

**CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2025
5:30 PM
TIFTON CITY HALL**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith
Vice Mayor Josh Reynolds
Council Member Michael Franks
Council Member Lester Cromer, Jr.

Council Member MJ Hall
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney
Jessica White, City Clerk
Elizabeth Torres, Assistant City Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Chief Bobby Bennett offered the prayer and led the pledge.

Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Cromer made the first motion for approval of the agenda, motion seconded by Hall, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Council Member Reynolds made the first motion for approval, motion was seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved the meeting minutes from December 16, 2024, and January 6, 2025.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Reynolds motioned, seconded by Cromer, and unanimously approved the following items on the consent agenda:

- 1. Resolution Approving Amendment #5 to the City's Retirement Plan for Appointing the Plan's Trustee**
- 2. Awarding RFP 2024-12 for FY20225 CHIP Grant Consulting Services to Grant Specialists of Georgia and Authorizing Execution of Contract for Services**
- 3. Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of a 2025 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Application**
- 4. Approval of 2025 Meeting Calendar**

New Business

Consider Proposed Increases to Curbside Pickup as Presented by Ryland Environmental

Acting City Manager, Larry Lawrence reviewed the proposal which included increases in bulk and yard debris. For an additional \$3.50 per customer. Following discussion Mayor Smith called for a motion. Council Member Cromer motioned to deny the proposal submitted, the motion was seconded by Reynolds, and Franks and Hall voted in favor. Mayor Smith voted in opposition; the motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

Resolution Authorizing Submittal of FY2025 LMIG Application for Street Resurfacing Projects

Adam Cobb, ESG Project Manager, reviewed the proposal which included a list of the roads in need of resurfacing. Adam mentioned that we want to make the best impact on our most critical streets according to the street condition index. Council Member Franks made the first motion for approval of the resolution and projects for resurfacing. The motion was seconded by Hall and unanimously approved.

Resolution Designating Downtown's Second Saturday Events as a Festival

Hillery Culpepper, Main Street Manager, requested approval for the 2025 Second Saturday events to be covered under the Festival Ordinance and allow Sip & Stroll Events. Council Member Reynolds made the first motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Hall and unanimously approved.

Resolution Designating Rhythm & Ribs as a Festival

Hillery Culpepper, Main Street Manager, is seeking approval on behalf of Tifton Tourism for Rhythm and Ribs to be designated as a festival and allow alcohol at the event. Council Member Franks made the first motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Hall and unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Mr. Larry Lawrence, CFO, presented the December 2024 financial report and briefly reviewed.

City Manager Report

Larry Lawrence, mentioned that city officers would be closed tomorrow due to the winter snow expected and he mentioned public works and GDOT are preparing roads. He also gave an update on upcoming events for Second Saturday and upcoming Events at the Theatre.

Mayor & Council Comments

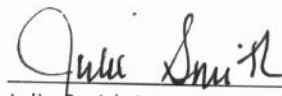
Mayor Julie Smith mentioned she was excited to receive an invitation to attend the presidential inauguration but unfortunately was unable to attend due to the weather. She mentioned this was the first indoor inauguration ceremony in forty (40) years. She also emphasized how important relationships are and that we never know the impact they may have. Mayor Smith mentioned her relationship with Senator Ossoff's office has brought positive impacts to Tifton, and included the invitation to the White House.

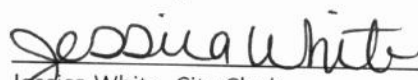
Executive Session

Council Member Hall made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Reynolds, and unanimously approved. The meeting closed to executive session.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,


Julie Smith Mayor


Jessica White, City Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON
HELD ON January 21, 2025
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member Hall makes the following motion:

1. That City Council now enters into executive session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following:

(check all that apply)

☒ Legal Matters.

☒ Personnel Matters.

☐ Real Estate Matters.

That each member of this body, in open session, at the conclusion of such executive session, and consistent with the provisions of City of Tifton Resolution No. 99-66, either:

1. Execute the Affidavit, the form of which having been previously approved; or
2. Vote upon the Resolution, the form of which having been previously approved, to be followed by the execution of the above-referenced Affidavit by so many members of this Council that so desire,

all of which is in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4; thereby this body, by appropriate form of either Affidavit or Resolution/Affidavit, ratifying the actions of the Council taken in executive session and confirming that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the Open Meetings law.

Council member Reynolds seconds the motion.

Motion Approved

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure:

Council Members: All

Those voting against the motion for closure:

Council Members: None

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Georgia:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	Julie B. Smith
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	Josh Reynolds
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	Michael Franks
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	Lester Cromer, Jr.
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	M. Jay Hall

Who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

1. I am a member of the Tifton City Council and I was present at a meeting of the City Council held on the 21 day of January, 2025.

2. That it was my understanding that O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) Of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 21st day of January, 2025, which was closed for the purpose(s) of :

- ☒ Legal Matters
☒ Personnel Matters
☐ Real Estate Matters

As allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.
5. This affidavit is likewise executed by the following members of the City Council present at such executive session in support of open and honest government and in compliance with City of Tifton Resolution 99-66.

This 21st day of January, 2025.

Julie Smith

Julie Smith
Mayor, City of Tifton

Josh Reynolds

Josh Reynolds
Councilman, District 1

Michael Franks

Michael Franks
Councilman, District 2

Lester Cromer, Jr.

Lester Cromer, Jr.
Councilman, District 3

M. Jay Hall

M. Jay Hall
Councilman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me
By all City Council members
on this 21st day of
January, 2025.

Jessica White
Notary Public

