

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009 (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, November 3, 2009, 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 Buck Rigdon and Commissioners Robert Setters, Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley and Melissa Chevers.

**Public Comments:**

The County Manager introduced Al Stephenson to the Board. Mr. Stephenson is the new IT Manager for Tift County.

Lequrica Gaskins, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority and the City of Tifton Main Street Program addressed the Board stating that this year they had a cut in their budget in the amount of \$20,000 and she is asking for the Board's consideration to re-instate the funding. She gave out a packet for the Board that gives them information on their programs. Vice Chairman Rigdon stated that he understands they do grant applications through the BREP Program that relates to the County as a whole. Commissioner Jones would like to see a general breakdown of income. There are two components that the funding goes to which is Tift Theater and the Main Street Program with \$12,000 going for the Theater. The grants do not provide for operating expenses. The Board took the request under advisement.

Charlie Majeski was present to extend an invitation to the Community Service Board Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

**Appointments:**

1. Sharon Fulmore with Diversified Enterprise addressed the Board stating they are trying to get more involved in the Community. Recently they participated in the "Sugar Drive". She stated there are a lot of homeless people in Tift County and requested that the Board form a Committee to see if there is a "Tent city" for the homeless in Tift County. They have been told there is. She stated the Soup Kitchen feeds approximately 200 folks a day. Commissioner Chevers supports this and stated there are people getting out of jail that have no place to go.

2. All Potts was present to give the Georgia Forestry Commission Annual Report. Mr. Potts gave the Board Member the Annual Report stating their major job is Fire Suppression. Gave their Vision: Healthy, sustainable forest providing clean air, clean water, and abundant products for future generations; Mission: To provide leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources. He gave the numbers of fires, permits, plowing, burning assistance, rural fire defense, information and education, assistance with the April 2009 Flood and reforestation.

3. Darrell Wiggins will address the Board with updates on the CDBG Grants. Last year's CDBG Project was for \$385,000 for Hill Avenue, Scott Circle and Wilton Avenue. This area had a major drainage problem and 1680 feet of corrugated pipes were installed, 2600 linear feet was paved and 14,045 feet of 8" water mains were also installed. This takes care of this area and has helped the 147 people living in the area. The 09 CDBG is for Red Bird Road and the paperwork is well on its way and we are awaiting the release of funds. Hope to go out for bids the end of December. The project will pave 1.2 miles of road and over 100 citizens will benefit from this project.

4. Charlotte Bedell with Save Our Pets Foundation addressed the Board to give information on their by-laws. A packet was given to each Commissioner that included the SOP Board Members and their by-laws. Ms. Bedell called their attention to Page 4 of the By-Laws which gives their Vision Statements. They were incorporated as a 501C3 and will and can receive funds. Their goal is to help folks with the healthcare of their pets, the spay and neuter programs and to benefit the Animal Control Shelter.

**Public Hearings:** None

**Items to be discussed for Regular Session on November 9, 2009:**

**A. Tift County Recreation Department Background Check Policy:** Craig Sowell was out of town and in his absence; the County Manager gave the report. Over the course of the last 6 months Tift Recreation Department has been reviewing the proposed changes to the Background Check Policy. Recreation Staff, AAC Chair, the County Attorney and County Manager have been discussing changes in this policy for some time. The AAC reviewed the changes at their meeting on 10/26/09 and approved the Background Check Policy to move forward to the County Commission for adoption. We took what was a 14 page document and turned it into a 4 page document. The document has been provided to the commissioners for review and the County Manager called their attention to Section 8 on Background Checks. It addresses time constraints of violations on records. The biggest change is addressed in Section 11 and takes the appellant process out of the loop to the Board of Commissioners.

**B. Cooperative Agreement between Tift County Recreation Department and Tift YMCA:** The County

Manager stated that this document in the past sets up a group to meet on regular bases to discuss strategic planning. It has been present for several years. With the New YMCA Director it has resurfaced. It is a cooperative effort offering programs where possible. It does not mandatory that these services be co-mingled. Commissioner Hester stated that he believes each should stay separate. There is still some questions concerning the document and probably needs some further clarification.

**C. Approval of Aerial concept Proposed Improvement at E. B. Hamilton and Friendly City Parks:** Jason Jordan presented the Aerial concept Proposed Improvements for E. B. Hamilton and Friendly City Parks and asked the Board consideration for approved for this concept and site plans so that when the money does become available we can move forward. We could get permission to get the environmental portion out of the way.

**D. Bids for the repair of 40<sup>th</sup> Street Culvert:** Jason Jordan advised that bids were advertised for the repair of this culvert that was damaged by the floods last spring. Bids were received and opened at the designated time. Southern Concrete was the only bid received in the amount of \$156,194.25. The contractor will have 30 days to complete the project for the date of Notice of Award. FEMA will reimburse 75% of the cost.

**E. Bids for the repair of W. B. Parks Culvert:** Jason Jordan advised that bids were advertised for the repair of this culvert that was damaged by the floods last spring. Bids were received and opened at the designated time. Southern Concrete was the only bid received in the amount of \$295,947. The contractor will have 45 days to complete the project for the date of Notice of Award. FEMA will reimburse \$200,000 of the cost.

**F. Approval of Beer License for Jeta Patel for Good Neighbor Grocery located on Whiddon Mill Road:** The County Clerk advised that this application for beer license has been processed with fingerprints and criminal history has been run. Sheriff Vowell has approved the application.

**G. Approval of Beer License for Avan Patel for Holiday Mart at U S 319 South:** The County Clerk advised that this application for beer and wine license has been processed with fingerprints and criminal history has been run. Sheriff Vowell has approved the application.

The Board agreed to place items C, D, E, F and G on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

**County Manager Items:**

- Gave an update on the new Website and advised that an Executive Session is needed for legal, real estate and personnel
- Leigh Jordan gave an update on the County's finances with a breakdown of Revenues and Expenses for each fund
- County Clerk reminded the Board of dates and upcoming events:
  - (1) ACCG Joint Fall Training – November 6 in Laurens County
  - (2) Legislative Appreciation Breakfast – November 9 at 8 AM at the Chamber Civic Room
  - (3) South Georgia Community Service Board Luncheon – November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM
  - (4) Public Hearing for Georgia Power Transmission Line – November 12 at 6PM @ UGA
  - (5) GEFA Board Meeting Hosted by Tift County – November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at Hilton Garden Inn
  - (6) 11<sup>th</sup> District Meeting – November 18<sup>th</sup> in Lowndes County
  - (7) Agriculture Appreciation Day – November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Livestock Building

**Commissioners Comments:**

Commissioner Miley stated that the monthly department reports have now started and she appreciates the County Manager getting this moving.

Commissioner Jones stated that as we start preparing for the budget, we need to continue to look at the car policy so that we can be ahead of the game, not behind.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to go into Executive Session for legal, real estate and personnel, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

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Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

ATTEST:

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

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County Clerk

