

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, October 12, 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](http://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 September 28, 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.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following presentations for this meeting:

1. **Envision Credit Union – Project SHARE.** On behalf of Rose City Foundation and Envision Credit Union, Kellie Merck (Envision Credit Union Georgia Community Development Manager) and Barbara Brinson (Rose City Foundation Board Member) presented a donation of \$1,000.00 to the City of Thomasville designated for Project SHARE. It was reported that Project SHARE is a statewide partnership program between the power companies in Georgia and the Salvation Army. The Project SHARE program provides emergency assistance to those in need. It was noted that locally, utility customers can also donate to Project SHARE by submitting a designated contribution to Project SHARE when remitting payment for utility bills.
2. **Life Saving Award – Thomasville Police Department.** Mayor Hobbs recognized Thomasville Police Corporal Brandon Kent for extraordinary actions which resulted in saving a life in Thomasville, Georgia, on September 14, 2020. On behalf of the Council of the City of Thomasville, Mayor Hobbs presented Corporal Kent with a special plaque in recognition. It was noted that Thomasville Police Officer Jamil Gatlin, was unable to attend this meeting and would be recognized at a subsequent Council meeting.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged there were no Citizen to be Heard, as listed on the sign in sheet, for this meeting.

## **ADOPT AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, with no exceptions. 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.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to be discussed at this meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **First reading of an ordinance to rezone 209 West Remington Avenue from M, Manufacturing, to C-2, Commercial.**

City Planner, Kenny Thompson reported the applicant is requesting 209 West Remington Avenue to be rezoned from M-Manufacturing to C-2, Commercial. The site consists of a downtown commercial building that has been converted into an arts studio and commercial building space. The rezoning proposal will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of the adjacent and nearby property. The property in question is zoned M-Manufacturing, but is surrounded by commercial and residential uses. In fact, it would be more detrimental to the value of the surrounding properties if the parcel is used for manufacturing. The parcel is well suited for being rezoned into the Downtown C-2 district. The existing building is compatible with this zoning, and the rezoning would ensure that any future use or new development is harmonious with the district. In addition to limiting potentially hazardous manufacturing uses, the C-2 zoning would also allow for the potential of mixed-use and residential development. The 2028 Blueprint Thomasville Comprehensive Plan Future Character Area Map identifies the property in question as part of the downtown character area. The C-2 zoning district allows uses that are compatible with downtown, and provides an opportunity to expand the walkable downtown mixed-use core with development that will increase taxes, create jobs, and further enhance our community. Based on the City's goals to expand the walkable downtown, promote redevelopment of the "Bottom", and adhere to all adopted documents that reference this district such as "The Creative District Plan" (2014), "Thomasville Code Audit" (2018), and "Thomasville: Blueprint 2028" (2018), as well as the unanimous recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, the City Planner requested Council approval of the first reading of the ordinance to rezone 209 West Remington Avenue as presented.

Councilmember Flowers motioned to order the ordinance to rezone 209 West Remington Avenue from M, Manufacturing, to C-2, Commercial as read for the first time, passed and carried over, 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 ordinance title ordered read for the first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, OF 1971, AS AMENDED WHICH IS SET FORTH IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE AS CHAPTER 22, CAPTIONED "ZONING", BY EXCLUDING A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND FROM PARCEL 3 OF SECTION 22-81 CAPTIONED "M, MANUFACTURING", TO DESCRIBE SAID EXCLUDED TRACT AND TO DESIGNATE THE SAID SAME TRACT AS PARCEL 62 OF SECTION 22-81 CAPTIONED "C-2, COMMERCIAL". TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Resolution to adopt the City of Thomasville Mission and Vision Statements.**

Benefits & Wellness Coordinator, Tara Pearson reported that in 2020, a diversity and inclusion team was formed comprised of Team Thomasville members from a cross section of the organization. As part of their process of reviewing how the organization could be more inclusive, a review was conducted of the existing vision and mission. It was determined that an update to these statements would be beneficial to better convey the way we view ourselves today. The group worked through this process over the course of several meetings and developed a final

recommendation for consideration by the Thomasville City Council and senior leadership. The proposed mission and vision statements were present to Council during a recent retreat.

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the resolution adopting the proposed Mission and Vision Statements for the City of Thomasville as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. It was noted that the resolution would be signed by all Councilmembers. 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 approved resolution follows.

#### RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, ADOPTING NEW MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE THAT PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK, DIRECTION AND SENSE OF PURPOSE FOR MAKING DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE AND THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville believes that clear and compelling mission and vision statements are vital in the planning for the future of a healthy organization; and

WHEREAS, the mission and vision statements provide the organizing force that drive effective adaptation, excellence and success; and

WHEREAS, many critical functions of the City of Thomasville are aligned with the mission and vision statements which will engage its employees to achieve a “higher purpose” of the organization for the greater good of the community; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with Team Thomasville’s Councilmembers, administration and employees, the City of Thomasville’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team developed mission and vision statements for the City of Thomasville to provide the framework that gives the city staff both a direction and a sense of purpose in making decisions that impact the City of Thomasville and the Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia hereby adopts the following as the mission and vision statements for the City of Thomasville:

##### Vision Statement

*A progressive and unified community providing an inviting place to live, work, play and prosper.*

##### Mission Statement

*In partnership with our community, Team Thomasville will deliver excellent and dependable public services while building trusting relationships through openness, inclusion and innovation.*

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

**Resolution to submit an application to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) Loan Program.** City Manager Carson reported the GTIB is a grant and low-interest loan program administered by the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) which makes additional funding resources available to government entities for transportation projects. The application is due October 23, 2020 and requires a resolution authorizing the submittal of the application, assurance of ability and intention to repay loan if approved and payment of the application fee. It was noted that final funding sources would be determined upon approval of the GTIB Loan Program’s application.

Councilmember Flowers motioned to approve the resolution authorizing the submittal of the application 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 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 12th day of October, 2020 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 make transportation improvements on East Jackson Street, West Jackson Street, Hansell Street, and Clanton Street to add viability and multi-modality and improve safety.

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 loan 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 money toward eligible costs in accordance with O.C.G.A. 32-10-122.

SO DONE, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

**Bids and award for the purchase of construction contract for the Jefferson Street / Washington Villas Outfall Storm Drain Rehabilitation Project.**

City Engineer, Wayne Newsome reported flooding occurs on Jefferson Street and to properties connected to the alley between East Jackson Street and Jefferson Street at least once, but more often two to three times annually. The storm drain system that carries stormwater from a substantial portion of downtown to outfall at Washington Villas is a corrugated metal pipe installed in the early 1990's. This system has proven inadequate to carry the flows, and at the same time sections of the pipe are showing signs of significant corrosion. This project will utilize a process known as centrifugally cast concrete to line the interior of the existing pipes with a high strength (8,000 psi.) concrete that effectively builds a pipe within a pipe. Implementation of this technology will not only extend the life of the pipes for 75 to 100 years, but also will increase flow capacity by over 50 percent, providing up to a 25 year return interval storm level of service. This is highly specialized work; however, we did receive three (3) bids on September 05, 2020. Bids varied significantly. The low bidder has done this type of work for a number of years, and we have spoken with other municipalities where they have completed work, and they were very satisfied with their performance. It was noted the project will be funded utilizing 2018 SPLOST funds, if approved. A summary of bids follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Enviro Trenchless, LLC	\$145,380.00
Insituform Technologies, LLC	\$322,353.90
RDJE	\$224,740.00

Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler motioned to award the contract to Enviro Trenchless, LLC in the amount of \$145,380.00, 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 Hufstetler, and Councilmembers Flowers, Mobley and Warren.

**Bids and award for the purchase of construction contract for Wright Street Sanitary Sewer Repair Project.**

City Engineer, Wayne Newsome reported that bids were received to replace 301 feet of an existing 15" vitrified clay gravity sewer main that is failing. Work includes replacement of service laterals, temporary by-pass pumping, and all work incidental to the construction. A summary of bids follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
RPI, Inc., Valdosta, Georgia	\$248,046.50
Green's Backhoe, Inc., Thomasville, Georgia	\$264,955.00

Councilmember Mobley motioned to award the contract to RPI, Inc. in the amount of \$248,046.00, as presented. Councilmember Flowers seconded. Mayor Hobbs inquired if the difference between the two bids would provide cause for the use of the local preference variance. It was noted the variance was too great. 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.

**Bids and award for the purchase of one (1), Slope Mower for Country Oaks Golf Course.**

Manager-Parks/Recreation & Golf, Mike Owens reported Country Oaks is replacing a 2013 Toro brand slope mower with over 2100 hours on the current model with a new 2020 model. \$32,000 was budgeted in the Country Oaks 2020 capital budget for this purchase. A slope mower is a rotary mower with multiple mowing heads designed to mow hills and slopes easily. Bidders were requested to bid a slope mower with (3) mowing heads with some accessories (canopy over the driver, wheel weight kit, and a light kit). Bidders were also requested to give us a trade amount for our current slope mower. A summary of bids follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Wesco Turf Jacksonville, Florida	\$32,090.94 (includes \$3,000 trade allowance)
Greenville Turf & Tractor Murfreesboro, Tennessee	\$40,247.86 (includes \$3,500 trade allowance)

Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler motioned to award the contract to Greenville Turf & Tractor in the amount of \$40,247.86, 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 Hufstetler, and Councilmembers Flowers, Mobley and Warren.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Hobbs reported the Consent Agenda items were considered as routine and/or non-controversial items. Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the consent agenda 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.

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following item as approved under the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Transfer of Title for ownership of Grave Space 3 in Lot 15, Section J; and Grave Space 4 in Lot 11, Section J on Georgia Street in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Georgia, from Albert F. White and Kathy White to Justin and Sarah Holland.

**REPORTS**

City Manager Carson reported the next regularly scheduled City Council Workshop will include the implementation of a three minute time limit placed upon Citizens to be Heard during Council Workshops. Citizens who desire to address Council regarding any item during Council Workshop will be given an opportunity to do so during the portion of the Workshop agenda titled "Citizens to be Heard". Citizens will be required to list their name, contact information and comment topic on a designated sign-sheet prior to the meeting's scheduled start time. Only those citizens following the sign-in procedure for appearing before the City Council will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the City Council during the Workshop.

Councilmember Flowers inquired of City Attorney Sanders if it was a state statute that Cemetery Transfers of Title were required to be approved by Council. He reported that the Cemetery ordinances were under review for amendments and this may need to be included as an update. City Attorney Sander noted he would research state law for confirmation of Council action regarding this matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler recognized Kha McDonald for her coordination efforts of the City of Thomasville's recent deployment ceremony for the Georgia National Guard 1230<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at the Thomasville High School Football Stadium. The ceremony was well attended and a tremendous amount of local support was shown for the Company, also known as the "Road Hawgs".

Councilmembers collectively encouraged citizens to exercise their voting rights during the designated early voting schedule prior to the official November 3<sup>rd</sup> election date.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

  
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Mayor, Greg Hobbs

  
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ATTEST: City Clerk

