

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; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; other staff, members of the press and citizens. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at 144 East Jackson Street in Thomasville, Georgia.

Mayor Greg 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 Councilmember Mobley, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on November 28, 2018 were unanimously approved as presented.

Mayor Hobbs opened the meeting to citizens to be heard on non-agenda items. Cadence Kidwell, 207 Lester Street, Thomasville, Georgia, addressed Council with concerns regarding the delay Council approval of Citizen Board Appointments. She reported that she currently served as the Chair of the Main Street Advisory Board. Kidwell further reported that each member of the Main Street Advisory Board has completed the National Main Street Training Program, which is necessary for Thomasville to maintain its Main Street status and participation in vital programs offered to businesses through the National Main Street program. She noted that Council's decision to delay appointments to Citizen Boards make it difficult for those Boards to function effectively as the affected boards will not have a quorum of voting members present at the January meetings. Kidwell thanked Council for allowing her to serve on the Main Street Advisory Board.

Laquan Howard, 722 North Young Street, Thomasville, Georgia, addressed Council with concerns regarding inadequate street lighting located on West Clay Street, from Madison to Martin Luther King Boulevard. She noted the lighting in this area remains inoperable since Hurricane Michael occurred in October. Howard also addressed safety concerns due to the absence of sidewalks located on Old Cassidy Road and in the area of Green Street. Interim City Manager McDonald requested Ms. Howard to meet with her immediately following the Council meeting to provide more information for follow up measures.

Scott Chastain, Thomasville resident, echoed Cadence Kidwell's earlier concerns regarding the delay in Council's decision to delay appointments to Citizen Boards. Chastain stated he serves on the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board, which will not have a quorum in January due to this delay and inquired of Council the reason for this delay. Councilmember Hufstetler responded by stating that although staff has provided recommendations, this Council will have a more hands on approach to making these appointments or re-appointments. Councilmember Hufstetler noted arrangements were being made for rescheduling needs of any affected Board meetings. Councilmember Flowers inquired of Chastain's training background applicable to his position on the P&Z Board. Chastain confirmed his background as a registered architect, with experience in city and urban design. Chastain thanked Council for allowing him to serve on the P&Z Board.

There being no other citizens to be heard, Council moved on to the printed agenda. Under Old Business, Council considered on second reading, an ordinance to amend the Charter of the City of Thomasville, Sections 2.28 and 2.30 of Article III and Sections 9.11, 9.12 and 9.14 of Article IX. City Attorney, Tim Sanders, reported the ordinance remained unchanged from the first reading on November 28, 2019. He further noted this ordinance amends the Charter of the City of Thomasville under the Home Rule. Attorney Sanders reported the changes in sections 2.28 and 2.30 concern the authority of the City Council to enter into employment contracts with individuals for the position of City Manager. These changes also authorize the maximum terms of such an agreement, as well as provide for severance

payments. The Charter does not currently authorize employment agreements. In order for the Council to have the authority to enter into an employment agreement for the position of City Manager, the Charter should be amended to specifically authorize the Council to enter into an agreement for this position and specifically authorize the term of the agreement and provide for severance payments in connection with the agreement. Attorney Sanders further noted the revisions in 9.11, 9.12 and 9.14 of Article IX all concern the position of the General Superintendent of the Utilities Department and clarifies that position reports to, and is under the control of, the City Manager. This revision also provides that the City Manager cannot appoint himself/herself as the Utilities Superintendent.

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

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT APPROVED OCTOBER 3, 1889, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TOWN OF THOMASVILLE AS THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE" (GA. LAWS 1888-89, PAGES 854-64, INCLUSIVE), AS AMENDED BY SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT ACTS, TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 2.28, 2.30, 9.11, 9.12 AND 9.14; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL IN NO WAY OTHERWISE CHANGE THE EXISTING CHARTER EXCEPT AS SET FORTH ABOVE AND SHALL IN NO WAY WHATSOEVER CHANGE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE IN ANY MANNER; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §36-35-3(b)(1), permits a municipality to amend its charter by ordinance as an incident to such municipality's home rule power by following the procedures outlined in such code section;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that due to the changing market and employment conditions in the State of Georgia it is necessary to amend the City's Charter to allow the City Council the flexibility to hire a City Manager either at will or by contract;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that if it does not amend the City's charter to allow the City Council the flexibility to hire a City Manager either at will or by contract, the City will be at a competitive disadvantage in finding and retaining talent to serve as City Manager relative to other cities that are able to contract for the services of a City Manager and provide contractual protections for the position; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that certain revisions to the Charter regarding the position of General Superintendent of Utilities should be made to provide that this position reports to the position of City Manager, falls under the direction, supervision and control of the position of City Manager, and that the City Manager may not appoint himself or herself as the General Superintendent of Utilities.

SECTION I

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that the Charter of the City of Thomasville, which was established by an act approved October 3, 1889, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Thomasville as the City of Thomasville," (Ga. Laws 1888-89, pages 854-64, inclusive), as amended by several subsequent acts, be and the same is, hereby amended as follows:

A. By amending Section 2.28 of Article II, captioned "City Manager; appointment; qualification; compensation," which shall read as follows:

“Section 2.28. City Manager; appointment; qualifications; compensation; removal.”

(a) The City Council shall appoint a City Manager for an indefinite term and he shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Council. The Manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications, and his compensation shall be fixed by the City Council. In lieu of appointment for an indefinite term, the City Council is authorized, but not required, to enter into an employment contract with a City Manager, upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon. The initial term of such contract shall be for no more than two (2) years and such contract may provide for no more than three (3) additional, automatically renewing terms of one (1) year each. Further, any such contract shall contain as an essential term, the express right of the City Council to terminate the City Manager’s employment at any time for any reason not prohibited by law or for no reason whatsoever. Such contract may also provide for (i) a severance payment in a total amount not to exceed twelve (12) months of pay at the City Manager’s then current rate of compensation and (ii) payment for the cost of continuation of coverage of health benefits pursuant to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (“COBRA”) for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months. This Section 2.28 is expressly intended to operate so as to bind future Councils with respect to the contractual payments and obligations described above and contemplated herein if a Council, in its discretion, enters into an employment contract with a City Manager. Notwithstanding, the authority granted to the City Council in this section, this section shall not authorize the City Council or the City Manager and in no way shall be construed to authorize the City Council or City Manager to enter into employment contracts with individuals for any other position of employment with or for the City of Thomasville.

(b) The City Manager is employed at will and may be summarily removed from office at any time by the City Council; provided however that in those instances in which the City Council has, in its discretion, entered into an employment contract with the City Manager that provides for severance pay under certain conditions, termination may result in payment of severance pay or payments for continued health benefits coverage pursuant to COBRA in accordance with the terms of such contract. Under no circumstances shall contractual entitlement to severance pay or payments in connection with the cost of continued coverage of health benefits pursuant to COBRA be deemed a right to continued employment as City Manager.”

B. By amending Section 2.30 of Article II, captioned “Powers and duties of the City Manager,” which shall read as follows:

“Section 2.30. Powers and duties of the City Manager.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision in this Charter to the contrary, the ~~The~~ City Manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the City. He shall be responsible to the City Council for the administration of all City affairs placed in his charge by or under this charter, including but not limited to ~~with the exception of~~ the City utilities department, which shall include the Gas system and department. ~~He~~ The City Manager shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office and ~~He~~ shall have the following powers and duties.

- (1) See that all laws and ordinances of the City are enforced.
- (2) ~~With the exception of the City utilities department (which includes the City gas system),~~ exercise Exercise control over all of the departments and divisions of the City general government now created, or that may hereafter be created and the Utilities department.
- (3) Attend all meetings of the City Council, with the right to take part in the discussions, but he shall have no right to vote on propositions under consideration.
- (4) Recommend to the City Council for adoption such matters as he may deem necessary and expedient.

- (5) Prepare and submit to the City Council an annual operating budget and capital budget of all departments of the City, except the utilities department, setting forth the probable needed expenditures and estimated revenue for such year.
- (6) Keep the City Council advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City.
- (7) Supervise and direct the conduct of all officers and employees, ~~except as otherwise provided herein.~~
- (8) Supervise the performance of all contracts for all work done for the City general government.
and to make all purchases or contracts for same under such rules and regulations as the City Council may adopt.
- (9) As personnel manager, he shall appoint, discharge and fix the salaries of employees in all departments and divisions of the general government, ~~with the exception of~~ and the City utilities department, provided that all such terms of employment shall be made only at the pleasure of the City Manager in accordance with duly established personnel policy. All such appointments shall be made upon merit and fitness for the performance of the duties required.
- (10) Perform additional duties as the City Council may by ordinance or resolution prescribe.”

C. By amending Section 9.11 of Article IX, captioned “Employment of necessary personnel”, which shall read as follows:

“Section 9.11. Employment of necessary personnel.

~~The City Council~~ General Superintendent of the Utilities department, under the supervision, direction and control of the City Manager, is hereby authorized and empowered to employ all necessary officers and employees to operate Thomasville's utilities system and to control the same.”

D. By amending Section 9.12 of Article IX, captioned “Superintendent of utilities department, appointment”, which shall read as follows:

“Section 9.12. Superintendent of utilities department, appointment.

~~The City Council may appoint a~~ A General Superintendent of the Utilities department at its January meeting or at such other time as it may then designate shall be appointed and hired by the City Manager and the General Superintendent of the Utilities department shall report to and be under the supervision, direction and control of the City Manager. The terms of employment of the General Superintendent of the Utilities department shall be made at the pleasure of the City Manager in accordance with duly established personnel policies, upon the merit and fitness for the performance of the duties required. Notwithstanding, the City Manager shall not have the power or authority to appoint himself or herself as General Superintendent of the Utilities department.”

E. By amending Section 9.14 of Article IX, captioned “Utilities commission – Creation, officers, duties”, which shall read as follows:

“Section 9.14. Utilities commission--Creation, officers, duties.

A board is hereby created to be known as the City of Thomasville Utilities Commission, composed of the members of the City Council and their successors in office and who shall serve without additional compensation to that received as councilmembers. The Mayor shall be the Chairman of such utilities commission. The Treasurer and Clerk of the City shall serve respectively as Treasurer and Clerk for such utilities commission and without additional compensation. It shall be the duty of such utilities commission to create and maintain the City of Thomasville Utilities Department General Reserve Fund as herein provided. All sums in such fund, in excess of amounts required for immediate disbursement regularly ordered, shall be invested. Investments shall be limited to direct

and general obligations of the United States government or its agencies, or guaranteed by the United States government or its agencies as to both principal and interest, municipal and state bonds, bank certificates if protected by escrow of an equal value of the above type investments, or federal savings and loan to the limit covered by insurance, except that the fund shall not be invested in bonds of the City. All interest accumulations from such bonds in the fund shall be invested in such fund. All bonds bought for the fund shall be on approval first hand from the City Council. Of the bonds held there may be sold at any time a sufficient amount to pay for any expense incurred for any of the purposes for which the fund was created and which has been duly ordered paid. No expenditure of money or proceeds from the sale of any bonds held in the fund shall be ordered for any purpose other than those specified in Section 9.14 hereof, and except upon approval of the utilities commission and a resolution carried by majority vote of the entire City Council, which approval and resolution must first be fully entered on the minutes of the City Council. No money shall be paid out of the fund except by voucher signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the chairman of the utilities commission and ~~the general Superintendent of the Utilities department~~ City Manager. The Utilities Commission shall, with approval of the City Council, designate a depository for the fund, and the treasurer shall make bond in an amount set by the Utilities Commission, payable to the City and approved by the City Council, for the proper protection of the fund. The Utilities Commission shall, with the approval of the City Council, designate a box in a safety-deposit vault for the keeping of the bonds and securities held in such fund, which box shall not be opened and gone into except by a person or persons designated by the City Council.”

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all portions of the charter or amendments thereto or all ordinances in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION III

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that should any word, phrase, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance be declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, sentences or paragraphs of this ordinance, but the offending provision shall be severed from the remainder to the extent allowable by law, it being the express intent and purpose hereof that all other provisions and parts of this ordinance not so declared invalid or void shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a notice, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, will be and is made a part hereof, which notice embodies, among other things, the substance of this ordinance, which will be and was published in the Thomasville Times-Enterprise, the official organ of Thomas County, Georgia, in which the City of Thomasville is located, once a week for three weeks within a period of sixty days immediately preceding the day of the final adoption of this ordinance.

SECTION V

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon the date of final passage.

SECTION VI

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall in no way change the existing charter except as set forth above and this ordinance shall in no way whatsoever change the form of government of the City of Thomasville.

This ordinance was introduced and read at a lawful meeting of the Council of the City of Thomasville held Wednesday, November 28, 2018, and read the second time, passed and adopted in like meeting held on Monday, December 10, 2018.

Council considered on first reading, ordinances to adjust Water Rates, Natural Gas Rates, Sewer Rates, and Sanitation Services Rates. CFO, Ashley Cason reported each year the utilities and enterprise funds are reviewed to determine whether or not rates need to be adjusted to cover the cost of providing the service. Cason continued and reported adjustments to rates as follows:

Water Rates: Four percent (4%) adjustment to water rates. The ¾" and 1" base charge (which is applicable to most residential customers) will increase by \$.68 per month, from \$17.09 to \$17.77. The user rate for all usage has been set at \$2.09 per 1,000 gallons. With these changes, the increase for the average residential customer is estimated at approximately \$1.03 per month.

Natural Gas Base Charge: An adjustment to the natural gas base charge to the Natural Gas Residential, Natural Gas Commercial, and Natural Gas Firm Industrial Rates. This will increase the Residential Base charge from \$7.25 to \$10.00.

Wastewater (Sewer) Rates: A 4 percent adjustment to wastewater (sewer) rates. This will increase the residential base rate from \$23.63 to \$24.57, a \$0.95 per month increase. The user rate will increase by \$.128 per 1,000 gallons. With these changes, the increase for the average residential customer is estimated at \$1.51 per month.

Sanitation Rates: A 6 percent adjustment to sanitation rates. This will increase the residential refuse rate from \$13.12 to \$13.91, a \$0.79 per month increase. The rate for yard trash pickup will increase from \$9.00 to \$10.03, a \$1.03 per month increase.

Cason reported these rate adjustments are embedded within the Council approved City of Thomasville 2019 Budget and without these adjustments there will be deficit of approximately \$630,000, as transfers for 2019 will still be made for operations and reserves. Councilmember Flowers moved to approve the first reading of the rate adjustment ordinances as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the adjustments. Councilmember Hufstetler noted the approved FY2018 Budget had included increases and transfers as well, and stated when the rate increases of FY2018 were not approved, the sky did not fall and transfers from Utilities still took place as was needed for the City to operate. Councilmember Hufstetler reported having calculated the amount of revenue projected from these adjustments equated to approximately ½ to 1% of the entire budget and stated he did not understand why this team could not find ways to cut ½ to 1% to be able to achieve no rate increases for 2019. Cason reported the expenditures of the General Fund still exist and must be covered. She continued by noting that with no ad valorem tax, Utilities cover much of the General Fund and there is a responsible fiscal obligation for all of the funds to do well across the board. Councilmember Mobley noted if reserves are depleted and not available for use when a catastrophe happens, similar to the recent Hurricane Michael, then the City will suffer. Cason reported reserves are also used for capital infrastructure in need of repair and replacement as needed. Councilmember Hufstetler reiterated his position of no rate increases for 2019. Councilmember Flowers commended CFO and staff for their efforts to decrease expenses where possible and noted the difficulties of the task. Councilmember Flowers also noted water and sewer repairs have been funded by savings and not cash flow. He concluded by noting that incremental increases over time ensure responsibilities are met and financial reserves are maintained without excessive increases in rates all at once.

Mayor Hobbs restated Councilmember Flowers' motion to approve the rate adjustments as presented, and Mayor Pro Tem Scott's second of the motion. The following ordinances were ordered read for the first time, passed and carried over with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Councilmembers Flowers and Mobley.

NAY: Councilmember Hufstetler

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 13-90 CAPTIONED "WATER RATES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE SO AS TO ADJUST WATER RATES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SECTION 13.125 CAPTIONED "NATURAL GAS RATES AND RATE STRUCTURES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE SO AS TO ADJUST NATURAL GAS RESIDENTIAL RATES; TO PROVIDE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SECTION 13-125 CAPTIONED "NATURAL GAS RATES AND RATE STRUCTURES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE SO AS TO ADJUST NATURAL GAS GENERAL SERVICE COMMERCIAL RATES; TO PROVIDE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SECTION 13-125 CAPTIONED "NATURAL GAS RATES AND RATE STRUCTURES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE SO AS TO ADJUST NATURAL GAS GENERAL SERVICE – FIRM INDUSTRIAL RATES; TO PROVIDE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 14-146 CAPTIONED "SEWER USER CHARGES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE SO AS TO AMEND THE SEWER RATES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 15 CAPTIONED "SOLID WASTE" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE SO AS TO ADJUST THE RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council considered a resolution authorizing the Mayor's signature on the Petition for Bond Validation for the Municipal Gas Authority's (MGAG) Gas Portfolio IV Project. City Attorney Sanders reported MGAG is engaging in a revalidation of existing bonds; and although there is no current transaction related to these bonds at this time, this is being done in anticipation of future negotiations of gas supply agreements. Attorney Sanders further reported there were no anticipated conflicts for the City of Thomasville for this action involving existing bonds. He concluded by noting MGAG's deadline for return of documents as December 14, 2018.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is a member of Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia ("MGAG");

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is a participant in the MGAG Gas Portfolio IV Project;

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is a party to that certain Amended and Restated Gas Supply Contract with MGAG, made and entered into as of August 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, MGAG has filed the Petition for Bond Validation for MGAG's Portfolio IV Project in the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, the hearing for which has been set for December 19, 2018 at 10 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is in receipt of the Bond Validation Petition and Complaint, in the substantial form as attached hereto as Exhibit A, and desires to authorize the Mayor to execute the Verification and the Acknowledgment of Service of the Petition and Complaint on behalf of the City of Thomasville; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Mayor is authorized to execute the Verification and the Acknowledgment of Service to the Bond Validation Petition and Complaint, in the substantial form as attached hereto as Exhibit A, on behalf of the City of Thomasville is hereby approved.

So resolved this the 10th day of December, 2018.

Council considered a resolution to adopt the City of Thomasville FY2019 Budget. CFO Ashley Cason reported a Budget Review meeting was held on November 15, 2018 to discuss the preliminary budget for 2019. At this meeting, Council requested an additional \$20,000 for Housing Rehabilitation Incentives and one FTE for a Grant Writer in the Planning Budget. On November 28, 2018, the finalized proposed budget was presented to Council at the Utilities Committee meeting. This proposed budget included the requests mentioned above along with any necessary corrections needed to finalize the budget. The proposed budget for 2019 includes \$127,089,247 in revenues and \$122,210,475 in operating expenses. This includes transfers from the utility funds to general government of \$10,715,000 and no ad valorem taxes. A public hearing was held on December 3, 2018 and Council was provided with record of public comment.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Scott, and seconded by Councilmember Flowers, Council unanimously approved the following the resolution:

**City of Thomasville Budget Resolution Fiscal Year 2019
Utilities and General Government**

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville provides certain services which are deemed to be for the general welfare and in the best interest of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of these services requires the collection of revenue and the appropriation of expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year of the City of Thomasville begins on the 1st day of January, and ends on the 31st day of December of each year; and

WHEREAS, a budget has been prepared which itemizes projected revenue and proposed expenditures for the fiscal year 2019:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Thomasville that for the following General Government Budget and Thomasville Utilities Budget be adopted for the various funds of the City of Thomasville and for the various Utilities funds as presented by the Chief Financial Officer and attached.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certain appropriations as outlined in the capital budget document are contingent upon the receipt of federal and state grant funds and other revenues and those appropriations will be disbursed only as those funds become available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the revenue from the Utilities Department of the City of Thomasville be transferred on an as needed basis.

SO DONE, in regular session of the Council of the City of Thomasville this the 10th day of December 2018.

Council considered the Employment Contract for the new City Manager, Alan Carson. City Attorney Sanders reported an Employment Contract with Mr. Alan Carson can be considered, as Council had approved the second reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Charter earlier in this same meeting, which allows Council to enter into an Employment Contract with the City Manager. Councilmember Hufstetler motioned to approve the Employment Contract with Mr. Alan Carson. Councilmember Flowers seconded. Councilmember Flowers inquired of State filings in reference to Charter Amendments prior to making changes. Attorney Sanders reported the process of the Charter Amendments was necessary in order to authorize Council to enter into this agreement. As a matter of procedure, certificates will be obtained from the City Clerk and Clerk of Superior Court of Thomas County, as these were the two offices at which the proposed ordinance was kept under public notice and made available for public inspection. Notice was also placed in the Thomasville Times-Enterprise and a Publishers Affidavit has been obtained. These certificates and affidavit will be sent to the Secretary of State's office for filing purposes only. Attorney Sanders reported the Secretary of State's office is not passing upon, or approving of, this action. It was noted this action is completed pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly's Municipal Home Rule Act of 1965 (O.C.G.A. §36-35-1 et seq.). With no further discussion Mayor Hobbs restated Councilmember Hufstetler's motion to approve the Employment Contract with Mr. Alan Carson, which was seconded by Councilmember Flowers, and called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief, Troy Rich, presented a request to Council for replacement of a License Plate Reader System (LPR). In August of 2018, a patrol unit was rear ended by a truck traveling at a high rate of speed. This totaled out the 2016 Ford Interceptor Utility-SUV. The vehicle was equipped with a License Plate Reader System (LPR). As part of the insurance claim, \$18,749.00 was paid to the City of Thomasville to replace the destroyed LPR. Chief Rich reported this non-budgeted item and the system would be purchased from Synergistic Software Inc., a Georgia based company which was used previously to purchase the LPR. The request is for a 3 camera system by Vigilant Solutions, which is the current equivalent to what was destroyed, at a cost of \$18,749.00.

On motion of Councilmember Mobley, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council unanimously approved the purchase of a single three (3) Camera License Plate Reader System (LPR) from Synergistic Software, Inc. in the amount of \$18,749.00, as presented.

Council considered the return of the Tourism Product Development (TPD) portion of the Hotel Motel Tax Collected by Thomas County since July 2016 to Thomas County. City Attorney Sanders reported the City and the County both increased the Hotel Motel tax rate, effective July 2016, from 5 to 8 percent. The additional 3 percent tax is divided equally into two types: Tourism Product Development (TPD) and Tourism, Conventions and Trade Shows (TCT). Through September 30, 2018, the City and County had collected a total of \$265,314.77 (\$153,572.21 collected by the City and \$111,742.56 collected by Thomas County). Thomas County remitted this tax to the City, which was being held in a separate Event Center Fund. Attorney Sanders noted Thomas County recently contacted the City and asked that the City return to Thomas County the TPD portion of the Hotel Motel Tax collected by the County since July 2016, an amount equal to \$111,742.56.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Scott, and seconded by Councilmember Flowers, Council unanimously approved the remittance of \$111,742.56 to Thomas County, the amount of TPD Hotel Motel Tax remitted to the City by Thomas County which was being held by the City in the Event Center Fund.

Council considered bids and award for the purchase of Electric Pole Yard Paving. City Engineer, Wayne Newsome, reported the work includes constructing both the Entry/Exit Road and Road No. 1 for the Electric Pole Yard and will be completed within 90 consecutive days of Notice to Proceed. The following bids were reviewed:

**SUMMARY OF BIDS RECEIVED
FOR ELECTRIC POLE YARD PAVING**

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT
Greens Backhoe <i>Thomasville, GA</i>	\$63,779.95
Peavy & Sons <i>Havana, FL</i>	\$99,875.00
The Scruggs Company <i>Hahira, GA</i>	\$63,173.51
N. Florida Ashphalt <i>Tallahassee, FL</i>	\$66,359.00
Capital Asphalt <i>Tallahassee, FL</i>	Non-responsive: Did not include all required documents with bid package
Scoggins Dozier <i>Ochlocknee, GA</i>	Non-responsive: Bid failed to acknowledge receipt of addendum.

On motion of Councilmember Hufstetler, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council unanimously approved the award contract for the Electric Pole Yard Paving to Scruggs Company of Hahira, Georgia, in the amount of \$63,173.51 and utilizing budgeted 2018 Electric system capital funds.

Mayor Hobbs reported the conclusion of the printed and requested any additional reports from Councilmembers and Interim City Manager.

Interim City Manager McDonald requested Council and Community to keep the family of Energy Control Center Employee, Scottie Williams, in their prayers during the difficult time of his recent passing. McDonald encouraged all to attend the annual Victorian Christmas event. She noted this was her last meeting as the Interim City Manager and thank the Council for allowing her to serve as Interim City Manager.

Councilmember Flowers commended McDonald for her service as Interim City Manager and encouraged the community to attend the annual Victorian Christmas. He concluded by asking everyone to remember the reason for the season.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott also thanked McDonald for her service. Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated there was something he wanted to elaborate on. He noted that when he decided to run for office in 2015, he decided to be an advocate for the people and every day he rides through the community to see what needs to be done. He continued by stating there were no sides here, we make decisions together and that Councilmembers may not always agree; however they still had to work together. Mayor Pro Tem Scott further stated that he loved this City and that he would not back down to anyone, he would stand up for what is right in his heart. He noted that if citizens had any problems they could call him, as he takes this seriously. Mayor Pro Tem Scott continued and commended Solid Waste Director Nate Tyler for his protective efforts as a driver during an incident in Baghdad when he [Scott] was separated from his unit. He noted that he and Tyler may not have always agreed, but they worked together through the ordeal. Mayor Pro Tem Scott conveyed he never expected to return home after 27 years in the military and have to deal with battles such as recent ones. Mayor Pro Tem Scott concluded by stating he looked forward to 2019, starting the year off right and he would continue to stand on principle and values.

Councilmember Mobley thanked McDonald for her service during the past year. He noted he agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Scott and stated there is only one side, the Thomasville side. Councilmember Mobley concluded by announcing that Thomasville High School will be recognized for eight decades of excellence before the Colquitt County game during the State Semi Final games in Atlanta this month.

Councilmember Hufstetler reported he had attended the City of Thomasville annual employee meeting and noted there were more than 300 employees in attendance. He commended McDonald for her service as Interim City Manager.

Having no further business to discuss, the City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.



Mayor, Greg Hobbs



Felicia Blannen
City Clerk