

**CITY OF TIFTON
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2025
5:00 PM
TIFTON CITY HALL**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith
Council Member Michael Franks
Council Member M. Jay Hall

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

Members Not Present

Vice Mayor Josh Reynolds
Council Member Lester Cromer, Jr.

FY2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Larry Lawrence, Acting City Manager, presented the Proposed FY2026 Budget to the Mayor and Council. The presentation included projected revenues and expenditures, key departmental allocations, and strategic priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The FY2026 Budget totaled \$74,055,937 for all funds and was a decrease of \$9.4 million from FY2025, this decrease was mainly due to capital project spending. He mentioned the general fund is in good shape, with a solid reserve and includes a 3% salary increase for employees, and a 6% increase for employee insurance. The water and sewer funds also have a health fund balance, and no rate increases are anticipated. The projected budget for the gas fund included a 3% increase due to rising gas prices. Mr. Lawrence mentioned the solid waste fund would need to be closely monitored due to the landfill reaching 93% capacity, and a tipping fee increase was recommended to further sustain a healthy fund balance and further plan for expansion of the landfill. The City's capital expenditures were reviewed and focused on infrastructure improvements, equipment upgrades, and public safety improvements. The City's SPLOST revenues were performing well, and additional grant funding continues to supplement city projects. Following the budget presentation, the Council provided questions and comments on the budget.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the proposed FY2026 Budget. No public comments were received and the public hearing was closed.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:42.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Presentation of the James E. Dove Memorial Scholarship

Michael Mitchem, ESG/Tifton Gas Dept., presented the 2025 James E. Dove Memorial Scholarship to Ms. Kara Horner. He gave an overview of Kara's academic achievements and her plans to seek a medical degree at Mercer University. He also recognized Mr. Dove's family present and spoke about the significant and lasting impact that Mr. James E. Dove provided to the City's gas system.

Proclamation Recognizing Municipal Court Clerks Week Mayor Julie Smith read and presented the proclamation recognizing Municipal Court Clerks Week. She expressed her gratitude to Gail Drayton and Shakinah Floyd and thanked them for their dedication and service to the City.

Recognition of Professional Contributions Beyond the Workplace

Recognition was given to Gail Drayton for her active involvement with the Georgia Municipal Court Clerks Council (GMCCC) and for her contributions outside of her regular duties.

Ms. Drayton mentioned she enjoys serving on the association's executive board, where she currently serves as VP, and helping train new clerks in her district.

NEW BUSINESS**Resolution Providing for the City's 2025 General Election**

Jessica White, City Clerk, provided details on the resolution regarding the City's 2025 General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, to elect Council Members for District 1 and District 3. Candidate qualifying will be held August 18th thru August 22, 2025, and the qualifying fee is \$207.00

Resolution Designating Arts Affair as a Festival

Jessica White, City Clerk, presented the request to formally designate the "Arts Affair" as a recognized city festival. She reviewed that the festival will be held in November 2025 and organizers are requesting authorization to allow alcohol sales and to close a portion of Love Avenue during the event.

Other Business**City Manager Report**

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

Mayor & Council Comments

Mayor and Council provided closing comments.

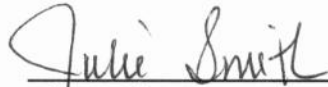
Executive Session for Personnel Matters

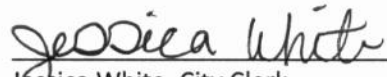
Council Member Hall made the first motion to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. The Motion was seconded by Franks, and unanimously approved. The meeting closed to executive session.

Resolution Providing for Executive Session

Council Member Hall motion to go out of executive session and approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Franks 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 June 9, 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 Franks 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 9th day of June, 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 9th day of June, 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 9th day of June, 2025.

Julie Smith
Julie Smith
Mayor, City of Tifton

Not Present
Josh Reynolds
Councilman, District 1

Michael Franks
Michael Franks
Councilman, District 2

Not Present.
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 9th day of June, 2025.

Jessica White
Notary Public

