

**CITY OF TIFTON**  
**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2025**  
**5:30 PM**  
**TIFTON CITY HALL**

**Attendees**

Mayor Julie Smith  
Vice Mayor Josh Reynolds  
Council Member Michael Franks  
Council Member Lester Cromer, Jr.

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

Council Member M. Jay Hall

**Call to Order**

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Presentations**

**Recognition of Professional Contributions Beyond the Workplace – Sparky Lamb**

Sparky Lamb, Chief Building Official and Community Development Director, was recognized for his active participation on numerous professional development boards. He detailed his extensive involvement with various building and code organizations, emphasizing how these efforts strengthen his effectiveness and commitment as a public servant. The organizational boards he is appointed to include: the Middle Georgia Inspector's Association (MGIA), Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG), and the International Code Council (ICC)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request for Designating La Fiesta del Pueblo as a Festival -**

Jessica White, City Clerk, presented the request for designating La Fiesta del Pueblo as a festival. She noted that the event remains consistent with previous years and that the designation is being requested to allow the provision of alcohol. The event is scheduled for September 27, 2025.

**Request for Designating Essence Festival on Main as a Festival -**

Jessica White, City Clerk, presented the request for designating the Essence Festival as a festival. She noted that Latasha Howard is requesting the closure of 1<sup>st</sup> Street for this year's event. In previous years, the event was held in the Cato Knight parking lot; with the proposed street closure, the event will have more space and an improved layout for a stage and activities.

Jessica White, City Clerk, presented the following resolutions required for acceptance and administration for the FY2025 CHIP Grant:

- **Resolution Accepting the 2025 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Grant Agreement; Required Program Policies and Procedures and Home Program Design Standards; and other State Statute Requirements**

- **Resolution Adopting the CHIP Grant Program Homeowner Eligibility Requirements and Homeownership Value Limit Requirements**
- **Resolution for Section 3 Compliance and Adoption of Plan and Policy for the CHIP Grant Program**
- **Resolution Adopting a Language Access Plan (LAP) for the CHIP Grant Program**
- **Resolution Accepting the Grant Administration Agreement with Grant Specialist of Georgia, Inc. for FY2025 CHIP Grant**

**Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Chang V. Milton Amicus Brief Appeal**

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney, explained in detail the Chang v. Milton appeal which resulted in excessive lawsuit claims for the City of Milton. Mr. Wilmot recommended The City of Tifton's participation in the appeal.

**Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Sandoz, Inc. Opioid Settlement Agreement -**

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney, recommended that the City of Tifton opt in to the Sandoz Inc. opioid settlement as part of a multi-district litigation. Mr. Wilmot mentioned the city's share of these funds must be utilized for opioid-related mitigation.

**Resolution Amending the FY2026 Budget**

Larry Lawrence, Acting City Manager, presented a proposed budget amendment to provide approximately \$100,000 in operational funds for the Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA). He mentioned the URA fund was created in December when the Shorten-Paulk property was purchased, and it is set to receive one million from SPLOST 7. However, SPLOST funds cannot be used for URA operational expenses and this necessitates an amendment to cover these operational expenses with general fund revenues.

**Resolution Authorizing Amendment to the Agreement with Inframark, LLC dba ESG Operations -**

Larry Lawrence, Acting City Manager, proposed an amendment with ESG that includes a 2.23% increase. This adjustment is considered reasonable, as it remains below the current inflation rate of 3% and the increase was included in the FY2026 Budget recently adopted. Staff recommended approval of the resolution and amendment to the agreement.

Other Business

**City Manager Report**

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

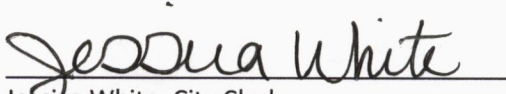
**Mayor & Council Comments**

City Councilman M. Jay Hall acknowledged the recent extreme heat and encouraged everyone to check on their neighbors and elderly community members to ensure their safety.

Mayor Julie Smith inquired about the WaWa gas station construction, and Adam Cobb, ESG Project Manager, stated that the project was in the hands of WaWa's engineers, who are experiencing challenges with rerouting the sewer line, which currently runs through their proposed parking lot.

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

  
Josh Reynolds, Vice Mayor

  
Jessica White, City Clerk