

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, November 23, 2020

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in a regular session with Mayor Greg Hobbs presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers 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. It was reported that Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler and Councilmember Flowers were not present at this meeting.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Mobley led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2020 as presented, with no exceptions. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following presentations for this meeting:

1. **Life Saving Award – Thomasville Police Department.** Mayor Hobbs recognized Thomasville Police Officer Devon Tudor for extraordinary actions which resulted in saving a life in Thomasville, Georgia, on October 3, 2020. On behalf of the Council of the City of Thomasville, Mayor Hobbs presented Officer Gatlin with a special plaque in recognition of the event.
2. **Resolution of Retirement – K9 Officer Tank.** Mayor Hobbs recognized K9 Officer Tank with a Resolution of Retirement and release from active duty. The Resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

TANK - Canine Patrol

WHEREAS, the Thomasville Police Department provides an invaluable public service to the citizens of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Council of the City of Thomasville wishes to recognize and honor the distinguished training and service of TANK, a member of its canine patrol; and

WHEREAS, Tank has loyally served the City for the past seven (7) years; and

WHEREAS, Tank is largely responsible for numerous arrests, including drug seizures, article searches and criminal apprehensions; and

WHEREAS, Tank has now attained the age, medical condition, and years of service necessary for retirement from the K-9 unit,

NOW, therefore, be it resolved, that Tank is hereby released from active duty and his ownership conveyed to his handler and trainer, Corporal Grady Shiver.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective as of November 23, 2020.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs reported there were no citizens to be heard listed on the sign in sheet for this meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Warren motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, with no exceptions. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of an ordinance authorizing property acquisition of 2,500 square feet, more or less, in connection with the construction of Lift Station 8.

City Attorney, Tim Sanders, reported the Sewer Department is planning to construct a new sewer pumping station, Lift Station 8, located on the south side of South Pinetree Boulevard at the intersection of South Pinetree Boulevard and Longleaf Drive in Thomasville. In order to construct the new Lift Station 8, it is necessary to purchase approximately 2,500 square feet of real property located on the south side of South Pinetree Boulevard and adjacent to the current site. The property is owned by Millpond I, LLC. A title exam was performed and this property is subject to a conservation easement, currently held by New England Forestry Foundation. In connection with the closing, New England Forestry Foundation will also be required to release its interest in the property. The City of Thomasville Engineering Department contacted the owner with a proposed purchase price of \$3,250.00, an amount based upon recent appraisals of similar property in the area. The owner countered with \$7,500.00. City Attorney Sanders further reported the Engineering Department recommends moving forward with the purchase price of \$7,500.00. It was noted that the purchase price will be allocated between Millpond I, LLC and New England Forestry Foundation as provided for in the conservation easement. A map depicting the location of the proposed acquisition was reviewed.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to order the ordinance authorizing property acquisition of 2,500 square feet, more or less, read for the first time, passed and carried over, as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

First reading of an ordinance for proposed amendments to Section 5-503, 5-506, 5-509, 5-521 of the Sign Ordinance.

City Planner, Kenneth Thompson reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) proposed adopting a new sign ordinance to replace the existing ordinance at its October 5, 2020 meeting. However, when this item was presented to Council at a workshop held on October 21, 2020, the City Council requested more time to review the ordinance in its entirety and asked to staff and P&Z Commission to proceed with the portions of the proposed

ordinance that would allow the Downtown Courtyard Marriott signs to be installed. Thompson reported these would be handled as text amendments to the current ordinance and include non-controversial changes to the sign code for additional building sign types, such as the marquee sign, canopy sign, awning sign, and wall sign. This entire section, defined as “building signs”, is proposed to replace the existing section for building signs. These proposals were presented to the P&Z Commission in a called meeting on November 23, 2020. The P&Z Commission voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of proposed amendments to certain sections of the current Sign Ordinance which includes the following:

- Add/Revise the definitions for building sign types, including the addition of the Marquee sign, Awning sign, Canopy sign, and Suspended sign.
- Allow internal illumination for the marquee sign type in all C2, C1 and C1A areas of the city.
- Add/Revise standards for all building sign types.

Councilmember Warren motioned to order the ordinance to amend Sections 5-503, 5-506, 5-509, and 5-521 of the Sign Ordinance of Chapter 5 of the Thomasville Municipal Code, read for the first time, passed and carried over, as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

The ordinance title read for the first time, passed, and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 5 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

Motion to ratify the execution of an Intergovernmental-Service Agreement for Solid Waste Services with Mitchell County.

Solid Waste & Landfill Superintendent, Jimmy Smith, Jr. reported the City of Thomasville Solid Waste Division has provided solid waste collection services to Mitchell County since May of 2015. The services consist of three Solid Waste units (2 Hook-lifts & 1 Knuckle Boom) condensing and transporting waste from collection sites within Mitchell County back to the Thomasville/Thomas County Landfill. The previous agreement ended in May of 2020 and a new agreement between the City of Thomasville and Mitchell County was executed with the following changes:

- Haul fees increased from \$125.00 per haul to \$150.00 per haul.
- Knuckle Boom rate increased from \$105.00 per hour to \$130.00 per hour per site (one hour minimum).
- Landfill rates increased from \$27.00 per ton to \$30.00 per ton.
- We moved from a five year contract to a six month contract.

With the above listed rate increases, this six month contract is anticipated to generate combined revenue for Solid Waste & Landfill of \$33,000.00 per month.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to ratify the execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Solid Waste Services with Mitchell County, as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

Bids and award for the purchase of one (1) Utility 4WD Tractor with accessory equipment.

Manager-Parks/Recreation & Golf, Mike Owens reported the utility tractor is needed to operate the proposed aerifier being requested at this meeting. Owens reported the current tractor is a full sized model that is too heavy to get on the greens. This utility tractor would also be used to perform other duties on the course and provide a much needed backup in case our full sized tractor went down. A summary of bids received follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Kubota Southern Tractor – Moultrie, GA	\$33,300.00
Kubota M5660SU	

Greenville Turf & Tractor – Piedmont, SC John Deere 4052M	\$35,187.54
Ag-Pro – Thomasville, GA John Deere 4052M	\$31,250.00

Councilmember Warren motioned to award the bid for purchase of one utility 4WD Tractor with accessory equipment to Ag-Pro in Thomasville, Georgia in the amount of \$31,250.00 using FY2020 capital funds with third party financing if necessary, as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

Bids and award for the purchase of one (1) Wiedenmann Terra Spike SL6 Deep Tine Turf Aerifier.

Manager-Parks/Recreation & Golf, Mike Owens reported the golf course currently contracts out the aerification of the golf greens to a contractor at a cost of \$7,500-\$8,000 per year. The purchase of this machine will allow staff to perform that task in house. It will also allow staff to treat weaker turf areas anytime with an aerification. In addition, the City can use this machine in other areas where aerification is performed; such as the Ritz Amphitheater and the two Victoria Parks. Brief discussion ensued regarding reduction of departmental costs as a result of the City owning this machine. A summary of bids received follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Greenville Turf & Tractor – Piedmont, SC	\$27,499.00
Beard Equipment Company – Mobile, AL	\$28,880.00
Wiedenmann North America – Savannah, GA	\$27,819.80

Councilmember Mobley motioned to award the bid for purchase of one Wiedenmann Terra Spike 6L Deep Tine Aerifier to Greenville Turf and Tractor in the amount of \$27,499.00 using FY2020 capital funds with third party financing if necessary, as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

Bids and award for purchase of Portable Vacuum Excavation Machine for Water Department.

Water Superintendent, Stacey Thomas reported the Water Department requests approval of the purchase of (1) Portable Vacuum Excavation machine for Water Department. This vacuum excavation unit will replace existing unit 1306 (2003 Ditch Witch) that has reached the end of its service life. Due to the unique design and functionality of this unit, only (2) bids were received by the department. The 2020 Water Capital budget includes \$50,000 for this purchase. Bids received were checked for accuracy. A summary of bids received follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Vermeer Southeast	\$50,277.00
Ditch Witch of Georgia	\$48,900.00

Councilmember Warren motioned to award the bid for purchase of one Vacuum Excavation machine to Ditch Witch of Georgia in Albany, Georgia in the amount of \$ 48,900.00, utilizing 2020 Water Capital funds with third party financing if necessary, as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers 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 Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Mayor Hobbs and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

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

- A. Transfer of Title for ownership of Grave Spaces in Laurel Hill Cemetery:
 - 1. Grave Space #1 of Lot #49, Section MM, on Arkansas Street from Ronnell Watson to Donna Moore.
 - 2. Grave Space #2 of Lot 49, Section MM, on Arkansas Street from Dallas Watson to Monte Moore.

REPORTS

City Manager Carson encouraged citizens to be diligent in their efforts of social distancing, hand washing, facial coverings and limited gatherings through the holidays. It was noted that Governor Brian Kemp’s Executive Orders were still in effect and the coronavirus pandemic was still very much a concern worldwide.

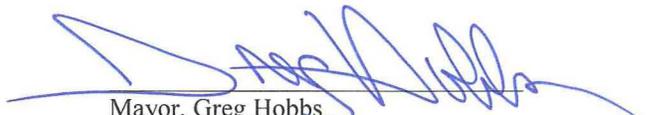
City Manager Carson reported that as a result of the concerns voiced by utility customers, the City of Thomasville would host a ‘Let’s Discuss ...Customer Savings’ on Thursday, December 3, 2020. To observe active Executive Orders and health Advisories in effect by Georgia Governor Kemp, Center for Disease Control, Department of Public Health and local health officials, the event will be held at the Harper Elementary School Gymnasium. The session will provide the community with easy and inexpensive ways to increase home energy efficiency and reduce utility costs.

Councilmember Warren encouraged citizens to visit Downtown Thomasville to see the new decorations and enjoy their holidays safely.

The Mayor, Councilmembers and City Manager wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM.



Mayor, Greg Hobbs

Jelicia Brannen
ATTEST: City Clerk

