

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session with Mayor Greg Hobbs presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott, Councilmembers Jay Flowers, David Hufstetler, and Todd Mobley. Also present were the Interim City Manager, Kha McDonald; Interim Utilities Superintendent, Keith Bass; Asst. Utilities Superintendent, Chris White; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; Honorary Councilmember Pastor Denny Blake, other staff, members of the press and citizens. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at 144 East Jackson Street in Thomasville, Georgia.

Mayor Hobbs called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In memory of Senator John McCain, Mayor Hobbs called for a pause of eighty-one seconds of silence. Councilmember Flowers gave the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Scott led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Scott, and seconded by Councilmember Flowers, the minutes of the City Council meeting held on August 13, 2018 were unanimously approved as presented.

Mayor Hobbs opened the meeting to citizens to be heard on non-agenda items. Councilmember Flowers reported a Staff/ Council Strategic Planning Retreat was held recently to further address sections of the Comprehensive Plan. He commended Interim City Manager and staff members for their planning efforts as a team and noted the Thomasville community benefits greatly from this strategic planning. Councilmember Flowers also reported Interim City Manager McDonald celebrates thirty years with the City of Thomasville and applauded her for always placing Thomasville first in all of her endeavors.

Wallace Goodman, resident of Thomasville, addressed Council and inquired whose financial responsibility it will be if any of the current pending law suits are formally filed. City Attorney Sanders reported the City of Thomasville is a member of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), which utilizes the liability program of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and Gallagher Bassett for risk management claims. Sanders further noted that if pending suits are formally filed, then Gallagher Bassett defends Councilmembers in their official capacities and note he could provide no further comment regarding these matters. Mr. Goodman also inquired if Council had plans to place Pinetree Boulevard road improvements on the agenda in the near future. Mayor Hobbs reported a date has not yet been determined.

Lucinda Brown Resident of Thomasville, addressed Council with concerns regarding recent meetings of the Thomas County-Thomasville Drug Task Force Committee (Drug Squad). She reported, although these meetings are to be open to the public as per the Open Meetings Act, she has recently met resistance of such from the meeting organizers. Ms. Brown reported the July meeting was cancelled and citizens who arrived to attend the August meeting were asked to leave because the meeting was closed to the public. She further reported that a recent memo had been distributed stating all Drug Squad meetings were cancelled until further notice. Ms. Brown explained there was witnessed discussion at the August meeting between those present and the District Attorney, who was also present, regarding the closure of the meeting and violation of the Open Meetings Act. It was noted Councilmember Hufstetler was present for the August meeting and Mayor Hobbs was not able to attend the entire meeting. Ms. Brown requested Council address this concern with the Drug Squad as this was a joint committee between the City and the County and was funded in part by the City. Mayor Hobbs acknowledged a 2017 amendment to staffing requirements of the contract between City and County for Drug Squad and reported the cancellation of future meetings was due to required updates of the current agreement between the City and County.

Ms. Brown also addressed Council regarding recent requests regarding the sidewalk plans for Thomasville. She noted she, and other concerned community members, would like to review the plan and provide input to ensure areas that desperately need sidewalks receive them for the safety of children's travels to/from school/home. It was noted the five-year sidewalk plan presentation was reviewed during a recent Council meeting and is available online. Ms. Brown expressed further concerns regarding available funding to provide safe sidewalks for the children in the community in all areas of Thomasville.

Veronica Scott, resident of Thomasville, also addressed Council regarding safe sidewalks for children in Thomasville. She noted this is a safety concern, and has witnessed near misses of children and elderly being hit by vehicles because a sidewalk is not present in their area for safe travels.

There being no more citizens to be heard, Council moved on to the printed agenda. Under Old Business Council considered on second reading of an ordinance to transfer certain real property, located on Roseway Drive (approximately 25 acres), from the City of Thomasville to the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority. Mayor Hobbs recognized Payroll Development Authority Director, Shelley Zorn, who reported the ordinance remained unchanged from the first reading. She further reported the property will be used in aiding Sweet Grass Dairy's expansion of their manufacturing facility contingent upon stipulations of the Payroll Development Authority.

On motion of Councilmember Hufstetler, and seconded by Councilmember Mobley, the following ordinance was unanimously read for the second time, passed and adopted:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THOMASVILLE, THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA, FROM THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE TO THE THOMASVILLE PAYROLL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### SECTION I

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville owns that certain real property located on Roseway Drive, consisting of twenty five (25) acres more or less, more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the City of Thomasville, Georgia, and being more particularly described according to a plat of survey prepared by Frank E. Carlton, Georgia Registered Surveyor No. 1544, dated July 8, 2014, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" ("Property");

WHEREAS, the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority ("PDA") is a development authority and public body corporate and politic duly created by local amendment to the Georgia Constitution, Ga. L. 1960, p. 1329, ratified by electors in 1960, and continued by the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority Act, Ga. L. 1985, p. 4552;

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Thomasville deems it in the best interest of the City of Thomasville to transfer the Property to the PDA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that the City of Thomasville does transfer the Property to the PDA and the Mayor is authorized and directed to sign all documents and deeds, recorded or otherwise, relating to the transfer and conveyance of the Property to the PDA.

#### SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its final adoption.

#### SECTION III

All ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

#### SECTION IV

This ordinance shall not be made a part of the official codified ordinances of the City of Thomasville, but shall nevertheless be spread upon the public minutes and records of the City of Thomasville.

#### SECTION V

The ordinance was introduced and read at a lawful meeting of the City Council for the City of Thomasville held on August 13, 2018 and read a second time, passed and adopted in a like meeting held on August 27, 2018.

Reporting a conflict of interest with the following agenda item, Mayor Hobbs recused himself from the meeting and authorized Mayor Pro Tem Scott to conduct this portion of the meeting. Council considered a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB). Civil Engineering Department Project Manager, Eve Geyer reported on March 12, 2018, Council approved the submission of an application for funding from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority pursuant to the GTIB Act in order to design and construct a portion of sidewalk and improve road conditions on South MLK Jr. Drive between West Jackson Street and South Pinetree Boulevard including portions of Varnedoe Street into Balfour Park. The GTIB is a grant and low-interest loan program administered by the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), and the main objective of the GTIB is to make an additional funding resource available to government entities in order to accelerate transportation project delivery. Ms. Geyer further reported that on June 20, 2018, the State Road and Tollway Authority gave notification to the City of Thomasville of the GTIB grant award in the amount of \$446,899.30. This money along with the budgeted \$640,000 will be used during the construction phase of the South MLK Jr. Drive project. Ms. Geyer explained the next step is for the City of Thomasville to accept the grant for the specified project in the grant amount for the grant purpose and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement.

On motion of Councilmember Flowers, and seconded by Councilmember Mobley, Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution to authorize the City of Thomasville to enter into the agreement with GTIB and to authorize Mayor Pro Tem Scott to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Thomasville. The following votes were recorded:

AYE: Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley.

NAY: None recorded.

ABSTAINED: Mayor Hobbs.

Following recording of the vote, Mayor Pro Tem Scott returned authorization to conduct the remaining portion of the meeting to Mayor Hobbs.

Council considered a motion to approve an amendment to the Agreed Upon Procedure Services conducted by Mauldin & Jenkins for the City of Thomasville. Councilmember Flowers reported Councilmembers collectively have surpassed the 2018 budget for travel and training expenses. He noted Councilmembers have traveled at a higher rate than in the past years and explained the current year's budgeted amount is based on prior year's spending patterns. Councilmember Flowers further noted that while Mauldin & Jenkins is reviewing other Agreed Upon Procedures, it would be prudent to have them also obtain all Council expense records from 2015 through July 31, 2018 to identify reasons for overage, assess future needs and help to define attendance and spending criteria for the future. It was noted that during Workshop, it was discussed by Council to expand this to include review of all travel expenditures for all credit cards held by City of Thomasville.

On motion of Councilmember Hufstetler, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council unanimously approve the amendment to the Agreed upon Procedure Services conducted by Mauldin &

Jenkins to include a review of travel expenditures incurred on all City of Thomasville Credit Cards for 2015, 2016, 2017 and through July 31, 2018 to ensure appropriate budgeting for future expenses.

Council considered a motion to approve an application for a One Day Permit for Sale of Alcohol Beverage by Charitable and Non-Profit Civic Organization for Vashti Center, Inc. Asst. Chief of Police, Eric Hampton reported the applicant Liz Williams, Development Associate for Vashti Center had completed the permit application for "Dinner on the Bricks". It was noted the application revealed no concerns and Police Chief Troy Rich had approved the application. The annual fundraising event will be held on City property located at 131 South Stevens Street in the Ritz Amphitheater on September 22, 2018.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Scott, and seconded by Councilmember Flowers, Council unanimously approved the One day Permit for Sale of Alcohol Beverage by Charitable and Non-Profit Civic Organization for Vashti Center, Inc. and event as presented.

Council considered approval of Transfer of Cemetery lots at Peaceful Rest Cemetery as presented by City Clerk, Felicia Brannen. Pursuant to Thomasville Municipal Code, Chapter 6 – Cemeteries, transfer of spaces must be approved by the City Council. City Clerk Brannen reported completed affidavits for the following had been received:

1. Leon Jones requests the transfer of ownership of Lot 30, Section GG, in Peaceful Rest Cemetery to Larry & Deborah Roberson.
2. Tanya Andrews and George Andrews request the Transfer of ownership of Lot 32, Section GG, in Peaceful Rest Cemetery to Larry & Deborah Roberson.


On motion of Councilmember Mobley, and seconded by Councilmember Hufstetler, Council unanimously approved the Transfer of Cemetery for the Cemetery Lots at Peaceful Rest Cemetery as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott presented a commemorative plaque to Honorary Councilmember, Pastor Denny Blake, in honor of his service as an Honorary Councilmember. Pastor Blake thanked Councilmembers for allowing him the opportunity to serve during the month of August. He noted that Thomasville currently has many things happening and requested Council to strive to work together and keep the community in mind while moving forward. Council commended staff on recent achievements and their efforts involved with projects.

Having no further discussion, the City of Thomasville Council meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.



Mayor, Greg Hobbs



City Clerk

# EXHIBIT "A"

