

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 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 Tuesday, January 2, 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, Buck Rigdon, C. Michael Jones, Sherry Miley and Robert Setters.

Proclamation Presentment: Chairman Thompson advised of a Proclamation that will be presented Thursday at 11 o'clock to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board/Bring One for the Chipper. He invited the Commissioners to attend the presentation at Fulwood Park.

Appointments:

1. Colt Anderson addressed the Board soliciting them to take steps to stop unlicensed businesses to do business in Tifton and Tift County. He said these businesses are preying on people by improperly installing plumbing, air conditioners among other amenities and the work is so bad that companies like his have to come behind them to do the work correctly. He brought a few of the victims to the meeting with him and stated they are being taken advantage of. He feels the problem lies within our community because we don't have ordinances in place to stop this kind of activity. He advised the Board that he has contacted licensing agencies and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to try to find recourse for the victims but has been told the state has little enforcement power in the issue. The GBI advised the city and county need to have some ordinance in place to take care of this. The County Attorney told Mr. Anderson he would be glad to work with him on this problem and come up with a plan to deal with it.

Items discussed by the Commission for action on January 8, 2007:

- A. Vote on Vice Chairman (it is time for Mr. Hester to rotate to Vice Chairman:** The Board agreed to put this on the Consent Agenda.
- B. Workforce Services Agreement with the Airport Authority:** This will be an exchange of county workforce to do the earth work on the proposed extension of the runway at the airport in exchange for the use of the "Old Hasty Building" to house the drivers' license facility. The Airport Authority owns the Hasty Building. Further information needs to be obtained on the work needed for the runway extension.
- C. Brookfield Fire Department Lease:** The County Attorney has made some revisions for the Board to review prior to executing the lease agreement at Regular Session.

The County Clerk requested permission from the Board to rearrange the Agenda. Discussion has taken place with regard to moving Public Comments to the beginning of the Agenda rather than at the end. The Board agreed to make the change

County Managers Items: None

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Jones stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve the citizens of District 6 and thanked the previous Commissioners for giving of their time to serve.

Commissioner Hester addressed the February meeting scheduled is during the time of the 2007 Legislative Conference in Atlanta and that the Board needs to reschedule that meeting. The County Clerk will add this to the Regular Agenda for next Monday.

Commissioner Mathis congratulated all the new commissioners and look forward to serving with them. He recognized Charlotte Bedell in the audience and offered the suggestion to honor her request at the previous meeting to move the Commissioners meeting to the Court Room when we have an overflow crowd. He also inquired as to the reappointment of commissioners that are not serving now that served on committees. The Chairman will address those appointments at the February meeting.

Commissioner Miley thanked the citizens for electing her to serve and she pledges to work hard for them.

Chairman Thompson addressed the litter problem in Tift County and would like for everyone to put that on top of their agendas to get the city and county cleaned up. He wants 2007 to be a clean-up year.

Roger Dill addressed the Board on Keep Tift Beautiful stating a citizen had called the head of the Board and was told they don't have the people to pick up trash. He thinks it would behoove the county to assist in this. He has discussed the litter situation with Jason Jordan and Richard Burr with the Public Works Department and they believe if the county has one person to oversee the group, we could get the people to pick up the trash on the roads. He thinks we can get prisoners or people that have to do community service work to get the roads cleaned up.

Mr. Dill also advised the Board that the State Transportation Board will be holding a two day meeting in Tifton some time in April or May. We all need to work on preparing to have this Board in Tifton and Tift County.

The County Clerk reminded the Board of the Chamber Banquet on January 18th at 7PM.

Public Comments:

Charlotte Bedell, 1710 Sarah Drive, addressed the Board relating to the appointment to the Animal Control Committee. She served on this Committee and would like to see the work continue on Animal Control. She also addressed the litter problem in Tift County.

Charles Welch approached the Board previous concerning a safety issue on Brookfield Turner Church Road and Ferry Lake Road. He was present tonight to report that the issue had been handled quickly and adequately.

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

ATTTEST: _____
County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 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, January 8, 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 Frankie Mathis 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:

C. Wade Clark addressed the Board and introduced his grandson, William Ruter, who is a Boy Scout. One of his projects to earn his Eagle Scout Badge is to attend a governmental public meeting. The Board applauded this young man, thanked him for choosing to come to a Commissioner's meeting and wished him well.

Ronald Nixon 2700 South Park Avenue addressed the Board concerning the consolidation of a Joint City/County Manager. He stated that he felt that now was the appropriate time for both the city and the county to consider this since both are without managers at this time. He stated that it had worked for a short time in the past and believes that it could work again.

Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis approving the minutes of the December 5, 2006 Workshop Session, and the December 11, 2006 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda:

- **Change the Workshop Meeting Date from February 5 to 7, 2006:** The Board will be in Atlanta at Legislative Conference on the date of the Workshop Meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to change the Workshop Meeting to February 7, 2006, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Execute contract with Roger Dill to serve as Interim County Manager:** Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to move this item to Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion appointing Donnie Hester as Vice Chairman.** Motion to approve the Consent Agenda item was made by Commissioner Rigdon, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda:

- B. Workforce Service Agreement with the Airport Authority:** This will be an exchange of in kind services by the Public Works Department for the exchange of use of the Old Hasty Building owned by the Airport Authority to house the Driver's License Facility. Mr. Dill explained to the Board that he has not been able to get with Greg Anderson, Chairman of the Airport Authority to get the scope of work desired or plans but is working on it. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to take this item off the Agenda until all documents for the execution of this Agreement have been obtained, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Lease Agreement for Brookfield Community Club, Inc.: Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to move this item to Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

County Managers Items:

- Advised the Board of an Asphalt Workshop to be held in Macon in February and he would like Richard Burr and Jason Jordan to attend. The Department of Transportation will be talking about specifications to contractors and cities and counties and he believes it is important to have someone from Tift County at this workshop.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Setters discussed with the Board about improving the public's access to information. He would like to update the technology in the meeting room and has met with IT personnel to discuss options with them. His proposal would include laptop computers for each commissioner as well as the County Manager and County Clerk. He would like all documents for the meetings as well as the Agenda to be put on the computers. He would like for a screen to be set up so that the citizens attending the meetings can see the information that the Commissioners are looking at and he suggested the audio system be repaired. He would like to have a camera and record the meetings for TV and/or the Internet. He would hope that this could be completed within a month or so and has been told money is available in the budget to do the upgrades.

Commissioner Jones said he would like to see more citizen involvement and would like for the Agendas to be on the website and agrees with Commissioner Setters that he would like to have the meetings broadcast. He stated it is important to show people what the Commission does. Commissioner Jones spoke about the county's pandemic response plan and gave each commissioner a copy to review. The county will aid the health department in information and communication and he thanked the people involved in the plan for their work.

Vice Chairman Hester asked for assistance from Mr. Dill and the Road Department to check on a ditch on South Central Avenue that has water running up to a lady's house and yard and also a similar situation on King Drive. Vice Chairman Hester again addressed the water rates stating that he is still very concerned because the water rates have not been equalized and does not feel that we need to go forward with any further consolidation of services until this matter is resolved completely.

Commissioner Mathis stated he has heard several complaints about the dumpsites on South Central Avenue. He suggested that items that are not accepted at the sites should be posted.

Commissioner Miley stated that it is the Commission's responsibility to keep the public informed and commended Commissioner Setters for his proposal to upgrade the technology in the meeting room. Commissioner Miley asked Mr. Dill to investigate a problem with water pressure on the east side of Sutton Road.

Chairman Thompson addressed the trash problem in Tift County and stated that we are going to make a push to get this county cleaned up. He stated whatever it takes to get this done, we are going to do it and solicited any suggestion and input from anyone that has any ideas.

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 Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester ratifying the appointment of Roger Dill as Interim County Manager and giving authority to the County Attorney and Mr. Dill to work out the terms of the contract, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

After returning to Regular Session, County Attorney, Tony Rowell advised the citizens of Brookfield that were present that he would draft a new lease agreement and present it to them for

their review and then present it again to the Commission Board. Mr. Rowell stated that he hopes to resolve this issue at the February meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried.

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