

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, January 28, 2019

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 (joined by teleconference). Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; Honorary Councilmember, Kathleen Geyer; other staff, members of the press and citizens. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at 144 East Jackson Street in Thomasville, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greg Hobbs called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted Councilmember Todd Mobley was joining the meeting by telephone.

Councilmember Flowers gave the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Scott led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of January 14, 2018 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott motioned and Councilmember Flowers seconded. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

NAY: None.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs informed citizens wishing to address Council they would be permitted three minutes to speak regarding the topic each individual listed on the Sign in Sheet provided prior to the meeting. City Attorney would inform each individual of time remaining by displaying cards. Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following six citizens who signed in to address Council:

1. Roy Campbell, 1631 Millpond Road, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns of numerous potholes on South Pinetree Boulevard and suggested Council approve resurfacing the road from West Jackson Street to Old Monticello Road instead constructing three lanes.
2. Chris Bynum, 460 Acacia Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns regarding water drainage challenges at the intersection of South Pinetree Boulevard and Acacia Boulevard.
3. Marcia Millere, 475 Wood Lakes Road, Thomasville, Georgia, spoke in opposition of a three lane plan for South Pinetree Boulevard and requested Council to consider safety challenges created by three lanes of traffic on South Pinetree Boulevard.
4. Julianne Stowers, 2610 South Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, spoke in opposition of widening South Pinetree Boulevard to accommodate three lanes, citing safety concerns and speed of traffic. She inquired of Council how many plans were being considered at this meeting. City Manager Carson reported providing two plans; however, Plan B was the plan being considered.
5. Scott Sterling, 101 Imperial Drive, Thomasville, Georgia, encouraged Council to consider smaller and narrower roads to enable slower traffic speeds. He spoke in favor of the proposed roundabout, noting this type of construction was a safe and popular alternative to four way stops for intersections.
6. Lucinda Brown, 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, Georgia, commended Council for improvements on East Clay Street. She voiced concerns regarding road conditions and

pedestrian safety on West Clay Street, Fletcher Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and other streets located within the African American neighborhoods.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider on second reading, an ordinance to set the Qualifying Fees for the 2019 General Election.

City Clerk, Felicia Brannen presented. 2019 is an Election Year. The Municipal General Election will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2019 for 2 City Councilmember seats and 4 City Board of Education seats. Pursuant to Statute the Municipal General Election Candidate qualifying fees shall be fixed and published prior to February 1st of each election year. Councilmember Candidate fees are calculated as \$234.00 (3% of the total gross salary of the office, Councilmember Annual Salary of \$7,800). City School Board Candidate fees are calculated as \$35.00 (Non-Salaried Office Fees are set at \$35.00). Qualifying fees are set by ordinance and requiring two readings. It was reported the ordinance remained unchanged from the first reading approved by Council on January 14, 2019.

Mayor Hobbs asked for a motion to consider on second reading, an ordinance to set candidate qualifying fees for the 2019 Municipal General Election as presented. Councilmember Flowers motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded. There was no further discussion by Council. The motion passed 5-0, with the following vote recorded:

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

NAY: None

The ordinance ordered read for the second time, passed and adopted follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CANDIDATE QUALIFYING FEES FOR THE 2019 MUNICIPAL ELECTION; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that for the 2019 municipal elections the qualifying fee for the office of City Councilmember shall be \$234.00.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that for the 2019 municipal elections the qualifying fee for the office of City Board of Education shall be \$35.00.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that said fees shall be paid to the Municipal Election Superintendent at the time a candidate files qualifying fee as prescribed by O.C.G.A. §21-2-131 (c)(5)(B).

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the provisions of this ordinance shall not be made a part of the official codified ordinances of the City of Thomasville.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its final adoption.

This ordinance was introduced and read for the first time in a lawful meeting of the City Council held on January 14, 2019, and passed and adopted on the second reading of the ordinance at a lawful meeting of the City Council held on January 28, 2019.

Consider motion to approve plan for South Pinetree Boulevard Road Improvements.

City Manager, J. Alan Carson reported four separate plans for South Pinetree Boulevard road improvements were displayed and discussed during the City Council Workshop held January 18, 2019. Plans A and B were removed as options as a result of additional requests of the City from Thomas University for access through the University's campus; B and D remained for consideration. City Manager Carson reported any road improvement plan that deviated in any manner from the original plan submitted by Thomas County requires resubmission to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for approval prior to appropriation of funding. Staff recommends the submittal of Plan B.

At an estimated cost of \$3.8million, Plan D offered such options as widening the roadway to accommodate a two 4' bike lanes; curb and gutter placement; adding strategically placed left turn lanes; completing sidewalk from West Jackson Street to Magnolia Street at the roundabout; and, resurfacing the existing road between West Jackson Street and Old Monticello Road.

At an estimated cost of \$3.56million, Plan B offered such options as completing a 5' sidewalk from West Jackson Street to MLK Dr. and continuing along South Pinetree Boulevard to the roundabout at Magnolia Street; adding three strategically placed left turn lanes at West Jackson Street, M.L.K. Dr., and the former State Hospital; and resurfacing the existing road between West Jackson Street and Old Monticello Road.

Mayor Hobbs reported a potential conflict of interest as his residence, 101 Heisman Way, Thomasville, Georgia, is adjacent to the project area. Mayor Hobbs stated he would abstain from any discussion and vote on this matter as advised by legal counsel.

Councilmember Flowers motioned to approve Plan B as presented for South Pinetree Boulevard Road Improvements. Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded. Councilmember Hufstetler spoke in opposition of the motion and reported having spoken with state representatives regarding the submittal of a plan. He noted there is a risk that the City of Thomasville will lose the \$3million in GDOT funding for these road improvements if Plan B, which is so far removed from what was submitted originally in 2012, is submitted. There was no further discussion. The motion remained unchanged. The motion passed 3-1, with the following votes recorded:

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

NAY: Councilmember Hufstetler.

ABSTAINED: Mayor Hobbs, due to conflict of interest.

Consider resolutions for appointments to the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority.

ACM/Economic Development & Communications presented. Per the Bylaws of the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority (SGGSA), the governing authority of each participating SGGSA City is authorized to appoint two members to the SGGSA Board of Directors. Currently, the City of Thomasville's members on the SGGSA Board of Directors are Mayor Greg Hobbs and Councilmember David Hufstetler. On January 29, 2018, the Council appointed Councilmember Hufstetler to serve as the second member of the SGGSA Board for a term to conclude on the permanent employment of a City Manager for the City of Thomasville. Staff requests Council to adopt a resolution reappointing Mayor Hobbs to the Board and appointing City Manager Alan Carson to serve as a member of the SGGSA Board of Directors. Also requested is that the appointments' terms run until a successor is appointed.

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the resolution for appointments of Mayor Hobbs and City Manager Carson to serve on the SGGSA Board as presented. Councilmember Hufstetler motioned and Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYE: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

The approved resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that pursuant to the Bylaws of the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority, the following individuals are hereby appointed to serve as the City of Thomasville's Members on the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority Board of Directors:

City Manager J. Alan Carson – Four Year Term or until successor is appointed

Mayor Greg Hobbs – Four Year Term or until successor is appointed

SO DONE, this the 28th day of January 2019.

Consider resolutions to appoint Councilmembers to the Recreation Board and Southwest Regional Commission (SWGRC).

City Clerk, Felicia Brannen presented. Appointments of City Councilmembers to appropriate Board and Authorities are made as terms expire. In January 2018, Councilmember Mobley was appointed to fill the remainder of Councilmember Flowers' three year term, which expired December 31, 2018. This appointment shall be filled for a three year term expiring December 31, 2021. The SWGRC appointment is an annual appointment and must be submitted by letter of resolution to SWRC by January 31st each year. The appointments from City of Thomasville include one City Elected Official, on non-public representative and one additional representative. The non-public and additional representatives are mutually agreed upon with Thomas County and other Thomas municipalities through prior discussion. Currently the Appointments are as follows:

Elected City Official: Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott

Non Public Representative: Al Bryan

Additional Representative: Elaine Mays

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the resolutions to appoint councilmembers to the Recreation Board and Southwest Regional Commission as presented. Councilmember Hufstetler motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

The two approved resolutions follow.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that Councilmember Todd Mobley is appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring December 31, 2021.

So Done, this the 28th day of January, 2018.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that the following Councilmember is unanimously recommended for appointment to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council:

Terry Scott, City Elected Official

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following Regional Commission Council member is unanimously recommended for appointment, contingent upon their appointment by the Thomas County Board of Commissioners:

Non-Public: Al Bryan
Additional Member: Elaine Mays

So Done, this the 28th day of January 2019.

Consider motion to adopt the updated Language Access Plan (LAP) to comply with DCA Requirements for Accommodations of Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

City Engineer, Wayne Newsome presented. On November 12, 2018, the Thomasville City Council, approved and adopted a Language Access Plan. This was a Special Condition #1 of the 2018 CDBG grant. The Language Access Plan (LAP) addresses the needs of persons in the 2018 CDBG Target area with limited English proficiency as a spoken language. After the Plan was submitted, the Department of Community Affairs has requested that we make the minor revisions to text on Pages 5 and 6 of that plan and that Council approve those revisions. The revisions do not add any additional cost for implementing the plan, but rather modifies certain statistical information. Staff requests that City Council approve the revisions as shown highlighted on pages 5 (amendments to statistical data) and 6 of the Language Access Plan that was adopted November 12, 2018.

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to adopt the updated LAP as presented. Councilmember Flowers motioned and Mayor Pro Tem seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following vote recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

Consider motion to approve One-Day Alcohol Event Permits.

Tax Coordinator Melissa Creel presented. All one-day alcohol event permits that are held on City property are recommended to be approved by City Council. The Tree House Advocacy Center's *Oakfest (March 16, 2019)* Hands On Thomas County's event *Cheers for Volunteers (April 23, 2019)* events will be held at The Ritz Amphitheater. It was noted both of the organizations are not-for-profit.

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the One-Day Alcohol Permits as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott motioned and Councilmember Hufstetler seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

Consider motion to approve of 2019 Pawn Broker Licenses.

Tax Coordinator, Melissa Creel presented. All active Pawn Broker licenses are required to be renewed and approved by Council annually. All 2019 Pawn Broker licenses have been paid in full. Staff requests Council's approval of the following listed Pawn Broker Licenses:

2019 Pawn Brokers Renewal List as of 12/14/18

<u>Lic #</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Business Name/Addr/Phone</u>	<u>Charges</u>
<u>Pawnbroker-GENERAL AND VEHICLE</u>			
58	2019	AMERICAN PAWN SHOP 1306-A E JACKSON ST THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$150.00
2550	2019	AMERICAN PAWN SHOP 1306-A E JACKSON ST THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$2,500.00
4142	2019	EXPRESSPAY TITLE PAWN 325 E JACKSON ST THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$2,500.00
4456	2019	EXPRESSPAY, LLC 325 E JACKSON ST THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$150.00
<u>PAWNBROKER - GENERAL</u>			
1237	2019	SHEPARDS BAIT & TACKLE & PAWN 1006 W JACKSON ST THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$150.00
<u>PAWNBROKER - VEHICLE</u>			
2701	2019	TITLEBUCKS OF THOMASVILLE	\$2,500.00

1308 E JACKSON ST
THOMASVILLE, GA 31792

3368	2019	TITLEMAX OF THOMASVILLE 15177 US HIGHWAY 19 S THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$2,500.00
4946	2019	FIRST CHOICE TITLE 914 E JACKSON ST THOMASVILLE, GA 31792	\$2,500.00

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the 2019 Pawn Broker renewal licenses as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott motioned and Councilmember Flowers seconded. Councilmember Hufstetler reported he would abstain from discussion and vote on this matter as he is co-owner of American Pawnshop. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Hufstetler, due to conflict of interest.

Consider motion to approve the purchase of seven (7) Police Vehicles for Thomasville Police Department (TPD).

Chief of Police, Troy Rich presented. This is an approved item in the 2019 budget to purchase seven (7) police vehicles. TPD is replacing seven (7) existing vehicles in the fleet, purchased in 2010 and 2011. The make and model for these new vehicles will be the Ford Police Interceptor Utility/ SUV. The vehicles will be purchased through the Georgia State Contract which give City of Thomasville a guaranteed purchase price that was bid out by the State. The dealership, Wade Ford is the designated company for government sales. We have used Georgia State Contract to purchase our vehicles since 2014. If approved, vehicles will be ordered immediately and delivery date is projected in July 2019.

<u>Capital Budget:</u>	<u>State Contract Pricing (Wade Ford)</u>	
2019 Cost	\$240,167.00	(Seven (7) Police Vehicles)
2019 Actual	\$34,427.00	(Each Marked Unit) (five (5))
2019 Actual	\$34,016.00	(Each Unmarked Unit) (Two (2))

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the purchase of seven (7) Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles under the Georgia State Contract from Wade Ford, Smyrna, Georgia as presented and with third party financing if necessary. Mayor Pro Tem Scott motioned and Councilmember Flowers seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

Consider bids and award for the purchase of Scott Air Packs (SCBA) and Equipment for Thomasville Fire Rescue.

Fire Chief, Chris Bowman presented. Chief Bowman reported this is a 2019 Budgeted expense. The Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) & Equipment will replace damaged, broken, outdated packs, mask, and cylinders. The Respirator Fit Testing equipment included allows for OSHA mandated maintenance and testing of SCBA packs, mask, and air cylinders. The following is a summary of the bid received:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Municipal Emergency Service (proprietary dealer of Scott)	\$54,380.00

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the bid award for the Scott Air Packs (SCBA) and Equipment for Thomasville Fire Rescue as presented. Councilmember Flowers motioned and Councilmember Hufstetler seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

Consider Award for the purchase of rebuild of two Bar Screens at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Director of Utility Operations, Chris Hayes presented. The two Parkson bar screens were installed at the WWTP in 2009, over the past nine years, staff has kept these units maintained; however, they have reached a point at which they need a major rebuild to avoid failure. This purchase consists of a Parkson certified on-site rebuild by owner with OEM parts and Parkson supervision. The 2019 Wastewater Capital budget includes \$110,000.00 for this purchase. The following is a summary of bid received: Parkson is the sole source provider for the bar screens. Parkson is the original manufacturer/supplier of the bar screen and the only source for OEM replacement parts. In addition, Parkson has technicians that are certified to work on the equipment. The following three options were received from Parkson:

(A) Parkson Certified On-site Rebuild with OEM Parts & Technicians (Price for two units discounted)	\$137,747.00
(B) Parkson Certified On-site Rebuild by Owner with OEM Parts and Supervision (Price for two units discounted)	\$109,347.00
(C) Parkson OEM Certified Parts Only (Price for two units)	\$97,646.00

Staff requests City Council to award the purchase of Parkson certified on-site rebuild by owner with OEM parts and supervision in the amount of \$109,347.00, utilizing the 2019 Wastewater Capital funds with third party financing if necessary.

Mayor Hobbs called for a motion to approve the bid award for purchase of rebuild of two Bar Screens at the Waste Water Treatment Plant as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott motioned and Councilmember Flowers seconded. Councilmember Hufstetler inquired of staff's purpose to request third party financing for items that have been properly budgeted. CFO Ashley Cason noted third party financing is an option which allows for the opportunity to utilize low interests loans from Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) as a means to alleviate cash flow challenges if needed. City Manager Carson agreed with CFO Cason and noted it is a financially wise practice. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmembers Flowers, Hufstetler and Mobley (audible by phone).

NAY: None.

Mayor Hobbs reported the conclusion of the printed agenda and inquired of reports from City Manager and Councilmembers.

REPORTS

Councilmember Flowers commended Councilmembers for the adoption of a road improvements plan for South Pinetree Boulevard and the City Manager for his efforts in the process. Councilmember Flowers read an excerpt from an article authored by Skip Mounts, and published in The Brunswick News, dated December 19, 2018, and titled “What is the margin of something you buy?”. The article referred to the process economists use to surmise product differentiation. The article then recounted the author and his wife’s recent trip to Thomasville, Georgia and their experience while visiting. His article surmised Thomasville’s “margin” as having a unique economic development model; one in which Thomasville assumes the commitment of economic development beginning centrally, with downtown, and working its way out in the community. Councilmember Flowers commended the efforts of Main Street, the community and City of Thomasville for maintaining Thomasville’s downtown and its community in a manner that is noted by experts in their fields.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott presented to Honorary Councilmember, Kathleen Geyer a commemorative plaque for her participation as the Honorary Councilmember for the month of January 2019. Miss Geyer thanked Council for granting her the opportunity and education of City government.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further discussion, the City of Thomasville Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.



Attest: City Clerk



Mayor, Greg Hobbs