

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, February 8, 2021

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, Councilmembers Jay Flowers, Todd Mobley and Wanda Warren. Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; and other staff. 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 Warren motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021, 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. Mark and Rose Swilley, 404 South Martin Luther King Drive, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns regarding an apparent commercial development beginning construction adjacent to their property. The Swilley's also voiced their frustrations with the property owner's lack of courtesy to let neighbors know what was happening in their neighborhood. They noted the driveway area they have been maintaining and using to access their property is now difficult to navigate due to recent rains and logging trucks entering the adjacent property. The Swilley's requested a copy of the property's plat and plans; as well as the name of the owners. Mayor Hobbs acknowledged he was aware of the increased activity in the area and noted the City was not aware of any new permits for the area. The City Manager noted staff would have to look into the matter and report back to the Swilley's; he requested the Swilley's leave their contact information.
2. Keith Thomas, 432 Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, expressed concerns regarding his opinion of the unfair three-minute time limit placed on Citizens to be Heard and requested Council to remove the restriction. Thomas also voiced his concerns of the need for a neighborhood community pool for the underserved children in the south side of Thomasville. He noted having a community pool available again for the children would help keep those children out of trouble. Councilmember Warren noted she would request Councilmembers to consider options for the three-minute limit on Citizens to be Heard. Mayor Hobbs inquired if a feasibility study could be done regarding the pool. City Manager Carson noted the budgeted park study would address this in detail and when the study was completed, Council would be made aware of the findings for all city parks. There was brief discussion regarding the YMCA's renovations of the Weston

YMCA's pool. It was noted that if that were being done, it would be coordinated through the YMCA and that location was too far from the south side of Thomasville.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Mobley motioned to adopt the 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.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Show Cause Hearings – Alcohol Beverage Violations.

City Attorney, Tim Sanders, opened the meeting for Show Cause Hearings regarding Mystery Shopper Alcoholic Beverage Violations pursuant to the Thomasville Municipal Code Section 3-25. Attorney Sanders reported on February 28th and February 29th, 2020 the Thomasville Police Department conducted the annual Mystery Shopper detail in Thomasville, Georgia to assure all businesses licensed in the city limits are within Georgia law. As a result of this investigative detail, and its subsequent actions, City Attorney Sanders noted the following establishments had employees who have pled guilty or been adjudicated guilty. Following this action, the Alcoholic Beverage License Holder has the right to request a show cause hearing to be held before the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, as to why their license to sell alcoholic beverages at the establishment should not be suspended or revoked by Council because of the sale of alcoholic beverage to an underage person. Attorney Sanders reported these establishments have provided proof of the employee's participation in the required alcohol beverage training program and were considered as first offenses as each establishment had no violations in the twelve months prior to this citation.

Attorney Sanders reported Pin Split Bowling Alley, Hemant Delada, was summoned to appear before Council; however, as the sole proprietor of the business, Mr. Delada was unable to close the business to attend the hearing. Mr. Delada did provide a letter in lieu of attendance at this meeting and requested to pay the levied fine if so levied. Councilmember Flowers motioned to approve the levied fine of \$500.00 for the citation of License Holder Hemant Delada, Pin Split Bowling Alley, located at 1650 Colonial Drive, Thomasville, Georgia, as a first offender for Alcohol Beverage Violation – License Holder Sales to Underage Persons pursuant to City of Thomasville Municipal Code § 3-25 as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. It was noted that the establishment did provide the required training provisions for the employee and the employee did attend the training. 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.

Attorney Sanders reported Three Oaks Wine & Spirits, Johnny Magittas, was summoned to appear before Council; however, as a caregiver, Mr. Magittas was unable to attend the hearing. Mr. Magittas did provide a letter in lieu of attendance at this meeting and requested to pay the levied fine if so levied. Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the levied fine of \$500.00 for the citation of License Holder Johnny Magittas, Three Oaks Wine & Spirits, located at 2525 East Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, as a first offender for Alcohol Beverage Violation – License Holder Sales to Underage Persons pursuant to City of Thomasville Municipal Code § 3-25 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.

Attorney Sanders reported Loco's Restaurant, Shawn Walters, was summoned to appear before Council and was present. Mr. Walters addressed Council, introduced the Restaurant Manager and apologized for the action of the employee and the business. Mr. Walters requested to pay the levied fine if so levied. Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the levied fine of \$500.00 for the citation of License Holder Shawn Walters, Loco's Restaurant, located at 254 Liberty Street, Thomasville, Georgia, as a first offender for Alcohol Beverage Violation – License

Holder Sales to Underage Persons pursuant to City of Thomasville Municipal Code § 3-25 as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. Mayor Hobbs thanked Mr. Walters for addressing Council and noted the Thomasville Police Department provides the program annually to ensure the code is followed appropriately. Councilmember Warren commended Mr. Walters and the Restaurant Manager for appearing before Council. 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.

Attorney Sanders noted the establishments would receive a letter reflecting the levied fines and pursuant to the Thomasville Municipal Code, each establishment would have seven business days in which to pay the fine.

Resolution to approve submittal of application of Fireworks Tax Grant for the purchase of new SCBA washer. Fire Chief, Tim Connell, reported cancer is becoming one of the deadliest causes for firefighter deaths in the fire service. Thomasville Fire Rescue (TFR) has taken great strides in helping reduce this by implementing policy and purchasing equipment to help decrease cancer in firefighters. With the recent purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs) TFR is requesting Council's approval to submit an application for a grant that will aid in the purchase of a washer for the SCBAs. The purchase of a SCBA washer will aid in the protection of our firefighters by reducing the cancer-causing chemicals that are encountered while fighting fires. Smoke, a byproduct of fire, has carcinogens shown to cause cancer. The washer would ensure the new SCBA's are maintained and cleaned thoroughly to help with the life expectancy of the units. The purchase of this washer will help ensure that when the SCBAs are placed back in service; they are clean and will not expose our firefighters to cancer-causing agents. If awarded this grant the matching funds would be placed into the FY 2021 budget. TFR requests the approval of a resolution to submit a Fireworks Grant application to Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council for up to \$25,000; to commit allocations of required 10% match in the FY2021 budget, in the amount not to exceed \$2,500; and, authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary and related documents.

Councilmember Flowers motioned to adopt the resolution to approve submittal of application of the Fireworks Tax Grant as presented. 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.

The adopted resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants program provides funding assistance for firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards; and,

WHEREAS, the decontamination washer provides for enhanced cleaning of Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) to ensure removal of carcinogenic particulates; and,

WHEREAS, Thomasville Fire Rescue has been provided an opportunity to submit application to the Fireworks Tax Grant program for funding assistance to purchase a decontamination washer; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Fireworks Tax Grant of up to \$25,000.00 requires the City of Thomasville to commit to 10% in matching funds, an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, desires to submit a Fireworks Tax Grant application to purchase a decontamination washer; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, desires to commit funding in the FY2021 City of Thomasville Budget to provide for the provision of the matching funds as a requirement of the Fireworks Tax Grant application.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of a Fireworks Tax Grant application for up to \$25,000.00 in funding assistance so as to obtain funding assistance for the purchase of a decontamination washer; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville further authorizes the provision of commitment of funds in the FY2021 Budget, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00, so as to provide the 5% matching funds, as required in the Fireworks Tax Grant application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Thomasville, or his/her successor, is authorized to sign the necessary and related documents in reference to the Fireworks Tax Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia on this, the 8th day of February, 2021.

Bids and award for the purchase of Golf Cart Lease for Country Oaks Golf Course.

Manager Parks/Recreation & Golf Course, Mike Owens reported the City recently requested bids for a lease package for (50) electric golf carts and (2) gas utility vehicles to be used at Country Oaks Golf Course. He reported that the current lease is up in March of 2021. The bid also specified that the electric carts have sealed and/or lithium ion batteries. Lithium ion batteries are maintenance free, lighter, and charge in half the time of lead acid batteries. A summary of the bids received follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Yamaha (48-month lease)	\$2,890.50/month*
Club Car (52-month lease)	\$2,702.61/month*
EZGO (50-month lease)	\$2,937.60/month*

**All pricing above includes (50) electric golf carts and (2) gas utility vehicles. Current lease is \$3,631.50/month and is with EZGO.*

Councilmember Flowers motioned to approve the award of bid to Club Car, for a 52-month lease in the amount of \$2,702.61 per month, as presented. 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.

Consider award for funding CARES Act Community Program.

Grants Administrator, Pam Schalk reported that as per the recommendation from the City Council concerning the need for services to the community to prevent or assist in the prevention of homelessness and detriment due to COVID-19, the City of Thomasville allocated \$250,000 for a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) ACT Community Program. The funding is a result of the City of Thomasville's receipt of the CARES ACT allocation from the U.S. Department of Treasury as part of a nationwide economic assistance for State, Local and Tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed and sent to qualified firms in the community as well as placed on the City of Thomasville's website for the purpose of seeking a qualified firm to provide those affected by COVID-19 in the community with support and services. Of the firms contacted, only the three (3) firms listed below submitted proposal requests. A committee was formed to evaluate these proposals. The committee consisted of two (2) citizens who have a great familiarity with grants and one (1) staff member from Financial Services. The committee evaluated each proposer based upon their ability to address the concerns of those in the community who may have been impacted by COVID-19. Compared to the other Proposals, COTC proposed to provide utility, rental, and mortgage assistance along with personal protective equipment. This agency also provides referrals to other agencies to provide additional assistance.

<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u>
Community Outreach Training Center (COTC)	\$244,900.00
Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Club	\$85,521.00
Thomasville Community Resource Center, Inc.	\$111,670.00

Administrator Schalk reported that consensus of staff and the committee was that the COTC was the best qualified organization to fulfill the mission of the requested community assistance program. It was noted that if approved, the COTC staff would accept applications for assistance as soon as March 8, 2021. Administrator Schalk requested Council consider awarding the entire amount of \$244,900.00 funding to Community Outreach Training Center. The disbursements will be made in quarterly increments of 25% of the total allocation, with the first disbursement allocated after contract execution and the final disbursement released after approval of the agency's Final Program Close-out Report.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve award of the CARES ACT Community Program to the Community Outreach Training Center in the amount of \$244,900.00, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items listed for consideration on the Consent Agenda at this meeting.

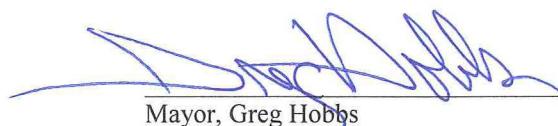
REPORTS

Councilmember Flowers reported a community-wide effort was being coordinated to feed front-line health care workers. It was noted that the City Council had provided meals through the scheduler and challenged the community to provide meals as well. It was noted that many individuals, businesses and organizations had joined the effort and meals continued to be provided to those front-line healthcare workers. Council collectively thanked those who had already scheduled to provide meals thus far and encouraged more to do the same.

Mayor Hobbs requested Councilmembers to consider the recent request from Thomasville City Schools Board of Education in reference to General Obligation Bonds for school improvements. He noted this would be discussed within the next scheduled meetings of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the City of Thomasville Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.



Mayor, Greg Hobbs



Felicia Branner

ATTEST: City Clerk

