

**CITY OF TIFTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 19, 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 p.m. and welcomed the Boy Scouts in attendance. She noted that they are currently working toward achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. After welcoming them, Mayor Smith offered the prayer and pledge.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Council Member Reynolds made a motion to table #6 on the agenda and approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Reynolds made the first motion for approval, motion was seconded by Cromer, and unanimously approved the meeting minutes from April 21, 2025 and May 5, 2025.

**Public Comments**

Faith Royal – 602 Branch Street- Ms. Royal expressed concerns about mosquito spraying and suggested notifying the public of the dangers and posting warnings in areas being sprayed.

Michele Powers – 2205 Davis Avenue – Ms. Powers spoke in opposition to the mosquito spraying. She urged the Council to revise the contract with Astro, use alternative chemicals for mosquito control, and noted chemical precautions the contractor should be following. Following her concerns, she asked Councilmen Franks and Hall if they would reconsider their vote. Councilman Hall commented that the Department of Agriculture's report showed the mosquito program was operating properly, and the City signed a two-year contract with Astro for mosquito spraying, and that was a commitment that had to be kept.

Sherry Johnson – 4012 London Lane – Ms. Johnson voiced her concerns regarding mosquito spraying. She specifically raised issues related to the timing of the spraying and the potential impact on pollinators.

**Presentation of the Anthony G. Bateman Youth Center Scholarship**

Dr. Tonja Tift presented the Anthony G. Bateman Scholarship to Antron Johnson. During her

presentation, she reintroduced last year's recipient and spoke on behalf of both the current and former recipients, recognizing the great work they are doing and highlighting their achievements. Antron Johnson, 2025 Recipient, plans to attend Kennesaw State.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Council Member Cromer motioned, seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved the following items:

**Resolution Designating Juneteenth Celebration as a Festival** (*Resol. 2025-24*)

**Resolution Approving the 2025-2026 SRO Agreement with Tift County Schools** (*Resol. 2025-25*)

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Ordinance Rezoning 0.45 Acres Located at 305 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Map & Parcel T052 143B, from General Business (GB) to Residential (R-10), as submitted by Jonathan Garvey – Zoning Application PP25-0011**

Council Member Reynolds made the first motion for approval of the Ordinance for rezoning, the motion was seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

#### **Appointments to the South Georgia Energy Authority**

Mayor Julie Smith recommended appointing Adam Cobb, ESG Project Manager, to serve as the City's appointee. Council Member Franks motioned to appoint Adam Cobb to the Authority's Board, the motion was seconded by Cromer, and unanimously approved.

#### **Resolution Setting the Estimated Rollback Rate for 2025**

Agenda item was removed and not discussed.

#### **Transmittal of the FY2026 Budget**

Larry Lawrence, Acting City Manager, transmitted the proposed 2026 Budget and announced that it would be available for public review, and the formal budget presentation and Public Hearing will be held on June 9, 2025.

#### **Other Business**

##### **Board Report**

Reappointment of Dina Willis to the Tifton Housing Authority Board

Council Member Reynolds made the first motion to reappoint Dina Willis to the board, the motion was seconded by Hall, and unanimously approved.

##### **Financial Report**

Larry Lawrence, CFO, presented the March Financial Report and briefly reviewed.

##### **City Manager Report**

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

**Mayor & Council Comments**

City Council and Mayor provided closing comments.

**Executive Session**

Council Member Hall made the first motion 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 Hall motioned to go out of executive session and approve 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 19, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

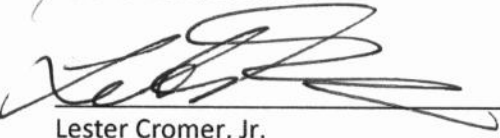
4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.
5. This affidavit is likewise executed by the following members of the City Council present at such executive session in support of open and honest government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

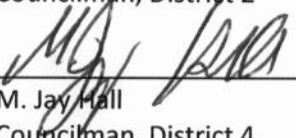
This 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

  
Julie Smith  
Mayor, City of Tifton

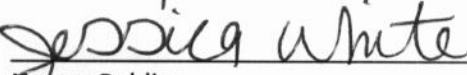
  
Josh Reynolds  
Councilman, District 1

  
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 19<sup>th</sup> day of  
May, 2025.

  
Notary Public

