

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 (6:00 P.M.)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Thompson on Monday, May 11, 2015, at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room in the Administrative Building. Member of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Donnie Hester and Commissioners Robert Setters, Greg Wood, Buck Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker, and Melissa Hughes.

Commissioner Hughes gave the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of April 7, 2015 Workshop Session and Executive Session and April 13, 2015 Regular Session and Executive Session was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

For the purpose of discussion of Water and Sewer Rate Equalization: The County Attorney advised that the purpose of this public hearing is to hear public comments on the equalization of water rates inside and outside the City Limits of Tifton. The Board will take comments concerning the rate structure.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hughes to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe McKellar, 13 Amoco Road addressed the Board stating that his water bill has been excessively high, this month his water bill was higher than his electric bill and he supports the equalization of the water rates for everyone

Ronald Nixon, 2700 Park Avenue addressed the Board on the issue stating that back when he was a Commissioner there were water improvements as well as sewer improvements that was completed by the County and then given to the City and as far as he was aware the County has never received and compensation for what the County did. He supports equalization of water rates.

Grady Thompson then addressed the issue stating that more than 10 years ago the County had our own water system and then we combined it with the City. Through this process it was stressed that we would equalize rates within 5 to 10 years. It now has been more than 10 years and the water rates are still not equalized.

Donnie Hester has had many discussions with Mr. Nixon on the water rates. He stated that in 2003 he attended City meetings and he was told the rates would be completely equal in 10 years. We are beyond those 10 years and are still discussing equalization of water rates.

Scott Murphy with ESG, who the City has contracted with to operate the water addressed the Board and gave a handout to the Board on a Water-Wastewater Update. He stated that a water rate is being conducted by them for the City.

The County Manager and County Attorney stated what we (the County) will move forward with our own rate study and will process from that point under the Serve Delivery Law Guidelines.

With no further comments, motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to award the FY 2015 Base and Pavement Improvements on Needle Road,

Wiggins Road, Hines Road, Creekwood Drive, Kathryn Drive, Karen Drive and Sarah Circle to Littlefield construction in the low bid amount of \$283,031.98 to be funded from SPLOST IV

B. Motion to award the bid to Southeastern Construction to Laser Grade, Sod and Sprig the two new soccer fields at E. B. Hamilton in the low bid amount of \$37,760 to be funded from SPLOST V

C. Motion authorizing the purchase of a Kubota Utility Vehicle for Building & Maintenance in the bid amount of \$12,900

D. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse the lease/buyback agreement with Powerhouse Outdoor Equipment for three mowers for Recreation and Building & Grounds in the low bid amount of \$24,810 to be funded from SPLOST V

E. Motion approving Beer & Wine License for Southern Pride Heritage & produce located on Hwy 82 East

F. Motion to adopt the Resolution to establish a Courthouse Annex in the Tift County Administration Building and the Tift County Sheriff's Office/Tift County Jail that allows Superior Judges to hold court in these locations in addition to the Official Courthouse of Tift County

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the County Manager was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Comments: None

County Manager's Comments: The County Manager requested an Executive Session for the purpose of legal for the County Attorney.

Executive Session: Legal

Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to go into Executive for the purpose of Legal, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stalnaker to close Executive Session, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Rigdon seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, Dist. 4

Commissioner F. W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

Attest: _____
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk
5/11/2015