

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2005 6:30 PM**

Grady Thompson, Chairman, District 7

**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 Charlotte W. Bedell, Commissioner, Dist 6**

Bill Park, County Manager Glynda Hemby, County Clerk

The Regular Business Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Thursday, February 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, and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Rev. O.L. Stokes 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 January 4, 2005 Workshop Session, January 10, 2005, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to add Carpet Bids for the Tax Assessor's Office to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Thompson added the item as letter O.

PUBLIC HEARING: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to go into the scheduled Public Hearing to hear public comments on the Special Street Light Tax District for Hunter's Creek Subdivision, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was made Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Special Street Lighting Tax District for Hunter's Creek Subdivision: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester that we allow Hunter's Creek Subdivision to become a Special Street Lighting Tax District, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Extension of a Special Exception granted in 2002: This request came from Mr. David Thomas. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to grant the extension for a period of twelve (12) months on the Special Exception granted in 2002, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Annexations from the City of Tifton: No action required by the Board, annexations were done by the 100% method.

D. Surplus Property located at 2703 Ridge Avenue: It was the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners that this piece of property not be declared surplus for possible future development. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to deny the declaring this property surplus, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Petition to close a portion of Dillard Road: Motion was made by Commissioner Webb authorizing the County Clerk to proceed with the advertisement for the required

public hearing to close a portion this road, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Change wording in an Interlocal Agreement: Commissioner Rigdon advised that this is a small modification in this Interlocal Agreement to change the wording to read that the day to day operations of the Main Street Program will be under the Downtown Development Authority instead of the City of Tifton and the City Manager. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis authorizing the County Attorney and the County Manager to prepare this amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

G.; H.; and M. Ratifying previous action in the Workshop on these items: Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins ratifying the previous action taken in the Workshop Session on Item G: Proclamation – Tifton Twentieth Library Club; Item H: Change of Business Meeting Date and Item M: Resolution for the Acceptance of \$375,200 EIP Grant, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Lighting request for Track at Behavioral Health Services: Commissioner Mathis has talked to Colquitt EMC and has been told that it could be done for less than \$100 a month. He has also talked to citizens in that area and they were not aware they could use the track. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to table this until the next meeting so that further information can be gathered, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

J. & K. Repeal of Local Legislation \$2,500 Purchase Limit Bidding Process and Purchasing Policy: The County Manager has provided a spread sheet for the bidding process, the purchasing policy and the present local legislation dealing with purchasing for Tift County. Since the County only places on fixed assets capital items over \$5,000, the purchasing policy is designed to be in line with that figure. The recommendation is to approve the new purchasing policy except where it may be in consistence with the purchasing limit at the present figure until the local legislation can be repealed. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to repeal the existing law specifications in the General Assembly dealing with the \$2,500 purchase limit bidding process and in the interim that the proposed purchasing policy be adopted and operated under except where it is in consistence with the present local legislation, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Funding for Conference Center Seats: Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to table this item until further information can be gathered, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

N. Request from Ruth's Cottage: The County Manager has provided a cost estimate for the construction of a privacy fence in the amount of \$2,800 and use of the county property. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester that we allow Ruth's Cottage to use a portion of county owned property for a recreational area for their clients and that the County construction the fence in the amount stipulated, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. An agreement will be prepared between Tift County and Ruth's Cottage. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Carpet Bids for the Tax Assessor's Office: Bids have been received for replacing the carpet in the Tax Assessor's office that was destroyed due to a main water line leak that flooded the office. This expenditure will be funded with SPLOST dollars. Bids are:

South Georgia Floor Covering	\$4,039.37
Cottle Flooring	\$4,163.36
Glenn Hendricks Interiors, Inc.	\$5,656.34

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester awarding the bid to South Georgia Floor Covering in the amount of \$4,039.37, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Items:

- Mr. Park introduced Laurie Vitale, EMA Coordinator. Ms. Vitale addressed the Board briefly with comments about her job and her love for this particular field. She told the Board that she had just been overwhelmed by the support she has received from all facets of government and law enforcement from Tifton and Tift County. This week she has been working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan that we are required by law to have in place by May 1st. Having this plan in place will enable us to be eligible for grant funding from GMEA and FEMA. This plan will be presented to all four governments at a TAG Meeting in Omega.

- Advised that SDCC Meeting has been cancelled and will reschedule for another date
- Update on water expansions, contracts on Springhill and Taylor Ridge have been let and are in the Attorney's office for preparation and review
- Mr. Park advised of the bid on the connecting 16" pipe project along Highway 82 from Taylor Ridge into Hall Road then south on Hall Road. He would like approval to get with the contractor to let the section of pipe on Highway 82 only. We are continuing discussions of water with the City of Tifton and this would not cause any changes in those discussions. Motion authorizing the County Manager to amend the contractor's bid, letting the Highway 82 section, subject to the contractor honoring the price he gave in the overall project bid, which is less pipe, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.
- Handed out a Monthly Status Report and advised that he is still in discussions with State Court and will be further discussed during the budget process. Commissioner Mathis asked if this would have any affect on the Solicitor. This has been discussed with Judge Mims and he states that Mr. Richbourg wishes to remain part time.

Commissioners Items: Commissioner Huggins commended the maintenance department. They have taken the old gym behind the administrative building and turn it into a beautiful building. We appreciate their hard work. Commissioner Huggins reminded the Board of two positions that folks need to be appointed. The Commissioner and the Mayor need to make the appointment of someone to serve on the South Georgia Regional Development Board. The other is a representative to attend the Hospital Authority Board meetings. The Chairman will continue in this role.

Commissioner Hester recognized Commissioner Huggins on the recent completion of his certification as a County Commissioner. He will be receiving his Certification Award in Savannah in April.

Vice Chairman Bedell addressed a question to Mr. Park from his Monthly Status Report: Are we still waiting on Georgia Power to move the power lines on Carpenter Road? Mr. Park and Mr. Doss reported that Georgia Power was working out there on this date but they could not give a date for the completion.

Commissioner Mathis shared a concern that came from his district involving Elm Street off Highway 41. He inquired whether this was City or County and stated that citizens have complained that it is in bad condition. He was advised that is a City project, it does not become County property until Hilltop Drive.

Public Comments:

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

Grady Thompson, Chairman

Charlotte Bedell, Vice Chairman

Donnie Hester, Commissioners

Frankie Mathis, Commissioner

Hugh Webb, Commissioner

John M. Huggins, Commissioner

Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon Commissioner

Attest:

County Clerk

