

**Results of Tybee Neighbors Website Survey Questions**  
**08-08 Mini-Survey -- Planning Commission, Casino Gambling and Ethics Ordinance**  
**168 responses**

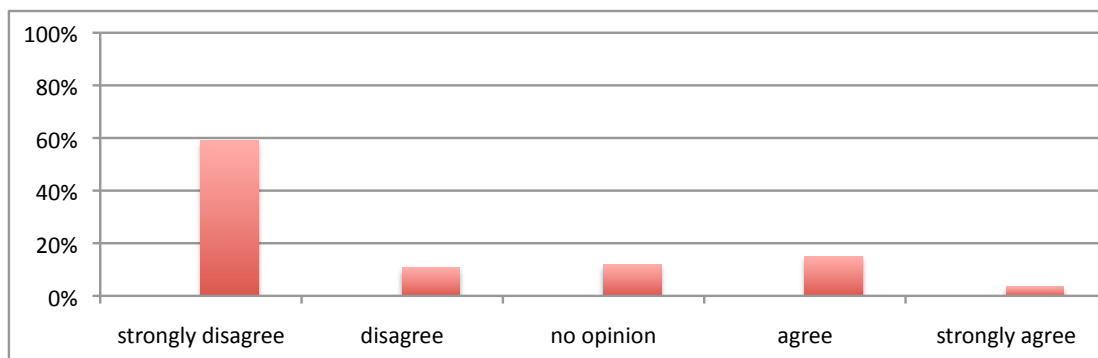
**Issue #1 --- Reduce Planning Commission from 9 to 7**

Background: Tybee City Council voted at a recent meeting to reduce the number of members voluntarily serving on the Planning Commission. To accomplish this they proposed abolishing the current Planning Commission consisting of 9 volunteer members and immediately recreating a Planning Commission that consists of 7 volunteer members. The newly created 7 member Planning Commission will then be appointed by City Council for two year staggered terms of office.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

Statement: I believe that it is appropriate for the City Council to abolish the current nine member Planning Commission and create a new Commission consisting of 7 members that they select.

strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree
58.9%	10.7%	11.9%	14.9%	3.6%
99	18	20	25	6



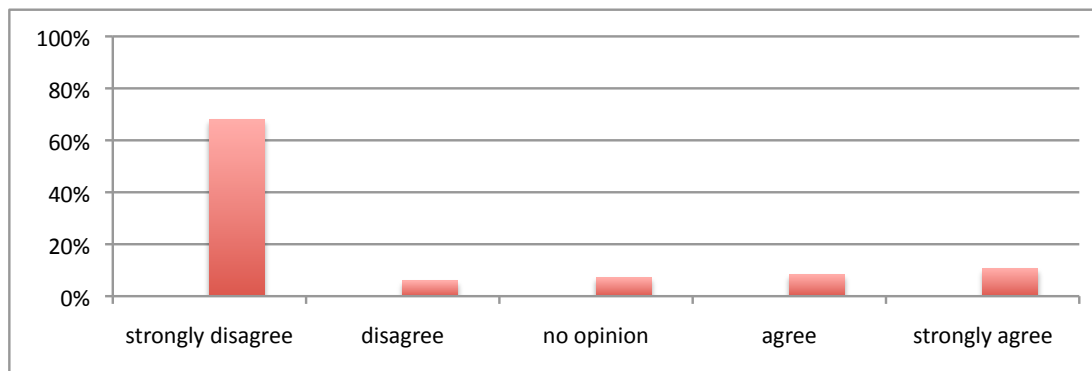
## Issue #2 --- Gambling Casinos on Tybee Island?

Background: In recent articles in the Savannah Morning News, both State Rep. Lester Jackson (D-Savannah) as well as Ron Stephens, a Savannah Republican have alluded to the possibility of legalizing casino gambling in the state of Georgia. Both articles noted that Tybee Island has been considered as a potential site of such gambling in the past.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

Statement: I support the legalization of casino gambling on Tybee Island.

strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree
67.9%	6.0%	7.1%	8.3%	10.7%
114	10	12	14	18



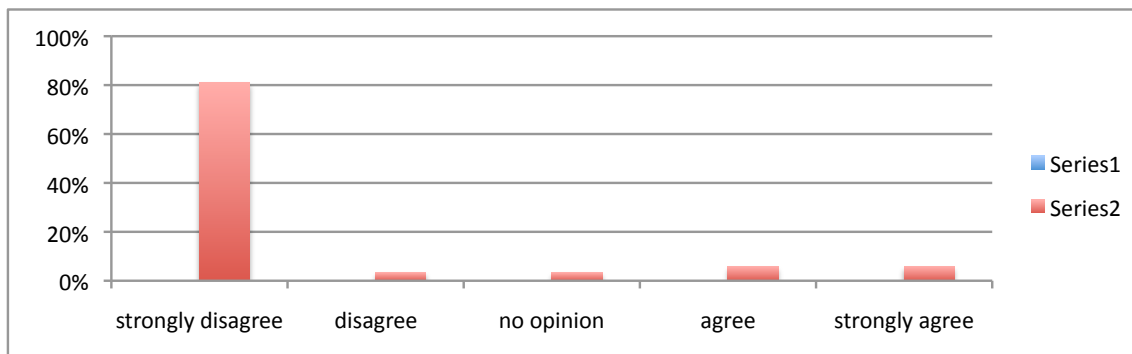
### Issue #3 -- Replace the Ethics Ordinance?

Background: A proposal for rescinding or repealing the city's Ethics Ordinance was placed on the agenda for one of the first meetings of this City Council. The ordinance had been unanimously approved by the previous City Council. Under this ordinance, Council members are not able to vote on issues brought before Council by contributors who supported their campaigns in excess of \$500. Public resistance resulted in this Council backing off the idea. This Council, however, continues in its efforts to modify the ordinance in order to allow them to take action on petitions and variances brought by their large financial supporters.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

Statement: I believe that the Ethics Ordinance should be replaced with one that is less restrictive and will not cause Council Members who received large financial contributions (in excess of \$500) from contributors to recuse themselves when variances or other requests are sought by these contributors.

strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree
81.0%	3.6%	3.6%	6.0%	6.0%
136	6	6	10	10



## Tybee Neighbors Survey – July-August, 2008

### Responses to Issue # 1 – Planning Commission

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

This proposed action is a thinly veiled action to appoint seven cronies to the PC to gut the ethics ordinance and allow the builder/developers who supported their campaigns to have their way with our sand dunes and wetlands, all based on greed and the power of the dollar to buy city council seats. Shame on all who are a part of this moral corruption of our local government.

I don't agree with any initiative that employs the verb "abolish."

evil is as evil does

This is an obvious - transparent - move to stack the planning commission with folks whose views will mirror those of the council. Diversity of opinion is critical in our form of government and should be encouraged, not stifled.

Oten times, smaller more coheive groups are better able to accomplish the goals set foward.

The fact that council members Dick Smith, Barry Brown, and Charlie Brewer did not see the need to reduce the number of members on the planning commission when THEY served on the commission, leads me to believe that their motives are purely political. As former chairmen, Mr. Smith and Mr. Brown, surely should have noticed if the commission needed to be streamlined. This move is yet another waste of tax-payers money and will negatively impact the City of Tybee.

As the Planning Commission only performs a reviewing function with most of the legwork being done by the Zoning Department staff and the final decision being in the hands of Council, i don't feel it makes much difference either way.

However, i would much prefer to see the Planning Commissioners selected by voters or by some method other than a vote by Council. In the end, it is arguably tougher to select nine people of a certain persuasion than only seven.

when did council start listening to PC?

This is very undemocratic. Always, the Planning Commission has had volunteers who were appointed by the prior administration. This allows for a diversity of opinion and better decisions. And don't overlook the fact that the senior members are the most knowledgable of the code. To hijack this democratic process for governing our Island is comtemptious of what is right and honorable.

what is the rationale for the change?

I strongly agree. Actually the planning commission should not be any larger than the council.

Let me get this right you want to let the hillbilly developer council select their own planning commission BS!

The Planning Commission should not be the puppet committee of the city council and if members are appointed by the council, then they indeed will be, especially if the current members are dismissed. To be fair the committee should be based on volunteers committed to best interests of all citizens of Tybee not just the business community. The Commission should consist of an equal number of seats that represent all entities on Tybee equitably. The Commission should represent home owners that live on tybee year round, home owners that do not live on Tybee year round, business owners, city government employees, state employees, federal employees, law enforcement, non profit organizations, service clubs, etc.

VERY TRANSPARENT. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE REDUCTION IN NUMBERS, BUT TO ABOLISH THE EXISTING COMMISSION AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW COMMISSION IS EXEMPLARY OF POLITICAL MANEUVERING TO ACCOMPLISH A POLITICAL GOAL. SOME TYBEE ELECTED OFICIALS CONTINUE TO MIRE THEMSELVES IN SHALLOW ISSUES WITH A LESS-THAN-ACUTE SENSE OF THE FACT THAT TYBEE CITIZENS ARE NOT AS SHALLOW AND CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THEIR TRANSPARENCY.

If it's not broke, don't fix it. I can't believe we would consider changing the Commission considering they all volunteer and there is no cost to the city. What cost was Councilman Brewer referring to when he made this recommendation?

Why would they reduce the ### of members??? Is it because usually there are 2 members that will not bend to or be swayed to agreement with donors to commissioner campaigns???

sounds as if they are planning for the fix "to be in."

The planning commission should have seven. Nin is too many people.

Just another attempt by city administration and current city council/mayor to reduce and even eliminate citizen input into city government. The city government is out of control and the citizenry must act to assert control. As it is, one never sees the chair of the planning commission present the result of planning commission deliberations. One sees only a member of the city administrative staff...the economic development coordinator, in fact...and the

voice of the citizens is more and more muffled.

The planning commission needs to have a broad spectrum of eyes and opinions to come to the best decisions possible. Limiting the number of volunteers will have a negative impact. There are times when members are unable to attend meetings, for very valid reasons, and the limited number truly diminishes the quality of the decision. I am amazed that there is a consideration to abolish the current commission to completely start over. The extremely valuable time, experience and gained knowledge put into this job will be lost. To be honest, my fear is there is an intent to start completely fresh so the new planning commission can be molded. It's interesting that the council is willing to stagger terms for the planning commission, but not the council.

This council has little respect for citizens who volunteer their services. If the number of PC members is a problem, then reduce the number through attrition rather than using this ploy to get rid of those who do not share their positions. At this rate, this council will have insulted and alienated most of their neighbors before they leave office.

The proposal smacks of cronyism.

The planning commission has planned many wonderful community resources for Tybee businesses and families. The commission is a separate entity from the City Council with good reason. It has been very receptive to community input and serves to make long term plans and goals that enhance our island community.

Tybee needs to embrace ideas that cultivate a more family friendly community and vacation destination. Gambling will attract a visiting and working population that will not support the long term objectives of most residents. We moved to Tybee to give our children and ourselves a safe, quiet retreat from the everyday madness and crime of big cities. Gambling brings a myriad of social and economic gains and losses that will complicate life on Tybee.

Seems like a ploy to replace the existing members. I have no problem with seven members if the board is reduced with two of the present members stepping down.

Be sure \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't "choose" the members and realtors or spouses should not be appointed to the Planning Commission!

As it stands the present council consists primarily of contractors. I'm afraid that the newly appointed planning commission will too. But mostly, has this present planning commission done anything wrong? They are not being paid....so what's the problem? The only thing I would like to see is more diversity....not builders, not contractors, not landscapers....just regular home owners.

This council has already alienated most of the voters by the changes they have

enacted. They should leave the Planning Commission alone.

There is no problem with the proposed reduction, however, it should be done in steps. Only two of those with terms about to expire should be abolished and not refilled. For the council to abolish all of the positions now is just a way for them to load the Commission with their unbalanced and hand picked constituents. The purpose of the staggered terms is precisely to avoid this from happening.

This is a not-so-thinly veiled political move on the part of council members who are puppets of the big money folks they aspire serve and / or to be. The proposing council member did not "come up with this" without intra-council colusions (at best) or (at the worse) heeding the demands of the puppeteers who whisper demands / suggestions in council members' ears. This is like Council Member Smith's attempt to modify our long-standing election protocol.

Just a few years ago we had a few individual council members who were evil to the core. I never thought that, today, we'd have a collection of 5 council members who make the aforementioned members look angelic.

Farewell, good bye, all of you planning commission members who've behaved with honor and integrity. You're probably gonna be dumped because you're better than the council members who are out to get you. Some planning commission members will survive because they've kissed up to the puppeteers. One planning commission member is apt to survive, in spite of the fact, that the member is still implicated in an unsolved criminal case.

Has anybody thought about RECALL? Ain't it time to explore how we get rid of this council's crazy energizer bunnies. Doyle & Crone are not part of the core problem. We need the Doyle / Crone loyal opposition-- but they need to get real and vote independently. If you look at council minutes, it's clear that Mr. Wolff works hard and has more brains in his one head than the other 5 collectively. Alas, that leaves the CRAZY THREE. RECALL, RECALL RECALL.

I think that you should have a public election for members of the planning commission. I think that the city council would be/will be too biased in selecting members that have volunteered.

The planning commission has worked fine as is..for quite some time. Why mess with it unless it is to stack the committee with 'yes' people for our development council

Planning Commission Changes:

It is NOT appropriate for this City Council to abolish the current nine member Planning Commission and create an entirely new Commission consisting of 7 members that they select. Doing so would eliminate the only 'checks and

balances' that Tybee has in its legislative branch. Doing so would diminish the value of the Planning Commission; its function; its purpose; its value to the community as a whole. Doing so imparts the appearance of impropriety in that cronyism can overtake good judgments in the selection of commissioners who should demonstrate a variety of backgrounds, interests, experiences and thereby be more representative of the island citizenry.

Three of the new council members elected last November served on the Planning Commission, two of them were Chairpersons during their terms. All three of these men emphasized this as a positive experience that served to make them more qualified to serve on the City Council. They should know the time it takes for a good Commissioner to study the Land Development Code and to research the projects coming before them in order to serve the citizens of Tybee productively and fairly every month. This volunteer position should not be taken lightly. It is a responsibility to the entire community and should not be something used only for political exposure and personal gain. Now these three men want to minimize or even trivialize this commitment by dissolving the current membership before their terms are fulfilled and reducing the number of commissioners to only 7. This stinks of political maneuvering—big time.

They have already eliminated the agenda meeting, which served to provide citizens with an opportunity to come before the commission the week prior to the formal commission meeting, making sure that all questions were answered, proper material was provided, and all was ready to be heard at the actual meeting. Time then being allowed to gather requested documents that would enhance the process for both citizen and commission.

Now this council wants fewer people to serve on the board. Why? No real reasons were given --that made any sense anyway. Sound familiar? When proposed, it was to streamline and save the city money? That's a joke. The commissioners serve voluntarily, so what money is being spent? Some photocopies? Some training reimbursements? Not as much money as was spent on the City Attorney's fees to re-write ordinances that will make these changes happen.

No, there must be some major plan. There is some agenda that this Council is following, but it's being kept as a big secret to the people of Tybee.

One of the first statements made on TV interviews on Election Night by at least one newly elected council person was: "One of the first things we plan to look at are the various commissions and committees—and make changes to them."

This council has been in place for 7 months and in that short time period have really aggravated many citizens with their antics. This is one more straw on the camel's back. How many more will there be?

We must all stay alert and be watchful as this writer feels the antics will, sadly, continue.

There would be no checks and balances if the above were to proceed.

Appointments might imply that favors would be supplied for the opportunity to sit on the planning commission.

The more diverse backgrounds are represented on the Planning Commission, the better appraisal of petitions reviewed could be reasonably expected. When the City Council member originally made the motion to reduce membership from 9 to 7 members was asked what's behind the motion, he stated: the reduction would lead to better efficiency and would save money. When he was asked by another council member to explain, he either chose not to answer or had no answer. If the Council were unalterably committed to a 7 member planning commission, it would have made far more sense to let the 5 members whose terms end Jan. 31, 2009 to complete their terms and instead of appointing five new replacements, they could have appointed three. Diversity on the Commission would still have suffered.

While I agree that 7 members may be more productive than 9, I strongly disagree with council appointing all new members. Talk about stacking the deck...what's wrong with handling the reduction thru attrition?

This proposal is a major mistake by this council, and will serve to further divide and alienate the various factions on Tybee.

Has any good reason/logic been demonstrated by Council to support the reason for restructuring Planning Commission? The current configuration and process for appointing Planning Commission members are not flawed.

It sounds like a plan by Council to get all of their buddies on board. Once this is accomplished, anything coming from the Planning Commission will be passed on to the Council as APPROVED, making the Tybee City Council not look so eager to support the developers who put them in office.

I see no reason or justification for such a change and none was given when they voted on the change other than "there's more of them than there are of us".

Planning commissions recommendations are just that, recommendations and are non-binding on city council. I have seen numerous occasions recently where they went against the commissions recommendations. Therefore, what difference does it make whether there is 7 or 9 or even 25. There is apparently some ulterior motive for this action which is just a waste of time. I suspect that there is one or two people that some one wants to remove from the planning commission with out being forthright about it.

The City Council is in the process of creating a dictatorship on this island. The

citizens must wake up and speak up.

First, that we can find 9 volunteers willing to put in the dedicated hours required of planning commission members is remarkable. Nine seems manageable and offers more varied input and, if I understand correctly, seven does not reduce the cost of supporting planning commission functioning significantly. So I would elect to continue with 9 members.

Second, if the council does decide to reduce the commission to 7, I certainly cannot support such a drastic action as abolishing the current commission because it seems very disrespectful of the current volunteers. It seems especially disrespectful of the volunteers on planning commission when you consider that 5 members have terms set to expire in January anyway. It is not the best use of council time either to go through completely replacing commission members, when they could simply go through the nominating process for 3 instead of 5 in January.

Can the City Council just change the City Charter? Isn't there some backstop that prevents the wholesale elimination of a commission just because the Council wants to appoint their own supporters to it?

Of course the question that Tybee voters should be asking is, WHY is this action necessary? What's the point, and why is this council taking more time away from relevant issues and spending it on this? We have a perfectly good Planning Commission that's worked very well in the past - with nine members - so what's the problem. Again, nothing is being explained in a way that makes any sense.

What is the reason for the reduction. Since no reason is given for the reduction, there is no reasonable way to determine if it is appropriate. How were the planning commission members chosen before?

Seven is a better number.

They will, I'm sure, pick "volunteers" who agree with their secret agenda.

The Planning Commission should be a nine member volunteer commission enabling more Tybee residents to have an active participation in the Tybee government. The Tybee City Council should never be able to appoint members of the Planning Commission. Ethics demands that the planning commission remain completely neutral and separate from the Tybee City Council.

Tybee cannot do any thing at this time except lobby the state and county for approval or let them know that we disapprove. Pro or con, write to your representative.

This is a transparent attempt to appoint a puppet planning commission whose

opinions would be more in line with the majority currently on council. One more slap in the face to the average Tybee resident, along with the attempts to: change the election process, remove or gut the ethics ordinance, revamp Memorial Park, build a new "public safety" building (at enormous expense), remove a successful and widely-used dog park, and increase the tax millage.

For the city council to select its own Planning Commission with reduced members speaks directly against the democratic process and transparency, a situation that has become more apparent since the last city council election.

Why the change? We already have too many builders and contractors, which I am not comfortable with. Why less?

What an arrogant City Council we have voted in!!! They are going to do it their way with no regard for what the citizens want. I really feel like I'm wasting my time writing this as they will do what they wish anyway.

More participation, more protection against a stacked deck!

The argument provided for making the change was to save money. This is a volunteer committee. No one is being paid. The only savings would be the number of toilet flushes possible during meetings. It's patently obvious that the council only plans this move in order to appoint members to this Commission that they want on it. Just more wasting of time and taxpayers money and goodwill.

The planning commission should remain as is: 9 members with staggered terms of office. It was created this way so that no single City Council--past, present, or future--would be able to hand-pick or appoint all members. The current system attempts to avoid abuse of power and to allow for diverse perspectives. The planning commission should be free to give honest opinions. After all, it only advises City Council, whose members are free to accept or reject the planning commission's advice.

**I DO NOT THINK WE NEED A PLANNING COMMISSION MADE UP FOR BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS. WE HAVE TOO MUCH OF THAT ON COUNCIL ALREADY. WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE 9 PEOPLE WILLING TO SERVE.**

I assume 7 people are easier to control than 9. What other rationale could there be.

Creating a new Planning Commission is an attempt to get rid of anyone on the present commission that does not agree with most of the Council Members. A 7-member commission can evolve as terms for current members of the planning commission expire.

I've twice been invited and twice been rejected as a member of the planning

commission. I'm what ya call "bait." Gotta have two people to have an election and I'm the one they asked. Not anymore. On the other hand, Tybee is today what a majority of citizens said they wanted. They voted for the current mayor and council. I didn't.

Nine good members are hard to come by for any committee or council. It would therefore be appropriate to reduce the number to five or seven. However, the action should be taken by ordinance/by-law charter change, and the change should be implemented as the first two members resign or reach their membership expirations.

This should be done by attrition not a new PC.

I could strongly agree if it would pay county and school property tax for private property owners. I define private property owners as those who only use there property personnel (non rental).The present assigned codes for property are so bad and out of date they can not be used.

I don't believe we even need a planning commission; the level of professionalism with the current zoning administration is all that is needed and has rendered the need for a planning commission obsolete.

This council is bent on undoing everything the previous council did. They should be thinking of moving forward instead of moving backwards.

greater number = greater cross section of community

I believe that the commission should continue to consist of nine members. The more members on the committee, the more diversity of thought, (even if they are all appointed by the same City Council) and the more likely that a majority will do their homework. This is a volunteer position so it's not costing the city a significant amount of money to have 9 vs.7 members. If the city council dissolves the current commission and re-appoints 7 it smacks of politics. Why can't they just wait? Come January the City Council can have all of their own people. The terms are up in January of the 5 commissioners that were appointed by the previous council. If the current council is determined to reduce the number to 7, then they can just appoint 3 instead of 5 when the terms are up in January.

Looking at other communities it's interesting that most have more members on planning/zoning commissions than Tybee's current nine. The staggered terms really have been effective in keeping a balance with the nine member commission.

Will the new commission be selected in the same manner as the old group? Why is the reduction in numbers being requested?

Trust me, I have watched the MPC for years and it depends on the desires of the current commission as to what is approved/disapproved. Political appointments are anathema to good zoning decisions.

If the Council wants to eliminate two of the Planning Commission seats they should just let the seats that would be up for renewal expire and reduce the number to 7. What is their motive in replacing existing members with their hand selected Commission? It sounds a little "FISHY" to me???

## **Responses to Issue # 2 – Gambling on Tybee**

Gambling. Lovely. Classy. Fantastic!

I am not against gambling. There is not enough room on Tybee for the existing activities and people they draw. Do we have room for a casino and the people it will draw? Is the precursor to residential neighborhoods being rezoned and taken by eminent domain for our business leaders to make more money?

Our island is way too small, keep gambling off shore 20 miles out next to the proposed oil rigs.

We don't want to turn our Island Paradise into Club Paradise.

I have lived in several places where gambling has been legalized. Gambling destroys peoples' lives just as surely as alcohol - perhaps more so, as alcohol is for people without hope while gambling holds out a false hope, ultimately leading to more despair. Gambling makes it easier for organized crime to launder money. Gambling, in the form of lotteries, was promised to reduce our tax burdens all around the country - i don't see it happening that way. Gambling holds out the promise of extremely lucrative profits that might lead people to consider, say, arson or other crimes in order to open the way to more gambling. Gambling is so popular a pasttime that traffic and parking problems in a place like Tybee would be far worse. In neighborhoods surrounding gambling establishments, real estate prices escalate while the quality of life declines.

Personally, I would love to see legalized gambling aloud on Tybee. So long as the tax's collected went directly to improving Tybee (preservation of beaches etc, and decreasing the tax burden on Tybee residents and property owners).

Bringing in casinos would destroy our island paradise. Casinos would increase traffic on an already busy highway and further stress our limited parking situation. Since many gamblers drink heavily at the encouragement of the casinos, drunk drivers would be rampant in our community. Crime would surely follow. Our police force would have to be greatly expanded at taxpayer expense to deal with the increased traffic and crime. This concept is a lose/lose situation for Tybee.

Additional taxes could then be used by the state, but Tybee would have to benefit and "get paid" first. Before any state agencies could use us as their cash cow. It seems we often do not get the funds promised by the State and Federal agencies. If we could collect tax's on gambling, I say lets take the money, and use it to improve and police Tybee.

The traffic onto the island is already terrible. We would, however, be the only island with a Crab Casino.

Casino gambling requires a very large venue - probably meaning high rise buildings on the ocean. The road widening, with water and sewer lines from Savannah. would allow for the ifrastructure to pull off such a venture. Keep that in mind.

Second, in another life I researched the economic impact of of gambling. The data show that there is no impact on the surrounding community unless hours and licenses are limited. Ideally casinos should not be allowed to open until after the dinner hour, thus spreading the tourist dollar around the community. Also, casinos should not also be licensed for food, lodging, parking etc. for the same reason. Surprizingly, some of the Caribbean Islands have been most successful in controling the gambling environment,. e.g. Curaco and Aruba. You can bet that if Georgia ever opens up to casino gambling the lobbyists will buy enough politicians ot get exactly what they want. In conclusion, the 4-lane is the domino that starts us on the fall.

Why would anyone who lives on this island wany casino gambling on the island. It would destroy the island as we know it. Just cheeck out Atlantic City New Jersey.

We have enough low life already. Don't need to attract any more.

I moved here 40 years ago to LIVE here, NOT TO HAVE TO WORK MY SCHEDULE AROUND TOURISTS. FORGET IT, GET OFF MY ISLAND ,MOVE TO ATLANTIC CITY!

I need to have more information regarding this initiative before making a decision on this issue. Thoughtful discussion needs to take place on this issue before citizens vote on it. One newspaper article in the local newspaper is not enough information. Legalizing gambling in Georgia and on Tybee are two different issues. Before Tybee legalizes gambling a lot of thoughtful discussion must take place. This has the potential to increase much needed revenues and conversely the potential to be a huge nightmare.

We do not have the infrastructure and parking to sustain the summer visitors as it is now. Also we do not have the roads to handle the traffic on and off the island

either. It took me 1 hour to travel from Bull River to Lazaretto Creek on July 4. These issues must be addressed first.

The current businesses are not supported. The rules and laws on the books are erratically and capriciously enforced. New rules such as the new trash ordinance are imposed on the struggling businesses without regard to the consequences. Adding casinos with their bars and restaurants would hurt the businesses already here.

And we do not have the space for casinos on Tybee. Just a small casino such as the one in Cherokee, NC, must take up at least the space of the lighthouse, all of its grounds and the entire Battery Brumby and the north beach parking lot. Where would we get space like that?

Why not.....We could do it and make money....

There's too much traffic congestion on the island as it is without the added gambling fools. I agree with gambling but not "just on Tybee." It should be on Wilmington Island or a larger place. People will still come to Tybee without gambling bait.

Everybody could sell their homes and rental houses to the casino developers for a big profit! The entire island could be covered in casinos, high-rise hotels and parking garages! I could move into a nicer house in a newly built neighborhood where I don't know anyone! Which Chatham County areas have less crime than Tybee....with a beach.....and strong church and community organizations?

Should only be considered as a place if the people of Tybee want it. In other words, let us vote. I would like to know how it would affect us.

That's all we, the residents need. Of course, the greedy people involved on this island, to include city administration, will be happy to see gambling come to pass. We don't need it.

I think we have enough problems already. I am not opposed to one's choice to gamble, but I am concerned about what kind of gambling would be taking place and if specific gambling establishments are meant to be built.

I do not support gambling in any form.

No-no-no! Do not bring more potential for crime into our little piece of paradise.

Gamble! We have enough of a traffic jam as it is. Can you imagine what it would be like with day trippers!

How much more destruction must we endure?

Tybee is no longer the sweet, simple island it was in the 60's and 70's! I'm sure the money grubbers who live here now would like to see casino gamblers descend on this tiny town all year round and make life miserable for the true locals.

Tybee is a nice retirement center now. We don't want the kind of criminal influence that generally comes in when gambling is introduced.

What better way to ruin the unique nature of Tybee than bringing gambling on island. It would change our view of Tybee as vacation and retirement home.

Legalized gambling is the biggest con for voters since the last attempt to sell the Brooklyn Bridge. More crime, more traffic and congestion and more cost to the cities and the only people who get rich are the big gaming conglomerates. Latest attempt in Massachusetts to expand gambling was pushed by governor as a revenue source but wisely defeated by a big margin in legislature who saw it for the false promise it is.

While I agree for the prospect of increased revenues for Tybee, strict controls would need to be established first and the guidance of the Chief of Police sought and followed.

Tybee does not need to be the site of casino gambling! This will change the personality and atmosphere of the island. Tybee is a small island community with lots of charm due to the friendly and laid back nature of the people who live there and the community itself. If people want to gamble their money away, then let them go somewhere else.

I don't understand why year-round residents of Tybee, the City Council and others would want gambling on Tybee. Where are you going to put the casino, on the beach??? Why don't you all concentrate on your biggest asset of the island, the beach, to promote tourism. Is gambling family friendly????? Are there going to be casinos for children? Of course not, so what are children and young people supposed to do??? Why don't you put in a miniature golf course? Why do you all have such thoughts of grandeur? You are a small, wonderful, unique place.....get creative with what you have!! I'm sorry, I am not trying to insult anyone, but what are you all thinking?? I wish I lived there year-round, but I will at some point and I hope to get more involved.

Is gambling fun?

R U Serious?

The demise of Tybee is bad enough as is.

I recently moved to Tybee from eastern Connecticut which is the home of two

very large Indian Casinos so I am very aware of the impact which "gaming" can have on an area. Casinos are not the "cash cows" which many people (especially politicians) make them out to be. The negative impact of a casino on a place like Tybee would far outweigh any positive effect it would have on the local economy.

Why not - look how much money the lottery rakes in.....why not have a Tybee Lottery too

Before anything like this is even considered for Tybee, and for Georgia, much study should be given to what has occurred in other states. Who makes the money? Usually only a few politically connected individuals and corporations, thereby only adding to their individual wealth. It does not benefit the tax coffers and definitely can harm the communities hosting the gambling venues. Also suffering will be those vulnerable to temptation, who indulge in trying to win big, and become compulsive gamblers losing the little resources they have.

We already have Bingo, Lottery and one gambling boat on Wilmington Island. That's enough. Letting casinos come to Tybee will open the floodgates for more development. We are already stretched as far as parking is concerned, larger hotels and condos will follow. Perhaps we'll lose our 35 ft. height limit for the sake of these larger hotels, and even the casinos themselves. How can our infrastructure bear up to this assault? Is this what our council is favoring? Maybe by allowing gambling on Tybee, they will benefit in ways we can't see yet. One of their supporters, a major developer on Tybee, is experienced in the 'gaming industry'-even had to pay some penalties in South Carolina in 2000. He is also known to have gambling interests south of the border. Could adding Georgia, and maybe Tybee be next in the plan? Hope not.

Would need more information before I could reply....profits/tax to benefit what? where would it be located? where would every one park?

We already have a gambling boat that picks up and discharges passengers on the Bull River.

2. We have even a larger gambling boat just an hour south of Savannah.
3. The bulk of profits generated go to the gambling industry and NOT the community who hosts the casino, and certainly not to the citizens whose money gets gobbled up by the gambling industry.
4. Tybee needs a gambling casino about as much as it needs another bar.

The Island is perfect now. Why screw it up with people coming in to gamble. It makes no sense.

Gambling can be an addiction.

Gambling is a very devastating form of entertainment especially for people who

are unable to properly restrain their gambling habit. It is very addictive behavior and is destructive for those that become addicted to it. It destroys families - I know first hand. The income to the city, county and/or state is not worth the damage gambling is responsible for. The city/county/state government leaders and law makers shouldn't be lured to see gambling as a panacea for lack of funding for government programs and projects. I would hate to see Tybee island poisoned by the gambling business and all that that evil business brings to our island. SAY NO TO GAMBLING IN GEORGIA!!!

We are raising a family here and there are already enough hoodlums on this island. Just attend Tybee court on a Tuesday night to see all the drunks, druggies and assaults cases that go on every week!

If gambling were to be legalized on Tybee, we could say good-bye to the island that we love.

We have a gambling boat already. We do not need to open this state up to this type of activity.

I like Tybee's focus as a family place.

The first thoughts that come to mind when someone mentions the benefits of casinos to a community are drugs, prostitution and organized crime. Oh, and don't forget addictions like gambling and alcohol. Where does that fit into to the definition of a family oriented destination?

Studies prove that legalized gambling is not an economic plus to hosting communities despite any monetary gain it may provide. If anything, it's a false positive! Who needs this?

How does it affect the taxes on Tybee? Where do we have space for a casino? Don't want it. Don't need it. Very bad thing.

We have as many people visiting as I'm interested in being here already.

Tybee has a fine reputation as a family island. Our guests stay on Tybee Island due to the quality of life here. We are not Hilton Head and hopefully will never be. Why anyone would even entertain the idea of gambling on Tybee is crass and commercial.

I would agree only if all property taxes, City, County, school and state, were removed from residential and commercial property, and the gambling entities paid a special tax or fee that would fund beach renourishment.

Tybee Island does not need the criminality associated with gambling everywhere. Let Savannah or Effingham do casino gambling if the local population needs it

badly.

Ugly thought.

Would bring an undesirable element to the island.

Ridiculous. We already have a parking problem. Our water and sewage are already over taxed. This is a family oriented vacation spot. We don't need this here. Absolutely DO NOT destroy the ambiance that Tybee has at this time.

I strongly object to gambling on Tybee. Having lived in other states and communities where gambling was introduced, I have seen first-hand that the promised tax gains never materialized as they were rapidly spent on increased costs for city services to deal with the undesirable side effects. Communities were destroyed, not improved, by the introduction of gambling.

**TYBEE NEEDS TO HAVE MORE FAMILY FOCUS. THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE FAMILIES WANT TO COME HERE TO LIVE OR VACATION . WE NEED THINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DO SUCH AS A SKATE PARK OR SKATING ON THE PEIR AS WE DID WHEN I WAS YOUNG.**

Totally wrong any time any place.

Casinos are huge buildings. Where on Tybee would a casino fit? What about parking and the effects on neighborhoods? Let's not turn our small island into a gambling resort at the expense of neighborhoods and quality of life.

It won't happen anyway. Don't get your drawers in a bunch over something that won't happen. They'll have legal gambling in Atlanta long before anyone considers Tybee. Move on to important issues.

Casino and legalized gambling will indeed pump money into a community in need of money -- from any source. But there are historical downsides to gambling operations: single-family property degeneration, transportation and traffic hassles, and the change from daytime activities to night time hooplas. Tybee Island really doesn't need this personality transformation in order to prosper.

If Tybee is truly desperate in its search for funding from outside, it should research the legalization of cannabis. Laid back smokers of the ganja weed certainly enjoy most of the island's present amenities, and actively shun the glitz, glitter, and gluttony of gamblers.

I lived thru this in Atlantic City and it was extremely bad for the natives. Prices went up, quality of life went down and most had to move away.

I seriously doubt that gambling will ever be legalized in Georgia.....we are in the

Bible Belt after all; however, Lazaretto Creek would be a great location.

Keep it as far away from Tybee as possible.

This action will open up numerous markets, intensify existing markets, increase tax base, justify the bloated police force, force Tybee to upgrade certain infrastructure necessities, i.e., South End Water Tower and extend our tourist season to 12 months.

This city is too small for casinos. While I have no first hand knowledge of the effect of casinos on small communities, I believe that it would be a detriment to this small family oriented community. I see casinos bringing prostitution and crime, and increasing the cost of living. Even though we are a tourist driven economy, this is not the type of tourism we need. What we do need is family centered activities and incentives for small local businesses. If Casinos come here we can say goodbye to the Tybee as we know it. Do you want your kids growing up and going to work at a casino?....And where the heck could we squeeze them in?

Tybee's image as a family beach is already suffering - with fewer options for children's activities - Tybee struggles to compete with other beach communities. it would be nice to see additional activities for youth and families - but gambling doesn't seem like a good fit and with gambling facilities come other challenges - crime, drugs, etc. The 50's and 60's saw Tybee embrace gambling, strip bars, etc. and we're still working on "fixing" 16th Street.

I agree if it reduces the tax burden for property owners on Tybee Island and creates good jobs for residents. But, if there has to be new structure to accommodate gambling, I would not be in favor.

There is currently a gambling boat on the other side of Bull River. Good parking, much closer to town. Gambling is not something Tybee needs to add to its parking/water sewer problems.

Why not? We could use the proceeds for lowering property taxes and improving infrastructure...

### **Responses to Issue # 3 – Ethics Ordinance**

Cannot say strongly enough how bad this makes this council look. Unless the current ordinance is declared illegal it should be left alone. Council needs to spend time working on Tybee problems, not their own.

Citizens everywhere want ethics in government - it sadly seems to be the norm today to accept the notion that most if not all elected officials are corrupt or can

be bought. What a delight it would be for Tybee Island to raise the bar and actually be the benchmark that other governments strive to be regarding the issue of ethics. A strict yet enforceable ethic ordinance for city staff, elected and appointed officials would be so refreshing!

HUMMMM... rescind the ethics ordinance and build casinos... who are those business leaders that are going to make all of the money???????

The Council that approved the Ethics Ordinance included three members of the current council. Don't get rid of the ordinance, live with it and abide by it.

Well, you've certainly worded this question strangely. I would have to question whatever results arise simply because of the wording - i'll bet a lot of folks will check 'agree' because they agree that the ethics ordinance is a good thing - which is the opposite of what was intended. Good luck with this one!  
They were elected under the ordinance, they should serve under it.

There is no way that if someone contributed a la money to my campaign, could I in all honesty say it would not influence my vote. Large contributors cannot have any more say than those that do not donate to any campaign. I believe even the most honest person would be inclined to favor their benefactors. That's just human nature.

The Ethics Ordinance is fine, although in today's political climate, to define a "large" contribution as being \$500 or more is probably pretty laughable. Nevertheless, a strong ordinance with repercussions for disregard is a no brainer.

I think that the limit should be raised from \$500 - this really does not cover much of any thing in this day and time. Maybe \$2500 or something like that

Doth council protest too much about our ethics ordinance? Has it curtailed their agendas?

If a council members can't comprehend the ordinance maybe they aren't intelligent enough to serve.

Because of the very behaviors we've witnessed since the election, I firmly support the current ordinance. To protect the average citizen, it is imperative that council members recuse themselves when their contributors come before council.

Tybee is a small island. Our elections should not be about money.

I believe the ethics ordinance should be modified to require the Mayor and Council members report on whom they have met with regarding city business as recently passed in Virginia. As the country is becoming more and more concerned about the ethics of our leaders Tybee is going the wrong direction.

Why do so many on Tybee have a rape and pillage mentality?

council members should serve the community, not be bought by special interest groups

I believe that the proposed ordinance is unconstitutional and can not be enforced as approved by the last council.

SUNSHINE LAWS HERE, ONLY PEOPLE WHO DONT WANT PEOPLE TO THINK THEY WERE BOUGHT WOULD WANT TO CHANGE THE ORDINANCE AS IT STANDS, MMMMMMM WERE THEY? ? ? ?

Good grief, the Ethics Ordinance is a sound one and to replace it with less restrictive tenets seems anathema to the intent. If it is rescinded and watered down, then it should be called the Slap-on-the-Hand-that-Feeds-the-Beast Ordinance!

COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ENDORSE THIS TYPE OF "ETHICS" CLEARLY ARE IN NEED OF A REFRESHER COURSE ON "ETHICAL CONDUCT". "ETHICAL" IS DEFINED AS "CONFORMING TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, INCLUSIVE OF HONORABLE, VIRTUOUS, AND ACTIONS OF INTEGRITY. IMPARTIALITY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE WHEN MAKING DECISIONS WHICH IMPACT, LONG TERM, THE CITIZENRY OF TYBEE. WHY WOULD AN ELECTED OFFICIAL BE FEARFUL OF "TRUE" ETHICAL CONDUCT, AND ALLOW HIM/HERSELF TO BE TYPE CAST AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CAN BE "BOUGHT"! THIS IS THE TYPE OF DECISION THAT LEADS TO CORRUPTION OF OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE PUBLIC TRUST.

We do need an ethic's ordinance and it should cover members' affiliation with the petitioning parties (recusal).

What are they thinking? Is the Tybee city government for sale?

If original is replace we are caving into developers and thier friends...They have little to no respect to long term residence and our rights as property owners

...but what about the "under the table money?" \$500 bucks is chicken feed when it comes to politics. The real "deal money" is never on the books. It's always camouflaged in barter, discounts, sweetheart deals or just straight gifts through a third party.

The statement is prejudicial. I agree with them being able to tweak the ethics ordinance. It isn't perfect. Your statement says the reason they would tweak it is to "take action on petitions and vairances brought by their large finznial supporters." I disagree with that as the reason for tweaking the ethics ordinance.

The current ethics ordinance, as written, violates citizens' right of free speech and expression. Sorry, but there is a problem with too stringent restrictions in a small community such as ours. Those restrictions can paralyze city government. (Might not be a bad idea.)

Too much like buying votes.

I agree that it should be less restrictive. It is very hard to police contributions of over \$500 unless they come from an individual. Money raised from a BBQ or dinner for example comes from a group of people and hard to trace. A lot of contributions are in the form of Cash that is not traceable unless the information is volunteered by the candidate.

The ethics ordinance was to provide a very limited checks and balances on our City Council. By agreeing to adhere to the ordinance, Council Members are ensuring their political backers do not have an unethical or undue influence on city business. We would expect our elected officials to support this ordinance that prevents them from pandering to political contributors. This way council members all free to fairly look after the interests of all residents.

The ethics ordinance is working as it was designed too. Do not change it.

I think the ethics standards should be higher and definitely not lower and that they should be ENFORCED.

The ethics ordinance as it stands just keeps honest councilmembers honest. Let see, who contributed to who? I'll bet the majority were contractors contributing to councilmembers. Or, just those who had a greedy vested interest in property on Tybee. It would be interesting to see if I'm right. Would council be willing to show their contributions and who contributed? I doubt it.

I think \$500 is a perfect cut-off point. That separates the friends and family donations from someone who has financial interests.

Conflict of interest is a huge issue on business today - why should Tybee move backwards on this one.

To do this would be a travesty. The current Ethics Ordinance is the product of many bipartisan volunteer hours and serves to keep this council and its friends in check as it will future councils. It has been cited as a model ordinance and does need to be amended or changed simply to reward the majority's constituents. Apparently, the "appearance of bribery" does not deter this council majority.

On Tybee, given the personal wealth of the people who run for council, \$500 is a major influencing amount. The developers and manipulators don't run -- they're

way too smart to do so -- Instead, they influence, by way of political contributions and other "benefits", those willing to run for council.

There are other influences that should be considered, however.

I think the ethics ordinance is complex. It took a long time for me, a reader, to get thru it. I came down to the point that any council member should be able to understand and abide by the need to be impartial.

At the very least, we've had a few disclosure, recusals, and "ethical discussions".

I'm appalled that most of the members of this council think that an ethics ordinance that puts restrictions on what they can / can't do is too complex. (Does this give insight to council members' ability to deal with complex issues???) I hate the fact that they think that whatever arm of government offers the lowest standard is the rule that governs Tybee.

Does anybody know when / if ethics ordinance repeal / revision will be on council agenda?

Is somebody rewriting or revising the ethics ordinance?

You made the rules, now you have to follow them. Move on.

Does "open and transparent" government mean that counselors pockets will be open and it will be clear what is motivating their actions on matters brought before the council?

This is really embarrassing...."South Georgia" politics at their finest.

Tybee's Ethics Ordinance should not be repealed. This ordinance is the product of many people volunteering hundreds of hours of their time, working as a committee to develop an ordinance that has some 'teeth' in it. These council members, when they ran for their office, knew that the Ethics Ordinance had been adopted. They knew that if they accepted campaign contributions in excess of \$500.00 they would have to recuse themselves from any discussion and couldn't vote if the contributor came before them asking for a variance. Big money speaks. There's no way one can accept large amounts of money and not feel 'beholding' to the person who provided the contribution. It so happens that in the election last November, 5 of those winning seats on the City Council accepted and disclosed on their financial records large contributions from two developers on Tybee. This means that 5 of the 6 council members can't vote on ANYTHING these developers bring before them during their two year term.

Awww, isn't that too bad? Wait, if you don't like the rules, just change them! Hence, we are now discussing a revision and possibly an entirely new and

different ethics ordinance being adopted. What happened to honest, open and transparent government, and ethical behavior? It goes out the window with this crowd. \$\$\$\$\$ Follow the \$\$\$\$\$\$.

The Ethics ordinance is strict for good reason. It should remain as is.

During an ethics review conducted by Tybee's City Attorney and Mr. Frank Jenkins, consulting attorney, Mr. Jenkins when responding to a newly elected council members expressed opinion, that the new ethics ordinance needed to be substantially amended or thrown out, stated he would oppose either action since our new ethics ordinance was the finest such ordinance he had ever seen in the state of Georgia. He further stated only a very few minor adjustments needed to be made to the existing document to make it even better. The newly elected council appointed our city attorney and Mr. Jenkins to study our ethics ordinance and do the 'tweaking' necessary to make it even better. As Tybee's current ordinance is 40+ pages long, and its proposed replacement is 7 pages, more than 'tweaking' occurred on a massive scale.

Government with less ethics, are you kidding.

I have no idea what this means. What the ... are you talking about?

The ordinance in place is excellent and fair for all...not just a few. This continued effort to throw out a quality product is a waste of my time and money. I will be extremely disappointed with any council member voting to throw out a good ordinance. They will not get my vote again.

If the Ethics Ordinance were less restrictive as proposed, it would allow those with the means to buy the votes of Council. Those without the means would not have this power.

It seems that the Ethics Ordinance is to be changed based on the individual circumstances of current council members..... so that would mean that every time we have a new council that the Ethics Ordinance is challenged and potentially changed. The Ethics Ordinance is good and should NOT be changed, unless making it more restrictive.

Does the City Council think most of the residents of Tybee are stupid? A five year old could figure this one out. Pressure is being put on the five City Council members by their campaign contributors to change the Ethics Ordinance. The builders/developers want the five members to be able to vote on variances so the builders/developers can make more money on their land deals.

Our ethics ordinance was in effect before these members took office. They took an oath to uphold the integrity of the office during their public service, not to change ordinances to accommodate a personal agenda. It is obvious that some

are having some difficulty serving ethically. I would like to know which ones are pushing to undermine this ordinance. The motion and second and subsequent vote will be very revealing as to the ethical standards of the individuals at tonight's council meeting. The Mayor has been asked to hold a public vote on the issue so as to reveal the identities of those having difficulty living up to the current standard. The developers have put themselves in quite a predicament now that we cannot have a quorum because of the recusals and council members must vote to allow each other to vote in order to meet a quorum.

Instead of eliminating, replacing, or altering the ethics ordinance, I would prefer to replace some council members as they can do a lot of damage to Tybee, our property taxes, and our wallets before the next election. A strong ethics ordinance will help keep them in check until then.

More for the Dictatorship. City Council Members should not be up for purchase. They may end up having a disaster sale. Then they would all be bought. City Council Seats should not be up for sale.

The council needs to read the current ordinance and if they can't understand it they should resign. All this work trying to figure out how to vote for their campaign contributors is costing the citizens money in the form of wasted time and wasted legal advice.

Our current ethics ordinance is a work of art, and one which has been highly praised! It doesn't take a rocket scientist to read between the lines and see why certain members of this council want to throw parts of it away, but such a complete disregard for the public's best interest will certainly come back to haunt them.

I do not believe that some members of this council have any ethics.

Tranparency in government in action!

Loosen the ethic code, then lets replace all commitees with our flunkys...

Hey there is a great spot for a casnino now that the hideous dogpark is gone!

Maybe a brothel i hear thats a good revenue stream too!

Tybee is a small island and the past election was way out of hand. There is no reason to spend the large sums of money that most of our council members utilized to get elected in the last election. I am not saying anything is wrong with our present council members, but it does make one take notice when they want to modify the ethics ordinance to benefit their financial supporters. My husband and i will take this into account when we cast our votes in the next election.

I watched and listened very intently to the discussion of the Tybee ethics ordinance at the July 24th city council meeting as I am sure did many other Tybee citizens. People tend to respect and trust those who exhibit high moral and ethical standards, I believe that the continued efforts to suspend,

eliminate, change, alter, replace, or simplify the existing ethics ordinance and the resulting publicity is undermining the trust our citizens have in our elected officials. This cannot be good for Tybee, the mayor, any council member, or other government representative. Council's actions to curtail public participation in the planning commission and possibly replace members of the planning commission without justification deepens the developing mistrust. Some people are saying that simplification is desired so council members may fulfill obligations incurred due to campaign contributions. If so, that would be a violation of the Georgia Code of Ethics, Article 5. At this time, our ethics ordinance is Tybee law. Article two of the Georgia Code of Ethics requires that "any person in government service "Uphold the constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and the State of Georgia and all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion." To me, changing the law to evade the requirements would be just as illegal as evading the law. So changing the existing law (ethics ordinance) to permit council members to vote in favor of a campaign contributor would also be illegal. It is true that intentions can hard to prove, but the large campaign contributions are not, the recorded votes are not, and the results are not. The prisons are full of people who intended to hurt another, intended to commit a robbery, intended to molest a child etc. Maintaining a high ethical standard can be inconvenient and difficult for some people. Many fail. Does the City of Tybee really want to condone such failures or change or simplify its laws to accommodate such failures and permit evasion of current law. No one would complain if they were trying to strengthen the ethics ordinance (except those affected by it with something to hide), but many people sit up and take notice when you attempt to weaken it. If they really want to lower the standards, where do they draw the line and stop? Do they then overlook bribery, pilfering of city supplies, borrowing or theft of funds? Council is assuming great risks by pursuing such diminutive actions. Each of them needs to look at these actions from a citizen's perspective. They cannot legislate ethics into each other, but they can allow the citizens of Tybee to express their desired standards in an ethics ordinance, thereby clearly communicating our standards to each of them and all future elected officials. As this ethics ordinance was already law, each of them accepted the conditions therein when they assumed office and I feel they have no right whatsoever to lower those standards. They can display their standards through their actions but that should not affect ours. We can display our standard with our votes unless we are deceived by campaign rhetoric. I do believe we need a provision in the ordinance that prevents any such change from becoming effective during the current term of the voting members to avoid the appearance of impropriety. That way the voters can decide if they want a member who voted for lower standards to serve under the lower standards. I also appreciate the openness of the proceedings as this issue gives me insight as to who I should and should not vote for in the next election. Perhaps a supplemental survey question may be appropriate. Such as: How does the continued efforts to suspend, eliminate, alter, or replace Tybee's ethics ordinance affect the trust you have in our elected officials?

Very much lot stronger                      somewhat                      Not at all                      Strengthen a little                      A

The ethics ordinance was crafted after exhausting study, public comment, and consultation by experts in the field. All those currently serving on council had opportunity to make their opinions heard then. Where were they? They seem to be wanting to re-write the rules to suit themselves.

In my opinion, if they change any Ordinance that is controversial, then the changes should not go into effect until the first day of the next term of office.

More cronyism at work for all to see.

This is fully in line with the growing soft corruption in politics in this country.

I like it as it is and see no reason for change. Money talks and controls so should be considered in this issue of ethics.

Gee, with this City Council it's almost like having the Bush Administration running the Tybee government. He also does whatever he wants to do, no matter what anyone else thinks. Politics as usual.

We must expect elected officials to be free of obligation from those who will attempt to buy influence.

This council is doing nothing positive or productive for our city. They are looking out for themselves and their supporters. The ethics ordinance is fine as it is. Get on with new business!

The Ethics Ordinance should stand as is. Why should any candidate or member of city council be unwilling or embarrassed to disclose the names of major contributors to his or her campaign? Good government means fair disclosure and that any conflicts of interest should be avoided. What's so difficult about that?

I THINK \$500.00 IS A GOOD & FAIR LIMIT FOR A SMALL TOWN LIKE TYBEE. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOWN HOW MANY CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$500.00 WERE MADE DURING THE LAST THREE (3) ELECTIONS. LARGE CONTRIBUTION USUALLY MEANS BUYING FAVORS.

Any changes made to the ethics policy should not go into effect until after the next election cycle to remove any immediate benefit to those voting on it. They would have to stand for reelection with their vote known to the voters.

Please see item 1. I didn't vote for the mayor or most of the current council members. If your organization has any clout, why not use it. If not, why not quit.

Somebody sure voted for the current mayor and council. Where were you folks? I'd love to see a strong alternative "party" on Tybee .. capable of saving the shrimp fleet and the sand dunes .. but ... it isn't going to happen. Even the folks who oppose the current administration still have the basic problem of greed. Every decision is made on one basis ... is it going to make my investment pay? Well, what is best for Tybee means making investments not pay. Its pretty basic.

Tybee Island is still "small town" enough to have citizens and officials overly influenced by big buck contributors. Conversely, the country itself is fighting to reduce the political power of too much money in its campaigns. Fortunately, both presidential candidates want to reign in big political contributions. Tybee Island should stick to its ethical guns and show the nation how things should be done.

Thousands of dollars were spent on development of this ordinance along with a great effort by volunteer citizens with the guidance of the Tybee attorney. It was approved and should be given a chance. Someone needs to look at how much has already been spent on this.

Changing this will not stop political favor to supporters. electing the right official has a better chance of working.

The Ethics Ordinance is a flawed document that needs to be amended; a legal campaign contribution should not strip a council member of their right to vote. According to Frank Jenkins, who is actually an Ethics trained lawyer, states that "there are first amendment issues involved in denying a vote by a city official simply because of a campaign contribution". In fact, the present council has not voted on any issue involving significant contributors that the question alludes to, in addition, the question insinuates that a council member could be bought for a mere \$500.00 is laughable. The problem with the Ethics Ordinance arose because of the planning commission fiasco during the election--not with the campaign contribution. As long as the contribution is disclosed, so what. Not that it matters, the amount originally proposed was \$1000.00 but was changed to \$500.00 by the ethics advisory board chairman at the last minute.

Our small commercial community must have a voice. Obviously, the only large amounts are from business. We are being squashed by inane regulations as it is. Sometimes ya git wot ya pay for.

Another politically motivated move by a corrupt City Council. While there seems to be little "transparency in government" with these guys, it is perfectly transparent what they are trying to accomplish here. SHAME ON THEM! It is also another slap in the face to the dedicated volunteers who worked so diligently to write an excellent and fair ordinance. If it needs "tweaking", as Eddy said, then tweak it. Don't throw it out!

This council is proving itself to be of little to no value to citizens of Tybee Island.

Let the existing Ethics Ordinance stand, it should be reworked and some of the problem areas corrected.