

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007  
6:30 P.M.**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Wednesday, February 7 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Donnie Hester, Frankie Mathis, C. Michael Jones, Sherry Miley and Robert Setters. Commissioner Rigdon was out due to surgery.

**Public Comments:**

Richard Tucker spoke to the Board concerning a code violation that he has repeatedly addressed with the Board. He still contends that the variance granted was illegal. He stated he would continually return to address the Board until the issue is addressed and some answers given.

**Proclamation:** The Chairman advised of a Proclamation in observance of Arbor Day will be presented on February 16, 2007 at 11 AM during the planting of a tree at the Tift County Recreation Department.

**Appointments:**

1. Judge Gary McCorvey addressed the Board concerning the Grand Jury Presentments on storage and space of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office. He also discussed the needs of the Judicial System which consisted of number one being a new Courthouse or number two a Courthouse Annex. He stated the present courthouse is over 100 years old and is functionally obsolete. The present one can serve some purpose, he is not suggesting it be torn down. He suggests we begin planning to build a new courthouse out by the law enforcement center. The next suggestion would be to build a courthouse annex, closing Library Lane and come out from that side of the courthouse, joining the buildings and have one entrance for safety and security reasons. He stated we need to work and plan to get ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Judge McCorvey also discussed the Indigent Defense situation with the Board.
2. Sandra Wood with the Veterans Service addressed the Board giving the Annual Report for Tift County on the Veterans Services provided through their office for the year. Tift County has approximately 2900 veterans. She stated that every benefit has to be applied for, there are no automatic benefits. Over 6 ½ million dollars was paid in VA benefits last year in Tift County alone.
3. Donald Adcock addressed the Board on Fire Services and the consolidation of the services. He stressed to the Board that he has done research and urges them to look at the interlocal agreement and reconsider. He asked that he be provided answers to the following questions:
  1. Who were the writers of the agreement;
  2. Since the agreements have been in place has anyone checked to see if we are saving money;
  3. Were the Commissioners aware that the City has borrowed money to build the Brookfield Fire Station;
  4. Will the tax payers be given the opportunity to vote on consolidation of fire services?Mr. Adcock gave handouts for the Commissioners to review.

**Public Hearings for Regular Session on February 12, 2007:**

- A. **TC-TA-07-01:** Text Amendment to the Tift County Subdivision Ordinance: This proposal is to change the definition of a Sub-Division to be in compliance with the State. It will increase the number of houses to be built or property to be sub-divided from 4 to 5 and comes with a recommendation of approval from Planning and Zoning and Staff.
- B. **TC-ZA-07-01:** Billy Ray Washington requests to rezone the western half of his property (200 Feet wide by 100 Feet depth) to R-12 (Residential) to CC (Community Commercial) to allow a Television/Studio Tower to remain on his property. The property is located at 1214 West Golden Road. This comes with a recommendation of denial from Planning and Zoning and from Staff.
- C. **TC-ZA-07-02:** SBP, LLC is requesting to rezone 14.40 acres from AU (Agricultural Use) to M-R (Multi-Residential) with the intent to construct on triplex apartment per lot.

There will be sixteen lots. The property fronts Chula Brookfield Road near I-75: This comes with a recommendation of approval from Planning and Zoning and Staff.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on February 12, 2007:**

- D. Brookfield Fire Station Property Lease Agreement
- E. Patrick Tractor Company Audit
- F. Approve Tift County Pandemic Influenza Plan
- G. Approve the Job Description for a Tourism Director
- H. Request to install "Tift County 4-H club Welcomes You" Signs
- I. Surplus Vehicle Bids
- J. Re-appointment of Board Members to Animal Control Board, Tift County Board of Assessors and Planning and Zoning Board
- K. Technology Upgrades in Commissioner's Meeting Room: To be discussed in conjunction with other things in Executive Session.
- L. Appointment of Craig Grace, EMS Director to the Southwest Georgia EMS Advisory Council
- M. Beer License Application for DG Patel for convenient store on US Highway 319 South
- N. Ad Valorem Tax exemption request for New Covenant Church
- O. Request from Hall & Lee Properties, LLC to close an unused road in Chula from Highway 41 to JW Wynn Road

The Commissioner agreed to place items D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, & O on the Consent Agenda for February 12, 2007.

**County Managers Items:**

- Update on airport Runway Extension; still waiting on plans to show the final grade
- Update on Hasty's Building; received a cost estimate of \$80,000 for repairs to the building and are waiting on final figures for everything we anticipate doing out there
- Advised of some repairs on Ruth's Cottage and other houses used by them located on Chestnut. Would like to further discuss tearing down two houses and erecting a metal building for their storage facility. Will bring recommendation and some alternative plans back to the Board
- Reminded the Board of the Public Hearing on the Transportation Study set for February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM
- Appointment to Recreation Advisory Committee. They recommend appointing Joe Spurlin to replace Kenny Robertson. This Committee also requests the consideration to name the area known as City Park to D.L. Lastinger Area/Park to recognize Mr. Lastinger, who recently retired, for his contribution to recreation in Tift County. These items will be placed as an Add On Item to the February 12<sup>th</sup> Agenda. The County Clerk will research to see if a policy is in place on naming things after people that are still living.
- Mr. Dill gave handouts on a Radio System Overview and Trunking System upgrade for Public Safety. In SPLOST IV, there was money allocated for this upgrade. Mr. Tommy Hasty was present to explain the upgrade procedure and to advise the Board of a cost savings if we go ahead with it now. It will include all public safety, Georgia State Patrol and ABAC with all radios operating in a digital mode, full 10 channels, warning sirens will be controlled by trunking system, firefighters pagers will display location of fire from 911 Center, 911 Center upgrades and EMA Channel. There will be a huge cost savings if the upgrades are done now by using funds that may be available instead of waiting for SPLOST IV to begin.
- Recreation SPLOST Projects: Craig Sowell gave a overview and advised of some of the projects to be funded by SPLOST. Some events will be coming in March and it would help if we could get some of the upgrades done before the events start. He did advise he is concerned with some of the lighting polls. Commissioner Jones stated the importance of Recreation from the public view and these events will bring in dollars to our County and he would like to see the Board support this.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Chairman Thompson advised that he had made the following appointments to certain Board for the County:

Commissioner Sherry Miley

Animal Control

Commissioner Mike Jones                      Road Committee  
Commissioner Robert Setters                Water Committee

Commissioner Setters commended Craig Sowell on the presentation of the overview on the Recreation Projects. He asked for some information for the road committee concerning Red Bird Road. He was advised that there was some right of way problems. Mr. Dill will discuss this with him further.

Commissioner Mathis advised the Board that he attended the Board of Health meeting today and that because of some State mandates, they will probably be coming to the Commission Board in the near future for some financial help . He asked that Carl Fortson give a brief update on the clean up of dilapidated houses in South Tifton. Mr. Fortson reported that in 2006 a total of 51 files was closed which is a lot more than they thought. We are making good progress. Darrell Wiggins reported that eleven new builds are underway in Tifton and will generate about ¾ of a million dollars added to the digest.

Commissioner Miley asked for a road List update. The Projects Manager has put one together and will provide copies. She stated the Brighton Road community would like to see about getting an emergency tower warning system. Mr. Dill will check with the EMA Director on this request. She reported that a letter has been received from the American Legion concerning the Special Events Permit process and a copy has been provided. She would like for the Board to revisit this Ordinance on behalf of these folks and that they have suggested that they would like to appear before the Board.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-2[1], OCGA 50-14-3[6], and OCGA 50-14-13[4] seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to close Executive Session, seconded by, Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Dist 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist 4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner C. Michael Jones, Dist 6

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2007  
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, February 12, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Commissioners Sherry Miley, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, C. Michael Jones and Robert Setters.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Robert Setters 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.

**Public Comments:**

Henry Tift Myers, Jr. addressed the Board with a request for consideration of a donation for his father's nomination to the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame. He stated the plaque cost is \$5,000 and that some donations have already been made. A donation is expected to be made through the Airport Authority and would like for the County to make a donation. The Board took the request under advisement.

Richard Tucker addressed the Board again on the variance he states was illegally granted. The County Attorney addressed this issue with Mr. Tucker stating that since he had engaged legal council, we cannot correspond with him directly. If he advised the Board he does not have legal council, then Mr. Rowell will be glad to address his concerns on this issue.

Donald Adcock addressed the Board to clear a statement that was printed in the Gazette. He stated he would like to make it clear that none of the sitting commissioners on the Board had anything to do with the statement "Volunteers being thrown to the Dogs." He asked the Board to please correct the injustice that has been done to the Volunteer Fire Departments. In order to do this he suggested, 1) Hire a volunteer Super Chief to be over all the volunteer fire departments; 2) We have seven Commissioners and seven Volunteer Fire Departments, each Commissioner should get a fire pager and run with the volunteers for six months and they could better understand and appreciate the volunteers.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the minutes of the January 2, 2007 Workshop Session, and the January 8, 2007 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Request from Recreation Department and Athletic Advisory committee to fill an unexpired term.  
Request from Recreation Department and Athletic Advisory Committee to rename the City Park

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to add these to items to the Regular Agenda under letters P & Q, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearings:**

- A. TC-TA-07-01: Text Amendment to the Tift County Subdivision Ordinance:** Mr. Dill, Interim County Manager opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Fortson explained the reason for the proposed Text Amendment which is a housekeeping measure to get the City and County Ordinances in compliance with State Regulations. It would change the definition of Subdivision Regulations from 4 to 5 divisions of property. It was approved by Planning and Zoning and recommended for approval from staff.

There was no public comment. Mr. Dill closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the Proposed Text Amendment to the Tift County Subdivision Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. TC-ZA-07-01: Billy Ray Washington requests to rezone the western half of his property to R-12 (Residential) to CC (Community Commercial) to allow a Television/Studio Tower to remain on his property on West Golden Road:** Mr. Dill opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Fortson explained the nature of this rezoning and advised that it comes with a denial from Planning and Zoning and staff.

Billy Ray Washington, 14 Duck Way spoke in favor of his request. He explained the circumstances of his request and asked the Board to consider his request so that he could continue to operate his business there and allow the tower to remain on his property on West Golden Road. He stated it took him five years to acquire the license. According to Mr. Washington, on paper in black and white it does present a conflict but he believes conflicts can be worked out. He was asked by the Board members if Mr. Fortson afforded him any other alternatives to work out the situation. He did, the tower could be left on the other part of the property zoned AU but it does not meet the setback requirements. The tower was originally placed on the property illegally and he apologized for that. Vice Chairman Hester questioned Mr. Washington at the time he purchased the property, did he know that he could not put the tower there; he replied yes but it was an emergency.

Kenny Johnson, 1398 West Golden Road spoke in opposition to this rezoning request. He passed around some pictures of the property. The sign in the pictures about the rezoning he states was put up on January 16<sup>th</sup> and later on that day, it was not there. The rezoning sign did not appear back on the property until January 19<sup>th</sup> and he made Mr. Fortson aware of this. The hearing before the Planning and Zoning Board was on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He had some conversations with Mr. Washington about the permissible things in the zoning as it was. He asked the Board to please deny this request.

There were no other comments and Mr. Dill closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to deny TC-ZA-07-01, rezoning request of Billy Ray Washington, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to allow Mr. Washington 120 days to take the tower down from the property, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. TC-ZA-07-02: SBP, LLC is requesting to rezone 14.40 acres from A-U (Agricultural Use) to M-R (Multi-Residential) with the intent to construct one triplex apartment per lot consisting of sixteen lots on the Chula Brookfield Road:** Mr. Dill opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Fortson explained the nature of the rezoning request and stated it comes to the Board with an approval from Planning and Zoning and staff.

Brenda Woods Smith, 3855 Whiddon Mill Road spoke in favor of the request and offered to answer any questions the Board might have. There were none.

No one spoke in opposition. Mr. Dill closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to approve TC-ZA-07-02, rezoning request of SBP, LLC, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- D.** Approve the Lease Agreement for the Brookfield Fire Station property to Brookfield Community Club
- E.** Approval of the 2006 Tax Digest Value for Patrick Tractor Company
- F.** Approval of the Tift County Pandemic Influenza Plan
- G.** Approval of the Job Description for Tifton/Tift County Tourism Director
- H.** Approval of the installation of "Tift County 4-H Welcomes You" signs contingent upon meeting DPT size specifications
- I.** Accept the high bid on six surplus vehicles in the total amount of \$4,750

- J.** Reappoint Willie Gainer, Jimmy Taylor, Bill Purcell and Doris Rainey (alternate) to serve another two year term on the Animal control Board; Reappoint Ricky Justice to serve another five year term on the Planning and Zoning board; Reappoint C. Wade Clark to serve another six year term on the Tift County Board of Assessors effective January 1, 2007
- L.** Appoint Craig Grace, Tift County EMS Director to the Southwest Georgia EMS Advisory Council
- M.** Approve Beer License for D.G. Patel for convenient Store on US Highway 319 South
- N.** Approve exemption of ad valorem taxes for the 2006 Tax Digest for New Covenant Church
- O.** Authorize the County Clerk to properly advertise and hold the required public hearing to close an unused road in Chula as requested from Hall & Lee Properties.

Motion was made by Commission Mathis approving the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Regular Agenda:**

**K.** Technology Upgrades in Commissioner's Meeting Room:

Motion was made Commissioner Setters to move forward with the technology upgrades, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried; 5 yes votes. Vice Chairman Hester voted no. This will consist of laptop computes for the Commissioners for their Agendas, install a screen so the public can view the documents for the Agenda items, and formulate some way to video the meetings and possibly put them on the website and repair and upgrade the audio system in the room. Money is in the budget to cover the expenses.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add under letter R, the proposed Trunking System and Radio upgrades was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add under letter S, the funding portion of the upgrades was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

**R.** Trunking System and Radio Upgrades: Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to approve the upgrades of the trunking system and county radios as presented, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**S.** Authority to move money for upgrade funding: Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to accept the recommendation of the Finance Director to move the money from contingency line item to pay for the upgrades until the funds from SPLOST IV start coming in and then the money will be put back into the contingency line, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

### **County Managers Items:**

- Discussed the Recreation upgrades to get ready for upcoming tournaments. He stated he has gone over this with Craig Sowell and the amount has been reduced from \$28,000 to \$14,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve SPLOST funds for recreation upgrades before the upcoming tournaments and the money be moved from contingency until SPLOST IV dollars start to come in, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Dill discussed the Old Mid Step Building with the Board stating that it has a very sound structure. This building could be repaired and remodeled and could serve as a Records Retention Center. The Board authorized Mr. Dill to get cost estimates and bring a recommendation back to them for consideration.

### **Commissioner Comments:**

Vice Chairman Hester requested Mr. Dill to look at Pecan village to see if there is anything we can do to slow the traffic down. Mr. Dill will check into some rumble strips or something to help.

Commissioner Mathis has received calls from citizens on streets off of South Hwy 41, specifically Sycamore and Ponce de Leon that has a lot of traffic and would like to see some

Children at Play signs put up on these streets. Mr. Dill will have the sign crew handle this request.

Commissioner Rigdon apologized for missing the previous meeting due to surgery. He stated there had been some discussion on meeting with the Planning and Zoning Board to talk about future land use and a round table discussion to get everybody on the same page. He would like to see the commissioners do this.

Commissioner Miley requested that some "Do Not Liter" signs put up on Bowen and Chula Brookfield Roads. Mr. Dill stated that a lot of the garbage on the roads is coming from our garbage trucks.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6), 50-14-2[1], and 50-14-3[4], seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

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

---

Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

---

Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Dist 1

---

Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

---

Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist 3

---

Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist 4

---

Commissioner Fred W.(Buck)Rigdon, Dist 5

---

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, Dist 6

ATTEST:

---

County Clerk