

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, August 10, 2020

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in a regular session with Mayor Greg Hobbs presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Pro Tem David Hufstetler; and Councilmembers Jay Flowers, Todd Mobley and Wanda Warren. Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; other staff and members of the media. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 144 East, Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia.

This meeting was held in a manner that observed active Executive Orders and Health Advisories provided by Georgia Governor Kemp, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health, and local health officials in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Seating was limited and additional safety measures were required such as, but not limited to, social distancing and wearing of facial coverings to ensure the health and safety of meeting participants and the citizens of Thomasville. Simultaneous access to the meeting was provided to those members of the press and citizens not present via the City of Thomasville's online live stream feed located at www.thomasville.org.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greg Hobbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Flowers led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020 as presented, with no exceptions. Councilmember Flowers seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following Citizens to be Heard, as listed on the sign in sheet:

1. Terry Scott, 106 Pinecrest Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, commended Council and Staff for efforts regarding the coronavirus pandemic. He also thanked Council and Staff for efforts with the Weston Park Project. He requested a status update be provided to him regarding Phase II of the Fletcherville Project and the Highway Georgia 3 Sidewalk Project. Scott also requested that Thomasville Police Department address customer harassment events in the Belk's shopping center parking lot.
2. Keith Thomas, 432 Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, addressed Councilmembers regarding his opinion of the accolades given to the Chief of Police prior to his retirement and the lack of the same given to previous Chief of Police.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Warren motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, with no exceptions. Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business considered by Council at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to approve an amendment to Gas Supply Contract and Supplemental Contract with Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the contracts.

Executive Director of Public Utilities, Chris White reported that the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia functions as a governmental joint action agency operating on a nonprofit basis solely for the benefit of its Members and effectively as an extension and instrumentality of its Members, aggregating their natural gas supply, management and transportation needs for economies of scale and leveraging their human and financial resources for efficiency, resulting in lower costs and higher benefits to the Members. The Members control the Gas Authority and its policies through the board of the Gas Authority, which is composed of Member representatives, and through the Gas Supply Contracts, and the Members intend to collectively share allocable portions of all risks and rewards of the Gas Authority's operations pursuant to such contracts. The current Supplemental Contract contains time limits to acquire long term financed gas supplies through the issuance of municipal debt. The time limit for such acquisitions under the current supplemental contract (Portfolio IV) expires on December 31st 2020. To acquire and maintain future gas supplies of the authority members, we must establish a new supplemental contract (Portfolio V) by the end of calendar year 2020. Amending the term of the Gas Supply Contract is required to mirror the supplemental contract to satisfy lender requirements. Amending the term of the gas supply contract to terminate on December 31, 2060, matches the obligation period of Portfolio V and thus the requirements of the lenders. MGAG has requested all documents be executed and returned by August 31, 2020. The City Attorney has review and approved all supporting documents. White reported that Staff requests that City Council consider a resolution to approve the amendment to our current gas supply contract and supplemental contract with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia, to be signed and executed by the Mayor.

Councilmember Warren motioned to adopt the Resolution to approve an amendment to Gas Supply Contract and Supplemental Contract with Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the contracts, as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

The adopted resolution follows.

A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF THOMASVILLE

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO GAS SUPPLY CONTRACT AND SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT (GAS PORTFOLIO V PROJECT) EACH BETWEEN THE GAS AUTHORITY AND CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA (THE "CITY"), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the 1987 Session of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia adopted the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia Act (Ga. Laws 1987, p. 745 *et seq.* (*codified* at O.C.G.A. Sections 46-4-80 through 46-4-125)), as amended (the "Act"), creating the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (the "Gas Authority"), providing for its organization and purposes and authorizing it to contract with certain political subdivisions for the provision of an adequate and dependable wholesale supply of gas to meet the needs of the gas distribution systems of such political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the City has studied and reviewed its opportunity to enter into an Amendment to the Gas Supply Contract (the "Amendment") with the Gas Authority, substantially similar to amendments entered into with other Gas Authority members, providing for the extension of the term of the Gas Supply Contract related to Gas Authority's obligation to furnish the City with its gas supply requirements and for the City's obligation to pay for such gas supplies; and

WHEREAS, the City has also studied and reviewed its opportunity to contract with the Gas Authority for additional gas supplies, and to that end, the City and the Gas Authority have caused to be prepared a certain Supplemental Contract (Gas Portfolio V Project) (the "Supplemental Contract," and together with the Amendment, the "Contracts"); and

WHEREAS, the Gas Authority functions as a governmental joint action agency operating on a nonprofit basis solely for the benefit of its Members and effectively as an extension and instrumentality of its Members, aggregating their natural gas supply, management and transportation needs for economies of scale and leveraging their human and financial resources for efficiency, resulting in lower costs and higher benefits to the Members than if each acted individually or in smaller groups; and

WHEREAS, the Members control the Gas Authority and its policies through the board of the Gas Authority, which is composed of Member representatives, and through the Gas Supply Contracts, and the Members intend to collectively share allocable portions of all risks and rewards of the Gas Authority's operations pursuant to such contracts, and the Contracts will necessarily be relied upon by the other Members due, among other things, to the interrelated nature of the Gas Supply contracts and the relationships among the Gas Authority and the Members effected thereby; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the governing body of the City in meeting duly assembled, and it is hereby resolved by authority thereof, as follows:

Section 1. The City hereby finds and determines that it is in its best interest to contract with the Gas Authority, and the City hereby declares its intention to so contract with the Gas Authority for the purchase of its gas supply.

Section 2. The City hereby approves and authorizes the execution and delivery of the Contracts in substantially the form of the drafts of the Contracts attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B", respectively, and hereby incorporated herein by reference, subject to such changes, additions and deletions made in the Mayor's discretion, with advice of and in consultation with the city attorney. The Contracts will each be executed by the Mayor, attested by the Clerk, and will have the City's seal affixed thereto, and will be delivered to the Gas Authority, and when so executed and delivered, will be binding upon the City in accordance with their respective terms. Execution of the Contracts as authorized herein will be conclusive evidence of the City's approval thereof.

Section 3. In the adoption of this Resolution, the City hereby recognizes that this action will be relied upon by other political subdivisions that own and operate gas distribution systems and that adopt similar ordinances or resolutions in furtherance of the organization of the Gas Authority under the Act, and that the City is also relying upon the adoption of such ordinances and resolutions by such other political subdivisions.

Section 4. All ordinances or resolutions or parts of ordinances or resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLVED this 10th day of August, 2020.

Resolution to enter into an agreement between the City of Thomasville and the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) - Grant Program and authorizing the Mayor to sign all necessary and related documents in relation to the Remington Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project.

City Engineer, Wayne Newsome, reported on 23 September 2019, Council authorized City staff to 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., for funding of design and construction of improvements on Remington Avenue, between Smith Avenue and East Pinetree Boulevard (Remington Avenue Streetscape

Improvement project). The GTIB is a grant and low-interest loan program administered by the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), and the main objective of the GTIB is to make an additional funding resource available to government entities in order to accelerate transportation project delivery. On 23 Jun 2020, the State Road and Tollway Authority gave notification to the City of Thomasville of the GTIB grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 (\$250,000 for preliminary engineering and \$750,000 for construction) and loan authorization in the amount \$2,115,000. Estimated design and construction costs are estimated at \$4,000,000, so the grant money and loan will cover a major portion of the total cost for this project. This next step is for the City of Thomasville to enter into an agreement with the SRTA and accept the grant for the specified project in the grant amount for the grant purpose and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement. In summary, the agreement states that 1) the grant amount will be spent for the specified project 2) the grant amount will not be used for expenses already incurred and 3) the GTIB will immediately be advised of any changes to the project, etc. Staff requests that City Council consider a resolution to approve the GTIB grant agreement AND authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement and any related documents on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Flowers motioned to adopt the Resolution to enter into an agreement between the City of Thomasville and the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) - Grant Program and authorizing the Mayor to sign all necessary and related documents in relation to the Remington Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

The adopted resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia held on September 23, 2019, a resolution was unanimously approved, authorizing application for funding from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority pursuant to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Act, O.C.G.A. §32-10-120 et. seq., in order to design and construct the Remington Avenue Streetscape Project between Smith Avenue and E. Pinetree Boulevard.

WHEREAS, the City was awarded a grant from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Band (“GTIB”) in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, subject to approving and entering into the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Agreement for Grant Program, by and between GTIB and the City (“Grant Agreement”), attached hereto and made a part hereof, and such other documents required by the GTIB and the Grant Agreement;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is the best interest of the City to approve the Grant Agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement on behalf of the City and such other related documents necessary, desirable and proper to carry out the intent and the purposes of this Resolution and the Grant Agreement.

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the authority of this Council, that the Grant Agreement is hereby approved and the Mayor is authorized to execute the Grant Agreement on behalf of the City, as well as such other related documents necessary, desirable and proper to carry out the intent and the purposes of this Resolution and the Grant Agreement.

SO RESOLVED the 10th day of August, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items considered by Council on the Consent Agenda at this meeting.

REPORTS

City Manager Carson reported Thomasville National Bank has reached out to the City of Thomasville regarding the provision of sponsorship of a scoreboard for Weston Park.

Councilmember Flowers reported that some schools have resumed in-person learning and encouraged citizens to be safety conscious with children and school zones. He also encouraged citizens to be diligent in their actions to complete and submit Census2020 forms.

Councilmember Warren reported she has received complaints about speeding on South Street and inquired if that could be reviewed by staff. She also reported that she will begin hosting community forums via Zoom Meetings and encouraged citizens to attend virtually.

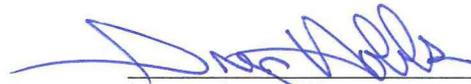
Councilmembers collectively thanked citizens and encouraged the community to continue social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.



ATTEST: City Clerk



Mayor, Greg Hobbs

