

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006  
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, December 5, 2006, 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, and Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

**Appointments:**

1. Buddy Coarsey had requested to address the Board concerning the Old Brookfield Fire Station but decline to speak to the Board as a recommendation from some of the Board members at this time.
2. Glenn Green addressed the Board concerning his proposal for The Willows Subdivision. Mr. Green stated apparently he has been accused of misleading the Board on his request to have 28.80 acres rezoned from AU to R-12. He handed out a brochure of his original proposal and stated nothing has changed since his request that came before the Board on September 21, 2006. He asked that the Board consider two options: 1) approve the R-12 rezoning with 2/3 of the lots being homes of over 20,000 square feet and 1/3 of being as small as 17,500 square feet; 2) approve R-20 rezoning.  
The County Attorney advised Mr. Green if he anticipated changing his request, it would require completing another application and go back through the normal process. Mr. Green stated that was not his desire and that he wanted to continue the request to rezone to R-12.
3. Mr. Doug Hall, Literacy Director for Tifton and Tift County addressed the Board with thanks for the use of the building located at 211 Chestnut Avenue for the Adult Literacy Program. They have outgrown that facility and the City has allowed them to move into a larger space. They thanked the Commission Board for the use of the facility they have provided for years and presented a Certificate of Appreciation along with the keys to the property to the Board.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on December 11, 2006:**

- A. **TC-ZA 06-23: Green Industries request to rezone from Agricultural Use [AU] to Residential [R-12], 28.80 acres for development of Phase I of the Willows Subdivision located at the intersection of Old Ocilla Road and New River Church Road:** This was tabled from the November meeting.
- B. **Surplus Property Bids on Brookfield Fire Station:** This was tabled from the November meeting.
- C. **Tractor Bids for Road Department:** The Road Superintendent advertised for bids for two tractors for this department and bids were opened December 4, 2006 at 2 PM. Bids were received from Stafford and Yancey. Recommendation from staff is to accept the low bid from Stafford in the amount of \$52,000 for a two wheel drive tractor with 50" sidearm flail mow er and a four wheel drive tractor with a 15 ft. flex Wing rotary cutter in the amount of \$44,238.61.
- D. **Request from Ruth's Cottage for use of vacant house on Chestnut Avenue:** The Adult Literary Program are no long using the house owned by the County located at 211 Chestnut Avenue and Ruth's Cottage is requesting use of this house for storage for donations for their victims.
- E. **Request from Relay for Life to waive fees for uses of Recreational Facility for this community event:** The Relay for Life Volunteer Committee has been working with Craig Sowell, Recreation Director on the planning of the 2007 Relay for Life Event and are requesting the consideration of the Board to waive the fees for the use of the facilities.
- F. **Recommendations from the Road Committee:** The Road Committee met on November 17, 2006 and would like to make the following recommendations for the Board's consideration of approval:
  1. **Recommendation to proceed with Mixon Abbot Road and Lamb Loop**
  2. **Recommend putting in a new replacement bridge on the Omega Eldorado Road in the amount of \$76,000**

**3. Recommend approving survey work on Oakridge Church Road to State Route 125.**

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

**County Managers Items:**

Presented the Monthly Road Staff Report

Gave a Confidential Memo to the Commissioners prior to the meeting and requested the Board give him a yes or no at the end of the meeting so he would know how to proceed.

Gave out a Project Status Report of the projects underway in Tift County at this time

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis requested an Executive Session for a personnel and legal matter.

Vice Chairman Bedell invited the Board to a monument dedication for Dr. Bedell on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM at the Agrirama. She also invited Commissioner to the Board of Health meeting to be held Wednesday at noon. She presented a recommendation for the Board's consideration that the Commission Meetings be moved to the Court Room because recently we have had a number of folks attending our meetings and it has been rather crowded and overflowing at times.

Commissioner Hester stated he has had about ten calls today concerning the consolidation of the City/County Manager position. This county, he said, does not need to take this step at this time. The County is in real good shape and we need to continue as we are now. He asked for some investigation on 17<sup>th</sup> Street down to matt Wilson because of some recent shooting and such going on down there, people are scared and uncomfortable. He also stated we continue to have trucks traveling on Golden Road and suggested signs be posted and enforced. Vice Chairman Bedell asked that the Division of Motor Safety be contacted concerning this.

Commissioner Huggins discussed some paving to be considered on Ship Street where a new shopping strip is going in and thinks the Road Committee should consider this since this will be bringing in revenue to the County. He asked the Chairman to consider appointing an Oversight Committee at the January meeting. He has discussed this in previous meetings to keep a handle on spending. Commissioner Huggins thanked Bill Park for his hard work during his tenure with Tift County.

Chairman Thompson also thanked Bill Park for his work and for bringing Tift County to where we are today.

**Public Comments:** None

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-2[1], Legal and OCGA 50-14-3[6], seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006  
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, December 11, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Court Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Bedell, Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, and Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Vice Chairman Bedell 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.

Chris Goodman addressed the Board concerning the bid he submitted on the Old Brookfield Fire Station and asked the Board to consider doing as Vice Chairman Bedell eluded to in the opening prayer, "let your heart and mind guide you to make the right decision."

Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the minutes of the November 6, 2006 Workshop Session, and the November 13, 2006 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- C. Motion to accept tractor bids for the road Department from Stafford in the low bid amount of \$52,000 for a two wheel drive tractor with 50" sidearm flail mower and \$44,238.62 for a four wheel drive tractor with 15 ft. flex wing rotary cutter**
- D. Motion to grant the request from Ruth's Cottage for the use of the vacant house located at 211 Chestnutt Avenue to be utilized as storage for donations**
- E. Motion to waive fees for the Relay for Life for the use of the Recreational Facility for this event**
- F. Motion to approve the following recommendations from the Road Committee:**
  - 1. To proceed with Mixon Abbott Road and Lamb Loop**
  - 2. Install a new replacement bridge on the Omega Eldorado Road in the amount of \$76,000**
  - 3. Approve survey work on Oakridge Church Road to State Road 125**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Agenda:**

- A. TC-ZA 06-23: Green Industries request to rezone from Agricultural use [AU] to Residential [R-12], 28.80 acres for development of Phase I of the Willows Subdivision located at the intersection of Old Ocilla Road and New River Church Road:** Commissioner Huggins address this issue prior to offering a motion. He stated that he had tried to have close communications with our boards and there have been several instances where the Planning and Zoning Board has made recommendations of denial for rezoning application and the staff had made recommendations for approval as well as the opposite. There seems to be some confusion between Planning and Zoning and Staff. We spend money on water studies and land use studies and the Commission Board has never met with them to let them know where we want to be ten to fifteen years from now. He stated he has heard the arguments on this issue from both sides. He stated we don't have the infrastructure out there; we have water and gas but no sewer, therefore, if we approve this, we are putting the cart before the horse. This could be called spot zoning. Commissioner Huggins made a motion to deny TC-ZA-06-23, request of Glen Green rezoning, as it stands, seconded by, Commissioner Hester. Motion carried with Commissioners Huggins, Hester, Bedell and Mathis voting for the motion. Commissioner Rigdon previously had declared a conflict of interest on this matter. Commissioner Webb abstained.

**B. Old Brookfield Fire Station Property:** Commissioner Huggins stated that we put out for bids this piece of property that was declared surplus. The citizens of Brookfield have put together a Community Club Organization and have requested use of this facility as a Community Club House. He stated that a rental lease agreement will be properly drawn up between the Community Club and Tift County for the use of this facility. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to reject bids received on the Old Brookfield Fire Station, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried with Commissioners Huggins, Bedell, Mathis and Rigdon voting for the motion. Commissioners Hester and Webb voting against the motion.

The Rental Agreement is to be worked out between the County Manger and Mr. Coarsey and presented back to the Board for approval.

**County Managers Items:** No comments

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Huggins stated he set goals when he took his seat on the Commission Board to make the county better than when he came and he challenges the new commissioners to set a goal and make sure it better than when they take their seats.

Commissioner Hester thanked County Manager Bill Park for a job well done stating that the County was "in the hole" when he took the position and he got us out. He then directed good byes and comments to Commissioners Huggins, Bedell and Webb, saying that "we will miss you."

Vice Chairman Bedell thanked the voters in the 6<sup>th</sup> District for allowing her to serve as their representation on the Commission Board. She stated she has especially enjoyed serving on the road committee. During her eight year tenure, she stated, "Although we have not always agreed, at least we have been agreeable with each other."

Commissioner Webb thanked the people of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, stating he had tried to be fair and looked at both sides of any issues and tried to make a decision that was best for the people. He stated that without the department heads and employees that we have in Tift County, we'd be lost. He stated he has enjoyed working with all these people and that this has been the best working board he had seen in sixteen years.

Commissioner Mathis wished all county employees a Merry Christmas. He congratulated the Tifton Blue Devils for making it to the State play offs. Speaking then of Ms. Bedell, he stated "I'll tell everyone in Tift County, I don't know where you can find one like her, it will take all six of us taking a job to do what she did."

Commissioner Mathis made a motion to accept the resignation of Bill Park, County Manager upon satisfying all of the termination agreement that would relieve the County of all liability and monetary compensation, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson used this time to reflect over the year's accomplishments, to recognize employees, to express his thanks for everyone's dedication and hard work and to say some good byes. He made mention of the thirty three miles of road that have gotten paved and resurfaced, put a ethanol plant together by being a part of this energy process, made great strides in improving county and city relations, consolidated numerous services with the city through interlocal agreements, adopted and implemented many new policies as well as updated some already in place and put \$2 million dollars in reserve for the county.

**Public Comments:**

Ronald Nixon, 2700 South Park Avenue, spoke to the Board concerning a joint city/county manager. It has been previously and it can work again if done correctly. He challenges the Board to take some time and get the right person for the job.

Charles Welch briefly addressed the Board concerning a safety situation on the Ferry Lake and Turner Brookfield Church Road. He stated there is a very sharp turn, people are cutting across even sharper, it also involves a 200 foot blind hill. Someone needs to investigate this situation and try to get it under control before something happens out there.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6), seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk