

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, April 8, 2024

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session on the above date. Mayor Todd Mobley presided, and the following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott and Councilmembers Scott Chastain; and, Lucinda Brown. Also present were the Interim City Manager, Chris White; Assistant City Manager, Sheryl Sealy; City Attorney, Timothy C. Sanders; other city staff; citizens and members of the media. It shall be noted that Councilmember Royal O. Baker, III, was absent from this meeting. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 144 East Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia. Simultaneous access to the meeting was provided to those members of the media and citizens unable to attend the meeting via the City of Thomasville’s online live stream feed located at www.thomasville.org.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Todd Mobley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Scott Chastain gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024, as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, and Brown.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2024: Councilmember Lucinda Brown presented a proclamation acknowledging April as Child Abuse Prevention Month to representatives from three separate Thomasville organizations: Vashti Center, Treehouse Children’s Advocacy Center of Thomas County, and Never Lost. The proclamation recognized children as the most valuable resource for shaping the future of the City of Thomasville and encouraged the community to work together to increase the awareness about child abuse and continue to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.
2. National Lineman Appreciation Day – April 18, 2024: Mayor Mobley presented a proclamation acknowledging National Lineman Appreciation Day as April 18, 2024, to numerous Linemen of the Electric Utility Department. The proclamation declared the City’s appreciation of Linemen and their dedication for the Thomasville community.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Mobley acknowledged the following citizen as listed on the Citizens to be Heard Sign-In Form:

1. Keith Thomas, resident of Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, reported on an incident that happened on the previous evening where several young individuals brandished a BB gun during a pizza-delivery-scam robbery of an elderly gentleman. Thomas voiced concerns of potential tragedy had the elderly gentleman protected himself with a real gun. He encouraged Councilmembers to provide positive direction to the community’s youth.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, and Brown.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be considered by Councilmembers at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of an ordinance to demolish unfit structure located at 403 Lester Street, Thomasville, Georgia.

Executive Director of Inspections & Engineering, Mark Harmon reported that the structure located at 403 Lester Street, has been in a deteriorating state without utilities for an extended period of years. The required appraisals were completed to confirm that it meets the threshold for demolition. Notices of Unfit structure status and a hearing date were sent to known interested parties and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on November 1, 2023, where an order was lawfully issued to demolish this structure within 30 days. The (Lis Pendens) order was recorded mailed to all parties identified, posted on site, and printed in the required intervals in the legal section of the Times Enterprise per the requirement by City of Thomasville ordinances and Georgia Law. According to the Tax Assessor's office, the dwelling was constructed in 1926. The dwelling is in a deteriorated state and not habitable. It is unoccupied and has been unoccupied for an extended period. The displayed photographs showed that the house has not been maintained for many years. The entire house is in a fragile state with much of the floor system and the interior is missing where the crawl space floor is visible. The electrical, plumbing, and heating systems are missing and would require complete replacement.

Councilmember Brown moved to order the ordinance to demolish the unfit structure at 403 Lester Street as read for the first time, passed, and carried over, as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, and Brown.

The title of the ordinance ordered read for the first time, passed, and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 403 LESTER STREET, THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; OWNED BY KENNETH L. HAYES; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

First reading of an ordinance to demolish unfit structure located at 427 South Stevens Street, Thomasville, Georgia.

Executive Director of Inspections & Engineering, Mark Harmon reported the structure located at 427 South Stevens Street, has been in a deteriorating state without utilities for an extended period of years. The required appraisals were completed to confirm that it meets the threshold for demolition. Notices of Unfit structure status and a hearing date were sent to known interested parties and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on November 1, 2023, where an order was lawfully issued to demolish this structure within 30 days. The (Lis Pendens) order was recorded mailed to all parties identified, posted on site, and printed in the required intervals in the legal section of the Times Enterprise per the requirement by City of Thomasville ordinances and Georgia Law. According to the Tax Assessor's office, the dwelling was constructed in 1911. For some period used as a duplex, the dwelling is now in a severely deteriorated state and not habitable. It is unoccupied and has been unoccupied for an extended period. Photographs displayed depicted a failing and partially collapsed condition of the structure. The entire house is in a fragile state. The electrical, plumbing, and heating systems are missing and would require complete replacement.

Councilmember Chastain moved to order the ordinance to demolish the unfit structure at 427 South Stevens Street as read for the first time, passed, and carried over, as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, and Brown.

The title of the ordinance ordered read for the first time, passed, and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 427 S STEVENS, THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; OWNED BY JUANITA DIXON AND ANNIE GRACE BENTON; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution to move the City of Thomasville from the Local Administered Project Architectural-Engineering (A/E) Procurement Conditional Approval Certification to Full Approval Certification in relation to Georgia Department of Transportation Local Administration of Federal-Aid Projects.

Project Manager, Eve Geyer reported that on February 7, 2023, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) recertified the City of Thomasville to administer federal-aid projects for a period of three (3) years (02/07/2023-03/31/2026). As specified in the agreement, the City of Thomasville agreed to adhere to the GDOT Local Administered Project (LAP) Manual for the local administration of Federal-aid projects. The city's recertification was 184 pages based on one federal-aid project from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through GDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and consisted of seven (7) sections, which are: 1) LAP Responsible Charge Worksheet; 2) Title VI Questionnaire; 3) Environmental Questionnaire; 4) Right of Way Questionnaire; 5) Utility Division Questionnaire; 6) Construction Division Questionnaire; and, 7) Procurement of Engineering and Design Related Services Questionnaire. The city received full approval except for section 7, which received conditional approval. This means The City will have to submit their next federally funded engineering and design procurement to procurementcompliance@dot.ga.gov prior to advertisement and prior to award; if at this time it is determined the City has the ability to conduct the procurement at the local level full approval will be granted; and if it is determined the City has not displayed the ability to conduct the procurement at the local level the City will denied and GDOT will be responsible for conducting all of the City's federally funded engineering and design procurements. Project Manager Geyer further reported that on November 29, 2023, GDOT emailed those local agencies with conditional approval stating "in an effort to allow for better efficiencies and allow local agencies to independently conduct Engineering and Design procurements, we are transitioning all conditional local agencies to full approval with the signing of the attached attestation statement. Once this statement is signed and accepted, your agency will no longer be required to submit your solicitation or selection package to our office." Therefore, the attestation statement has been completed, and a resolution written confirming that the City of Thomasville be moved from LAP A/E procurement conditional approval certification to full approval certification. It was requested that the City Council adopt a resolution in favor of the request to move the City of Thomasville to the full approval certification list.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

A Resolution for the City of Thomasville, Georgia
to Receive Full Approval Certification for Engineering and Design Procurement via the Local
Administered Project Program

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2023, the Georgia Department of Transportation recertified the City of Thomasville to administer federal-aid projects for a period of three years (2/7/2023 through 3/31/2026); and

WHEREAS, to receive full approval certification for engineering and design procurement from the Local Administered Project program, the City of Thomasville must adhere to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Local Administered Project Manual for the local administration of Federal-aid projects; and,

WHEREAS, the city of Thomasville desires to formally request of GDOT to be moved from CONDITIONAL approval to FULL approval; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville completed the attestation statement; and,

WHEREAS, attached to this resolution is “Exhibit A – Attestation Statement and Checklist”; and,

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, the City of Thomasville Civil Engineering Department provides the “person in responsible charge” to ensure that all applicable Federal and State regulations are followed on the project and have the responsibility, authority, and resources to manage the project accordingly.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, in a meeting of duly assembled, the attestation to receive full approval certification for engineering and design procurement via the Local Administered Project program, is hereby adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, that the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem is authorized to sign any necessary and related documents relating to the adoption of the attestation to receive full approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, that this Resolution shall become effective on the 8th day of April 2024.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia this, the 8th of April 2024.

Resolution to accept an award for Regional Water Plan Seed Grant.

Grants Administrator, Pam Schalk reported that flooding issues have plagued the City for many years. Attempts to address issues on a site-by-site basis have been ongoing. Stormwater infrastructure maintenance and repairs can be expensive. To address flooding issues within the community in a fiscally responsible manner, a Stormwater Master Plan was developed and will be presented this year for review and approval. A public education program was established in partnership with Golden Triangle RC&D and Keep Thomas County Beautiful and will continue through this project. This project will expand on the progress made over the past two years. This education program will continue to provide information on how individual actions impact Thomasville’s local water quality and flooding and the stormwater education in all 4th grade classes. A new Adopt-A-Storm drain program will be established. Annual Water Education Events will be hosted by a qualified consultant: Rain garden and rain barrel education events will be provided along with grants to install these elements in areas of localized flooding. Matching funds of \$6,451.00 in-kind (staff time) and \$20,639 cash are needed; the grant award is \$41,644.00. The total project cost is \$68,734.00. It is requested that the City Council accept the grant award from EPD for the above outlined education programs and certify the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to sign all necessary and related documents. It was noted that a similar grant was received two years ago; however, this grant will focus on outreach.

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the resolution to accept the Regional Water Plan Seed Grant as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires that stormwater education be provided for the benefit of our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to accept the grant award from the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (EPD) for funding under the Regional Water Plan Seed (RWSP) Grant in the amount of up to forty-one thousand six hundred forty-four (\$41,644.00) dollars; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize an expenditure, in an amount not to exceed six thousand four hundred fifty-one dollars (\$6,451.00), so as to provide the matching funds as a requirement of the RWPS Grant application; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to sign all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the RWPS Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the acceptance of the Regional Water Plan Seed (RWPS) Grant in the amount of forty-one thousand six hundred forty-four (\$41,644.00) dollars from the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (EPD) to provide assistance for data collection to develop a Master Storm Water Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes an expenditure, in an amount not to exceed sixty-two thousand two-hundred eighty-three dollars (\$62,283.00), so as to provide the funds as a requirement of the RWPS Grant award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the Mayor of the City of Thomasville or Mayor Pro Tempore, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the RWPS Grant award.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 8th day of April 2024.

REPORTS

Interim City Manager White reported additional hearings for demolition of unfit structures will be held within the next several weeks.

Councilmember Brown introduced Desserita Dyson, the Honorary Councilmember for the month of April. It was noted that Ms. Dyson works in the health care industry and wants to learn more about her community.

Mayor Mobley reported that members of Cub Scout Pack 316 were present with their Den Leader to learn more about their community. Den Leader Rodd reported the Cub Scouts must meet with local government officials as part of their Arrow of Light requirements. As a former member of Cub Scout Pack 316, Mayor Mobley encouraged the young men to strive to for Eagle Scout designations. Cub Scout Pack 316 members present were as follows:

Asher Beggs, Emmet Griffith, Chason Hester, and Davis Rodd.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business for consideration, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Mayor, Todd Mobley



ATTEST: City Clerk

[seal]