be taken into consideration in the SPLOST IV discussions. Reminding the Board of her challenge to the Commissioners at the last meeting, she has available a sign up sheet for the NIMS Training with two available dates and urges each to sign up for this very important training. The dates are Thursday, October 27 and Thursday, November 10, 2005. Both sessions are from 2 to 5 PM at the Fire Station.

Commissioner Hester asked for a date of when the striping lines on South Central is scheduled. Also, he would like for two holes be repaired as soon as possible: one on 17th Street where a water line had been repaired and a hole was left in the street which has been there for over a month; one on South Park at a curve in the road has been there for over two months.

Commissioner Huggins noted that Darrell Wiggins with Community Development was present and he would like him to report what is going on in this department. Mr. Wiggins reported that last week in Savannah, Commissioner Huggins was present to accept from the Governor the checks awarded to Tift County in the way of Grants in the amount of \$671,825. More on this will be coming out in the Tifton Gazette.

Commissioner Rigdon reported that he has started on the working negotiations concerning consolidation of health plans for the city and county.

Public Comments: Ms. Mary Pitts and Mr. Leonard Tubbs, residents of Sherry Lane and Ms. Joyce Holt, resident of East 6th Street addressed the Board with their concerns about the noise level coming from the fairgrounds. Ms. Pitts stated she would like to know who is responsible for enforcing the Noise Ordinance that the Commissioners adopted. This noise is unacceptable and unbearable for the residents of the area which goes on all weekend sometimes until 2 o'clock in the morning. They all stated that the sheriff's department has been called constantly and they are told that the noise level is in compliance with the Ordinance. The Commissioners all agreed that something must be done to get this under control. The County Manager stated the only real fix is to lower the decibel levels in the Ordinance. Vice Chairman Bedell asked the Chairman to consider appointing a committee to work on a solution. Commissioner

Mathis stated that the American Legion should be asked to install sound proof walls. The Board is concerned about no response from the Sheriff's office and asked Mr. Park to send a letter to the Sheriff addressing this. The Board instructed the County Attorney to send a letter to the American Legion for them to come up with a solution or the Commissioners will, their permit can be pulled. The Chairman appointed Commissioners Mathis, Bedell and Huggins to address these problems and report their findings and recommendations back to the Board.

Mr. Ronald Nixon addressed the Board asking when the Commission was going to explain to the public about the recent article in the Tifton Gazette concerning the severance package received by former employee, Tracy St. Amant. Mr. Nixon was told that issued had been addressed by the release of requested personnel documents from the Tifton Gazette under an Open Records Request.

Executive Session: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) to discuss a personnel matter; OCGA 50-14-2(1) to discuss a legal matter and OCGA 50-14-3(4) to discuss a Real Estate matter seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board gave Mr. Park direction to enter into an agreement with the County Agent to accept the \$350 per month travel supplement with no fuel from the county pumps or turn in mileage monthly to be paid at the current rate of .35 per mile.

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

Grady Thompson, Chairman

Charlotte W. Bedell, Vice Chairman

Donnie Hester, Commissioners

Frankie Mathis, Commissioner

absent
Hugh Webb, Commissioner

John M. Huggins, Commissioner

Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon Commissioner

Attest:

County Clerk

TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
OCTOBER 19, 2005 12:30

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 Special Called Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson. Members of the Commission present included Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, and Commissioners John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb. Commissioner Hester was absent.

Business Items:

- A. **Authorize the Chairman to execute DOT Contract for resurfacing of Eldorado-Omega and Worth County Line Roads:** Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis authorizing the Chairman to endorse the DOT Contract for the resurfacing of Eldorado-Omega and Worth County Line Roads, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Chairman Thompson advised the Board that the Hospital Board has invited the Tift County Board of Commissioners to meet with them for a dinner at their next regularly scheduled Board meeting which will be November 21, 2005 at 6 o'clock P.M.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel and legal matter, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Grady Thompson, Chairman

Charlotte W. Bedell, Vice Chairman

___ABSENT___

Donnie Hester, Commissioners

Frankie Mathis, Commissioner

Hugh Webb, Commissioner

John M. Huggins, Commissioner

Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon Commissioner

Attest:

County Clerk

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOINT SESSION
CITY OF TIFTON
OCTOBER 25, 2005
5:30 PM
CITY OF TIFTON UTILITIES BUILDING**

County Officials Present: Chairman Grady Thompson; Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell; Commissioners Donnie Hester, John M. Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Fred W. Rigdon, and Hugh Webb. County Clerk Glynda Hemby; County Attorney Rob Reinhardt. The County Manager was out of town.

City Officials Present: Mayor Paul Johnson; Vice Mayor Joe Lewis; Councilmen Richard Chalfant, Dave Hetzel and Roosevelt Russell. City Manager Charles Howell; City Clerk Rona Martin and City Attorney Greg Sowell.

Mayor Paul Johnson called to order the Joint Meeting and yielded the chair to Commissioner Fred W. Rigdon.

Commissioner Rigdon served on the Water/Wastewater Coordinating Committee and as the spokesperson for that Committee advised the governing bodies that Mr. Tim Ingram will give an overview presentation of the recommendations.

Mr. Ingram presented to overview and explained each step in the proposed Water/Wastewater Strategic Plan. He and Damon Harper, Utilities Director for the City of Tifton answered questions from Chairman Grady Thompson and others during the presentation.

Commissioner Rigdon went over the proposed Joint Resolution on the Water/Wastewater Strategic Plan that was presented to be considered for adoption by both Governing Authorities.

Mayor Johnson entertained a motion from the City of Tifton Council to adopt the Joint Resolution on the Water/Wastewater Strategic Plan. Motion was made to adopt by Councilman Hetzel, seconded by Councilman Russell. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Grady Thompson called to order the meeting for the Tift County Board of Commissioners and entertained a motion to adopt the Joint Resolution on the Water/Wastewater Strategic Plan. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to adopt the Joint Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried. Commissioner Hester voted against the motion.

Mayor Johnson then advised of a conflict on the date scheduled for the Retreat to be held at Reed Bingham State Park for the SPLOST IV discussions. After looking at calendars and everyone agreeing that Tuesday, November 15, 2005 would be an acceptable date, the County Clerk stated she would reschedule.

This concluded the agenda for the joint session.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to adjourn the County's portion of the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Grady Thompson, Chairman

Charlotte W. Bedell, Vice Chairman

Donnie Hester, Commissioner

Frankie Mathis, Commissioner

Hugh Webb, Commissioner

John M. Huggins, Commissioner

Fred W. Rigdon, Commissioner

Attest: _____
County Clerk

TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
OCTOBER 27, 2005 5:30 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

The Special Called Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson. 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.

Business Items:

- A. **Approval of Waterford Subdivision Section Two- Final Plat:** Mr. Park advised the Board that the original preliminary plat for Waterford Subdivision was submitted and approved by the Board. When the final plat was submitted it did not include an additional six (6) lots they are proposing. Those six (6) lots have now been processed and are now being brought before the Board for approval of the final plat.

Jon Mendenhall advised the Board of a called meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board on met on Wednesday, October 26 at noon where they unanimously recommended approval of the final plat. The staff also recommends approval.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving the Final Plat of Waterford Subdivision Section Two, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman not voting.

Grady Thompson, Chairman

Charlotte W. Bedell, Vice Chairman

Donnie Hester, Commissioners

Frankie Mathis, Commissioner

Hugh Webb, Commissioner

John M. Huggins, Commissioner

Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon Commissioner

Attest:

County Clerk