

City of Thomasville Council Meeting of June 21, 2017

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session with Mayor Hobbs presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Beverly, Flowers, Scott and Sims. Also present were the Honorary Councilmember Matt Kirkley, City Manager/Utilities Superintendent, Steve Sykes; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; other staff; members of the press; and citizens.

Mayor Hobbs called the meeting to order. Councilmember Flowers gave the invocation. Mayor Pro-Tem Sims led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Councilmember Scott, and seconded by Councilmember Beverly, the minutes of the meeting on June 12, 2017 were unanimously approved as presented.

Mayor Hobbs opened the meeting to citizens to be heard on non-agenda items. Mr. Lee Cook, residing at 1817 Summerhill Road, Thomasville, Georgia 31792, addressed the Council. Mr. Cook stated that while his residence is located outside the incorporated City limits, he is a subscriber to the City-owned CNS Cable TV and is not pleased with current service provided. Mr. Cook voiced concerns about severe inconsistency of volume levels of CNS cable channels since the installation of the DTA box. He reported several service calls have been made to his residence and no one seems to know why the volume levels are inconsistent. Mr. Cook expressed his concerns regarding length of incident time and payment for a service which is inconsistent. Mayor Hobbs thanked Mr. Cook for expressing his concerns and requested City Manager Sykes to have staff look into this matter further.

Mayor Hobbs welcomed Mr. Lyndall Knight to the meeting for a special presentation. On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Alan-Cook Post 4995, Mr. Lyndall Knight presented a *Fire Fighters Certificate of Appreciation* to Engineer Michael Mann for his service to the City of Thomasville and his community.

Under new business, Council considered the approval of an equipment lease for Public Works. ACM/City Engineer Pionessa reported Public Works currently pays a monthly lease for 420E Backhoe and the lease ends in June 2017. To be more efficient with projects, staff recommends replacing the 420E Backhoe by entering into a five-year lease for a 308E Mini Excavator at the cost of \$1,085 per month. This is a line item in Public Works operating budget for 2017. ACM/City Engineer Pionessa noted this equipment will enable the Public Works Department to have more efficient capabilities to complete projects as needed.

On motion of Councilmember Flowers, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sims, the Council unanimously approved the award of a five-year lease for a 308E Mini Excavator to Yancy Brothers Company, Austell, Georgia, as per staff recommendation.

Council considered a request from Thomasville Payroll Development Authority (TPDA). Mayor Hobbs requested City Manager Sykes to present. City Manager Sykes noted TPDA has sent recommendation to Council to approve the purchase of the Caterpillar building located at 101 Caterpillar Way, Thomasville, Georgia. As per discussion in Workshop, City Manager Sykes reported funding mechanisms are currently in place to fund the purchase through Economic Development. TPDA had entered into a sales agreement for the building with earnest money and extended the contract deadline for an extra due diligence period. The negotiated cost of the building is \$3.4 million and the sales agreement deadline is July 15, 2017. It was noted that TPDA is currently working with a prospect to occupy the building which will potentially invest in facility improvements, rail upgrades, create jobs in excess of 400 and be the largest user of natural gas and water utilities.

On motion of Mayor Pro-Tem Sims, and seconded by Councilmember Flowers, the approval of the purchase of the Caterpillar building, located at 101 Caterpillar Way, Thomasville, Georgia, passed with AYE's recorded by a show of hands, at Mayor Hobb's request, as follows:

AYE: Mayor Pro-Tem Sims, Councilmember Beverly, Councilmember Flowers and Councilmember Scott.

ABSTAIN: Mayor Hobs requested to be recorded as abstaining from the vote.

City Manager Sykes presented an update of results from the recent Council/City Staff SPLOST retreat. The retreat was held to gather input for potential SPLOST funded project based on priority needs and estimated allocations. City Manager Sykes reported the update balances the project amounts to the overall estimated distribution amount as follows:

- 1) Moved Underground Utilities/Designated Corridors (\$2,000,000) from PRIORITY ONE to PRIORITY TWO (this can be performed as budgeted Utilities Capital Projects over several years);
- 2) Reduced Stormwater Improvements from \$1,700,000 to \$1,500,000;
- 3) Moved Bike/Walk Trail (\$1,000,000) from PRIORITY TWO to PRIORITY ONE;
- 4) Reduced Sidewalk Installation from \$1,300,000 to \$1,054,000 and moved from PRIORITY TWO to PRIORITY ONE;
- 5) Reduced County-Wide Recreation from \$700,000 to \$350,000 and moved from PRIORITY TWO to PRIORITY ONE  
(the same amount can be performed (\$700,000) but the County will need to pay for half out of their distribution;
- 6) Moved East/West Jackson Street Resurfacing (\$1,250,000) from PRIORITY THREE to PRIORITY TWO;
- 7) Moved Auditorium Renovations (\$2,000,000) from PRIORITY THREE to PRIORITY TWO.

Councilmember Beverly noted underground utilities had originally been placed with high priority; however, relocating this item does not mean it is not a priority of Council, relocation means that there are other obtainable resources for funding of this item. It was noted this update is for informational purposes and Council has the option to reprioritize the overall project list before finalizing the distribution.

Mayor Hobbs presented a plaque to Honorary Councilmember Matt Kirley for his service on the Council for the month of June 2017. Mr. Kirkley stated he enjoyed being able to participate in the workings of City government and applauded Councilmembers for their efforts.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sims commended TPDA Director Zorn's continued work with economic development in Thomasville.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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Greg Hobbs, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Felicia Brannen, City Clerk