

**CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 5, 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 M. Jay Hall

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, motion seconded by Hall, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

Zoning Public Hearing on Application PP25-0011, Submitted by Johnathan Garvey, Requesting to Rezone 0.45 Acres Located at 305 E. 22nd Street from General Business (GB) to Residential (R-10) to Construct a Single-Family Home – Map & Parcel T052 143B

City Attorney, Rob Wilmot, opened the public hearing, introduced the application, reviewed the zoning procedures, and asked the Council Members the following conflict questions to determine their eligibility for participating in the hearing.

1. Have any of the applicants or opponents to applications contributed at least \$250 to any of the campaigns for election during the past two years? Everyone stated no.
2. Do you or any members of your family own property that would be impacted by these classification applications whether that be a positive impact or a negative impact? Everyone stated no.
3. Do you or any members of your family have an interest in a business that would be impacted by these classification applications whether that be a positive impact or a negative impact? Everyone stated no.

Mr. Wilmot asked that the record reflect that the Council Members present did not have any conflicts of interest and were eligible to participate in the hearing.

Loretta Hylton, Planning and Zoning Administrator, gave details on the proposed rezoning request in which the applicant is requesting the property be rezoned from General Business to Residential for construction of a single-family dwelling. Ms. Hylton mentioned the property is currently vacant, and the developer will be responsible for running water and sewer to the property. The zoning staff report concluded that the proposed development was suitable for the area and consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan. The rezoning request was also submitted to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review and was unanimously approved. The public hearing opened to public comment, but no one spoke, and the hearing was closed.

Presentations

Proclamation for Foster Care and Foster Family Recognition Month

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented it to Rebecca Thomas with Coastal Plan CASA. Mayor Smith thanked Ms. Thomas and her team for all their work in advocating for children in foster care.

Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Julie Smith read aloud the proclamation and presented it to the community mental health providers and advocates present. Mayor Smith expressed her gratitude to those working in the field and thanked them for their dedication and service.

NEW BUSINESS

Festival Designation Request for Juneteenth Celebration

Latasha Howard provided details about the Juneteenth celebration and requested the Juneteenth celebration be recognized as a festival and allow alcohol sales during the event. The non-profit, Jake's Hands Inc., is organizing the event, which is planned for June 7, 2025, at Fulwood Park. The Council reviewed the request but did not have any further questions.

Resolution Approving the 2025-2026 SRO Agreement with Tift County Schools

Steve Hyman, Chief of Police, emphasized the importance of having School Resource Officers to ensure children's safety and presented the proposed agreement for continuing to partner with Tift County Schools and assign SROs at multiple schools for the 2025-2026 school year. He explained that the presence of an SRO not only helps deter potential threats and criminal behavior but ensures a sense of safety among students, staff, and parents. Based on the proposed agreement, the school system will cover the officers' salaries and benefits, up to \$168,702.22.

Review of Zoning Application for PP25-0011, Submitted by Jonathan Garvey, Requesting to Rezone 0.45 Acres Located at 305 E. 22nd Street from General Business (GB) to Residential (R-10) to Construct a Single-Family Home – Map & Parcel TO52 143B

The Council Members reviewed the rezoning request, but did not have any questions to follow. (*see zoning public hearing for more details*)

Mosquito Control Update and Discussion

Larry Lawrence, Acting City Manager, presented an inspection report from the Georgia Department of Agriculture on Astro's Mosquito Control Program for Tifton and discussed that Astro was 100% in compliance with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Regulations.

Other Business

City Manager Report

Larry Lawrence gave a summary of upcoming events, projects, and updates for the City of Tifton.

Mayor & Council Comments

Councilman M. Jay Hall mentioned the success of First Friday and how much he and his family enjoyed the event.

Mayor Julie Smith presented the Railway Spike from the City of Waycross. During the Hurricane, the City of Tifton lent Waycross generators for their water system, and this assistance was vital in keeping their

community with running water. Mayor Julie Smith also spoke on the Georgia Small Cities conference coming to Tifton this week and reviewed the events planned.

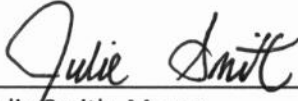
Executive Session for Personnel Matters

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

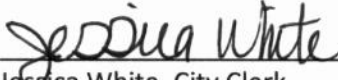
Resolution Providing for Executive Session

The meeting opened to regular session and Council Member Hall motioned for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Reynolds 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 May 5, 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 5th day of May, 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.

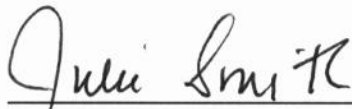
3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 5th day of May, 2025, which was closed for the purpose(s) of :

- ☐ Legal Matters
☒ Personnel Matters
☐ Real Estate Matters

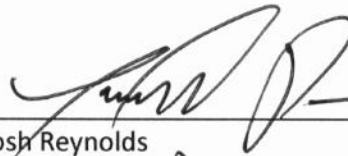
As allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

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.

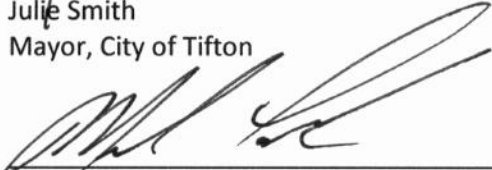
This 5th day of May, 2025.



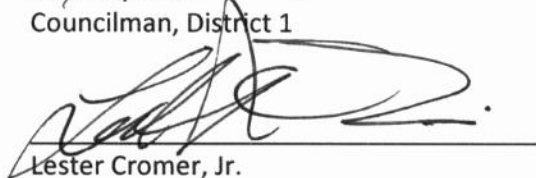
Julie Smith
Mayor, City of Tifton



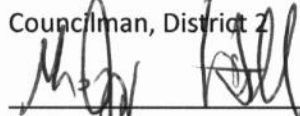
Josh Reynolds
Councilman, District 1



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 5th day of May, 2025.


Notary Public

