

**CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
April 7, 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.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Presentations

Downtown Update

Main Street Director Hillery Culpepper gave an update on the success of the Farmers Market in Downtown; over 1000 attendees, 28 vendors, 10 sold out at the spring grand opening! Tift Theatre Director Kezia Larry also spoke on the recent concert and comedy show held at the Theatre, mentioning the events brought roughly 200 attendees. She also mentioned the Theatre has an R&B Night and a pageant upcoming.

New Business

Ryland Environmental – Proposed Contract Amendments

Aaron Sowa w/ Ryland Environmental presented a proposed three-year contract extension (January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028) at a flat rate of \$18.02 per home and \$4.50 per cubic yard for commercial, with a fuel surcharge adjustment based on fuel prices. Council reviewed the proposal but did not have any comments.

Resolution Designating Arts in Black as a Festival

Ms. Melissa Hughes and Mr. Garfield Rainey were present to seek the City's promotion and designation of the Arts in Black Festival scheduled for May 2 & 3, 2025. The event organizers mentioned they have submitted their special event permit and requested approval to allow alcohol sales at the event planned at Fulwood Park. Council reviewed the information submitted.

Proposed Amendments to the City's Flood Ordinance

Loretta Hylton, Planning & Zoning Director, presented proposed updates to the City's Flood Ordinance. She mentioned the proposed changes were necessary to meet the standards of the **National Flood Insurance Program** to ensure local the floodplain management program is consistent with Flood Zone Amendments.

Adoption of the Revised FEMA Flood Insurance Study Report and Flood Maps

Ms. Hylton provided Council with the updated flood study and maps prepared by FEMA. She mentioned the maps will officially go into effect August 19, 2025 but need to be adopted by the City.

Recommendation for Expanding the City's Enterprise Zone

Jessica White, City Clerk, presented a staff proposal to expand the city's enterprise zone to include primarily commercial areas in the South Tifton redevelopment area. She mentioned the expansion was suggested by Mayor Smith to include focus areas of the URA for redevelopment. A proposed map of the areas was included but Ms. White welcomed any changes to the proposal.

Review of Proposed Amendments to the City's Alcohol Ordinance for Catering

Jessica White, City Clerk presented a proposed ordinance amendment to provide clear guidance and limitations on alcohol catering and special event permits. Staff recommended limiting alcohol catering events to six annually per organization and three days maximum per event. Ms. White mentioned that special event permits are intended for temporary one-time events, but due to the lack of defined limitations, allows repeated use and circumvents the original intent. Council reviewed the proposed amendments.

Consider Appointments to the City's Board of Ethics

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney, discussed the process needed for appointing members to the City's Board of Ethics. He mentioned the City Council would need to appoint two members, and the other members would be appointed by the Tifton Bar Association and the Superior Court Judge. He mentioned he is working with the Bar Association on their appointments and encouraged Council to be thinking of residents to appoint to the board.

Other Business**Board Report**

Council reviewed the board report, which showed positions with expiring terms for 2025.

City Manager Report

Larry Lawrence highlighted recent police and fire calls and activities, and gave a status update on public works projects. He also mentioned a lease cancellation letter was sent to TCCCY for their current space, and he is waiting to hear back if they accept the City's alternative space at the Youth Center.

Executive Session

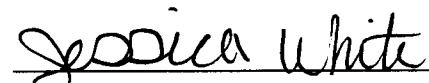
Council Member Hall motioned to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. The motion was seconded by Council Member Reynolds and unanimously approved. The meeting closed to executive session.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

Council Member Lester Cromer motioned for approval of the resolution, seconded by Council Member 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 April 7, 2025
A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member M. Jay 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 Josh 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:

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 7th day of April, 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 7th day of April, 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.

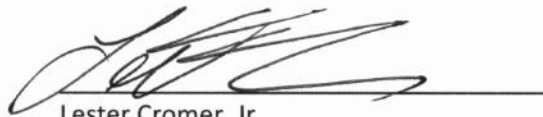
4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.
5. This affidavit is likewise executed by the following members of the City Council present at such executive session in support of open and honest government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

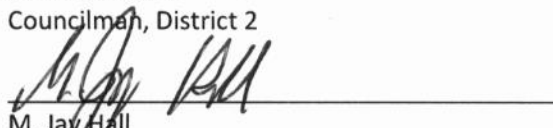
This 7th day of April, 2025.


Julie Smith
Mayor, City of Tifton

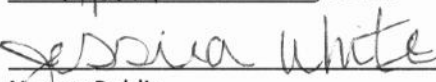

Josh Reynolds
Councilman, District 1


Michael Franks
Councilman, District 2


Lester Cromer, Jr.
Councilman, District 3


M. Jay Hall
Councilman, District 4

Sworn to and subscribed before me
By all City Council members
on this 7th day of
April, 2025.


Notary Public

