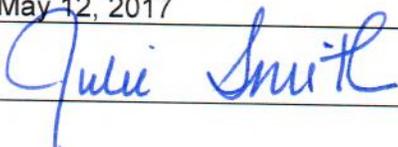


PlanFirst Program Application - May 15, 2017

Introduction: The Department of Community Affairs' PlanFirst program rewards local governments that clearly demonstrate success with implementing their local comprehensive plan. To apply for PlanFirst designation, a local government must have Qualified Local Government certification and be current on required reporting to DCA. (To check status of both, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

A multi-agency review panel will evaluate a number of indicators of community success with plan implementation to select communities for this designation. All of these indicators are equally important, but size of the community is taken into consideration in the evaluation so that communities of various sizes are equally competitive for PlanFirst designation.

Instructions: Please answer all the following questions thoroughly, attaching additional pages where necessary, so that the reviewers have sufficient information to measure the success of your comprehensive plan implementation. Supporting documents might include: news articles, legal ads, lists of attendees, letters of support or other evidence of local involvement and commitment to successful plan implementation activities in your community. *Total application length, including supporting information and support letters, must not exceed 20 pages. Text areas will expand as needed.*

Applicant government	City of Tifton
Mailing address	P.O. Box 229
Telephone	229-391-3970
Email	ppyrzenski@tifton.net
Contact person; title	Pete Pyrzenski, City Manager
Application prepared by	Jessica Jones, City Clerk
I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, certify that to the best of my knowledge the information in this application is true and correct.	
Name of authorized official signing; title	Mayor Julie Smith
Date	May 12, 2017
Signature	

PRE-REQUISITES

A. (1) We have a consistent record of maintaining our Qualified Local Government status and submitting required reports to DCA, including the current Report of Local Government Finances. (To check status, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

QLG status:	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no
Local government reports:	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no

Yes, we keep a close account on upcoming reporting deadlines and make sure these are completed timely.

A. (2) We have attained the Minimum Standard for performance as called for in our regional commission's regional comprehensive plan.

yes no

For each of the following indicators, fully explain how your community addresses this indicator; identifying specific examples and resulting local successes. (Each indicator will be scored 1, 3 or 5 points, except indicators j. and t. which may score up to 10 points.) Add exhibits and examples as needed to tell your story.

INDICATOR: GOALS

B. The Goals (or Vision) section of our comprehensive plan is supported by the community and its leadership. How?

The goals established in the Greater Tift County Comprehensive Plan were a collaborative effort between the four local governments in Tift County, business leaders, local board members, and our residents. The goals listed in our comprehensive plan cover aspects such as promoting sustainable economic development, protecting our natural resources, housing, land use planning, and intergovernmental coordination. These goals are continually reviewed and action plans implemented in order to reach achievement for a Greater Tift County. In order to achieve these goals we have to continually work with many local and state partners, gain support from the community, and utilize state and federal resources available for achievement.

The Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce organizes a TAL:K (Tomorrow's Aspiring Leaders: Kids) Youth Leadership Program each year for 8th graders to learn of the many future opportunities in our community. These young leaders tour local businesses such as



Tuesday, the 2016-17 TAL:K (Tomorrow's Aspiring Leaders: Kids) Leadership Class held its graduation ceremony at the UGA Tifton Campus. The group, comprised of eighth graders from Eighth Street Middle School and Tiftarea Academy, had several events throughout the school year and Tuesday were entertained by guest speaker Mike Chason. The program is organized by the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by Tift Regional Health Systems, Heatcraft, Georgia Power, Colquitt EMC, First Community Bank and South Georgia Bank. (Published in the Chamber Newsletter May, 2017)

Heatcraft, and also make a trip to the State Capitol to meet the Governor and State Representatives. This program is truly inspiring great leaders in our community and promoting educational and work programs which encourage the younger generation to stay in Tifton after completing their education. This youth leadership program is supported by our local leaders, employers in Tifton such as Tift Regional Medical Center, and the Chamber Members. (Objective 3, Comp Plan Pg. 82).

C. The Goals are both ambitious and achievable for the community. Please give examples of some ambitious yet achievable Goals included in your comprehensive plan.

One goal was to find opportunities for agricultural businesses and operations to receive return on their investment in order to preserve agriculture in the area. (Policy 1.5: Develop more education and training programs that encourage high-tech, agricultural research and development businesses and industry to locate in Greater Tift County.) Since the creation of our comprehensive plan we have seen great progress in the agricultural business, but this progress was not attained alone. In 2008, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) began offering two Bachelor Degree Programs: Diversified Agriculture and Turf Grass and Golf Course Management. When the program began in 2008 it only had 41 students enrolled, and the program has seen tremendous growth with 1828 students currently enrolled in Agri-programs. With agriculture making up a large majority of our regions workforce, it is important graduates are educated with a comprehensive program that not only covers agribusiness but also includes skills in problem-solving and service. The diversified agriculture program at ABAC does just that. It serves the needs of the agricultural industry and produces students with hands-on experiences to be prepared to enter the workforce. This program being offered in our community has certainly contributed to the goal of preserving agricultural and improving its operations by educating a qualified workforce for careers in the agricultural industry. It is also important to note that ABAC is also offering bachelor degree programs in Biology, Business and Economic Development, Environmental Horticulture, Natural Resource Management, Nursing, and Rural Studies.

With the same goal in mind, the City of Tifton entered into partnerships during 2012 with Ty Ty Peanut, Lewis Taylor Farms, and Omega Farm Supply to supply natural gas for a more cost effective gas compared to propane. These agricultural companies use the natural gas during harvest season to fuel peanut dryers and greenhouses. The City of Tifton extended their natural gas lines to supply natural gas to their operations and the outcome has been a very positive venture for the City of Tifton and the agricultural businesses. The City of Tifton strives to meet the needs of all

LTF GREENHOUSES AND TRANSPLANTS

Continuing in the tradition of the farm's founder, the company proudly continues to produce top quality vegetable transplants for both internal farm use and to supply and meet the needs of growers over the South and S. East U.S.

LTF Greenhouses, LLC currently has over 660,000 square feet of greenhouse growing space and a competent, experienced staff giving it the ability to produce over 185 million transplants annually and 500,400 square feet under pivot irrigation that produces 45 million containerized pine seedlings to satisfy the demand of producers and the wholesale market.

LTF Greenhouses, LLC, produces top quality vegetable, cantaloupe and watermelon transplants. We will grow transplants (minimum order 5,000 seeds, smaller orders check for availability) to costumers' specifications in a variety of root plug sizes, ranging in diameters of 0.5 inches up to 1.5 inches. Depending on transplant quantities ordered, transportation is available with pull type or semi trailers equipped with tray rack systems.



industries and working with our local farmers to improve their operations by offering a more cost effective gas solution is proof of our commitment.

D. The Goals steer local decision-making on a continuous basis. Please tell us how and provide specific examples.

Our Comprehensive Plan and Short Term Work Program are reviewed on an annual basis. During our budget process, department heads review and update their Short Term Work Program and Capital Projects Budget. Projects which have been completed will be removed and new projects will be added to continue planning toward long term goals. Staff along with council's direction, review the plans and make necessary updates and additions to ensure the city is working our plan and staying on track to meet our community goals. During this evaluation process, we often look to include adding partners, such as the Tift County Development Authority, DDA, or other community groups to gain support and further evaluation of our goals. By collaborating with these organizations, we gain a clear vision of the goals for our entire community. It also gives us a fresh perspective on ways to expand city services, improve city functions, and build community pride. The STWP is not only used as a guide for planning capital projects, but also used to evaluate projects which may be eligible for grant funding.

The Tifton Planning and Zoning Committee review the character areas and land use goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan to steer decisions of the board. The Planning and Zoning Committee makes sure all zoning requests and requests for annexation are consistent with the goals established in our plan. This process was identified in our Comprehensive Plan, Policy 3.2, Pg. 100.

E. Consistent progress is being made at achieving the Goals. Please explain, and if possible, include examples of this progress.

Our plan goals are always at the forefront of our planning, budgeting, and decisions. The City of Tifton is taking progressive measures to ensure a complete street concept is reviewed when making major street improvements. For example, when street projects are planned, funding is identified for any needed utility or sidewalk improvements. Relocating the utility lines within the roadway will alleviate the need for patching streets after utility line breaks. In addition, the need for sidewalks and repairs to existing sidewalks is also evaluated. This process ensures improvements are made to maintain street safety for all pedestrians on and alongside our roadways. This progress is consistent with meeting our transportation project goal, policy 1.5, pg. 110.

Each year the Tifton Main Street Office coordinates a downtown tour for local third graders to explore the history and historic buildings to gain knowledge of the cultural importance of downtown. The tour starts out at the historic Tift Theatre where the Mayor provides a welcome and overview of the tour.

Tifton-Tift County Public Library, Tifton Museum of Arts & Heritage, Railway Museum, and Veterans Memorial Park. This tour is an opportunity to educate our young children on the many historic places they drive by regularly. They learn about the buildings' past and current use and gain appreciation for historic preservation. This tour most definitely educates the students on the local history in Tifton, and is positive progress toward meeting our cultural resources plan goal, policy 2.1, pg. 94

The Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association along with the Outreach Marketing Group has developed many tourism related events to promote Tifton and encourage travelers to stay overnight. In 2014 the Tifton Rhythm & Ribs Festival was created and features two days of live music, kids activities, arts & crafts, and a Georgia BBQ Association Competition featuring 50 professional and backyard cooking teams. This festival has been featured on Explore Georgia as one of the *10 Georgia Food Festivals that are Worth a Trip*. With an estimated 10,000 attendees in 2017 our City Park is filled with the aroma of BBQ and friends from near and far. This annual event promotes the Comprehensive Plan goal for Economic Development, Policy 8.4, Policy 10.4, and Policy 10.5



INDICATOR: LEADERSHIP

F. We have effective planning staff or another suitable arrangement for handling community planning matters. Please tell us about your staff or suitable arrangement, including, if you wish, any degrees or certifications.

The City of Tifton has a plan review committee which consists of the City Manager, Environmental Management Director, Fire Inspector, ESG Project Director, Engineering Staff, City Attorney, and other department heads requested for assistance. This group reviews all development plans for the city to ensure developments are consistent with our plan goals, zoning requirements, and building safety codes. If a development requires a zoning change, planned development overlay, or other accommodation, the project is brought before the planning and zoning board and City Council for review and approval.

The Environmental Management Department coordinates the activities of planning and zoning, HPC, permitting, and code enforcement. The department has five (5) staff members which includes a director, administrative assistant, building inspector, and two (2) code enforcement officers.

Additionally, the City of Tifton contracts with ESG, Inc. to manage its utilities and public works departments. ESG, Inc. has many knowledgeable staff in areas of planning, engineering, financial, and architecture to assist the City with advanced needs when requested. South Georgia Regional Commission is also used to assist with advanced planning, GIS, and mapping. Tift County contracted the SGRC to assist with developing our last comprehensive plan. The City of Tifton also uses consultants for advanced planning needs, and most recently contracted with consultants to provide: Water and Wastewater Rate Studies, Plan for Implementing Fire Fees and Stormwater Utility, and Redevelopment Plan for South Tifton.

G. We have an active planning commission or similar body to steer local planning decisions. Please provide information about your commission or similar body; for instance, number of members, meeting schedule, local affiliations, etc.

The City of Tifton has a local Planning and Zoning Commission which meets monthly to review planning and zoning matters. This board has five (5) board members who serve three (3) year terms. This board serves in an advisory capacity to the governing authority. The board elects a Chair annually and has an established monthly meeting time of the second Monday at 6:00 p.m. The board follows the City of Tifton Comprehensive Plan; three of the current five board members were involved in developing the Comprehensive Plan for Tift County and the City of Tifton. The board has participated in state and region level training on comprehensive planning and zoning and meets with the City of Tifton staff and council members annually to ensure communication and coordination.

Every rezoning application and zoning ordinance change is reviewed by the board to ensure the request is in conformity with the policy and intent of our Comprehensive Plan. This is to ensure each development or zoning change requested will not adversely affect the existing suitability of adjacent or nearby properties, but will enhance our community vision. The Character Areas developed in the Comprehensive Plan are also reviewed to ensure that each proposed development is consistent with our plan goals (2008 STWP, Pg. 138). Citizen input is encouraged and valued for zoning decisions. Planning and Zoning Commission members drive by properties before applications are reviewed so they can visually see any impacts a rezoning application may have on neighboring properties or the neighborhood. A standard process is followed for every zoning application: 1) packets are sent before meetings via email or hand delivered to Planning and Zoning Commission members; 2) at the meeting, staff review the application and make a written recommendation; 3) Planning and Zoning Commission members follow a standard set of questions regarding appropriateness of the application to guide their discussion; 4) any members of the public are asked to speak for or against the application; and 5) Planning and Zoning Commission members then approve, deny or table the request. Recommendations from Planning and Zoning are then forwarded to the City of Tifton Council for their consideration.

The Tifton Historic Preservation Commission meets monthly to review planning and development matters located within the historic district. This board has seven (7) board members who serve three (3) year terms. This board reviews applications for certificates of appropriateness to ensure property owners and developers are preserving the historic character and aesthetics of the properties located within the district. This board uses the Tifton Historical District Manual as a guide to ensure items are consistent with our plans and policies to preserve the district.

The City of Tifton Downtown Development Board consists of seven (7) board members. Each board member is either a resident of the City of Tifton, own a business located in the DDA area, or is a member of the governing authority. This board meets monthly to steer the planning, development, and activities of the downtown area.

The Tifton Mayor and City Council also appoint members to additional boards and committees to assist with steering local planning, decisions, and activities.

1. Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association
2. Tifton Tree Board
3. Tifton-Tift County Public Library Board
4. Keep Tift Beautiful Board
5. Tift County Board of Health
6. Tifton Zoning Board of Appeals
7. GICH Committee

H. We have a regular local plan effectiveness evaluation process (such as annual planning retreats of elected leadership). Please provide information about the most recent.

Council Retreats are held twice a year usually during January and June. During these retreats Council and Staff discuss financial position, current needs and issues, as well as, future plans. During the January retreat each Council Member provides the City Manager with a priority list of tasks to be completed. These priority lists contain projects and goals established within the STWP and Comp Plan, address intergovernmental cohesion opportunities, and other matters where Council feels improvements are needed. These Council retreats are very beneficial to evaluate our city's progress and continue planning for future needs.

	<p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA TIFTON CITY COUNCIL RETREAT Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:30 AM Atlanta Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Ave NE, Atlanta, GA Room:</p>
<hr/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening Remarks and Prioritizing Goals for 2017 – Pete Pyrzenski2. Discussion of Business Personal Property Tax Ordinance – Pete Pyrzenski3. Discussion of Fire Protection & Suppression – Pete Pyrzenski4. Discussion of Open Meetings – Rob Wilmot	

I. All local officials (both elected and appointed) involved in local planning processes have recently attended training in how to use the plan effectively. Please list who attended, which trainings and the date(s) attended. These trainings may include those from Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Community Planning Institute, GMA or ACCG land use or planning classes, and similar courses.

On March 17, 2016, the City of Tifton contracted with South Georgia Regional Commission to conduct an on-site planning and zoning training. Attendees of this training included all City Council Members, Planning and Zoning Board Members, Environmental Management Department Staff, and Management Staff.

The following individuals have completed the Georgia Academy for Economic Development Regional Economic & Leadership Development Training: Julie Smith, Mayor (Completed 2012), Jessica Jones, City Clerk (Completed 2014), Danny Wallace, Fire Inspector (Completed 2016).

Mayor Julie Smith has earned 69 hours of municipal training through GMA and has received her Certificate of Recognition. She also attended the Georgia HPD Section 106 Training in 2014, and is a current GMA Board Member.

Each of our Council Members attends GMA training each year. Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers has completed 33 hours, Council Member Frank Sayles has completed 36 hours, Council Member Jack Folk has completed 27 hours, and Council Member Johnny Terrell has completed 141 hours of training and has received GMA's Certificate of Recognition and Certificate of Achievement.

Houston Shultz, Environmental Management Director, has received Georgia Soil and Water Conservation 1A and 1B Certification, ICC Certified Commercial Building Inspector, Certified Code Enforcement Officer, and has attended Planning and Zoning Training through the CVIOG.

Jessica Jones, City Clerk, attended the Community Planning Institute Training in 2010.

J. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples where the plan steered a key local decision, with pertinent plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain the connection between the comprehensive plan and the decision(s) made.

Project Name	Description	STWP	Comp Plan Goal
1. City of Tifton Land Development Code	Complete update and rewrite of the LDC. The City of Tifton adopted a new Land Development Code in April 2012. The LDC was designed to implement all provisions of the comprehensive plan for the development and use of land (LDC section 1.05.00). It further assures that land is developed in conformity with our comprehensive plan goals. This was a large undertaking for staff, but is a prime example of our commitment to ensuring our comprehensive plan and its goals are being implemented and achieved. The LDC replaced the former zoning ordinance originally adopted in 1992.	Pg. 137-138 2012 Report of Accomplishments	Land Use Goals: 3.1 Define land use to avoid urban sprawl. 3.2 Provide regulations in the LDC that ensure that any proposed zoning will be compatible with the underlying "Character Areas" of the Comp Plan.

2. Curbside Recycling Program	The City of Tifton began offering curbside recycling in August 2015. Recycling cans were delivered to each residence and are picked up bi-weekly. Educational material and pickup schedule was provided to each customer prior to the program being implemented.		Community Facilities Goal: 10.2 Support efforts for residential recycling programs and develop educational and operational programs to actively encourage residential recycling.
3. Westside Fire Department	The Construction of Westside Fire Station was included in the STWP and provides increased fire protection and response times to the growing area. Within the past year, 3 apartment complexes and numerous single family homes have been built within 1 mile of the department, and area growth is expected to continue at a steady pace.	Pg. 139	Community Facilities Goals: 2.3 Fire & Police Services 2.6(c) New Facilities that will provide the capacity for desired & programmed growth.
4. 20 th Street Project	Project is currently under construction and includes installing new waterlines, resurfacing, and construction of sidewalks. 20 th Street is a main arterial road on the northside of Tifton. Tift Regional Medical Center, Tifton VA Clinic, and Northside Primary School are all located on 20 th Street. The street is also the main connector to Tift County High School.	Included in the 2012 STWP Update	Transportation Goals: 1.4 Establish pedestrian facilities around schools 1.5 Provide additional sidewalk to connect or complete either existing or propose sidewalks.
5. Road Maintenance Plan	Staff developed and updates annually a 5-year road maintenance program. Projects are included in our Capital Project Budget and approved by City Council. This priority list is also used to identify resurfacing projects for LMIG Funding. A total of 16 streets have been resurfaced since 2012.	Included in the 2012 STWP Update	Transportation Goals: 5.1 Develop a five-year road maintenance program to be updated annually.
6. Hunt Road relocation and Larkin Road Extension	Project created an alternate route and service road in one of the busiest areas in Tifton. Roads were constructed to connect Hwy 82 and Carpenter Road and offer a service road route to the developing area north of Hwy 82.	Pg. 138 Completed in conjunction with the Carpenter Rd. Project	Issue 8: Provide Alternative Service or frontage roads north & south of Hwy 82 west of I-75 and other major corridors where appropriate.
7. Service Delivery Coordinating Committee (SDCC)	A Service Delivery Coordinating Committee was established to coordinate plans and activities affecting interlocal agreements between the City of Tifton and Tift County. Members of the committee include Tifton Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Manager, Tift County Chair, Vice Chair, and County Manager. Additionally, each year the governing		Intergovernmental Coordination Goal: 1.3 Charge the County and City Chief Elected Officials with continuing responsibility for developing and implementing an effective intergovernmental

	bodies of the County and Municipalities meet to discuss plans, needs, and issues affecting their community. This time gives each jurisdiction the opportunity to seek support and gain knowledge of the activities in our entire county.		coordination program for Greater Tift County.
8. Widening of Carpenter Road	Joint project funded by Tift County, City of Tifton, and GDOT. Widening of the main corridor in west Tifton and Tift County. Project consisted of relocating utilities lines, 5-laning Carpenter Road from US Hwy 82 to Davis Road. Project also included adding sidewalks.	Pg. 138	Transportation Goal: 9.2 Widening Carpenter Road and other roadways improvements to provide sufficient capacity for existing & proposed development.
9. Commerce Way Parking Area	Revitalized and expanded the downtown parking area located at the corner of Hwy 82 and Commerce Way. Added additional parking spaces, landscaping, lighting, and sidewalks. Project was completed in 2017. Local funding was used to complete this project.	Pg. 138	Issue 6: Parking: Any revitalization of downtown areas needs to take into consideration the often competing needs of number and location of parking spaces.
10. Enterprise Zone Incentives	In 2000, the City of Tifton designated Enterprise Zones in Tifton to encourage economic development to the area. In the past 3 years the city has seen tremendous development in the zone and has approved 10 Enterprise Zone Applications totaling \$252,064.34 in incentives. These incentives helped establish apartments, a legal office and a restaurant in vacant buildings located within the Enterprise Zone. Qualifying businesses receive tax abatement for 10 years, building fee & utility fee reductions, and business license credits.		Economic Development, Policy 9.5: Explore permitting incentives to encourage and increase the use of existing vacant buildings. (pg. 86)

INDICATOR: PARTICIPATION

K. Our comprehensive plan was prepared with multiple community input opportunities. Please provide information about these opportunities, including, if available, dates, agendas, other meeting materials.

Community participation was a high priority in the development of our comprehensive plan. In order for our plan to be successful and to ensure accountability we held many visioning workshops and meetings to educate our citizens on our plan process and content. Five (5) visioning meetings were held during December 2007 as we began the comprehensive plan process. Each participating jurisdiction held a meeting at their location to encourage support

county-wide. Flyers and meeting notifications were distributed electronically and posted at all City Hall locations and County Administration Building. Public announcements and advertisements were published in The Tifton Gazette. The SGRC also created a website to serve as a portal to access the plan throughout the planning process. The City of Tifton held a final public hearing on March 3, 2008 for the community assessment portion of the plan, and on August 4, 2008 to receive final input on the community agenda portion.



Picture from Comp Plan Public Hearing March 3, 2008

L. The community input received during plan preparation influenced the content of the plan. How?

Many citizens served on our steering committee and their input certainly influenced the content within our plan. Our City Council always seeks public input and any comments received during the planning process certainly influenced the plan development. SGRC also utilized surveys to reach residents and gather input. The results of these surveys were included in our community assessment.

M. Our steering committee that guided development of the plan included local leaders and elected officials. Please provide a list of steering committee members and their local affiliations.

Our steering committee included leaders from all governmental bodies, staff, community volunteers, and members from our partnering agencies. As part of the “Signature Community Designation” the Environmental Management Advocacy Group (EMAG) was designated as the steering committee for the Greater Tift County Comprehensive Plan update. The following committee members advised, reviewed, and helped shape the overall plan process.

<u>Steering Committee Members</u>	<u>Technical Advisory Committee Members</u>
Bonnie Sayles, Tifton Historic Preservation Commission Joe Lewis, Tifton City Council Roosevelt Russel, Tifton City Council Grady Thompson, Tift County Board of Commission Charlotte Bedell, Tift County Board of Commission Patti Beasely, City of Ty Ty Earnest Harris, City of Omega	Larry Riner, City of Tifton Management Yolanda Baker, City of Omega, City Clerk Sherry Boyett, City of Ty Ty, City Clerk Russ Dorman, Tifton/Tift County Utilities Gail Easley, Consultant Angela Wall, SGRC Planner Sherry Davidson, SGRC Sheriff Gary Vowell

<p>Syd Blackmarr, Tifton Heritage Foundation Jack Perry, Tifton/Tift County Chamber of Commerce Shawn Utley, Moultrie Technical College Duncan McClusky, UGA/USDA-ARS Doug Waid, ABAC Louise Hetzel, Garden Clubs Mary Leidner, USDA-NRCS Tim Strickland, Citizen at Large Kim Ezekiel, Tift County Schools Jonathon Jones, Citizen at Large (Local Developer) Harold Harper, Downtown Development Authority Steve Rigdon, Downtown Development Authority Angie Hunt, Citizen Beth Lewis, Tift County Schools/Citizen Gerald Branch, Citizen at Large Katie Davis, Citizen at Large Pat Robinson, Citizen at Large</p>	<p>Police Chief Jim Smith Fire Chief Mike Flippo Richard Burr, Tift County Roads Dept. Cal Carpenter, City of Tifton Public Works Carl Fortson, Tift County Planning & Zoning Brian Tankersly, Tift County Extension Office Jason Jordan, Tift County Management</p>
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N. We have an active, ongoing, outreach process for soliciting input on planning matters from a broad spectrum of the community, including non-traditional populations, and the resulting input is listened to by community leaders. Describe this process. How do you engage the stakeholders? Have partnerships been developed because of the planning process? This outreach process includes activities such as:

The Mayor and City Council often appoint citizen committees to assist with planning needs. The City of Tifton has many knowledgeable and educated citizens whom are willing to devote time to address community needs when called upon. Recently the City of Tifton used citizen committees to evaluate matters such as signs ordinance changes, crematories, golf carts on public streets, and development of a dog park. The Mayor, Council, and staff believe using citizen committees to take part in the planning process to review goals or issues in the community and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages is a smart planning approach. This process allows citizens to be involved in the planning process and cultivates community support, buy-in, and appreciation for current and future plans for the community.

We also have strong working relationships with multiple agencies in the community to partner with to gain resources and knowledge on community challenges or goals. We work frequently with our local Chamber to funnel information to their membership, and communicate information with ABAC leaders to encourage students on campus to participate in our community activities. We also hold events such as Coffee with Council at a local eatery to give citizens an informal platform to have one-on-one conversations with our governmental leaders.

Social media has opened many doors for communication with our citizens. We maintain an active Facebook and Twitter account and post important community updates, meeting information, and activities to keep our citizens informed. Additionally at monthly Council Meetings, time is reserved to seek citizen input and anyone present can address the City Council with concerns or opportunities they have. Our City Council is always interested in hearing from the community and strongly encourages citizens to be informed and active in the government's affairs and plan development. Our monthly meetings are streamed live on our government channel and are also available to review on our YouTube page. Our monthly meeting agendas, minutes, and calendar are also available on our city website.

O. We have active advocates for plan implementation (such as activist citizens, organizations or neighborhood groups) that are listened to by community leaders. These groups include:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) Faculty and Students, South Georgia Technical College Faculty and Students, Tifton Rotary Clubs, Tifton Junior Women’s Club, Tifton Exchange Club, Many Faith-based Organizations, Tifton Heritage Foundation, Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce, and Save our Pets.

INDICATOR: IMPLEMENTATION

P. The Work Program section of our comprehensive plan consists primarily of specific action items that make it clear exactly what we intend to do to implement the plan. Please give examples of measureable action items included in your work program(s).

Our work program details projects identified to meet the current and future needs of our community. Our plan is used as a guide to steer STWP activities and our budget to ensure we are making progress on our project goals and budgeting funds to accomplish the goals set. All of our capital projects are included in our Short Term Work Program, and once completed they are identified as accomplishment in our updates. Examples of measureable action items include: Street Resurfacing, Drainage Improvements, Water and Wastewater Upgrades, Economic Development Projects, Park and Sidewalk Improvements, and Fire and Police Protection Upgrades.

Fire Department Purchased 2 New Pumpers in 2014 to provide fire protection to areas of Chula and Eldorado where significant or public water sources are not available. (2008 STWP, Pg. 139)

In early 2014 a new playground was completed at the City’s Fulwood Park with help from the Tift County High School Students. This wooded playground was constructed on the south end



of the park and located near the park amphitheater. A disk golf course was also added to the park in 2016, and created another activity for visitors and residents to enjoy. (Comp Plan Natural Resources Goal 4: New parks and recreation space need to be created and/or improved to function as social gathering spaces.)

Q. Our Work Program action items clearly address local needs or goals identified in the plan. These local needs or goals are aligned with work program activities. For example:

Our work program includes many projects which are consistent with the goals established in our comprehensive plan. Adopting a new Land Development Code which would meet the

established goals and vision of the comprehensive plan was clearly identified in our comprehensive plan and work program. The City successfully completed this action item in 2012 and it was reported in our list of accomplishments. Implementing a road maintenance plan was identified in plan and multiple road maintenance projects were included in our action plan to successfully meet the goal.

R. We have a good track record of accomplishing most of the action items included in past plan Work Programs. Our Report of Accomplishments very specifically shows our level of accomplishment, such as:

Our report of accomplishments prepared in 2012 reflected 20 completed projects and 27 items in progress. Since our last update in 2012, 10 of the items in progress have been completed.

S. Our local capital budget is consistent with, and is designed to implement, the comprehensive plan. Please explain the connections between your budget and your work program.

During our budget process, department heads review and update their Short Term Work Program and incorporate projects into the Capital Project Budget. Staff prepares budget requests for STWP projects to ensure we are regularly focusing on our project goals. For example, Streetscape Phase 3 and annual resurfacing projects are identified in our 2012 STWP Update and currently budgeted for FY2017/FY2018 funding.

T. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples of important projects carried out as a result of the plan, with the specific plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain how these activities were a result of the plan or the planning process. Consider including photographs, newspaper articles or other exhibits to elaborate on these projects.

Widening of Carpenter Road

Project consisted of relocating utilities, 5-laning Carpenter Road from US Hwy 82 to Davis Road, and adding sidewalks. Carpenter Road is a highly traveled road on the west side of the City and runs North and South. The current average daily traffic count is approx. 8,800 vehicles. Offering visitors and residents an alternate route to North Tifton, ABAC Campus, EB Hamilton Sports Complex, and Walmart Super Market located on Hwy 82 West. The Tiftarea YMCA, Annie Belle Clark Primary School, Tift County Extension Office are all located along Carpenter Road. The expanded roadway has also helped with the traffic flow



during school drop off and pick up times. This project was jointly funded by Tifton County, City of Tifton, and GDOT. It was also a planned project within the Comprehensive Plan and was identified in the STWP Pg. 138.

Leroy Rogers Senior Center Expansion & Renovation

The project broke ground during December 2014 and the project was completed in January 2016. The City of Tifton received \$500,000 in CDBG Funding and leveraged the project with \$524,000 coming from local SPLOST proceeds. The expansion made room for a larger assembly room for daily

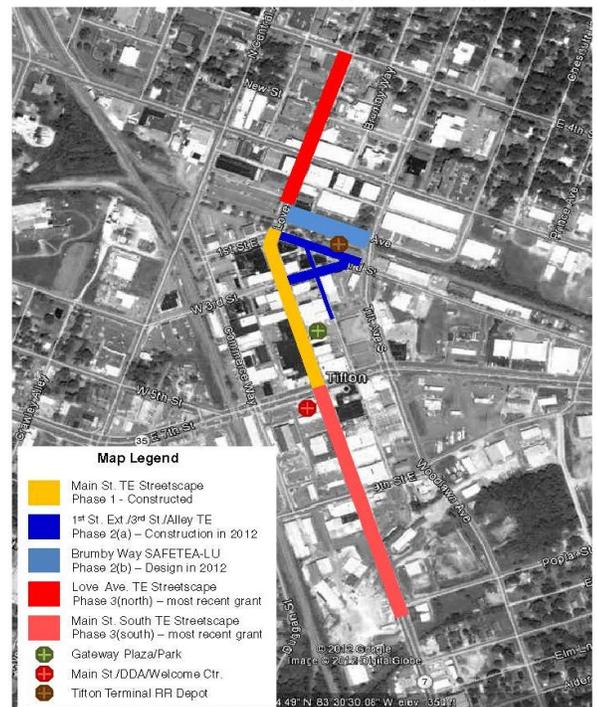


exercise classes and meeting space, arts/crafts and sewing rooms, computer and media library, and expanded dining area for the senior meal program. The Senior Center is a critical component to ensuring our senior residents have services available to help them maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. With approximately 120 actively involved seniors visiting the center each day this project supports the community facilities goals identified in the Greater Tift County Comp Plan, and enhances the quality of life of our senior residents. This project was also included in our 2012 Short Term Work Program Update.

Downtown Streetscape Projects

The City of Tifton and our Downtown Development Authority have actively worked to improve the aesthetics of our downtown. A multiphase streetscape project was developed to beautify the downtown area with attractive landscaping, sidewalks, and lighting. The projects have been supported with funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation and local SPLOST dollars. Streetscape Phase 1 and 2, and Brumby Way have been completed. Phase 3 of the project is currently under construction with an estimated completion date of July 2017. These projects not only bring enhancements to the downtown area, but also have added value to the historic downtown. Since the adoption of our Comprehensive Plan, the downtown area has had a tremendous amount of growth. Local gift shops, boutiques, restaurants, and housing options have opened their doors in Downtown Tifton and business is thriving. (2008 STWP, Pg. 138)

Tifton Downtown Streetscape Project – Phasing Locations



City Hall Rehabilitation (Formally the Historic Myon Hotel)

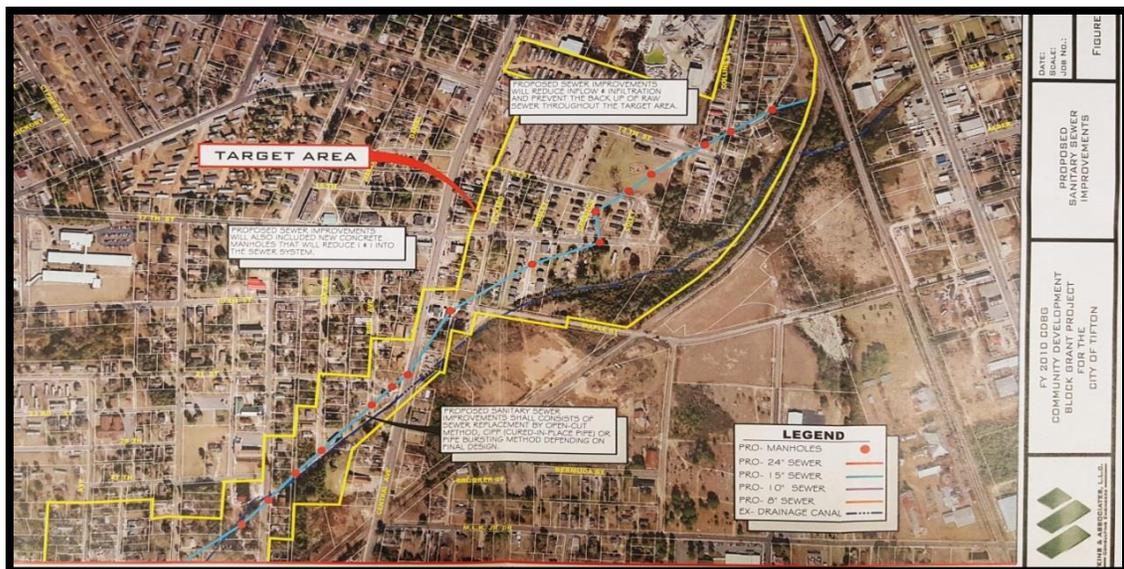
The Myon Hotel was built in 1905 and The City of Tifton partnered with a local developer in 1985 to restore the vacant building and convert one half into City Hall, and the remaining half into professional office space, retail space, and apartments. During April 2011, City Hall moved out of the Myon Hotel because the structure of the building was failing and was declared unsafe. The City used local funding to fund the project,



which totaled approximately 2.4 Million dollars, and a Re-Grand Opening event was held during April 2015. Having City Hall located downtown is very important to our community leaders and citizens. The monthly foot traffic coming into City Hall is certainly an economic driver to our downtown and our local merchants certainly feel the presence of having City Hall back. This project contributes to our Cultural Resources Goals, Policy 5.1: Greater Tift County should encourage the preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of historic structures and the City of Tifton is leading by example with rehabilitating the Historic Myon Hotel. (2008 STWP, pg. 138)

Southwest Tifton Sewer System Improvements

The South Tifton Sewer Main Extension Project consisted of installing 840 linear feet of sanitary sewer mains and rehabilitating 12,920 linear feet of existing sewer line. The previous sewer lines in this area were clay sewer lines installed approximately 60 years prior. The lines were deteriorating and allowing groundwater to enter the system after heavy rainfall. The project included reconnecting approximately 100 sewer services and several manhole replacements. The residents in the area were experiencing sewer backups at the manholes and backups inside their homes from the dated and failing sewer lines. This project was located in a low to moderate income area and benefited 595 residents. The City of Tifton received \$500,000 in CDBG funding to support this project and was completed in December 2014. (2008 STWP, Pg. 140)



20th Street Project

Transportation project which provides improvements in road surface, pedestrian access and usability, drainage, and underground utilities along the 20th street corridor from Old Ocilla Road to Hwy 41 through the heart of Tifton. The project includes milling and resurfacing the 1.89 mile corridor through Tifton which has deteriorated due to age and usage. This project was the number one priority project for our City Council, Staff, and Residents for many years. 20th Street is a main arterial road located on the Northside of Tifton. Tift Regional Medical Center, Tifton VA Clinic, and Northside Primary School are all located on 20th Street. It also serves as the main access road to multiple neighborhoods, North Tifton Commercial Area, and Tift County High School. With an average daily traffic count of 10,000, 20th Street is a very busy city street in rural South Georgia. This project began in September 2016 and construction is scheduled to be complete during July 2017. (Project identified in our 2012 STWP Update)

Construction on Tifton's 20th Street begins Monday

Published: Friday, September 23rd 2016, 8:26 am EDT
Updated: Friday, September 23rd 2016, 8:26 am EDT

By Zachary Logan, Reporter CONNECT



Hospital officials say drivers shouldn't worry about the construction. (Source:WALB)



Sarah Thompson, VP of Facility Management (Source:WALB)

TIFTON, GA (WALB) - Work on Tifton's 20th Street is expected to begin Monday, September 26, 2016.

It was announced back in July that crews could construct new water lines as well as resurface the road.

The road is a heavily traveled road, especially for those going to the Tift Regional Medical Center.

Hospital officials told WALB News 10 that residents shouldn't worry, because people will still be able to access the hospital via 20th Street.

Those with the medical center have met with the city and contractor. At least two lanes of traffic along 20th Street will be open at all times.

ESG Operations, the city, and the hospital have worked on routes for EMS and fire services.

Tift Regional's Vice President of Facility Management Sarah Thompson said, "The improvement will provide a smoother riding surface for our patients and employees to arrive here at the hospital, because the highway is in bad condition right now so it will be much improved."

Thompson also said that drivers can get to the hospital by using 18th Street as well.

Crews will normally work Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

West Side Fire Station

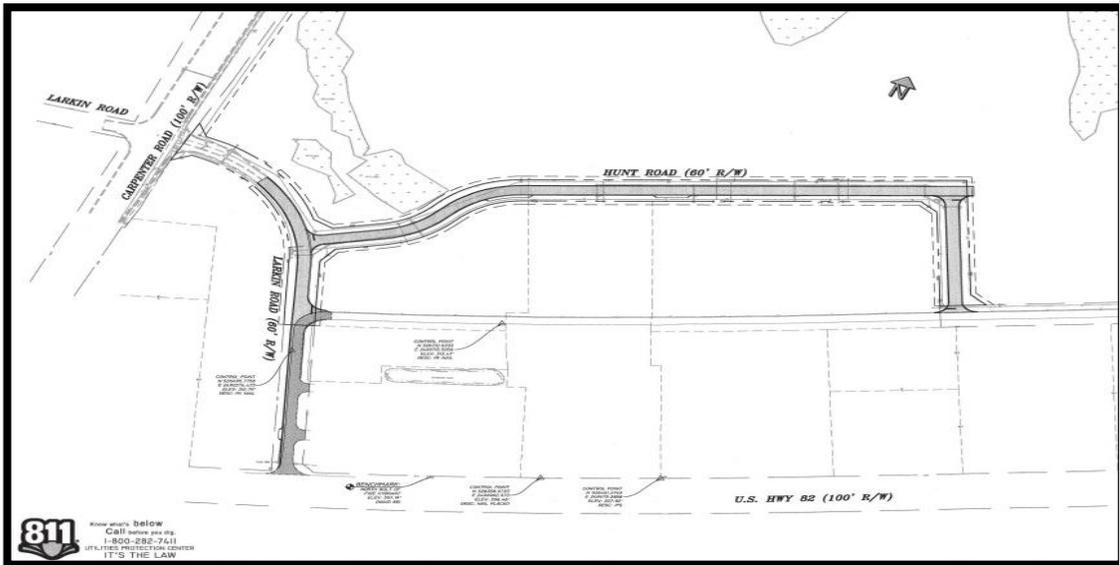
Residential and Commercial growth on the west side of Tifton sprung the need for an additional fire station. Currently manned 24/7 by career firefighters, this station improves response times to the west side area. The City also saw a lower ISO rating as a result of adding the additional location. Grand Opening event was held on August 4, 2016 for residents to tour the facility and meet the firefighters. (2008 STWP, Pg. 139)



Expansion and Relocation of Hunt Road

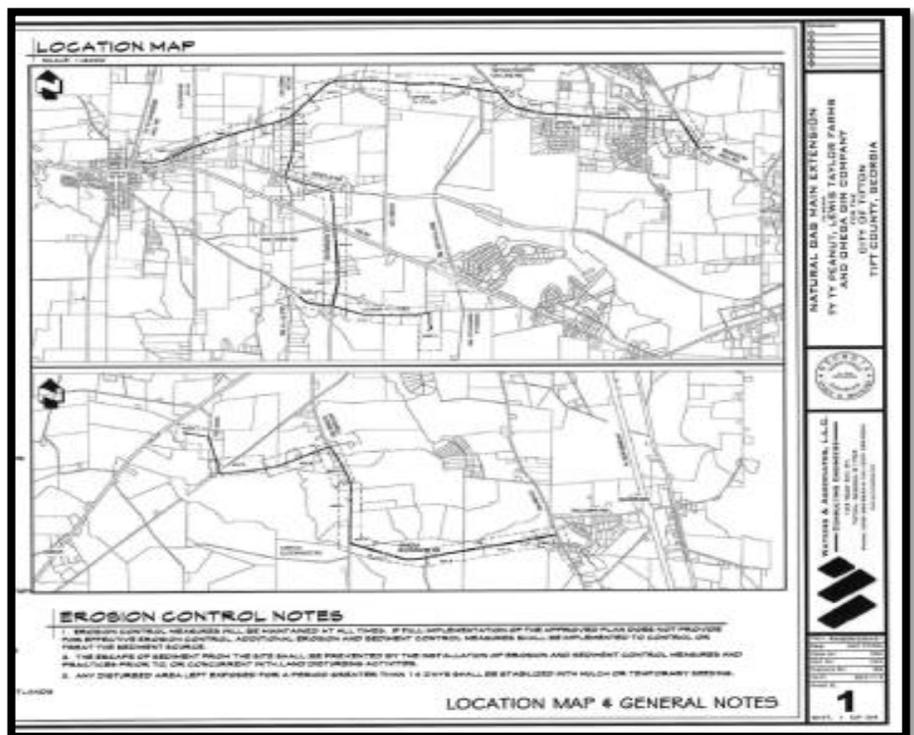
Project created an alternate route in one of the busiest areas in Tifton. Located just off of Hwy 82 this connector road was constructed to promote economic development to the undeveloped area north of Hwy 82. This was a collaborative project with the City of Tifton, Tift County, Tift

County Development Authority, Stafford Development, and GDOT providing funding. This project shows our commitment to jointly working in collaboration with our intergovernmental partners to provide quality infrastructure while promoting economic development. This project meets the transportation goals (Objective 8, Pg. 113) identified in our Comprehensive Plan.



Westside Natural Gas Main Extension

Installed natural gas pipelines to serve three agricultural customers. The City of Tifton entered into partnerships during 2012 with Ty Ty Peanut, Lewis Taylor Farms, and Omega Farm Supply to supply natural gas for a more cost-effective gas compared to propane. The City of Tifton installed approximately 63,183 linear feet of pipeline to serve the commercial customers. These agricultural companies use the natural gas during harvest season to fuel peanut dryers and heat greenhouses. The City of Tifton extended their natural gas lines to supply natural gas to their operations and the outcome has been a very positive venture for the City of Tifton and the agricultural businesses. The City of Tifton strives to meet the needs of all industries and working with our local farmers to improve their operations by offering a more cost-effective gas solution is proof of our commitment. (Comp Plan Economic Development Issue 2 and Policy 2.3)



Vertical Expansion of the Tifton-Tift County Landfill and Operation Upgrades

The Tifton-Tift County Landfill received approval from Georgia EPD in July 2016 for permit modification and vertical expansion of the Landfill. This permit plan and approval process took nearly five years to complete, but the approved expansion extends the life of our landfill an additional 12 years. The landfill has also recently purchased new upgraded equipment to improve the operations at the landfill. In 2014 they purchased a new bulldozer and in 2015 a new compactor was purchased. The City of Tifton also began offering curbside recycling in 2015 and the program has reduced the number of recyclables going into the landfill. The vertical expansion and recycling program is a project carried out as result of our Comprehensive Plan Community Facilities Goal, Policy 10.4 Develop and implement the most cost effective alternative solid waste management practices that will extend the useful life of the landfill.



FEATURED

Curbside recycling set to begin next month

Lafasha Ford Jun 23, 2015



Lafasha Ford
Richard Golden of Golden Environmental is shown with the blue and yellow recycling container that will be given out to city residents starting July 6 for curbside recycling.

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TIFTON — Curbside recycling will be available for residents in the city limits of Tifton, beginning next month.

Richard Golden of Golden Environmental said they will begin delivering the recycling containers (which are blue with bright yellow lids and are the same size as garbage cans currently in use) July 6, but actual pickup will start Aug. 3. He said it will take them about two weeks to get the containers all out to customers.

Pickup will be Monday through Thursday, on the same day as each resident's regular garbage pickup.

Golden said curbside recycling will be picked up every two weeks. He noted on every other recycling day, they will pick up household junk like sofas, chairs, refrigerators and televisions. He said the city will be divided into eight pickup zones, which will represent eight days (Monday through Thursday) every two weeks.

This
POST

Please attach additional sheets as needed to tell your story. Application should not exceed 20 pages. Application may be electronically transmitted or printed, scanned and emailed to adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov . For more information, contact Adriane Wood.



May 11, 2017

130 East 1st Street
Post Office Box 229
Tifton, Georgia 31793

<http://www.tifton.net>

Plan First Program
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-223

To Whom It May Concern:

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

JULIE B. SMITH
MAYOR

WES EHLERS
VICE MAYOR
DISTRICT 1

JACK FOLK
DISTRICT 2

JOHNNY TERRELL, JR.
DISTRICT 3

FRANK SAYLES, JR.
DISTRICT 4

Together, we write this letter in support of the City of Tifton's application for designation as a Plan First Community by the Department of Community Affairs.

Using this document as a guide for growth and development, the City of Tifton has successfully adopted and implemented its comprehensive plan. As part of a collaborative effort between local governments and community members, the comprehensive plan has driven the City of Tifton to make effective decisions and achieve goals set forth in the plan. By evaluating and reviewing the plan regularly, the City has been able to use the plan as a living document, adding projects to meet the goals of the community as its progresses.

The efforts of the City have greatly impacted the progress of our community, and those efforts are greatly appreciated. In our opinion, the City of Tifton is a top-notch candidate for the designation of a Plan First Community. As members of boards and departments, it is our honor and privilege to submit this letter on behalf of the City of Tifton. We would like to thank you in advance for considering the application from the City of Tifton to become a Plan First Community.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Daniel, Chairman
Historic Preservation Committee

Brian Marlowe, President/CEO
*Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce
Tift County Development Authority*

Lequrica Gaskins, Administrator
Tifton Downtown Development Authority

Tyron Spearman, Administrator
Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association

Dr. David Bridges, President
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Grady Thompson, Chairman
Tift County Board of Commissioners



PETE PYRZENSKI
CITY MANAGER

