

CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2025
5:30 PM
TIFTON CITY HALL

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith
Vice Mayor Josh Reynolds
Council Member Michael Franks
Council Member M. Jay Hall
Council Member Lester Cromer

Larry Lawrence, Acting City Manager
Rob Wilmot, City Attorney
Jessica White, City Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, followed by the prayer and 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 motioned, seconded by Cromer, and unanimously approved the meeting minutes from February 17th and March 3, 2025.

Public Comments

Michele Powers, 2205 Davis Ave – Ms. Powers reiterated her concerns about mosquito spraying from previous meetings and asked the Council not to approve the mosquito spraying in Tifton, due to the many dangers.

Consider Relocation Extension for Steadfast Wildlife Rescue Rehab

Mr. Rob Wilmot, City Attorney, reviewed the previous meeting and comments heard, in which Ms. Jessica Pisciotta requested additional time to relocate her wildlife rescue following receiving a notice from the City. Mr. Wilmot mentioned he had requested additional information from Ms. Pisciotta in order to determine a reasonable timeframe for an extension, but no response was received. He also commented that he reached out to DNR following Pisciotta's statements at the last meeting concerning euthanizing animals, and DNR commented that they would release the animals or find them another home, but euthanizing any animal would be rare. Council briefly discussed what would occur if the wildlife rescue did not relocate within the time extension.

Ms. Jessica Pisciotta, w/ Steadfast Wildlife Rescue Rehab was present and spoke that at the last meeting it was agreed for her to provide a plan and timeline for relocating, but following the meeting she received an email from Wilmot requesting expanded information and she felt that the requested information was unnecessary to grant a request. She also referenced open records she had obtained from the City on the rescue's complaints, but felt those records did not reflect a vast number of recent complaints. Pisciotta stated she was not fighting the

relocation of the rescue, because she has been working very hard on a new location, and all the animals have been relocated.

Following Pisciotta's comments, Mr. Wilmot reiterated that the information he requested was reasonable information necessary to grant a request. Following discussion & review of photos submitted by Pisciotta, Council Member Franks made a motion to grant a relocation extension until March 31st. The motion was seconded by Cromer and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Resolution Amending the FY2025 Budget for Mosquito Control

Council Member Cromer made a motion to not approve the budget amendment and mosquito control contract. The motion was seconded by Reynolds; Mayor Smith, Council Member Hall and Council Member Franks voted in favor of the mosquito control. Result: Budget amendment for mosquito control passed by 3 to 2 vote.

Ryland Environmental – Proposed Contract Agreement

Aaron Sowa w/ Ryland Environmental presented proposed contract amendments and extension. The proposal included maintaining current rates until July 1, 2026 and rates will be adjusted based on CPI annually. The amended contract also includes a fuel surcharge. Council discussed the proposal and Mayor Smith called for a motion on the amended contract, but no motion was made.

Recommendation for Rejecting Bids for Downtown Historic Monument Sign Project (Bid No. 2025-01) Council Member Franks made the motion to reject all project bids, motion seconded by Reynolds, and unanimously approved.

Recommendation for Awarding Bid for 18th Street Ditch Improvements to Southern Concrete in the Amount of \$2,099,265.69 – (Bid No. 2025-03)

Council Member Reynolds made the first motion for awarding the bid to Southern Concrete, motion seconded by Franks, and unanimously approved.

Consider Action for Proposed FLOCK Safety System

Council Member Franks motioned to accept the proposal for implementing the Flock Safety System as proposed, the motion seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

Resolution Designating First Friday Concert Series as a Festival

Ms. Hillery Culpepper requested the downtown concert series events be designated as a festival and allow alcohol sales at the events. She mentioned May, June, and August events will be held Downtown on 1st Street. Events planned for September, October, & November will be held at Fulwood Park. Following review, Council Member Reynolds made the first motion for approval of the resolution, motion seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

Other Business

Financial Report

Mr. Larry Lawrence presented the YTD Financial Report thru February 2025.

City Manager Report

Mr. Lawrence provided departmental updates, capital project updates, and upcoming events planned. He also noted that Dr. Tift would be returning in June as Youth Center Program Director.

Mayor & Council Comments

Mayor Smith spoke on the upcoming training event planned for March 28th and encouraged Council to attend.

Executive Session

Council Member Cromer motioned to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters, motion seconded by Hall and unanimously approved. The meeting closed to executive session.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

Council Member Cromer motioned to go out of executive session and approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Hall and unanimously approved.

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



Julie Smith, Mayor



Jessica White, City Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFTON
HELD ON march 17, 2025
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member Lester Cromer 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 M. Jay Hall 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:

Present

Absent

✓

Julie B. Smith

✓

Josh Reynolds

✓

Michael Franks

✓

Lester Cromer, Jr.

✓

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 17th day of march, 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.

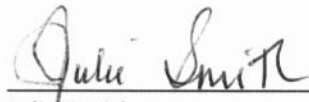
3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 17th day of march, 2025, which was closed for the purpose(s) of :

- ___ 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.

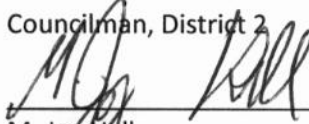
This 17th day of march, 2025.



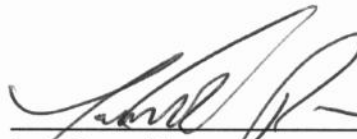
Julie Smith
Mayor, City of Tifton



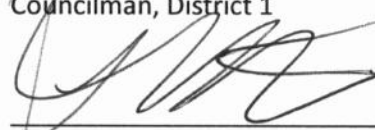
Michael Franks
Councilman, District 2



M. Jay Hall
Councilman, District 4

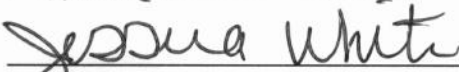


Josh Reynolds
Councilman, District 1



Lester Cromer, Jr.
Councilman, District 3

Sworn to and subscribed before me
By all City Council members
on this 17th day of
march, 2025.



Jessica White
Notary Public