

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 (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 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Buck Rigdon and Commissioners Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley, Melissa Chevers, and Robert Setters. Commissioner Jones was absent due to sickness.

Chairman Thompson called to order the Regular Business meeting of the Tift County Board of Commissioners at 6:30 P.M.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Hester 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 or a Commissioner is absent which will be stipulated as such.

Public Comments: Roger Dill addressed the Board concerning the latest Legislative Updates and urged the Commissioners to pay particular attention to SB 200 which deals with the Department of Transportation. He stated that he has already begun talking to Representatives Austin Scott and Jay Roberts. This is a very important bill and it could mean that Tift County would not be receiving any money.

Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the February 3, 2009 Workshop Minutes and the February 12, 2009 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-ZA-08-13: N. L. Bassford, Owner; Paul Newbern, Agent request for rezoning of 64.529 acres located at the North West corner of Windy Hill Road and Oak Ridge Church Road from A-U (Agricultural-Use) to WLI (wholesale Light Industrial) for various sizes of warehouses on Tift County Tax map 051 Parcel 130: Julia Shewchuk gave the following staff recommendation: Staff has reviewed this petition and determined that it is in compliance with the majority of the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Powers. The potential negative impacts from this rezoning can be mitigated through a substantial (100 feet or more) wooded buffer towards the residential area, and the inconsistency with the existing comprehensive plan's future development map and character area can be remedied through an amendment of the Comprehensive Plan's Character Area map if the Commission desires to provide additional properties for WLI in this area. Staff therefore recommends approval of the petition by N. L. Bassford for a Change in Zoning from A-U (Agricultural Use) to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial) for 64.529 acres on parcels 0061 130 and 130E on the north-east corner of Oakridge Church road and Windy Hill Road with the following two conditions:

1. Any site development in excess of the currently proposed 160,000 square feet and in a different location closer to the residential uses to the west shall include a minimum 100 feet wooded buffer along the west boundary of the property.
2. An amendment to the Comprehensive Plan's Future Development Map and Character Area from Transitional Suburban to Urban Commercial shall be initiated by the County within 30 days from this zoning decision in order to render the zoning compliant with the Comprehensive Plan.

The County Attorney opened the public hearing with no conflict of interest declared from any Board member. There was no comment from either side, for or against. The County Attorney closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Setters approving TC-ZA-08-13 change in zoning request from N. L. Bassford to include the two conditions stated in the Staff Report, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

B. TC-SE-09-01: Derreck Gibbs, Owner, Alan Parrish, Agent/Applicant request approval for a Special Exception as a Rural Farm Homestead according to Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Ordinance for a tract consisting of 1.023 acres located at 465 Jacob Gibbs road. Property is zoned A-U (Agricultural Use) and is a portion of Tift County Tax map 018 Parcel 011 which consists of 93 acres: Julia Shewchuk gave the following staff recommendation: Staff has reviewed the provisions and standards relating to Special Exceptions for Rural Farm Homesteads as outlined in Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning code and has determined that this application complies and is consistent with all those standards. Staff recommends approval to create a substandard lot for a rural farm Homestead on Lot 0018 011 at 429 Jacob Gibbs Road.

The County Attorney opened the public hearing with no Board member declaring a conflict of interest.

Alan Parrish spoke on behalf of his request for the Rural Homestead stating the houses have been there for a long time. The irrigation system will not interfere with the yards at the houses.

There was no opposition and the County Attorney closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to approve TC-SE-09-01 Rural Farm Homestead request by Alan Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

C. TC-SE-09-02: Derreck Gibbs, Owner, Alan Parrish, Agent/Applicant request approval for a Special Exception for three (3) Rural Farm Homesteads according to Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Ordinance. Property is located at 970,978, and 982 Upper Ty Ty Road. Each of the three (3) tracts consists of one (1) acre. The property is zoned A-U (Agricultural Use) and is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 006 Parcel 028 which consists of 96.7 acres: Julia Shewchuk gave the following staff recommendation: Staff has reviewed the provisions and standards relating to Special Exception for rural Farm Homesteads as outlined in Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning code and has determined that this application complies and is consistent with all those standards. Staff recommends approval of a Special Exception to create two substandard lots for Rural Farm Homestead properties on Lot 006 028 at 970 and 982 upper Ty Ty Road. Staff also recommends approval of a Special Exception to create one substandard lot for a Rural Farm homestead property on Lot 0006 028 at 978 Upper Ty Ty Road under the condition that a 0.13 foot variance for the road frontage requirement be obtained from the Board of Appeals prior to recording the plat.

The County Attorney opened the public hearing with no conflict of interest declared.

Alan Parrish spoke on behalf of his request and stated that the farm land does not have a moving irrigation system; it is a drip system and has been moved away from the yard property lines.

There was no opposition and the County Attorney closed the public hearing

Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to approve TC-SE-09-02 Special Exception request for three Rural Farm Homesteads, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Manager advised the Chairman and the Board that Item J needs to be pulled down from the Consent Agenda due to a recommendation of a change in a road for this request from Staff.

Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to remove Item J from the Consent Agenda and move to the Regular Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

D. Motion to adopt the Resolution of Support for West Haven Sr. Village II of Older Person Housing Complex

E. Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Community Development Block Grant application for drainage and street improvements to Red Bird Road

G. Motion authorizing Staff to move forward with the procedures to close Dunn Loop

H. Motion authorizing the surplus of 2-2003 Ford Crown Vics from the County's Fleet and

transfer the vehicles to the Tift County Board of Education

I. Motion approving the renewal of the Lease Agreement with the Brookfield Community Club for another year

K. Motion approving the County's additional portion of environmental engineering on Carpenter Road in the amount of \$1,739.50 (35% of \$4,970)

L. Motion approving the purchase of two Outdoor Weather Sirens from Hasty's communications in the amount of \$40,920

M. Motion approving a renewal two year contract with A T & T for Long Distance calling

N. Motion authorizing the expenditure in the amount of \$22,000 to remodel the butler building attached to the Tift County Health Department for use a Morgue- Coroner's Office

Q. Motion awarding the Paving Contract for Tift County DMV to Scruggs Company in the low bid amount of \$30,915.18

Motion approving the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Miley, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

J. Motion to allow staff to begin the bid process for resurfacing on the following roads to be funded through SPLOST dollars: Spinks Drive, Regent Road, Old Ocilla Road, Omega Eldorado Road, Cricket Drive, Coventry Way, Central Avenue, Back Forty Drive, Luke Road and Tifton Eldorado Road: The County Manager advised that staff has looked at Omega Eldorado Road and feel that this road can be repaired using County Staff and request that this road be pulled off the list at this time. There is a portion, ½ mile section of Ty Ty Whiddon Mill Road that we need to add to this list for some emergency stop gap measures. This road is caving in through this ½ mile section. Jason Jordan advised that the County would be saving around \$175,000 to remove Omega Eldorado Road and add this portion of Ty Ty Whiddon Mill Road. This road needs immediate attention due to some abnormal base failure. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to remove Omega Eldorado Road from the list and add ½ mile section of Ty Ty Whiddon Mill Road to the list as presented, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Request from Judge Suzanne Johnson for the purchase of finger printing equipment for firearm license: The County Manager advised that the City of Tifton has installed the GAP System and we are going to utilize this system to see that it will work and handle the County's needs. We will evaluate this for a couple of months and if it is not working we can then consider this expenditure in the budget process. The site at the City will be made available for any citizen to be fingerprinted and have the prints forwarded to the appropriate agency for \$3.00. Judge Johnson feels the fiscally responsible process is to try utilizing the GAPS equipment supplied by the State. She has asked that we use the next couple of months to evaluate how well the GAPS system functions and if for some reason it fails to allow for timely submission of and subsequent review of the information required by her office she asks that we reconsider her initial request during the upcoming budget process. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to remove this item from the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Engineering Services Contract: The County Attorney recommends that the professional relationship between Watkins engineering and the County needs to be placed in writing so both entities understand responsibilities and expectations. The contract will come before the Board on annual bases. The addendum contains a fee schedule for the work to be performed with a cap of one million dollars. Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to approve the contract with Watkins and Associates for engineering fees, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

P. Review of Board Appointment process by the County Attorney: The County Attorney asked for guidance from the Board as to which way the Board chooses to make the Board Appointments in the future. This is not an action item tonight, he just needs guidance on how to pursue how the Board wishes to handle this and at the next meeting he will have to documents prepared.

Commissioner Setters stated he had no preference as long as it was an open vote

Commissioner Hester stated he preferred a raise of the hand or a roll call vote

Vice Chairman Rigdon stated he prefers a public vote by raise of the hand but still continue with the application process we now have in place

Commissioner Miley stated an oral vote from the floor

Commissioner Chevers stated oral vote

County Manager Items:

- Regenia Wells, Animal Control Director advised the Board they the Animal Control Shelter is a member of the Georgia Animal Control Association and have been for the past five years and she is pleased to announce that they received the Distinguished Service Award for 2009-2010.
- The County Clerk shared with the Board a phone call she received giving recognition to the Tift County Road Department for doing a good job on the roads in Tift County. This phone call came from Mr. Willis Puegh who lives on Jim Puegh Road.

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Chevers made a request that her contact number for the county be added in the Tifton Gazette.

Commissioner Miley thanked an employee of the Road Department for their diligence in dealing with a gentleman in her district that had been in distress about a road.

Chairman Thompson advised the Board that he has been appointed to the State GEFA (Georgia Environmental Facility Authority) Board and that last Friday he learned through a Conference call that monies are available in different areas. He would like for Commissioners Hester and Chevers to come along side him and work on this project to see if we can obtain some of the available monies to help with the repairs of the water mains under the roads.

Executive Session: None

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

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman, Fred W. Rigdon District 5

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist. 4

_____ absent _____
Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: _____
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk