

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, September 23, 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; and Councilmembers Jay Flowers, David Hufstetler and Todd Mobley. Also present were the Executive Director, Human Resources & Community Relations, Kha McDonald (attending in place of City Manager, J. Alan Carson); Assistant City Attorney, Chuck Stafford; 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 Hobbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. It was noted that Executive Director, Human Resources & Community Relations, Kha McDonald, was attending this one meeting due to the scheduled absence of City Manager, J. Alan Carson.

INVOCATION

Given by Councilmember Jay Flowers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of September 9, 2019 as presented. 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.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following citizens as listed on the Citizens to be Heard Sign in sheet:

1. David O. Lewis, 123 Pinewood Place, Thomasville, Georgia addressed Council with his concerns regarding payment of back pay of salary to current and former Councilmembers, including himself, for more than the two years as was suggested by attorneys to the City of Thomasville.
2. Matt Kirkley, 417 Remington Avenue, Thomasville, Georgia regarding his concerns of Council authorizing the City Manager to sign contracts. He noted it appeared to be a violation of the City of Thomasville Charter for Council to vote on such matter. He also noted there were inconsistencies in the audit performed by Mauldin & Jenkins.
3. Julie Murphree, 119 East Clay Street, Thomasville, Georgia conveyed to Council her opinions of recycling in Thomasville and inquired of Council to take steps to increase training of staff and educated citizens in the proper ways to sort recycling to ensure a more efficient recycling program for the City of Thomasville and its residents.
4. Cheryl Presha, 504 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Thomasville, Georgia spoke to Council regarding a recent incident at which Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were required for a family member. She reported EMS vehicles were dispatched from a location other than Fire Station 2 on Remington Avenue and took longer than was expected to arrive. She inquired of the reason for the continued closure of Fire Station 2.
5. Frank Helms, 742 Remington Avenue, Thomasville, Georgia addressed Council with support of the proposed Remington Avenue Project. He commended City staff for their efforts of informing

residents and including their wishes in the proposed plan's formation. Helms encouraged Council to approve the conceptual plans for the Remington Avenue Streetscape project.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations given at this meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Hufstetler moved to approve the printed agenda as presented, with no exceptions. Councilmember Mobley 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of an ordinance to amend text of Thomasville Municipal Code, Chapter 9 Historic Preservation, Section 107, to ensure compliance of State Law regarding time limit for action on Certificate of Appropriateness application.

City Planner, Kenneth Thompson presented. He reported on June 20, 2019, the City of Thomasville received a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that the City is out of compliance with the requirements of the Georgia Historic Preservation Act (GHPA). This act authorizes the creation of Historic Preservation Commissions and outlines the requirements necessary regarding Locally Designated Historic Districts, Historic Preservation Commissions, and Certificates of Appropriateness. In addition to being out of compliance with state law, this discrepancy also places Thomasville out of compliance with being a Certified Local Government (CLG), a status with the SHPO office that allows the city to apply for state and federal funding for historic preservation efforts as well as other benefits. The Historic Preservation Ordinance needs to be modified to bring the code into full compliance with the GHPA regarding time limits for action on a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). Thomasville's ordinances state the applications must be acted on with 60 days or they are automatically approved. However, the GHPA (Georgia State Law 44-10-28(d)) puts the time limit at 45 days. Thomasville's code should be amended to reflect the time limit listed in the State standard. Per staff recommendation, Thompson requested Council approval of the request to amend the Historic Preservation Ordinance regarding time limits for action on an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from 60 days to 45 days per the requirements of the Georgia Historic Preservation Act.

Councilmember Flowers moved to order the ordinance to amend the text of Thomasville Municipal Code, Chapter 9 Historic Preservation, Section 107 read for the first time, passed and carried over. Mayor Pro Tem Scott 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.

The ordinance ordered read for the first time, passed and carried over follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE BY AMENDING SECTION 9-107 CAPTIONED "TIME LIMIT FOR ACTION ON APPLICATION" OF ARTICLE V CAPTIONED "CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS" OF CHAPTER 9 CAPTIONED "HISTORIC PRESERVATION" BY CHANGING THE APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FROM WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER FILING TO FORTY FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER FILING; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution to approve submittal of application, and fee, for funding from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority for the Remington Avenue Streetscape project and to authorize the City Manager as the signatory on all necessary and related documents.

The GTIB is a grant and low-interest loan program administered by the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA). The main objective of the GTIB is to make an additional funding resource available to government entities in order to accelerate transportation project delivery. Funding has again become available through the SRTA with grant/loan applications due 15 October 2019. The GTIB invests in projects that address critical local needs including economic development and mobility; demonstrate a high degree of local commitment; include innovative transportation solutions; are close to the start of, at, or under construction; and demonstrate a high degree of feasibility. The Remington Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project meets this description and is an ideal candidate for the GTIB grant. Road improvements, trail addition, and new sidewalks – per the Concept Plan developed with public input led by the Planning Department. The project area is on Kern Street between Smith Avenue and Reid Street and on Remington Avenue between Reid Street and North Pinetree Boulevard. Additionally, this project will improve local mobility and improve connectivity to other major transportation networks and commercial/business areas – another characteristic of the project that the GTIB looks to invest in. Preliminary engineering costs estimate that design and construction will cost \$4,300,000.00. The application would include a grant request for 45% of costs and a loan request for the remainder 55% of costs – a grant/loan combination improves the City's competitiveness. There is an application fee of \$250. City Staff requests Council to consider approval of the following three items:

- 1) To approve a resolution to submit an application to the State Road and Tollway Authority for a grant to fund 45% of construction costs and a loan fund the other 55% of construction costs for the remaining portions of the Remington Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project as presented;
- 2) To approve the submission of the \$250 application fee; and
- 3) Amend the original request of authorizing the City Manager as the signatory to authorize the Mayor to sign the GTIB Grant/Loan Application.

Councilmember David Hufstetler moved to approve the resolution and the application fee as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign the GTIB Grant/Loan Application. Mayor Pro Tem 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.

The approved resolution follows:

RESOLUTION

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF THOMAS

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of the City of Thomasville of Thomasville, Georgia held on the 23rd day of September, 2019 a motion was made and duly seconded that the City of Thomasville shall submit an application for funding from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority pursuant to the Georgia Transportation Information Bank Act, O.C.G.A. 32-10-120 et seq., in order to design and construct the Remington Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project between Smith Avenue and East Pinetree Boulevard.

WHEREAS the City of Thomasville further states that in the event the City of Thomasville's application is recommended for funding by the State Road and Tollway Authority, the City of Thomasville certifies and assures that it, has the ability and intention to repay the loan with available funds and put the grant money toward eligible project costs and,

WHEREAS the City of Thomasville also states that it will pay the \$250 application fee; and within two weeks of submitting the application; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Thomasville of Thomas County, Georgia that it shall submit an application for a grant and loan combination from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority, and that it shall, in the event that the application is recommended for funding, take action to assure that it will repay the loan and put the grant money toward eligible costs in accordance with O.C.G.A. 32-10-122.

SO DONE, this 23rd day of September, 2019.

Resolution to approve submittal of application, and fee, for funding from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority for the Thomasville Community Trail project and to authorize the City Manager as the signatory on all necessary and related documents.

City Engineer, Wayne Newsome presented. He reviewed the GTIB grant and low-interest loan program and deadline as noted in the previous presentation for the Remington Avenue Streetscape project. Newsome reported the City would like approval to apply for the same grant/loan for a second and separate project relating to the remaining construction of the Thomasville Community Trail to complete the Downtown Inner Loop. This project also meets the grant/loan description and is an ideal candidate for the GTIB grant. Road improvements and trail addition, similar to that on S. MLK Jr. Drive, would be on Metcalf Avenue Baybrook Road and Susie Way; Susie Way between Baybrook Road and US 84/SR 38; Reid Street between Kern Street and dead end; W. Clay Street between Madison Avenue and Pine Street; Pine Street between W. Clay Street and Jefferson Street; and Jefferson Street between Pine Street and end of a current trail section. Additionally, this project will improve local mobility and improve connectivity to other major transportation networks and commercial/business areas – another characteristic of a project that the GTIB looks to invest in. Preliminary engineering costs estimate that construction will cost \$1,066,000. The application would include a grant request for 50% of construction costs and a loan request for the other 50% of construction costs – a grant/loan combination improves the City's competitiveness. There is an application fee of \$250. City Staff requests Council to consider approval of the following three items:

- 1) To approve a resolution to submit an application to the State Road and Tollway Authority for a grant to fund 50% of construction costs and a loan fund the other 50% of construction costs for the remaining portions of the Thomasville Community Trail – Downtown Inner Loop along said sections and as presented;
- 2) To approve the submission of the \$250 application fee; and

- 3) Amend the original request of authorizing the City Manager as the signatory to authorize the Mayor to sign the GTIB Grant/Loan Application.

Councilmember David Hufstetler moved to approve the resolution and the application fee as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign the GTIB Grant/Loan Application. Mayor Pro Tem 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.

The approved resolution follows:

RESOLUTION

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF THOMAS

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of the City of Thomasville of Thomasville, Georgia held on the 23rd day of September, 2019 a motion was made and duly seconded that the City of Thomasville shall submit an application for funding from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority pursuant to the Georgia Transportation Information Bank Act, O.C.G.A. 32-10-120 et seq., in order to construct a portions of trail and improve road conditions along the Downtown Inner Loop of the Thomasville Community Trail – Metcalf Avenue between Baybrook Street and Susie Way; Susie Way between Metcalf Avenue and Smith Avenue; Reid Street; W. Clay Street between Madison Street and Pine Street; Pine Street between W. Clay Street and W. Jefferson Street; and Jefferson Street between Pine Street and an existing trail portion.

WHEREAS the City of Thomasville further states that in the event the City of Thomasville's application is recommended for funding by the State Road and Tollway Authority, the City of Thomasville certifies and assures that it has the ability and intention to repay the loan with available funds and put the grant money toward eligible project costs and,

WHEREAS the City of Thomasville also states that it will pay the \$250 application fee within two weeks of submitting the application; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Thomasville of Thomas County, Georgia that it shall submit an application for a grant and loan combination from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority, and that it shall, in the event that the application is recommended for funding, take action to assure that it will repay the loan and put the grant money toward eligible costs in accordance with O.C.G.A. 32-10-122.

SO DONE, this 23rd day of September, 2019.

Motion to approve contract amendment for purchase of Carbon Credits at the Thomasville Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.

City Engineer, Wayne Newsome presented. Newsome reported in September of 2018, Council approved award of a new contract for purchase of carbon credits generated at the landfill to Element Markets Emissions, LLC. The multi-year contract committed Element Markets, LLC to purchase carbon credits from the landfill through 2022 at a rate of \$1.25 per ton. Element Markets has requested that contract be amended to extend the contract through 2025. Additionally, the amendment would increase the buyer's ability to purchase carbon reserve tonnage (based upon availability) from 75,000 tons per year to 85,000 tons per year beginning in 2023. Finally, the price per ton would also increase from \$1.25 per ton to \$1.50 per ton, beginning in 2023. Following Council's request of staff/consultant to renegotiate the price per ton

for a better value and from other potential vendors, Newsome explained the best and final offer from Element Markets, LLC was raised to \$1.75 per ton. He further explained the current contract was valid through 2022; and the negotiation to amend the contract would only serve to extend the current contract to guarantee a carbon credit price per ton of \$1.75 for years 2023-2025. Newsome reported the consultant had also discussed potential options with ClimeCo Corporation and those options proved unfavorable for the City of Thomasville due to fees associated with potential breach of current contract with Element Markets, LLC.

Councilmember Mobley moved to deny the approval of the contract extension amendment for the purchase of Carbon Credits as presented. Councilmember Hufstetler seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion to deny passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

Motion to approve Conceptual Plan for Remington Avenue Streetscape and to authorize staff to proceed with Detailed Engineering Drawings.

City Planner, Kenneth Thompson presented. The Blueprint Thomasville document highlights Remington Avenue as a primary consideration for resurfacing and reconfiguration, including maintaining the existing two traffic lanes while adding sidewalk and multi-use trail. In March of 2019, the Planning Department approached City Council for permission to develop a Concept Design for the Remington Avenue Streetscape. This process allowed for maximum public engagement, building on and validating the community concerns from the Blueprint Plan. Beginning with a series of discovery walks and workshops in June, the City allowed participants to identify possible issues and areas of concern and develop preferred street designs. A preliminary design for the street was developed based on this input and presented to the public during a “Works in Progress” presentation at the library on July 16. Feedback from this presentation was incorporated into a final Vision Plan, which was presented to the public on August 29. The result of this public engagement is a plan that has overwhelming support of the community while meeting the long-term needs for Thomasville. Based on the recommendations of the Blueprint Thomasville Plan and the public input received, the final Remington Avenue Streetscape Vision Plan includes the following:

- Street Resurfacing
- Replacing the drainage swales with curb and gutter
- Adding sidewalk on the north side and multi-use trail on the south side of the street
- Improving the Remington/Reid/Kern intersection with a roundabout
- Adding street trees, landscaping, and medians where appropriate
- Reconfiguring Kern Street to be a two lane street with turn lanes at Smith Avenue
- Consideration of intersection improvements at Orchard, Covington, Clanton and Ben Grace
- Further consideration into an Access Management plan for the Remington Avenue and Pinetree Boulevard intersection.

These proposed improvements would resolve community concern in four key areas: safety (for cars, pedestrians, and cyclists), slow speeding traffic, building meaningful connections (including the extension of the Community Trail to Remington Park), and preserving character. The proposed design addresses or captures all of these items. Next steps include refining the budget and preparing detailed engineering documents. As recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission, allow staff to move forward with preparing detailed engineering documents and cost estimates, allowing the Remington Avenue Streetscape Project to proceed as conveyed in the Vision Plan presented to Council during the September 18, 2019 Council Workshop.

Councilmember Flowers moved to approve the conceptual plan for the Remington Avenue Streetscape and to authorize staff to proceed with the detailed engineering drawings as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. It was noted the intent of this concept plan approval was to enable staff to proceed so as to refine

budget costs for funding approval at a later date. Councilmembers applauded staff for their efforts in preparing the Vision Plan and garnering public input on the process. 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hobbs noted the Consent Agenda item was presented in Council Workshop on September 18, 2019. Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with no exceptions and thereby approving each item collectively with one motion. 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.

The following item was approved under the Consent Agenda as presented and discussed on September 18, 2019 Council Workshop meeting:

1. Bids and award for the purchase of one (1) One-Ton Crew Cab Service Truck for Water Department.

- a. Water Superintendent, Stacey Thomas, presented at Workshop. The Water Department has requested the purchase of one (1) one-ton, crew 2WD cab, service truck for the Water Department. The new truck replaces an existing unit 10803 that has reached the end of its service life. The 2019 Water Capital budget includes \$75,000 for this purchase. Sealed bids were received and opened by City Purchasing Dept. on August 28, 2019. A total of five (5) bids were received. Bids received were checked for accuracy. A summary of bids received follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Stallings Automotive, Thomasville, GA	\$53,982.00
Sunbelt Ford, Sylvester, GA	\$56,118.90
Tallahassee Ford, Tallahassee, FL	\$51,399.00
World Wide Ford, Marion, VA	\$55,295.00
Altec Industries, Mt. Airy, NC	\$65,389.00

Request for Council to approve award of bid to Tallahassee Ford, Tallahassee, Florida for the purchase of one (1) one-ton, crew 2WD cab, service truck for the Water Department in the amount of \$51,399.00, utilizing 2019 Water Capital funds, with third party financing if necessary.

REPORTS

City Manager Carson requested Ms. Presha remain after the meeting so that he could get information regarding her concerns with Fire Station 2. City Manager Carson also congratulated the recent promotion of Thomasville Police Department's Corporal Crystal Parker.

Councilmember Flowers applauded Ms. Murphree for addressing Council with recycling concerns and noted public challenges can be addressed with increased education regarding what can, and cannot, be recycled.

Councilmembers collectively commended the City of Thomasville Planning Department, the community and the Planning & Zoning Commission on their efforts regarding the Remington Avenue Streetscape Project.

Councilmember Hufstetler acknowledged Ms. Lucinda Brown and apologized for any misconceptions regarding competitive grant processes and low interest loans used for obtaining funding for recent grant applications.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to be discussed, Councilmember Flowers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. Councilmember Mobley seconded. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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



Mayor, Greg Hobbs



ATTEST: City Clerk

[seal]

