

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 Clara Clifton, 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. 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 27, 2018 were unanimously approved as presented.

Mayor Hobbs opened the meeting to citizens to be heard on non-agenda items. Wallace Goodman, resident of Thomasville, addressed Council and inquired if Council had determined a meeting date on which Pinetree Boulevard road improvements would be discussed. Mayor Hobbs responded that necessary water main and sewer main improvements for South Pinetree Boulevard were discussed at a recent workshop; however, discussion of road construction improvements have not yet been determined. Mr. Goodman further inquired about potential vote for separation of positions of City Manager and Utilities Superintendent. Mayor Hobbs responded that following the Utilities Committee meeting held on August 29, 2018 no additional discussion has been held. Mr. Goodman noted that the current Interim City Manager, Mrs. McDonald, and the current Assistant Utilities Superintendent, Chris White, should be considered for the positions of City Manager and Utilities Superintendent as they were well qualified for the respective positions. He concluded his comments by noting the current political atmosphere was not ideally conducive for well qualified candidates to apply for the position of City Manager.

There being no more citizens to be heard, Council moved on to the printed agenda. Mayor Hobbs reported there were no items for discussion under Old Business and moved to items of New Business. Council considered a resolution of emergency for the first and second readings, at this meeting, of an ordinance to set the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Thomasville.

On motion of Councilmember Mobley, and seconded by Councilmember Hufstetler, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that due to the time required to prepare the 2018 ad valorem tax bills, there exists an emergency status of need requiring the adoption of an ordinance to set the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax millage rate on first and second readings at this one meeting.

SO DONE this the 10th day of September 2018.

Council considered on first and second readings, under resolution of emergency, an ordinance to set the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Thomasville at 00.00 mills for General Government. It was noted that in Section 6.11 of the Charter as the levying authority the City council levies the ad valorem tax on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the city that is subject to such taxation by the state and county. This tax is for the purpose of raising revenues to defray the costs of operating the city government, of providing governmental services, for the repayment of principal and interest on general obligations, and for any other public purpose as determined by the City Council in its discretion.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Scott, and seconded by Councilmember Flowers, the following ordinance was read for the first and second time, under a resolution of emergency, and unanimously passed and adopted:

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CITY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR 2018, AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE LAW BASED ON THE EVALUATION, BY THE BOARD OF SUCH TAX ASSESSORS OF THOMAS COUNTY FOR 2018 COUNTY TAX PURPOSES, OF EACH SUCH TAXABLE ITEM WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; TO SET THE TAX RATE FOR 2018 TO BE LEVIED UPON ALL SAID PROPERTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville by the authority vested in them by the charter, charter amendments, and ordinances of said City, and in conformity with State law, that the City ad valorem property tax assessments for 2018 are hereby established based on the evaluation, by the Board of Tax Assessors of Thomas County for 2018 County tax purposes, of each such taxable item within the corporate limits of said City, such assessments totaling \$675,184,206 exclusive of assessments on motor vehicles which have already been taxed, by operation of State Law of 1985.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that upon all of said assessment as hereby established, and compiled into the 2018 Tax Digest together with the assessments established by the State Revenue Commissioner upon properties of public utilities, there be, and hereby is, set and levied a tax rate of:

00.00 mills for General Government.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed for the purposes of this ordinance only.

This ordinance was read the first and second times in lawful meeting of the Council of the City of Thomasville held this the 10th day of September, 2018, in accordance with resolution adopted previously declaring an emergency requiring first and second readings at this one meeting, passed and adopted after proper vote.

Council considered a resolution of emergency for the first and second readings, at this one meeting, an ordinance to set the 2018 School Tax Millage Rate for the Thomasville Board of Education. On motion of Councilmember Hufstetler, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that due to the time required to prepare the 2018 ad valorem tax bills, there exists an emergency status of need requiring the adoption of an ordinance to set the 2018 City School Tax millage rate on first and second readings at this one meeting.

SO DONE this the 10th day of September 2018.

Council considered on first and second readings, under resolution of emergency, an ordinance to set the 2018 City School Tax millage rate for the Thomasville Board of Education at 18.815 mills for General Government. It was noted in Section 11.2 of the Charter as the levying authority the City council levies the millage rate recommended by the Thomasville Board of Education. Consider on first and second reading, under emergency resolution, an ordinance to levying the 2018 school tax. The City School Board

has met and adopted 2018 school tax millage rate of 18.815 mills. This will be an increase in the millage rate of 1.35 mills from 2017. The net 2018 digest for school purposes is \$668,416,915 which means that each mill of tax will produce approximately \$668,000. The represents about a 7.73 percent increase in the mill value. We completed the roll back rate calculation for the City Schools. This Calculation was determined to be 17.465. The City School Board has advertised and recommended the school tax rate increase to 18.815. As the levying authority, the City of Thomasville is responsible for levying and collecting the tax on the City schools' behalf.

On motion of Councilmember Flowers, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, the following ordinance was read for the first and second time, under a resolution of emergency, and unanimously passed and adopted:

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CITY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR CITY SCHOOL TAX FOR 2018, AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE LAW BASED ON THE EVALUATION, BY THE BOARD OF SUCH TAX ASSESSORS OF THOMAS COUNTY FOR 2018 COUNTY TAX PURPOSES, OF EACH SUCH TAXABLE ITEM WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; TO SET THE CITY SCHOOL TAX RATE FOR 2018 TO BE LEVIED UPON ALL SAID PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR DISCOUNTS TO BE ALLOWED ON PAYMENT OF 2018 TAXES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville by the authority vested in them by the charter, charter amendments, and ordinances of said City, and in conformity with State law, that the City ad valorem property tax assessments for 2018 are hereby established based on the evaluation, by the Board of Tax Assessors of Thomas County for 2018 County tax purposes, of each such taxable item within the corporate limits of said City, such assessments totaling \$675,184,206 exclusive of assessments on motor vehicles which have already been taxed, by operation of State Law of 1985.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that upon all of said assessment as hereby established, and compiled into the 2018 Tax Digest together with the assessments established by the State Revenue Commissioner upon properties of public utilities, there be, and hereby is, set and levied a tax rate of 18.815 mills comprised of the following levies to meet the requirements for each purpose as listed:

For City School Tax 18.815 mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the following discounts be allowed on payments of 2018 taxes:
If paid on or before November 16, 20183 percent

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that as to any irregularity or error which occurs with regard to payment by the taxpayer and which is not the result of fault or oversight by the taxpayer and which occurs because of fault, oversight, time constraints or other action or inaction on the part of the administrative staff of the City of Thomasville, the City Manager shall have the authority, in his sole discretion, to allow the benefit of early payment, to waive any penalty for late payment which would otherwise be imposed, or take any other such action which he deems prudent and appropriate in the circumstances.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed for the purposes of this ordinance only.

This ordinance was read the first and second times in lawful meeting of the Council of the City of Thomasville held this the 10th day of September, 2018, in accordance with resolution adopted previously

declaring an emergency requiring first and second readings at this one meeting, passed and adopted after proper vote.

Council considered resolution to adopt updates to, and authorize the Mayor to sign, the Thomas County Service Delivery Strategy on behalf of the City of Thomasville. ACM/Economic Development & Communications, Lynn Williams, reported periodic updates of the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) are required, and the current extension for the Thomas County SDS ends on October 31, 2018. Williams further reported City staff met with Mr. Mike Stephenson, County Manager, and Mr. Wiley Grady, Board Chairperson, to discuss identified changes and/or corrections that needed to be made to the existing Service Delivery Strategy. These included corrections regarding Tourism delivery, Fire Service Delivery, Recreation delivery as well as the removal of duplicates. It was noted that the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) process gives local governments and authorities the opportunity to reach agreement on the delivery of services in an effective and cost-efficient manner to Georgia's citizens. Without a Service Delivery Strategy verified by DCA to comply with applicable requirements, a local government or respective authorities are ineligible to receive any state permits or financial assistance.

On motion of Councilmember Hufstetler, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council unanimously adopted the following resolution and approved the 2018 Service Delivery Strategy and authorized the Mayor to sign the 2018 SDS on behalf of the City of Thomasville:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the local governments of Thomas County are required to review their existing Service Delivery Strategy to determine if the Strategy continues to reflect the preferred arrangements for providing local services; and

WHEREAS, the governments of Thomas County and the City of Thomasville have found it necessary to make minor revisions to the Service Delivery Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the revised Service Delivery Strategy promotes the delivery of local government services in the most effective and responsive manner for all residents, individuals, and property owners throughout Thomasville and Thomas County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville that the 2018 Thomas County Service Delivery Strategy is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign the 2018 Service Delivery Strategy on behalf of the City of Thomasville.

SO DONE, this the 10th day of September, 2018.

Council considered award of contract for design, bidding and permitting for construction of Cell 5 and Sediment Pond No. 3 at the Thomasville Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. City Engineer, Wayne Newsome, reported the Landfill has utilized most of the permitted capacity in Cells 1-4 at the Landfill and it is estimated that within one to two years, all available capacity will have been utilized. Newsome also reported Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc., (HHN&T) have provided extensive engineering and environmental services at the Landfill for twenty years. Due to this firm's extensive knowledge of the Landfill and its operations, staff requested and received a proposal for design, bidding and permitting for the Cell 5 and Sediment Pond No. 3 expansion. It was noted the approval and construction process can take up to one year. Staff reviewed HHN&T's proposal and found the fees to be at or below GSA (General Service Administration) guidance for professional service fees as a percentage of the estimated construction

value, with proposed fees being between 2-3 percent. Newsome further noted that prior excavation of the area for Cell 5 has been underway and the soil resource was being utilized in other areas of the Landfill as permitted.

On motion of Councilmember Mobley, and seconded by Councilmember Hufstetler, Council unanimously approved the award of contract for design, bidding and permitting for construction of Cell 5 and Sediment Pond No. 3 at the Thomasville Municipal Solid Waste Landfill to Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc., of Macon, Georgia for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.


Council considered award of contract for the purchase of Carbon Credits at the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSW). City Engineer, Wayne Newsome, reported in early 2011, the City of Thomasville MSW facility implemented a gas collection system to capture and burn the methane gas generated at the landfill. The City has operated this system and sold carbon credits since implementation of that system. This activity provides an additional revenue stream at the landfill with gross revenues averaging \$95,000-\$100,000, per year. Newsome noted the current contract with Element Markets will expire this year. Element Markets Emissions, LLC submitted a new contract for consideration, which sets a fixed price for purchase of carbon credits at \$1.25 per ton (a \$0.50 per ton reduction from the current contract) beginning in 2019 and extending through 2022. After a review of current market prices and trends, staff believes the contract price to be fair and equitable. Current market prices vary widely, with landfill gas prices ranging from \$0.30 to over \$2.00 per ton. Recent similar term length contracts are being negotiated in the \$0.50-\$0.60 per ton range. There are no regulatory requirements dictating this activity, but it is a proactive step the City has undertaken to promote the environment. In the process, the City has sold on average 45,000-50,000 tons of carbon credits per year. Newsome reported the City Attorney has reviewed the contact and provided edits of legality where necessary.

On motion of Councilmember Hufstetler, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council unanimously approved the award of Carbon Credits Contract to Element Markets as presented.


Mayor Hobbs reported the conclusion of the printed agenda and inquired if there were any additional comments by Council or Staff. Interim City Manager McDonald encouraged everyone to join Thomasville Fire Rescue in the memorial tribute Stair Climb event at the Thomas County Central High School Stadium on East Jackson Street on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. S

Interim City Manager McDonald also acknowledged this to be the last City Council Meeting Interim Utilities Superintendent Keith Bass was scheduled to attend, as his tenure with the City of Thomasville is coming to a close. McDonald noted that while Mr. Bass arrived amidst an anxious atmosphere; his presence has provided stability, learning experiences and the City of Thomasville was better as a result of his interactions and wealth of knowledge. Mr. Bass received a standing ovation and additional accolades from the audience, staff and Councilmembers.

Having no further discussion, the City of Thomasville Council meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.



Mayor, Greg Hobbs



City Clerk